



## USSVI South Sound Base

Don Mansfield, Commander

Minutes of Meeting, June 11, 2009

VFW Post 969

3510 E. McKinley Ave.

Tacoma, WA 98404

The USSVI South Sound Base meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Jon Schreiber at 1900 Hrs. There were 16 members and two guests present. Also present, as a guest was Western Region Director, Jim Dunn. Mike Robb led the Pledge of Allegiance and Don Smith gave the opening prayer. Vice Commander Jon Schreiber read the USSVI Creed

Tolling of the Boats lost in June was conducted by Vice Commander Schreiber, COB Greg Lee and John Mansfield.

**Binnacle List:** John Mansfield reported Commander Don Mansfield was still battling an illness and was unable to attend the meeting.

Each member and guest introduced themselves, gave the year they qualified in submarines and where they live.

At this time our guest speaker, Don Hutt was introduced. Don is the director of Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington. His organization is a self-supporting rehab facility for recovering drug and alcohol addicts. He said they only accept veterans, after they have been released from drug and alcohol rehab. Once accepted into the program they are provided housing for up to two years, while working. Work is provided by the organization. Most of their work comes from the Boeing Company where they service and repair respirators, safety goggles as well as take large quantities of small items that need to be counted and separated into smaller quantities. The men are paid for their work, however, they are charged for their rent, which is deducted from their wages. They are also held responsible for getting themselves up for work, keeping their living spaces clean and fixing their own meals. Don indicated they can always use donated items such as clothing, but said they have a greater need for bed linen for double size beds.

Once Don finished speaking, the group took a ten-minute break

A motion was made to accept the May 2009 meeting minutes as posted. The minutes were accepted by voice vote.

Mike Ellis gave the Treasury Report. A motion was made to accept the Treasury Report. The Treasury Report was accepted by voice vote.

Ken Board was asked to give a membership report. SSB currently has thirty-six members, including Mike Stoll, who joined at this meeting. Mike qualified on the USS Henry Clay in 1973. Mike is an important part of SSB. Please welcome Mike to the group.

PAO John Mansfield reported the USS Connecticut is currently at sea, but when they return he will contact the boat and offer to give the crew a beer ball game as previously mentioned. John also reported he has been in contact with the commanding officer of the USS Ohio. SSB has a standing invitation for a tour of the boat. He did report the boat is moored at the Puget Sound Shipyard and not Naval Base, Bangor. John also reported he has continued to correspond with the HMCS Victoria for a tour. He indicated they are currently at sea, but will be making a visit to Seattle later this year. It is hoped he can arrange a tour of the boat while in Seattle.

Newsletter editor, John Mansfield reported the June edition of the Klaxon has been posted on the web. He also reported he needs to scale back and will be looking for someone to take over the newsletter duties after the first of the year.

Storekeeper John Mansfield reported he sold \$135.00 worth of SSB merchandise at the Western Region 4 conference in Silverdale last month. He said he was extremely busy with his duties as the Western Region 4 commander, so Bremerton Base Storekeeper, Ralph Harris, watched over our merchandise table. A huge thank you goes out to Ralph for his hard work for SSB. John also invited the membership to look over the display table for patches and pins. He said he has one copy of USSVI: The First Forty Years for sale. He is asking \$35.00 for the book.

Jan "Bear" Stiffey reported he has the new DBF pin and the WWII Combat Patch in stock. He hopes to have a new Navy pin soon for sale.

### **Old Business**

Greg Lee reported the two fundraisers at the Spanaway and Graham Wal-Mart's were a success. The Graham crew beat the Spanaway crew in money, however Ken Board cried foul. Ken was at the Spanaway store and when they arrived the VFW had already set up at both doors. After whining to the store manager, the VFW was asked to move to one entrance and we could have the other entrance. The VFW did move, however they set up inside the door the Spanaway crew set up at a short time later. It is estimated SSB lost about \$50.00 due to the VFW.

Greg Lee reported he attended the Annual Stadium High School NJROTC Tiger Cadets Awards Banquet. He said it was a good time and once again, Commander Mandigo, put on a great banquet. He said he awarded Jonathon Bautista the Outstanding First Year Cadet award on behalf of SSB.

Mike Ellis indicated he has learned Ft Lewis has a facility similar to the Ronald McDonald House, called Fisher House. It is for the families of kids who have had major surgery or suffering a major illness at Madigan to stay. He felt it would be a good place to go with the Kaps4Kids program. He said there are no kids with Cancer at the facility, however it was decided by the membership we would not limit the Kaps4Kids to kids with Cancer. Mike will contact Fisher House.

Ken Board reported one of the kids from the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, Jose, who received a Kaps4Kids hat last month has taken a turn for the worst. Jose is the nephew of people Ken knows and they told him there is nothing more the doctors can do for Jose. He has been taken off all his medications and is quickly failing. Ken's acquaintances will keep Ken up to date on Jose's condition and let him know when his condition changes.

Jon Schreiber reported he currently has thirty-five blankets on hand. He said his wife will continue to make the blankets and asks for help from the membership in making more.

## **New Business**

John Mansfield reported he would like to see a Submarine Memorial erected in the Tacoma area. He said we currently have access to the Mk 13 torpedo, which is filled with concrete. He has also been told we can obtain an Mk 16 torpedo, however we have to complete a lot of paperwork to get the torpedo, and it is not given to us, but is only loaned to us for five-year increments. It has been suggested the Mk 13 be used to erect a memorial at one of the Bethel School District Schools, while the Mk 16 be used for the memorial in Tacoma. A motion was made and passed to accept the Mk 13 Torpedo and to start proceedings to obtain an Mk 16 Torpedo. A second motion was made, and passed, to form a committee to work with Tacoma to explore a location where the memorial can be built.

## **Good of the Orders**

Western Region District Director, Jim Dunn, attended the meeting. He told the membership National Commander Patrick Householder is trying to open the lines of communication from National to the local bases. He was also impressed with the activities of SSB. He felt we should continue on our present course, but not limit our activities to just submarine veterans. His belief is "If it is the right thing to do, then do it!" He also reported he received approximately 125 applications for the USSVI Scholarship. He said he was very impressed with the essay's the kids wrote and said he believes the United States future is in "Very Good Hands".

Jim also presented SSB member Tom Wright with his Holland Club patch and certificate. Congratulations Tom on fifty years of being "qualified in submarines".

There was no new business.

Don Smith gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2052.

## **Raffle Drawings**

Al Smith won the 50/50 raffle. The amount is unknown  
Don Smith won the T-Shirt donated by the Base.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kenneth Board  
SSB Secretary

## **Upcoming Events**