



COLUMBUS BASE MEETING MINUTES May 1, 2021

Following the customary luncheon and social hour, Columbus Base, USSVI, Commander Tim Barker called the May 1, 2021 monthly meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post #239 with the salute to the flag. Chaplain Walt Fleak gave the invocation. Chaplain Sharon Lloyd and COB John Bethea led the tolling of the May lost boats. Attendance: 17 members, 2 guests.

Bill Anderson was formally inducted into the Holland Club. He received the usual plaques, documents, and a Holland Club hat along with the congratulations of the membership.

Commander Tim turned the meeting over to Sharon Lloyd briefly for the swearing in of new Base officers. They are Vice Commander Bob Frier and Secretary George Petershagen.

Secretary's Report: Secretary George announced the minutes of the April meeting are posted on the website. Jim (Clutch) Koogler reported the Base has received a thank you card from Sharon Lloyd and a Holland Club Supporter Certificate from Holland Club Coordinator Bud Adkins.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Clutch reported on the state of the Base treasury including reminders of the continuing sale of the stainless-steel dolphins and a decline in the balance of income vs. outlays. He asked for members to bring forth ideas for increasing our income.

During this discussion issues with the April meeting were brought up. There was general dissatisfaction with the quality of the food and the service. Clutch suggested the balance of the price of the food vs. the cost to members were major determinants in attendance.

The April meeting discussion led to George suggesting he was interested in changing the powerpoint presentation for the next year. No objection was voiced. Expect a report on a plan at the next meeting.

Webmaster's Report: Cliff Dodson reported that the website remains in beta status. He requested feedback on the new design and explained some details on it.

Chaplain's Report: Chaplain Sharon reported that she had forgotten her report notes, but gave a verbal report on the sick list:

Eric Dreiseidel had pancreas surgery on April 29 and is in a lot of pain.

Brian Farnsworth was in attendance at the meeting. (Good to see him out and about.)

Rick Freeman remains in recovery from a broken back suffered in a November car accident. (Clutch added a request that members transport him to meetings.)

Tim France, the Kenyons, and Bob McDaniel continue to mend.

Bill Anderson will be undergoing shoulder surgeries in May and August.

Membership: Clutch reported that we have 70 members as of April 30. Forty-three are life members. Thirty-three are living Holland Club members. Columbus Base member and submariner Josten "Tip" Thippavong will be going before his Naval Aviation Board on May 7, the next step in his hoped-for commissioning as a Navy flyer. Good luck, Tip!

Junior NROTC action: Clutch reported that we are not able to have a member present at either Central Crossing or Franklin Heights High Schools awards ceremonies. He added that we have never received a thank you from a Franklin Heights senior for the Award for Excellence and accompanying \$250.00 check. No objection was voiced to discontinuing participation in that. He noted that this would not affect continued participation via the Leers and Pastor awards.

Parades: The Worthington Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled. Other parades we participate in during the next few months are in jeopardy.

Good of the Order: The parade discussion led to a detailed report from Bill Anderson on the status of the parade float. The anticipated painting of the USS Columbus mockup did not happen. The contractor offered the excuse that prepping for painting would require a complete sandblasting, something he does not do. It appears some welding repairs will be required also. The contractor is contacting his sandblast subcontractor for an estimate of the sandblast cost. (Bill brought the float to the meeting so it was available for members to view the damage.) Commander Tim appointed a committee to investigate potential restoration activities.

Bill reported there are plans for upcoming Honor Flights, but that dates have not been set.

Clutch reported that ex-Cod is being drydocked for hull repairs this summer. George added that ex-Pampanito (San Francisco WWII submarine) is scheduled for similar repairs.

A general discussion ensued on the recent American Submariner article on the loss of USS Scorpion. George reported on early speculations of the causes of the disaster and their possible influence on changes in internal operations such as the elimination of Condition Baker. (Setting Condition Baker can change the ventilation lineup if not used judiciously during a battery charge.) Others included evasion tactics and torpedo handling procedure alterations.

Carol Henry won the fifty-fifty cash.

Chaplain Walt provided the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM following announcement of the next meeting on June 5 back at the Worthington American Legion hall.

Respectfully submitted, George F. Petershagen, Secretary