



COLUMBUS BASE

MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2021

Call to Order

Following the customary luncheon and social hour, Columbus Base, USSVI, Commander Tim Barker called September 11, 2021 monthly meeting to order at 12:30 PM at the American Legion Leasure-Blackston Post #239 with the salute to the flag. Chaplain Walt Fleak gave the invocation. The September lost boats were tolled along with a moment of silence for lost crewmen and Columbus Base shipmates led by Sharon Lloyd (narrator) and COB John Bethea (bell). Fifteen members and guests were present. (The early start had been preannounced by Clutch Koogler in an e-mail and was chosen to allow members to catch as much of the OSU-Oregon football game as possible.)

Commander Tim introduced guests including new life member Jim Tisdale

Secretary's Report: The August meeting minutes are posted on the website. No new correspondence of note.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer James "Clutch" Koogler reported on the Base's finances. Our expenditures far exceed our income. Charitable donations to USSVICF (in memory of those departed on their eternal patrols), the Holland Club, and other miscellaneous items take their toll. Our principal sources of income - the monthly 50-50 raffle, other small sales, and donations from members are less than our recurring expenses. He would appreciate anyone with fundraising ideas and the willingness to bring those ideas to fruition to do so.

He is investigating ways and means of accepting electronic dues payments and donations to the Base. Some options being considered include ZELLE, VENMO, and PAYPAL. He is also looking into the possibility of bank-to-bank transfers.

He also reported on the 2020 proceeds from the sale of metal dolphins. The sale continues at \$60.00 which includes shipping to the address of your choice. A raffle is being considered for one of these.

Webmaster's Report: Cliff Dodson reported on the beta version of our new website, www.columbusbase.org. He encouraged members to try it and report any comments, both positive and negative, to him. In order to do this, you will have to register on the new site. There are a variety of ways to search. New versions of the software have caused some issues for the development of a permanent version of the website.

Chaplain's Report:

Bill Anderson is recovering from his second shoulder surgery and is undergoing physical therapy. His surgery went well but he was not ready to be out in a crowd.

Eric Dreiseidel is recovering well. (He attended this meeting.)

Brian Fransworth is recovering from gall bladder removal and a liver biopsy done four weeks ago. The biopsy results were in his favor. He is not feeling well.

Rick Freeman is still a little sore but is okay. He could use help with transportation.

Tim France is awaiting his second knee replacement. He still has some pain from the first.

Bob McDaniel is doing well. All tests have come back negative (prostate surgery). Daughter Cathy will be moving to Festus, IN for the care she needs.

Bernie and Liz Kenyon: The doctors found another tumor on his bladder. He is scheduled for surgery on October 21. Liz's facility is opening following a two-week shutdown due to a staff member's Covid. Bernie gets to see her today.

Membership Report:

Josten "Tip" Thippavong has been accepted for aviator training and is awaiting shipping orders, likely to come in November timeframe.

Commander Tim led a round robin of members introducing themselves to new life member Jim Tisdale. "Tis" is a former radioman turned auxiliaryman who served on several boats.

Committee Reports:

Submarine float repair: All old paint and rust have been removed. Sand blasting should be done by next meeting.

Dinner meetings: We need to get a date set with the Hilliard VFW post for the Christmas dinner before proceeding. Clutch requested assistance in dealing with the post.

Records storage: Clutch and George agreed to work together on record destruction and retention. That led to a discussion of what is currently housed in the storage facility. George suggested we keep the models, toys, and games for use in the Kaps for Kids program once it gets reestablished. (More in Good of the Order below.)

Good of the Order:

Kaps for Kids remains inactive due to the Covid pandemic issues.

Honor Flights are happening. Eligible members are encouraged to sign up ASAP.

Clutch has had a response from members regarding a possible viewing of "The Real Hunt for Red October" video. He is continuing to work with Base member Ken Sewell on this and the potential for showing it at the Legion hall. Clutch has a request for someone to take the scheduling and other details over.

George Petershagen reported on progress with the Rick Larson collection. He and Cliff Dodson have developed a plan to make the collection of scans of patches available to members. He and Clutch agreed to develop a master list of members and boats they served on with the intention of turning over the relevant patches to members. George is currently preparing a complete inventory of books in the collection to be available at the next meeting.

George told of the experience he and Barbara had on a plane a few weeks prior to September 11, 2001. A man claiming to be a pilot attempted to board their plane using stolen airline identification documents. The Justice Department is making some formerly classified documents available to the general public. George is hopeful this will finally bring closure to what was at best an unnerving experience. (George will send a one-page detailed written description to anyone who requests it via e-mail - sslido40@frontier.com.)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM following a benediction by Chaplain Walt Fleak and the usual 50-50 drawing.

Respectfully submitted, George F. Petershagen, Secretary