



COLUMBUS BASE

MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2021

Call to Order

Following the customary luncheon and social hour, Columbus Base, USSVI, Commander Tim Barker called the October 2, 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. 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 Walt Fleak (bell). Twenty members and guests were present.

Commander Tim welcomed guests R.E. Hogan, Kelly Graham, Michael Hackney, and Paul Gant. Hopefully, all four will become members.

Secretary's Report: The September 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 still 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 also encouraged those who made pledges for the float repairs to redeem those pledges.

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 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: Webmaster Cliff did not attend. There was a lively discussion on the USSVI website including the alternative browser "Opera" which is a means of accessing the site. Some claimed that it wasn't working. Others had success and encouraged us to keep trying.

Chaplain's Report:

Bill Anderson is recovering from his second shoulder surgery and is undergoing physical therapy. He attended this meeting.

Tim France is still doing some limping from knee replacement surgery. He is to see an orthopedist in December to see if they can find out why he is still having a limp.

Rick Freeman is doing a little better but is having some depression about his transportation problem.

Brian Fransworth was having some G-I problems and went to the ER at Riverside where he was admitted. He was diagnosed with C-DIF, a problem caused by too many antibiotics. The treatment is with more antibiotics, then probiotics.

Bernie and Liz Kenyon: Bernie is working on being fit for his surgery by walking and playing golf. Liz is doing well. She got to see her daughter recently.

Bob McDaniel is doing great. He is keeping busy helping their daughter move into her new apartment in Evansville. They are doing a little every day.

COB John Bethea (added at the meeting) was discovered to have material between his lung and chest wall. No other diagnostic info was available.

Membership Report:

Potential new members and guests were introduced by Commander Tim as stated above. George Petershagen pointed out that he and R. E. Hogan served together on USS Mariano G. Vallejo along with R. E.'s brother.

Other Committee Reports:

Float Repair: Dave Hamel and Bill Anderson reported on the state of repair of the parade float. The float has been completely sand blasted and primer applied.

Dinner meetings: Our relationship with the Hilliard VFW Post appears to remain friendly. Clutch will discuss the incident at last year's meeting with our meal provider before continuing. The usual details of available dates, etc. remain to be worked out.

Good of the Order:

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

Walt Fleak rported that Honor Flights are happening. Eligible members are encouraged to sign up ASAP: October 7 and 21 as well as November 4 are the current open dates.

Setting a date and time with Ken Sewell and the American Legion post for "The Real Hunt for Red October" remain outstanding actions. Clutch has a continuing request for someone to take the scheduling and other details over.

George Petershagen reported on progress with the Rick Larson collection. He had previously promised a complete book inventory but has found additional items. Hopefully, a complete inventory should be available at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM following the benediction and the usual 50-50 drawing. (Walt Fleak donated his winnings to the Base treasury.)

Respectfully submitted, George F. Petershagen, Secretary