



# COLUMBUS BASE

## MEETING MINUTES

### November 6, 2021

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#### Call to Order

Following the customary luncheon and social hour, Columbus Base, USSVI, Commander Tim Barker called the November 6, 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 John Bethea (bell). Twenty-one members and guests were present.

A special note was made during the Tolling of the passing of Elizabeth "Liz" Kenyon, a Columbus Base plank owner. Liz's many contributions to Base practices and activities were saluted.

Commander Tim welcomed new member Paul Gant.

**Secretary's Report:** The October 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. Clutch and others reported on funds raised by raffles of these dolphins at Boat reunions.

**Webmaster's Report:** Webmaster Cliff explained problems he was having in the transition to a new Base website. For now, Columbusbase.org is operational. Columbusbase.com won't get you anywhere. He requested we all keep using Columbusbase.org and feeding him new information as it arises.

### Chaplain's Report:

Bernie Kenyon: Bladder surgery the day after Liz passed. The target tumor turned out benign, but scrapings showed signs of cancer. He has no chemo scheduled for now with a follow-up due in February. His daughter has been released from the hospital following brain surgery but is being treated for calcium deposits.

Brian Farnsworth: Called into Sharon from the Pocono's. He is doing well.

Tim France reported he is doing well and hanging in there.

No response from Rick Freeman or Bob McDaniel.

Sharon reported she had sent a sympathy card to Bernie.

Extra notes: Bill Anderson attended this meeting. He is mobile, but still having problems following his shoulder surgery.

COB John Bethea gave an update on his chest problems.

Galin Brady reported on developing eye problems.

Eric Dreiseidel distributed a list of suggested considerations for each of us in planning for our own departures onto Eternal Patrol. Items included who to contact and any existing funeral arrangements.

### Membership Report:

Paul Gant membership noted above. Other recent new memberships were acknowledged including Jim "Tis" Tisdale (in attendance at this meeting) and Kelly Graham. Welcome all!

Clutch reported on dues collections to date and requested all get their payments in ASAP. He has stickers available to update membership cards for those who need/rate them. We are at 71 members.

### Upcoming Events:

No Base entry in Hilliard or Logan Veterans Day parades due to on-going float repairs (see below).

Clutch requested prompt reservations, no later than November 27, for the annual Christmas dinner meeting at the Hilliard VFW Post. He has a flier out to all hands containing the proposed menu. Cost is \$22 per person, kept low by a generous autonomous subsidy.

### 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. Work continues.

George reported on his continuing efforts to organize and repackage the Rick Larson memorabilia collection. He showed off a USS Henry M. Jackson jacket in like new condition and reported he had a twin of it also. Galin claimed the jacket. He also demonstrated the container style he and Dave Hamel had agreed upon and demonstrated samples of the kinds of materials available to members. His intention is to prepare packages of "stuff" for members.

### Good of the Order:

Walt Fleak reported on his Honor Flight experience and encouraged others to apply.

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.

Bill Anderson is accepting applications for Shipmate of the Year until Sunday, November 21. The winner(s) will be announced at the December 4 dinner meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM following the benediction and the usual 50-50 drawing.

Birthday cake was served in honor of Sharon Lloyd's birthday. (No, she didn't have to bake her own cake.) Happy birthday, Sharon.

Respectfully submitted, George F. Petershagen, Secretary