

Subject: Minutes of GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter Meeting - 11-11-05

Date: Mon, 14 Nov 2005 03:25:37 +0000

Hi Everyone!

The Mid Atlantic Chapter of GWVN held it's 3rd Quarterly meeting last Friday, 11/11/05, Veterans Day, and the following are the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was held from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM at the "Old Country Buffet" at 1952 Laskin Road in Virginia Beach. Clarence Cooper had arranged the room for us and the set up worked out well. The food was good, the service was great and we may use this facility again in the future. The only downside was that there is a 2.0 hour limit on the private use of the room and that was a little tight for a meal and covering the information that we had to go over. 3.0 hours is about right and I think we'll try and arrange for that much time at our next meeting.

There were (13) people in attendance at the meeting, (12) current members (including (1) currently assigned to NSWG-4) and (1) future member who is a former member of the SBU community. There was also one rather large rodent in attendance who bears a striking resemblance to longtime GWVN Member PO2 A. Billy Ratt. It has been rumored that PO Ratt may have offspring in the Virginia Beach area from his time in this area and the new rodent reported his name as A. Billy Ratt, Jr.. If he is half the mascot PO2 Ratt has turned out to be, Junior will be a welcome addition to the Chapter. Clarence Cooper is leading the investigation into his qualifications for membership and actual relationship to PO2 Ratt.

Thanks to Coop and his portable flagstaff, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clarence Cooper, Monty Blackwell led us in prayer prior to our meal.

The results of our first "On-Line via Email" Chapter BOD Meeting, prior to the meeting on 11/11, were reported as follows:

1. Mid Atlantic Chapter Supply Officer, Pat Doyle, reported that is daughter has set up a web page for the Mid Atlantic Chapter. We will begin to use it to see whether it works out the way we expected and will let everyone know what the web site address is as soon as there is something to view.
2. The BOD has decided that the Chapter does NOT yet need an official "Membership Coordinator". We will all continue to do everything we can to draw more members into the Chapter.
3. The BOD was advised that John Williams has been asked by John Woody to continue to renew the annual GWVN National Charter with the State of Virginia. GWVN National will reimburse John for the costs associated with the renewal.
4. The BOD has decided that the Chapter BOD does NOT need any additional members at this time.
5. SHIPS STORE ACTIVITIES: The Mid Atlantic Chapter now has it's own logo and our Supply Officer has obtained T-Shirts with our logo printed on them. He will be in touch with Larry Bissonnette at some point in the future to see about marketing Mid Atlantic Chapter items through the National Web Site. He will also be looking for additional supplies with our logo including long sleeve t-shirts, golf shirts, sweat shirts, hats, etc. More info to follow as the Mid Atlantic Chapter Ships Store develops. For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting and are interested in t-shirts with our logo, please contact Pat Doyle directly at PDOYLE44@MSN.COM or call him at 757-368-8089.

6. The BOD has decided that our Chapter will actively solicit new members from the local NSWG and SBU communities. Current member HT-1 Rob Worthington was in attendance at the meeting and reported that he has been in touch with the new Command Master Chief at SBU 20 in regard to GWVN and the CMC is familiar with our organization from his time on the West Coast. Rob will keep us informed as to future developments and we are looking forward to the involvement of the Active Duty Brown Water Sailors.

7. Membership ID Cards: Most of the members present at the meeting do not have ID Cards identifying them as member of GWVN. An example of the current issue Life Member ID paper ID card was passed around and the general consensus is that the card is OK for annual members who will get a new card every year but that something more substantial and longer lasting should be developed for Life Members. I will be in contact with John Woody in regard to this issue.

8. Chapter Affiliation: I explained that the National Membership Database is being revised to make it easier to use and that the members who HAD BEEN shown as being affiliated with the former NORFOLK Chapter are now all shown as being affiliated with the Mid Atlantic Chapter. I received approval from the members present to notify the National Membership Chairman, Glen Fry, that each of them officially requests to have their status confirmed as being affiliated with the Mid Atlantic Chapter in the National Membership Database. I will do this in a separate communication to Glen.

9. Chapter P.O. Box. The BOD has decided that we do NOT need a full time Post Office Box. The communications that are sent to our membership who do not have email are handled by the Chapter Secretary and he will use his personal address as a return address for that communication. The issue of maintaining a P.O. BOX needs to be addressed in the GWVN CHAPTER GUIDELINES and will be discussed at the upcoming 2006 National Reunion in Denver.

10. Status of MK I PBR and GWVN Monument at Little Creek: The new Point Of Contact at NSWG-4 has arrived but has been out of the office each time that I have called in the last couple of weeks. HT-1 Rob Worthington is going to talk with him next week, assuming that he is on site. From talking with Rob, it sounds like the timing of April or May of 2006 for the relocation of the boat and monument are still OK. As I get more information, I'll pass it along.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mid Atlantic Chapter Treasures Report: Chapter Treasurer Gary Marker reports that at the start of the meeting, we have \$ 545.87 in our account. During the meeting, additional funds were generated through a raffle and the sale of t-shirts. The balance will be updated and reported out again at the next meeting. The Treasurer requested an annual audit to make sure the books were complete and this will be done. The details of the audit will be worked out and reported at the next meeting.

B. GWVN Vests with the Mid Atlantic Chapter Logo are being investigated. New potential member, Carl Bundy, volunteered to investigate costs and availability. I took a picture of the vest that Pat Doyle was wearing and sent it to Carl. He will use that as the basis for finding out what new vests may cost.

C. BOD Member Newell Butts brought up the fact that we should get our new Chapter Logo Copyrighted. He provided info on how it can be done and the contact information of a person who can handle it for us. Chapter Vice President Jerry Gandy is going to work through the details on getting this done.

D. GWVN Member Ralph Christopher has written a book called "River Rats" and will be doing a book signing at a Borders Book Store in Virginia Beach on December 3rd. All local members who are interested in attending are encouraged to wear their Black Berets and GWVN logo apparel.

E. The 2006 GWVN National Reunion will be held in Denver, Colorado, on August 4th through the 8th. Information is available on the GWVN Web Site at <http://www.tf116.org/> or call W.W. Cater at 307-237-5755 or email him at wwcater571@bresnan.net.

F. Active Duty Sailors Rob Worthington and Carl Bundy talked to us about their experiences and how they see the Active Duty Brown Water Navy groups fitting in with the GWVN organization. We will continue to develop the relationship and hope that the rededication of the MK I PBR and GWVN Memorial at Little Creek next year will generate more interest.

G. The Mid Atlantic Chapter Membership present at the meeting agrees with the proposal to hold a rededication ceremony for the MK I PBR and East Coast GWVN Memorial on the same weekend as the UDT-SEAL ASSN Reunion in 2006. The thought is to involve as many people from the Brown Water Navy and Special Warfare Groups, both past and present, as possible in the ceremony. The synergy is too good to pass up and I will take the lead on coordinating the event. This will be one of the major topics of discussion with the Commodore of NSWG-4 when we meet with him next. The UDT-SEAL ASSN Reunion is the weekend of July 21, 22 & 23, 2006. We will not be hosting a full fledged reunion around this event but will make every effort to help with information on lodging and local events for people outside of the area who may be interested in attending.

H. Chapter Member Bill Ferguson asked if there is a local organization collecting information on the history of our units. We talked about what the University of Texas is doing and I will get more information as to what can be done locally.

I. BOD Member and Treasurer Gary Marker asked if we should solicit information from the membership as to whether or not memorial services are requested in the event of a member passing away. For example, would I want the Chapter membership to attend my funeral, would I want them in Beret's, etc.... We'll work something up and communicate more with the membership on this.

J. NEXT MEETING DATE: The Mid Atlantic Chapter of GWVN will meet next on Saturday, February 25. Location and time are TBD and will be communicated well in advance of the event.

The meeting was adjourned at approx. 2:30 pm.

After our meeting, many of the members who were present went over to the Tidewater Veterans Memorial and Monte Blackwell led us in a remembrance prayer for our fallen shipmates. We then reviewed the area of the Memorial where dedicated monuments to specific groups are placed and took particular notice of the memorial that had been dedicated to the SEALs who had recently fallen in Afghanistan. Coop has investigated the cost of a dedicated monument which is estimated to be \$2000. The Chapter has started collecting money to be applied toward a monument fund and has been kick started with (3) donations which currently total \$600. Coop was the largest donor and is spearheading the effort toward a dedicated monument in memory of the Brown Water Navy veterans. More information to follow on this subject as we learn more about what is required and start to develop a design.

V/R,

Larry Weatherall

President, Mid Atlantic Chapter, GWVN

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