

Minutes from GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter Meeting - 11/18/06

Hi Everyone!

The GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter 4th Qtr. meeting of 2006 took place on Saturday, November 18th, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm (+/-) at the VFW Post 392 located at 2408 Bowland PKWY, Virginia Beach, VA.

We had a total of (18) people in attendance, (14) members and (4) guests.

We were honored with the presence of the following special guests and new members:

Willie Burnett and his wife Teresa, Willie is CMDCM of the USS J.E. WILLIAMS
Norm Giroux, Norm is CMDCM of RIVGRU ONE
Tanya Delpriore, Tanya is CMDCS of NCWS FOUR
Rick Emery - New Member of the Mid Atlantic Chapter
Al DeRoco - New Member of the Mid Atlantic Chapter

We also welcomed back Mid Atlantic Chapter member Rob Worthington of SBU 11 who made Chief on his recent deployment!

We began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions were conducted all around for the benefit of our guests and two newest members.

Larry Weatherall reported that we currently have (71) people on our GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter email distribution list and Coop reported that we currently have (5) people on our USPS distribution list.

Larry Weatherall reported that emails to the following members are currently kicking back. If any of you are in contact with or know current email addresses for the following members, please sent them to me or ask these guys to contact me:

1. John D. Brown "bad" email: captbrown@comcast.net
2. John Herke "bad" email: jherke@lexcominc.net
3. Lynn Rishel "bad" email: ljrish@kcnet.com
4. Ronald Ritter "bad" email: rritter@earl-ind.com.
5. Paul Bohn "bad" email: paubon@aol.com.

The agenda items that were covered are:

1. Mid Atlantic Chapter Treasures report - GARY MARKER (NOTE: this also serves as our 2006 Chapter Treasures Report to GWVN National)

As of 11/18/06, the GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter is solvent with a total of:

\$435.00 in the Monument Fund
\$842.57 in the General Fund

A motion was made, seconded and passed to send \$100.00 to the GWVN National Treasury. (NOTE: These totals were BE FORE any income derived from Saturdays meeting.)

2. East Coast MK I PBR Maintenance Committee - LARRY WEATHERALL Larry Weatherall has volunteered to head up the Maintenance Committee that will work on "our" MK I PBR located at the entrance to the NSWG-4 Compound at NAB Little Creek. The focus of the maintenance efforts will be to ensure that the MK I is always in a presentable condition and to minimize the effects of exposure to the appearance and physical condition of the boat.

A preliminary checklist of items to be worked on will be compiled and communicated to the membership. Numerous members of the Chapter and guests volunteered to assist with the work.

3. Manufacture & Installation of a plaque of statistics near the MK I at Little Creek - CLARENCE COOPER Coop distributed copies of the proposed content of the plaque and solicited input from the membership. He and Gary Marker will finalize a proposal and submit a final example to the Chapter BOD for approval.

The plaque will be mounted on the boat cradle, on "the street side" of the display, and if we can get the plaque made for a VERY reasonable cost, we may end up putting plaques on both sides.

4. Selection for the location and date for next "out of area" meeting: You'll recall that the choices were Richmond (area), Hertford, NC, Washington DC (area) and Charlottesville, VA.

The totals were:

(12) votes for Hertford, NC (4) online & (8) at the meeting.

(2) votes for D.C. (area) (1) online & (1) at the meeting.

(2) votes for Richmond, VA (area) (2) at the meeting

(0) votes for Charlottesville, VA

Our next meeting will be held in Hertford, NC on 02/24/07. Bill Ferguson will make the arrangements and I'll get the word out to the membership as we get closer to the date.

5. Feedback on the USS JE Williams "Gamewardens of Vietnam Leadership Excellence Award": CMDCM WILLIE BURNETT told us about the recent deployment of the USS Williams and among many other things, was proud to report that he is finally a "Shellback". The ship is ready to begin the "GWVN of Vietnam Leadership Excellence Award" process and Norm will be in touch as they kick it off. Larry Weatherall will be in touch with John Woody regarding the "award" and details of the process as we move forward.

6. Feedback on the RIVGRU ONE "Gamewardens of Vietnam Leadership Excellence Award": CMDCM NORM GIROUX brought us up to speed on how RIVGRU ONE would like to administer their version of the award and has one more review with the RIVGRU ONE Leadership in order to solidify the format they want to use. RIVGRU TWO and THREE (when stood up) will also participate in an annual award.

Larry Weatherall will be in touch with John Woody regarding the "award" and details of the process as we move forward.

Questions were asked about TACAIR for RIVGRU ONE when they deploy next year and Norm advised that as of right now the thinking is that they will have MARINE Air Support for guns and UAV's for operational awareness. Norm advised that he will get us an address to use for CARE Packages when RIVGRU ONE deploys. Norm also advised that Ralph Christopher's visit was very well received and that they are asking him to return in January.

7. NEW BUSINESS: NCWS Command Senior Chief TANYA DELPRIORE was kind enough to bring us up to speed on what their groups are doing and advised that she would like to have a GWVN membership meeting with her PO1's. She will be in contact to coordinate someone from GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter coming out to NCWS to give a presentation on the history of GWVN and what we are doing as an organization.

Tanya also advised that NCWS was providing the Color Guard at the closing ceremony of the local VI ETNAM WALL exhibit this weekend. FYI, NCWS provided the Color Guard at our Rededication Ceremony in July, BZ again to LTJG Arbogast who headed that up and his Sailors.

8. NEW BUSINESS: SBU 11 Chief ROB WORTHINGTON spoke a little about his recent deployment and thanked Gary Marker for his thoughtfulness in staying in touch with his family while he was away.

9. NEW BUSINESS: WES WESELESKEY has brought up the idea of possibly obtaining a "retired" Army UH1B to display along side the MK I PBR at Little Creek. Of course, it would be configured as a SEAWOLF gunship. WOULDN'T THAT LOOK GREAT???? As you may imagine, there were LOTS of heads nodding up and down when this was brought up but there are significant "obstacles" to overcome in order to make it happen.

Larry Weatherall will coordinate getting a group together to find out what it would take to pull this off and we'll have more information at the next meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS: COOP reported that Mid Atlantic Chapter Chaplain Monte Blackwell and Chapter Member Roger Alston's wife are both ill and passed around cards that he will send. Our wishes for a speedy recovery go out to both Monte and Ms. Alston.

11. NEW BUSINESS: We have an aspiring author among us! BILL FERGUSON read a segment of the book he is writing about some of the "lighter moments" that we all experienced while we were in Vietnam. I'll not spoil the story but will mention that it involves "fireflies".....

12. NEW BUSINESS: "FIREFIGHT" Print for ADM Bullard. COOP is going to deliver the framed copy of the "Firefight" print that the Mid Atlantic Chapter has prepared for ADM Bullard. This was going to be presented at the GWVN Denver Reunion but ADM Bullard was unable to attend so Coop is going to make sure that he receives it.

13. MK I & MK II PBR MODELS: COOP advised that the prices of the PBR Models will be going up soon so if you are interested in getting one for Christmas (what a GREAT idea!), act sooner rather than later. They can be viewed and ordered through the GWVN Web Site at www.tf116.org.

14. NEW BUSINESS: We didn't discuss this much at the meeting but did touch on it for a moment. If any of you have special projects, items or activities that you'd like to see the Chapter involved in, please either bring the info to the meeting or send me an email with the details so I can put it on the agenda. Remember, this is YOUR Chapter and only exists to the extent that the membership sees the need for it to continue to do so.

15: Door Prize Drawing and 50/50 Raffle: JERRY GANDY did his usual fine job of handling the fundraising portion of the meeting!

I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas and I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting in Hertford, NC on 2/24/07!

Best regards,

Larry Weatherall

President, GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter

lweatherall@cox.net

Photos from the meeting follow on next page:



Special Guests



Chapter Members



Members & Guests



Gary Marker



CMDCM Willie Burnett



CMDCM Norm Giroux



Senior Chief Tanya Delpriore



Bill Ferguson



Jerry Gandy