

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

The Base CDR, Howard Chatham, called the meeting to order at 1100 on April 12, 2014 at the American Legion Post 162, Lorton, VA and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Amos, Steve Bishop, Art Bivens, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Delbert Ennis, Ed Ettner, Mary Ettner, Bob Frick, Brian Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Steve Jaeger, Kenneth Jayne (NJROTC LTJG Cadet and great nephew of Mike Varone), Charles Liles, Chuck Martin, Bruce Miller, Mike Naughton, Mary Lou Naughton, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Tim Oliver, Willie Petruy, Tim Poole, Bernadette Sipple (NJROTC CPO Cadet), Carolyn Skopik, Gary Smith, Mike Varone, George Wallace, and Penny Wallace. (29 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The VCDR, George Wallace, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

The list of boats lost in the month of April and an historical moment were not read due to the nature of today's Tolling of the Boats ceremony honoring all lost boats.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were distributed by e-mail. The minutes were voted on and accepted as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the status of Base funds as indicated below:

Starting balance: \$ 5,752.97

Ending balance: \$ 5,811.20.

The Treasurer's report was voted on and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The **Base Commander** noted that the main topics of discussion at the most recent Executive Board Meeting were the preparation for the Tolling of the Boats ceremony, the upcoming Holland Club initiation, the proposed Base challenge coin, the Tolling of the Boats at the Navy Memorial and the Memorial day parade, and the Base display for the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library during the month of May.

The **VCDR** reminded ALCON that the Holland Club initiation/luncheon will be held at P. J. Skidoos restaurant on June 14th and that drafts of the large certificates have been sent to the inductees for proofing.

COB: Chuck Martin had nothing to report

Public Relations / Veterans Affairs: Mike Varone reported that he had asked a local reporter to cover today's Tolling of the Boats event, but instead, he will be taking pictures during the event and submitting an article to a local paper (DIY reporting).

Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss): The K4K Chairman, Steve Bishop, reported that the K4K team made their tenth visit in five years to the Fairfax Inova hospital's pediatric oncology ward on April 9th. After our visit, we presented the hospital's Director of Child Services, Jamie Gentile, with an Honorary Submariner certificate and a pink ball cap with dolphins. Jamie has worked with our associate member Cathy Chatham to schedule all of our previous K4K visits. Both Jamie and Holly Senn, our hostess on the ward, then asked that we visit them more often than twice per year so we can interact with more of their kids.

NSL Executive Director Tim Oliver announced that:

1. The unclassified history seminar was held recently and the SECRET level symposium will be held at Johns Hopkins in mid-May 2014.
2. The Submarine Birthday Ball was held last night and our own base member Dave Oliver was the longest serving submariner in attendance.
3. Tim thanked USSVI for announcing the NSL events in these minutes to our members.

Regional Director Mike Naughton announced that:

1. There will likely be a Northeast Regional Meeting probably in Pittsburg after this year's National convention so all attendees can become familiar with the site for the following year's convention, as well as conduct USSVI business.
2. All base associate members need to have sponsors who are full USSVI members. Associate members cannot sponsor other associate members.
3. The IRS issue with USSVI Groton Base over \$17,000 owed for past taxes has been resolved and settled.
4. This is an election year for USSVI national officers, so please pay attention and vote. You can ask questions of the candidates and see their responses on line. The link is:
<http://bod.subvets.net/category-view.asp>.
5. The golden anniversary of the Groton base will be observed this year in May. This was the first USSVI base to stand up.
6. Mike has met a resident of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington DC who is a submariner. Mike is working on getting him to come to both a Capitol Base and a NOVA Base meeting.
7. A qualification card exists for USSVI Base Commander. It can be downloaded at the USSVI web site.
8. Reminder that there will be the national celebration of the 50th anniversary of USSVI this Memorial day weekend here in DC. Two major events are planned:
 - a) May 24 from 12 to 3 PM. Tolling of the Boats Ceremony at the Navy Memorial.
 - b) May 26 12:30 PM parade in Washington DC - route to be announced.
9. The Capitol Base will hold their Tolling of the Boats Ceremony on May 17 at 1100 at Arlington National Cemetery at the F-4 submarine memorial. Our Base will again bring our bell to use in the ceremony.
10. The national convention for USSVI will be held in San Francisco, CA in early September. Registration is still open and can be accessed through the USSVI website.

OLD BUSINESS

We received a letter reply from the Governor of South Carolina concerning our request to consider restoring the former USS Clamagore. The funding is not there to do that and a contract has already been signed to have the hull towed to sea and sunk to become a reef to support sea life.

We still need more input from the membership on the proposed purchase of a challenge coin.

If you would like to participate in the Memorial Day weekend events discussed above, please contact the Base Commander at (703) 573-1523.

NEW BUSINESS

Fleet News:

Flag Officer announcements for Rear Admiral (lower half): CAPT Richard Correll, CAPT Peter Clark, CAPT Lorin Selby, CAPT John Tammen, Jr, and CAPT Johnny Wolfe, Jr.

The PCU John Warner has now been certified as "pressure hull complete". However, the USS North Dakota may be delayed in her commissioning due to undisclosed reasons.

The voluntary on-line survey is underway regarding female enlisted sailors' level of interest in serving in submarines.

The Binnacle List currently includes: Dex Armstrong, Resi Steeg, Ray Stone, Reb Wooten, and Bruce Miller and the rest of the family of CAPT Ray Coe.

For the Good of the Order, the CDR read the list of birthdays for April: Ed Ettner, Robert Frick, Dick Laulor, Lisa Murphy, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Pat Petersen, Willie Petruy, and the U.S. Submarine Service (114 years young).

The 50/50 raffle was won by Mike Naughton, who donated his winnings back to the Base. THANK YOU, MIKE!!!

The solemn Tolling of the Boats ceremony was conducted using a video presentation prepared by the Razorback Base in Arkansas. The music and additional photographs added considerably to the ceremony. Our base PAO, Mike Varone, arranged for permission from the Razorback Base for us to use this inspiring video.

We also honored the four NOVA Base members who have gone on Eternal Patrol this past year – Peggy Williams, Ralph Chatham, Rod Puffer, and Don Basham.

After the ceremony, a toast to the U.S Submarine Service was conducted.

The next meeting will be held on May 10th and our guest speaker will be our own Admiral Bob Frick, who will speak on why we tend to repeat major errors at sea every few years and don't seem to learn from them.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 1158.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Stephen C Bishop
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base