

## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1102 on September 14, 2019 at the American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. Bill Lehan, a NOVA Base member, introduced himself, as did new member Bill Douglas. Dominic Grimaldi, a member of the Groton Base, also attended.

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Bill Douglas, Bob Glover, Dominic Grimaldi, Steve Jaeger, Darlene Jaeger, Alyssa and Jackson LaHanier, Bill Lehan, Chuck Martin, Mark Reithmeier, Mike Varone, Anita Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (19 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

The COB, Mike Varone, led all hands in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the Chaplain read the list of boats lost in the month of September. These were:

USS S-5 (SS-110)	Sep 1, 1920
USS Grayling (SS-209)	Sep 9, 1943
USS Pompano (SS-181)	Sep 25, 1943
USS S-51 (SS-162)	Sep 25, 1925
USS Cisco (SS-290)	Sep 28, 1943

The COB rang the ship's bell twice in Remembrance of the 25 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

### IN MEMORIAM:

VADM Kent Jean Carroll, USN, Ret. – 8/11/19;  
CAPT Robert F. Kelly, Jr. USN, Ret. – 8/2/19;  
CAPT Gerald Dennis “Denny” Hicks, USN, Ret. – 5/7/18;  
MM1(SS) Phillip Lord Richeson, USN, Ret. – 5/14/17

### HISTORICAL MOMENT

Our Base Historian, Woody Woodworth, presented a short synopsis of USS Pompano (SS-181).

On September 4, 1942, while Pompano was returning to Midway at the end of her third patrol, a dead-in-the-water contact was sighted. Pompano submerged and circled the contact and identified the contact as an armed patrol craft that had armament of: one 20 MM cannon, machine guns, two Y guns, and depth charges. The decision was made that the draft of the contact was too shallow to guarantee a torpedo detonation, so Pompano battle surfaced at 0938 and at 0953 commenced firing on the contact at a range of 2700 yards. The third Pompano 3-inch salvo put the target's 20-mm out of commission. At 1006 the first loader of the Pompano's 3-inch gun crew, Motor Machinist Mate First Class (MoMM1c) Herbert Andrew Calcaterra was

wounded by a .30 caliber bullet. At 1030 Pompano ceased fire as the target was on fire. The target sunk at 1045 and three deep detonations of the 3 target's depth charges were heard. Pompano searched the area and captured a prisoner who revealed that most of the patrol craft crew were below decks eating and that the first hit destroyed its radio.

Sadly, later that evening at 2125, MoMM1c Calcaterra died from internal hemorage resulting from his bullet wound. Burial at sea services were conducted on September 5 for Petty Officer First Class Calcaterra. He was the first Pompano crew member to remain on eternal patrol, to be followed by the entire crew approximately one year later.

MoMM1c Calcaterra was commended 7 July 1943 for his performance as a member of the crew of USS Pompano (SS-181) and was awarded the Silver Star Medal posthumously for conspicuous gallantry as a member of the 3-inch gun crew. The destroyer escort ship USS Calcaterra (DE-390) was named in his honor.

## **MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the August meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was one amendment to the minutes that the diesel boat with all four main engines OOC was only 500 hours, not 5,000 hours, from a safe port. The minutes are accepted as amended.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the following:

Starting balance:	\$ 8,448.11
Receipts:	\$ 135.70
Expenditures:	\$ 328.70
Ending balance:	\$ 8,255.11
Minus remaining Walmart 2016/2017 Grant	
Restricted use K4K funds	
	\$ 1,169.40
Grand total (discretionary)	\$ 7,085.71

2018/2019 NOVA USSVI Charitable Foundation K4K funds

Total: \$ 2,054.10

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** by Steve Jaeger: 79 members comprised of:

- 43 Holland Club members,
- 3 WW II Members
- 27 Regular members, and
- 9 Associate members.

## **AWARD PRESENTATION**

The Base CDR asked that Base Secretary Steve Bishop come forward. Chuck then presented Steve with the National Commander's Robert Link Award. Chuck received the same award at the recent National Convention. BZ Steve and Chuck!!



Photo by Howard Chatham  
(L to R) CDR Chuck Martin, SEC Steve Bishop



Photo by Robert Bissonnette  
(L to R) CDR Chuck Martin, Nat CDR Wayne Standerfer

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### CDR:

The Executive Committee Board of Directors met on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting agenda included: committee reports, discussion of meeting related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

**CHIEF OF THE BOAT/PAO:** Mike Varone reported that he has picked up the Dale City 2019 4<sup>th</sup> of July Souvenir book, which includes the USSVI NOVA Base advertisement. He made several copies available to attendees.

**STOREKEEPER:** Howard Chatham reported that:

- Orders for the 2020 USSVI Calendars are being taken by the SK. The price is \$10. The theme is shipbuilding.
- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- Contact Howard Chatham, SK if interested in any items.
- He has ordered blue and pink ball caps for K4K for about \$1300.

**K4K:** Steve Bishop reported that upcoming K4K visits will be:  
UVA Charlottesville on October 1, 2019 at 1300, and  
Walter Reed Bethesda on October 23, 2019 at 1030.

**SCOUTING COORDINATOR:** Chuck Martin reported:

- Recently recognized Eagle Scout Austin Newman on August 11.
- Upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honor is for Eagle Scout Joey Keating on October 12. The Base will send a package of a patch, certificate, USS Virginia photo, and a letter from the Base Commander.

**NJROTC / SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** NTR

**SUBLEAGUE:** Chuck Martin and George Wallace reported that:

- Upcoming NSL Events:
  - NSL Capitol Chapter Fall Meeting will be at the Army Navy Country Club on Friday, 4 Oct. Please RSVP before Friday, 27 Sept. The luncheon will start promptly at 1200. Featured speaker is RADM Thomas Ishee, OPNAV N97.
  - 2019 NSL History Seminar, Washington, DC – October 17, 2019 at the Cold War Museum on the Navy Yard.
  - 2019 Annual Symposium and Industry Update – November 6-7, 2019 in Crystal City, VA at the Hyatt.
- Other Events:
  - Navy Week is going to Charleston, West Virginia, from October 7-13, 2019. Sailors from the USS West Virginia (SSBN 736) are scheduled to be there. If you would like to get involved, send an email to [communication@navalsubleague.org](mailto:communication@navalsubleague.org).
  - Now the USS Virginia (SSN 774) Commanding Officer (CO) and Chief of the Boat (COB) plan to make a namesake visit to Virginia on November 10-14, flying into DC and out of Richmond, with a day in Charlottesville. If you can provide information about local media contacts, a community relations/service opportunity (such as a visit to a children's hospital), and/or a sports event they might attend, please send an email to [communication@navalsubleague.org](mailto:communication@navalsubleague.org). We will coordinate with them and let you know what their final itinerary will be.

**Upcoming Submarine Reunions**

- There are numerous submarine reunions scheduled for the months of September and October. For a listing of submarine reunions see pages 42 -43 of the American Submariner 2019 Third Quarter edition.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Submarine sweaters – if interested in obtaining one, LCDR Powell ordered a few extras or he can place you on the next order. See the Base CDR for more information.
- USSVI Charitable Foundation has established a USS Batfish Memorial Fund to assist with the recovery efforts from damage that the USS Batfish received from recent flooding.
- The BASE is seeking volunteers to be members of the Election Committee for 2020 Base Officer Nominations. Please let either the CDR or VCDR know if you are interested in being a member.
- Last month's speaker materials about caring for a loved one in a hospital environment are available from the Base Secretary

## NEW BUSINESS

- USS Thresher memorial dedication ceremony and reception is September 26, 2019 at Arlington National Cemetery. RSVP via <https://threshermemorial.org/rsvp.html> The Base sponsored two USS Thresher Family Members to attend the event for \$100. At this time Woody Woodworth was asked to tell his Thresher story. Woody then related that three weeks before USS Thresher was lost at sea, he was one of the three Sonarman first class recent graduates of the AN/BQQ-1 Operation and Maintenance "C" school ordered to report to USS Thresher in Groton, CT. He reported to the squadron there only to find out that the boat was delayed in its arrival from the shipyard in Portsmouth, NH. Wanting to get his sub pay started at the earliest moment, he drove to Portsmouth, NH to report aboard. Thresher crewman Sonarman First Class Robert Edward Steinel recommended that he drive back to Groton, as the boat was due to arrive there in about a week after the sea trials that started the next day. That guidance saved Woody's life as USS Thresher never made it to Groton. In response to the request for donations by the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Thresher Memorial Committee, Woody made a donation to support the families of the Thresher crew and the military/civilian riders at the ANC dedication. Woody requested that if possible he would like to specify the family of SO1(SS) Steinel as the primary recipient of his donation if they attended the USS Thresher memorial dedication at ANC.
- The Base will have a Pirate Auction after our meeting in October. Aye be looking at your bounty to see what can be looted. So far we have three submarine photos on the auction block. So start considering what you might have to put on the auction block. Our last Pirate Auction in 2017 raised over \$1000 for the Base.
- Highly recommended 52-minute video (with 3 commercials) at <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6esq3j>. Discovery Channel's "Submarine: Hidden Hunter" highlights the Virginia Class subs.
- American Legion Post 162 Recovery Effort update. Amos reported that the Post has finally received the funding for recovery efforts. While the effort is recovery, there are some improvements/upgrades being implemented. For example, the restrooms are being enlarged and brought to code, the kitchen is being upgraded, etc. Expect to be reopened either in late October or early November.
- Post USSVI National Convention notes:
  - For copy of pictures from the convention you will need to use Dropbox this year. The Base CDR will send an email with details on how to login (e.g., Username and Password) along with how to locate the folder.
  - Hot Items
    - USSVI Annual Memberships expires on Dec 31; renewal fees are due on or before Dec 31. The Base holds an early bird drawing during the Dec meeting that awards the following year renewal fees for one Regular and one Associate member.
    - Looking for volunteers to fill two USSVI Charitable Foundation positions: USSVI CF Treasurer and Executive Director. If anyone is interested in either position, contact me for additional details.
  - Future USSVI Convention information
    - 2020 in Tucson; 23-30 Aug (CDR has some material)
    - 2021 in Orlando at Rosen Shingle Creek; 30 Aug – 4 Sep
    - 2022 in Buffalo; Dates TBD; First 4 day convention



- Boat Reunions held at Conventions gets discounted rooms; Attendees at these reunions don't need to be USSVI members.
- **Hard copy informational material for the next two convention sites was made available by the Base CDR.**
  - Notes from the various business meetings are included at the end of the minutes.
- Penny Wallace showed two books she has purchased for her grandson. These may be great for our K4K visits to the three hospitals. 1. "Ned the Nuclear Submarine" by Demetri Capetanopoulos, and 2. "Nautilus- The Submarine Technology of Jules Verne", by the same author. All proceeds from the sale of these two books go to the Dolphin Scholarship Foundation.
- The Base is seeking volunteers/nominations for candidates for the 2020 Base Officer Election. Positions available are Base Commander, Base Vice CDR, Treasurer, and Secretary. Being a Base Officer is a great means in shaping the vision and activities of the Base.



Photo by Mark Riethmeier

(L to R) Current Base Officers: COB Mike Varone, CDR Chuck Martin, SEC Steve Bishop, TREAS Steve Jaeger; VCDR Brian Haller not present

## **BINNACLE LIST**

### **“PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS.”**

Steve Bishop, Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Tony Poblete, Ray Stone, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent.

### **“FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.”**

The 50/50 raffle drawing was won by Mark Reithmeier.

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE:** Howard Chatham, Jim Kraut, Woody Woodworth, Chuck Martin, Dave Oliver, and the words that became the National Anthem written in 1814.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.

Sixteen base members met at about 12:15 at Dixie Bones Restaurant in Woodbridge for the Base Members Appreciation luncheon hosted and paid for by the Base.

**THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 364. After the meeting we will hold our Pirate Auction.**

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

Stephen C Bishop  
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

## **2019 USSVI National Convention Meeting Notes**

### **17 August 2019**

#### **Kap(SS) For Kid(SS)**

1. Smoky Mountain Submarine Veterans Base created a qualification card to give the kids with a presentation. Contact Marlin Helms, Base Commander, if you would like an electronic copy of the qualification card at [marlinehelms@gmail.com](mailto:marlinehelms@gmail.com)
2. One Base received a donation from Walmart of their excessive stuff animals from Valentine's Day for K4K. Estimate timeline to ask is February.
3. One Base has donated kids ride on electric cars and a couple of tablets to the hospital.

#### **Treasurer**

1. Please submit your Base EOY report on time. If late it results in National having to request an extension on filing USSVI IRS tax forms.
2. Base Insurance payment is due by January 1. National Treasurer sends invoice to Base POC in November.
3. Per the Financial Procedure Manual Base Commander and Treasurer are required to be different individuals. Recommend that the Vice Commander also be a different person to allow the Base the flexibility to transfer Treasurer responsibilities to the Vice Commander if needed.
4. Recommended that a financial audit by Base members be conducted on the relief of the Base Treasurer.
5. Please include the members name and years for dues remittance with the check submit to National for USSVI dues.
6. Treasurers should indicate dues paid using Tools. Once indicated that dues are paid the member is listed as pending. Request Treasurers verify that the member is removed from the "Dues Pending" section two weeks after check for dues submitted.
7. National Treasurer is developing a change to the Financial PPM.

#### **Secretary**

1. Read and comply with the Archive Manual for items to submit to the National Archivist at end of year and those required to be retained by Base.

#### **Membership**

1. USSVI had 870 members who did not renew their annual membership in 2019. That is about an 18% lost for annual members. WHY? Base Membership and Commanders should call the member and ask why they left USSVI. Report back to National Commander the reasons.
2. Start dues in October to have all paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Start calling members with outstanding dues in November.
3. National misinterpreted the "Legion" law that was recently signed by President Trump. After review by USSVI attorney it was determined that the law only applies to the American Legion charter for the definition of "War Veteran" and not all Veteran organizations. The National Membership Chair will review the entire USSVI membership database and make corrections to War Veteran status as needed. Please stop updating members' status. Other Veteran organizations are suing Congress for limiting the change to "War Veteran" status only to American Legion. Rumor is a request was sent to the President to sign an Executive Order to change the War Veteran status for ALL Veteran organizations and to change IRS regulations.



### **Storekeeper**

1. National SK is streamlining products. Let him know if there is a product you desire.
2. Now accepting 2020 USSVI Calendars orders. The calendar theme is shipbuilding and will be available in September for shipping.
3. New SK catalog. The Retail catalog is available for downloading from the National SK website. The SK confidential catalog is available for Base SK.
4. Free shipping for orders over \$50.
5. Round Chaplain patches are available for free from National SK.

### **Chaplain**

1. If desired, request Base SK order a round Chaplain patch for free.

### **USSVI Charitable Foundation**

1. USSVI CF is seeking a volunteer for the position of USSVI CF Treasurer. The volunteer should have experience with 501(c)3 organization finance.
2. USSVI CF is seeking a volunteer for the position of USSVI CF Executive Director.

### **Base Commander**

1. Read the Base Development Manual for ideas on conducting the Base meeting.
  - a. Take a moment to have Base members shakes hands
2. Base Officers should call members in the local area who has not attended a meeting in a while to both let them know they were missed and to determine if they are well or need assistance.
3. Bases should consider giving longevity pins to members. The members normally appreciate the gesture.
4. Consider starting a Base award for recognizing Base members and their support.
5. National Bulletins (POC) are required to be distributed to all Base members, it is not an option. The Base POC is to include the District Commander on copy when the National Bulletin is distributed to Base members.
  - a. Regional Directors and District Commanders are not to forward the National Bulletin to the Base Commanders.
  - b. The National distribution system is malfunctioning resulting in some POCs not receiving the National Bulletins. District Commanders are to track their Bases distributing the National Bulletins and if a Base does not distribute the bulletin within a couple of weeks the District Commander should contact the Base Commander to determine the issue.
6. National communication that are label as “Eyes Only” are internal communication not to be distributed below intended population.
7. Question was asked about the status of the Base Commander Certification program. The response was the person who was managing the District and Base Commander certification and qualification card program is on Eternal Patrol and all information was lost. National Commander is going to restart the program with certification being highly recommended but optional.
  - a. Tom Williams, Central Regional Director, stated he has copies of the District Commander and Base Commander qualification card.
  - b. Victor Vanhorn, Western Regional District 1 Commander stated he has Base Commander qualification card.

**District Commander**

1. DCs are required to make Base visits. Suggested that the DCs make visits not just for special event meetings, e.g., picnics, luncheons, Holland Club Inductions, etc., but to visit during regular meetings.
2. DCs are submit R&Rs (reimbursement requests) for all traveling excluding their primary Base. This is so National can use the information for budgetary purpose.
3. DCs need to communicate routinely with their Base Commanders. Recommend obtaining a teleconference account, many are free, and conducting regular teleconference meetings with Base Commanders.
4. District and Base Commanders are encouraged to use Tools. Tools has many useful management features, e.g., tracking dues, listing of upcoming Holland Club members, Base members longevity status, etc.