

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1100 on June 13, 2020, and welcomed all members and guests. Due to social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19, the meeting was held using the Cisco Webex web conferencing application. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Les Altschuler (USSVI Northeast Regional Director), Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Brian Haller, James Huck, Steve Jaeger, Chuck Martin, Lou Maruzo, Robert Maydwell, Bruce Miller, Paul Nelson, Teresa Nelson, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, and Woody Woodworth (18 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.

The VCDR, Brian Haller, read the list of boats lost in June. These were:

USS O-9 (SS-70)	June 20, 1941
USS S-27 (SS-132)	June 19, 1942
USS R-12 (SS-89)	June 12, 1943
USS RUNNER (SS-275)	Between June 26 to July 4, 1943
USS HERRING (SS-233)	June 1, 1944
USS GOLET (SS-361)	June 14, 1944
USS BONEFISH (SS-223)	June 19, 1945

(Post meeting note: Mark Riethmeier provided the attached pennant that he acquired years ago and believes it was potentially from R-12's softball team.)



The CDR then tolled the ship's bell twice for the 26 USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM: RADM John Amand "Jack" Walsh, USN, Ret.—4/17/20; STCS Thomas M. Lee, USN, Ret.—5/8/20.

MEETING MINUTES

The May 2020 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership. The CDR asked whether there were any additional comments or discussion for the May minutes. Hearing no additional comments or corrections, the minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, presented the Treasurer's monthly report:

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	\$ 9,504.99
• Receipts:	\$ 0.39
- Interest/Dividends	
• Expenditures:	\$ 73.42
- Dues to National	
- Expense-Events (2020 HC)	
• Ending Sub-Total:	\$ 9,431.96
- Minus Remaining Walmart Grant Restricted Use Funds	(\$1,169.40)
• Grand Total (discretionary)	\$ 8,262.56
• NOVA USSVICF K4K Total:	\$ 3,054.10
- To date, we have received \$1000.00 in 2020	

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No **Executive Board** meeting was held this month.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Steve Jaeger: 83 members comprised of:

- 45 Holland Club members,
 - 4 WW II members
- 30 Regular members
- 8 Associate members

The **Vice Commander**, Brian Haller, had nothing to report.

The **COB**, Mike Varone, had nothing to report.

The **PAO**, Mike Varone, had nothing to report.

The **CHAPLAIN**, Steve Jaeger, had nothing to report.

On behalf of the **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, the CDR announced that all K4K visits had been suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 crisis. We received another Wal-Mart Community Grant check for the amount of \$250. This will probably be the last check for this year.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, had nothing to report. The CDR stated that Base members should contact Howard at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if they desired to purchase USSVI and NOVA Base merchandise.

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported that there had been an issue with the email forwarding feature that has been resolved.

NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL) Capitol Chapter President, George Wallace, provided the following information on upcoming NSL and related events:

- Canceled, postponed, or modified Naval Submarine League (NSL) and related events:
 - 2020 Submarine History Seminar, in collaboration with the Smithsonian Associates – **Rescheduled** for 17 Nov 2020
 - As updates are available, the information will be distributed.
- Due to concerns with COVID-19, next meeting may be in the fall
- NSL Capitol Chapter holding elections for President and Treasurer with on-line voting.
- Move to new building in fall, address: 407 North Henry Street.

The **USSVI Northeast Region Director**, Les Altschuler, encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming USSVI National Election. Voting would be on-line or by mail.

The **VCDR** provided information on upcoming submarine reunions:

- USS FLASHER (SSN 613) – June 10-14, 2020; Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS BALTIMORE (SSN 704) – June 12-14; Pittsburg, PA
- USS WILLIAM H. BATES (SSN 680) – June 22-25, 2020; Silverdale, WA
- USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN 686) – July 20-August 2, 2020; Groton, CT
- USS SALT LAKE CITY (SSN 716) – August 13-16, 2020; Branson, MO
- USS TREPANG (SSN 674) – August 13-16, 2020; Groton, CT
- USS FLYING FISH (SSN 673) – August 20-24, 2020; Virginia Beach, VA
- USS SALMON (SS 573) – August 21-23, 2020; Tucson, AZ
- USS RONQUIL (SS 396) – August 21-24, 2020; Tucson, AZ
- USS RATON (SS 270) – August 24-28, 2020 Tucson, AZ
- USS BANG (SS 385) – August 26-30, 2020, Washington, DC
- USS SEADRAGON (SS 584) – August 27-29; 2020, Tucson, AZ

Call or Email the POC listed in the *American Submariner* to determine the current status of the reunion.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Base's wall pictures damaged in the American Legion Post 162 fire have been restored.
- Check out the latest edition of the *American Submariner* for USSVI National Officer Candidate information and proposed changes to the Constitution & By-Laws for this year's USSVI National election. **The USSVI National Election Online Voting begins on 18 June 2020.** The CDR reminded everyone that bios and information could be found in the *American Submariner*.
- USSVI National Convention News
 - 2020 National Convention in Tucson, AZ has been canceled and has been rescheduled to August 2023
 - 2021 National Convention will be in Orlando, FL, at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort

The CDR called for other items of old business and none were provided.

NEW BUSINESS

- The USSVI Northern Virginia Base Activities report for 2020 has been submitted.
- Normally the Base does not hold a meeting in July. If our Informal Dining Out scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2020, at 1800 is canceled, do the Base Members want to have a Base meeting instead?
 - The CDR requested a motion on this issue. It was so moved and seconded by the Base Members. The CDR requested to know if there was anyone who opposed this idea, there were none. Motion carried and if the Informal Dining Out is canceled, the Base will conduct a meeting (Webex or in person) in July.

The CDR called for other items of new business and none were provided.

The Binnacle List

The Chaplain asked that we keep the following in our thoughts and prayers: Steve Bishop, Delbert Ennis (recovering from a fall), Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Mike Naughton, Tony Poblete, Tom Perrault, and Lorraine Sargent.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for June: Debbie Bishop, Marcy Bivens, Dan Burke, Dave Cooper, Brian Haller, Jim Huck, William Lehan, Mike Niblack, Tony Poblete, Art Rosen, Lee Turner, and Carl Wooten.

In case we don't have a regular meeting in July, the birthdays for July are: Cathy Chatham, Bill Decker, Tom Fortier, Robert Gilmore, and Frank Pasquinelli.

The Dale City 4th of July parade is canceled. The informal dining out scheduled for July 11th at Kilroy's is tentative. An email will be sent once we know that the event will occur.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 8th venue TBD (American Legion Post 364 or Cisco Webex).

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn and take a short 5-minute break before introducing the guest speaker, CTTC(SS) Michael R. Varone, USN, Ret., who will provide a discussion on “My life as a direct support ship rider.” It was so moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1131.

CTTC(SS) MICHAEL R VARONE, USN, RET.
20 JULY 1957 TO 1 FEBRUARY 1982
BIOGRAPH

Chief Varone, a native of Brooklyn, New York, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in the summer of 1957 immediately upon graduation from high school. Following completion of basic training at Recruit Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland, he reported to US Naval Communications Training Center, Imperial Beach, CA, completing Communications Technician training, R Branch, in 1958. In 1959 he transferred to Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA), Bremerhaven, Germany. Subsequent tours were served at NSGA, Karamursel, Turkey, and NSGA Winter Harbor, Maine from 1961 to 1964. In 1964, while stationed at NSGA, Winter Harbor, Maine, Chief Varone volunteered to enter the Direct Support program, a program which guaranteed him the opportunity to serve with forces afloat. From 1965 until 1968, while serving at CINCPACFLT, Hawaii and Naval Security Group Detachment (NSGD), Yokosuka, Japan made 9 deployments aboard 5 different classes of submarines from diesel-powered to nuclear powered fast attack submarines.

In January, 1968 while deployed aboard USS CAIMAN (SS323) on his ninth patrol as detachment LPO, Chief Varone learned he had been selected for advancement to CPO. At the same time, Chief Varone completed his qualification practical factors and was presented his coveted silver dolphins by CO USS CAIMAN.

In 1969 Chief Varone transferred to CINCLANTFLT, Norfolk, Virginia where he made 5 deployments aboard the Navy's newest Sturgeon class submarines his 6th different class of submarine. Upon completion of his tour at CINCLANTFLT in 1972, Chief Varone transferred to NSGA, Todendorf, Germany. In 1974 he was selected for the Associate Degree Completion Program (ADCOP) and earned an Associate Degree in Business Administration from Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Upon graduation in 1976, Chief Varone transferred to NSGA Naples, Italy in a Direct Support role and, upon completion of that tour, transferred to NSGA Northwest, Chesapeake, Virginia in 1979 where he served as CLASSIC NOMAD LCPO.

In February 1982 Chief Varone completed 25 years of Naval service and transferred to the Fleet Reserve.

Chief Varone is married to his beloved wife Anita F. (Liles) Varone of Tampa, Florida, and will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Chief Varone's awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the 2017 USSVI Meritorious Award.

The COB provided a very lively discussion with a slide show of his time as a Direct Support rider.

Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary