



USSVI Northern Virginia Base



MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020

The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, called the meeting to order at 1109 on November 14, 2020 and welcomed all members and guests. Due to social distancing requirements associated with COVID-19, the meeting was held using the Zoom web conferencing application. The CDR requested that members and guests provide him with an email to document attendance.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Joe Castell, Howard Chatham, **Thomas Denton** (USSVI Tri-State Base Commander), **Art Glover** (USSVI Northeast District 4 Commander), **Dominick Grimaldi**, **Rufino "Ric" Guntang**, **Joan Guntang**, Brian Haller, **Steve Jaeger**, **Robert Maydwell**, Chuck Martin, **Paul Nelson**, **Teresa Nelson**, **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 reading of the boats lost in November was dispensed with in light of the forthcoming Tolling of the Boats ceremony.

IN MEMORIAM: CAPT William Paul (Bill) Bancroft, USN, Ret—9/25/20; RADM George Fitzallen Ellis, Jr., USN, Ret—9/24/20; CAPT Reid Smith, USN, Ret—9/28/20; CAPT James Turner, USN, Ret—10/8/20; CAPT Rich Allan Medley, USN, Ret—10/9/20; CAPT Charles F. Noll, USN, Ret—10/20/20; CAPT William Luther Porter, USN, Ret—10/30/20; VADM John H. Nicholson, USN, Ret—11/7/20.

MEETING MINUTES

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

TREASURER REPORT

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

- Beginning Cash on Hand: \$ 9,437.77
- Receipts: \$ 140.39
 - Dues, Annual, Base
 - Dues—Annual, National
 - Interest/Dividends



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- Expenditures: \$ 0.0
- Ending Sub-Total: \$ 9,578.16
 - Minus Remaining Walmart Grant Restricted Use Funds (\$1,169.40)
- Grand Total (discretionary) \$ 8,408.76

- NOVA USSVICF K4K Total: \$ 3,054.10
 - To date, we have received \$1000.00 in 2020

- Announcement: 2021 Base and National dues are due 31 December 2020. The “Early Bird” (dues paid for 2020) period is between now and 11 Dec 2020 (all dues must be mailed to the Base Treasurer, there are no Face-to-Face dues payments).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **Executive Board** meeting was held on November 4, 2020, via Zoom. The meeting agenda included:

- Committee Reports
- Membership
- 2020 Holland Club
- 2021 Draft Base Budget
- Initiated draft 2021 Budget
- K4K Program
- Other Base events/calendar

MEMBERSHIP REPORT presented by Steve Jaeger: 83 members comprised of:

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

The **VCDR**, 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.



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The **KAPS 4 KIDS** Chairman, Steve Bishop, reported that all K4K visits had been suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 crisis. Steve stated that the Groton Base had conducted K4K events using Group Zoom with separate accommodations in the hospital. This option is not available for NOVA Base. Steve indicated that there would be no further WALMART Grant solicitations this year since we were not using current funds.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Howard Chatham, reported:

- Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase
- Preorders for the 2021 USSVI Calendars are now being taken.
 - The calendar will be available through either our Base SK or can be ordered from the ordering information contained in the fourth quarter edition of the *American Submariner*.
 - Members are encouraged to order through the Base SK. The Base receives a discount on bulk orders and receives a small profit from the sale.
 - The calendars are expected to be available for shipment by the end of November.
 - The theme for the 2021 USSVI calendar is Submarines at the Movies.
 - Cost, if ordered through the Base SK, is \$10/calendar; if ordered through the National SK is \$10.95 +\$2.75 shipping.
 - You save if ordering through the Base SK.
 - Contact the Base SK to place your preorder of calendars.
- Storekeeper also has access to National USSVI SK, Submarine Ships Store, and SubmarineShop.com items for purchase
- Contact Howard at storekeeper@ussvinova.org if you have interest in purchasing any submarine related merchandise

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported no issues with the Base website.

On behalf of the **USSVI NE Region Commander**, Les Altschuler, and the **USSVI NE District 4 Commander**, Art Glover, the CDR provided the following:

- Arizona Silent Service Memorial (ASSM)
 - Is open to the public! On September 28th, 2020, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted to honor its completion.
 - The Dedication Ceremony has been officially scheduled for Saturday, April 17th, 2021.
 - Additional information is appended to the minutes.
- USSVI Groton Chapter
 - Held its Tolling of the Boast ceremony on November 11th, 2020, via Zoom.
 - Is sponsoring their annual Thanksgiving event for single Sailors in the Groton area on Thanksgiving. All donations are appreciated.
 - Additional information is appended to the minutes.
- The NE4 District Commander will donate \$100 to the first Base in the district that gets 100% of its members to renew their annual dues by December 31, 2020.



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

- The NSL Headquarters office has moved, and the address is 405 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; phone number is 703-256-0891.
- Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events
 - NSL Capitol Chapter
 - Conducted its first virtual meeting on October 28, 2020. A video of the meeting will be available soon on the NSL website.
 - The next virtual meeting is
 - December 17, 2020
 - Time: 1530 EST
 - Guest Speaker: Don Keith will be reprising a presentation that he gave at the Nautilus Museum to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of ex-USS NAUTILUS' historic trip under the polar ice. Don is co-author with CAPT William Anderson of *THE ICE DIARIES: The True Story of One of Mankind's Greatest Adventures*. Don is co-author with George Wallace on the *HUNTER KILLER* series of novels.
 - Log-in information is included in the minutes.
 - 2020 Annual Symposium and Industry Update—Virtual on 16-18 Nov 2020
 - Registration is available at <https://www.navalsubleague.org/events/asiu>
 - Navy League's Sea-Air-Space Expo
 - Scheduled for August 1-4, 2021
 - STEM Expo will be held on August 1, 2021
 - Location: Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center

On behalf of the **International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA)**, President, John "Bud" Cunnally, the CDR provided the following:

- International Submarines Congress
 - Date: May 23-27, 2021
 - Location: Karlskrona, Sweden
 - Activities include: Naval Museum tour, Naval Base tour, Memorial Service, Boat trip, local activities
 - For more information visit their website at <http://www.57isc.com/>
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc) visit their website www.isausa.org/
 - Life membership to the ISA/USA is \$50.00 and
 - The application is on the ISA/USA website.

Upcoming submarine reunions:

- None

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



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2021 USSVI NOVA Base Election, the CDR provided the following:

- The Election Master for the 2021 Base election is Howard Chatham.
- Ballots will be distributed shortly after this meeting.
- Ballots must be received by the Election Master:
 - By email or mail by 2359 on December 11, 2020, or
 - If the December meeting is conducted in person by 1115 on December 12, 2020.
- Paper ballots will be available at the December meeting if held in person.
- The following positions will be on the ballot:
 - Base Commander
 - Base Vice Commander
 - Base Secretary
 - Base Treasurer
- Current nominees are:
 - Base Commander—Chuck Martin
 - Base Vice Commander—Brian Haller
 - Base Secretary—Joe Castell
 - Base Treasurer—Steve Jaeger
 - The CDR opened the floor for nominations. No additional nominations were provided.

OLD BUSINESS

- USSV Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) 2021-2022 Scholarship Program and Application Procedure and associated processes will be “launched,” and the application website was opened for applications.
- Authors Frank Hood (USSVI member) and his brother, Charles Hood, have written a series of three submarine books: *Poobie Suits and Cowboy Boots*; *Sub Tales: Stories That Seldom Surface*; and *The Silent Service Speaks* Vol 1. Proceeds from the sale of the books go to our USSVI Scholarship Fund.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- TRICARE Open Season (<https://www.tricare.mil/openseason>) begins November 9 and ends December 14. Any enrollment changes you make will go into effect on January 1, 2021. Open season applies to anyone enrolled in or eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select. You have three options:
 - **Stay in your plan.** If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health plan, you do not have to re-enroll.
 - Note: Are you a Group A retiree or family member enrolled in TRICARE Select? Act now to set up payment for a new monthly TRICARE Select enrollment fee to keep your TRICARE Select coverage. These fees go into effect on January 1, 2021. (<https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/Select/EnrollmentFee>).
 - **Enroll in a plan.** If you are eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can enroll in a plan now.



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- **Change plans.** If you are already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.
- **Dental and Vision plans.** Outside of the Federal Benefits Open Season, you can only enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) or make changes to your existing FEDVIP plan if you experience a FEDVIP QLE (Qualifying Life Event: Birth, Death, Marriage, Divorce). Remember, FEDVIP QLEs may be different from TRICARE QLEs. To learn more, visit www.benefeds.com.
- Links to several useful VA booklets are appended to the minutes.
- For the latest COVID-19 information in the Northern Virginia area visit one of the below websites:
 - Arlington County – <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/>
 - City of Alexandria – <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus>
 - Fairfax County – <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>
 - Prince William County – <https://coronavirus.pwcgov.org>

The CDR called for any other items of new business:

- George Wallace provided that Don Keith's documentary movie "*Colors of Character*" would be playing for a short time in Fredericksburg.

The Binnacle List

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Delbert Ennis, Brian Haller, Barbara Harmody, Mike Naughton, Tony Poblete, and Tom Perrault.

For the Good of the Order, the COB read the list of birthdays for November: Rodey Batiza, Art Bivens, Anthony "Tony" Cunningham, Francis McNamara, Eva Waylett, and the United States Marine Corps.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on December 12th and the venue is still to be determined: either at American Legion Post 364 with Zoom or just another Zoom telecon.

The CDR requested a 5-minute intermission before the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony to allow members to charge their glasses.

TOLLING OF THE BOATS



NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE





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Tolling of the Boats:

“The “Tolling the Boats” ceremony was originally established by the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II. It is a unique and time-honored memorial service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Navy. It honors the memory of those submariners who lost their lives in the line of duty since the establishment of the U.S. Submarine Force in 1900. At the heart of the ceremony, the names of each of the U.S. Submarines lost, along with the fate of its crew, are read aloud as a bell is tolled for each in turn.”

The ceremony was conducted by the Immediate Past Base Commander, Howard Chatham, with a slideshow representing each boat. The CDR rang the ship’s bell for each boat. The ship’s bell was then rung for the 27 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a toast was offered by the Base Commander to honor past, present, and future U.S. Submarine Service.

The Chaplain delivered the benediction.

The CDR requested a motion to adjourn and it was seconded and so moved. The meeting was adjourned at 1212.

Submitted by Joe Castell
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary



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NSL CAPITOL CHAPTER VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

For a December Christmas present, we have another treat. Don Keith will be reprising a presentation that he gave at the Nautilus Museum to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Nautilus' historic trip under the polar ice. Don is co-author with CAPT William Anderson of **THE ICE DIARIES: The True Story of One of Mankind's Greatest Adventures**. This is an excellent chance to get some real insights into what went into that voyage, from the preparations through to the political and strategic fallout after the voyage. Don's bio is below. (Truth in advertising. Don is my co-author on the HUNTER KILLER series of novels.)

Topic: NSL Capitol Chapter December Meeting
Time: Dec 17, 2020, 03:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85028148896?pwd=aVRQNktJcSsxZmFFZEZuRnBoV3FDdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 2814 8896

Passcode: 006358

Award-winning and best-selling author Don Keith has published more than three dozen books, fiction, non-fiction, and biographies, including several national best-sellers. As a broadcast journalist, he won awards from the Associated Press and United Press International for news writing and reporting and was also the first winner of Troy University's Hector Award for innovation in broadcast journalism. As an on-the-air broadcaster, Don was twice named *Billboard Magazine* "Radio Personality of the Year."

His best-selling submarine thriller **FIRING POINT**—co-written with CDR (ret.) George Wallace--was the basis for the hit motion picture **HUNTER KILLER**, starring Gerard Butler and Gary Oldman. Keith and Wallace will release their sixth book in "The Hunter Killer Series" in Spring 2021. **THE ICE DIARIES: The True Story of One of Mankind's Greatest Adventures**, which Don co-authored with CAPT William Anderson was nominated for a Pulitzer. Don is one of the most prolific authors on submarine history currently writing several books on WW II boats in addition to **ICE DIARIES**.

Don's writing has also appeared in such publications as *The Washington Post*, *CQ Magazine*, *The American Legion Magazine*, *The K9YA Telegraph*, and *The Irish Times*. He has appeared on scores of documentaries and TV shows from Fox Nation to CSPAN's "Book TV." He also has written several movie scripts and has projects in various stages of pre-production for movies and television. His documentary film, **COLORS OF CHARACTER**, was recently released in select theaters nationwide. Among other topics, Don has written extensively about World War II history. He sponsors the **UNTOLD MILLIONS Project**, an effort to encourage the capture and archiving of eyewitness accounts of major historical events. The project web site is www.untoldmillions.net. Don's author website is www.donkeith.com.

V/R

George

George Wallace, CDR USN (Ret)
President Capitol Chapter
Naval Submarine League
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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER VETERANS INFORMATION

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf> - Planning your Legacy – VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit – this should be shared with every Veteran. This document helps you put all your important documents in one place and includes all the forms you or your spouse would need in the event of your death. I cannot tell you how many people I have helped when the death of a Veteran happened, and they could not find his/her DD214. Your DD214 is your gold card for all VA benefits.

<https://www.va.gov/va-welcome-kit-color.pdf> - This is a great document and is given to every service member when they separate from the armed forces. Of course, they may not have had this when you separated, but it can be immensely helpful to you.

Most Veterans believe they are entitled to Veteran Health Care – not necessarily true. First and foremost, there are 8 different subgroups you as a Veteran can be placed, mostly depending on your disability. You MUST register with the VA Health Care even if you are collecting a disability from VA. They do not automatically enroll you. If you are not collecting a disability from the VA, the following is for your information

In 2003, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) made the difficult decision to stop enrolling Veterans with household income exceeding the income thresholds who apply for entitlements after January 17, 2003, to ensure the provision of timely and quality medical care for those enrolled.

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/priority-groups/> - listing of all priority groups

1-877-222-8387 - This is the number to call to get your Veterans Health Benefits Handbook, it will tell you exactly what you are eligible for, but you must be registered in the Veterans Health Care to receive this booklet

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations> - Find a VA location or in-network community care provider.

<https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/> - this benefit is for surviving spouses if the service member dies of a service-related disability, it is approximately 2,000 tax-free a month from the VA.

<https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html> - There are not only VA benefits but state benefits also. Check out your state on this website.



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GROTON BASE THANKSGIVING EVENT



UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC.
Thanksgiving/Caring and Sharing Committee
40 School Street, Groton, CT 06340-3940



12 October 2020

Shipmates,

In keeping with our creed and in appreciation of those who are serving our country, we will once again celebrate Thanksgiving. It will look different this year due to COVID-19, but we hope to bring the Holiday close to as many people as possible

This year due to the COVID 19 Virus, we may not be able to cook and serve dinners as in the past, but we will provide Thanksgiving food baskets to Veterans and Navy families. If we are able to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for Active Duty Sailors, Submarine Veterans, first responders and others then we will continue our with our traditional Thanksgiving cooked meals.

The Thanksgiving Committee needs your help to accomplish this. It is a huge endeavor requiring donations and many volunteers. We need your help with this project. Please take a moment to review the following list and, if possible, choose a task and volunteer a little time, or make a food or monetary donation. We ask you to respond at your earliest convenience. Please respond no later than **November 20th, 2020** so we can make this happen. We need:

- Monetary Donations, no amount is too small;
- Pickup/delivery of supplies Thanksgiving week;
- Delivery of meals on Thanksgiving Day; (if then current restrictions allow);
- Provide a homemade dessert (Thanksgiving Eve, or Thanksgiving morning);
- Donate a 14-16 pound fresh or thawed turkey. Donations may be made at the club up to 6 days prior to Thanksgiving. We need time to thaw frozen birds;
- Donations of cooked and unstuffed turkeys larger than 16 pounds (including drippings) either the night before or morning of Thanksgiving;
- Volunteers to cook large turkeys (larger than 16 pounds) and return to club either the night before or morning of Thanksgiving;
- Set-up the day before, serving during Thanksgiving Day, clean-up after Thanksgiving dinner or clean-up the next morning (Friday);
- We also need your help in identifying homebound who we can help out by bringing them a meal.

Member/Donor Name: _____

Monetary donation amount: _____ Other Donation: _____

Volunteering for: _____ Times you can Volunteer _____

Phone/email address: _____ (Please Print Clearly)

Please fill out and either return to the club or email to one of the POCs below.

Thank you in advance for all you do for SUBVETS Groton Base.

IF MAKING A MONETARY DONATION, PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK WITH THIS FORM OR MAKE DONATE VIA <https://www.ussvigroton.org/donations>

POCs: thanksgiving@ussvigroton.org; Scott Howard cell: (860) 608-9892, Jeff Walsh cell: (860)-449-2103

Please note: Contributions or gifts are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Jeff Walsh, Base Commander
Cell: (860) 449-2103; email: commander@ussvigroton.org