

## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, February 11, 2023

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1042 on February 11, 2023, at American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. New member Ron Grabowski introduced himself.

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE (in person or via Zoom):

Jim Beavers, Bruce Byrd, Joe Castell, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Robert Glover, Ron Grabowski, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Ginger Haskell, Jim Kraut, Chuck Martin, Lou Maruzo, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Nancy O'Brien, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (22 total)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

For the Chaplain, the Base Treasurer, Howard Chatham, delivered the Invocation.

The Vice Commander, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in the month of February. These were:

USS SHARK I (SS-174)	February 11, 1942
USS AMBERJACK (SS-219)	February 16, 1943
USS GRAYBACK (SS-208)	February 26, 1944
USS TROUT (SS-202)	February 29, 1944
USS BARBEL (SS-316)	February 04, 1945

The following Northern Virginia Base member departed on Eternal Patrol in the month of February: George Frederick Steeg, Holland Club, and Lifetime SUBVET Member; qualified on USS Cobbler (SS-347) in 1948; and departed on Eternal Patrol on February 12th, 2020.

The COB, Mike Varone, tolled the bell twice in remembrance of the 35 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

**IN MEMORIAM:** CAPT James Elliot Pillsbury, USN, Ret. - 1/15/23 and STSC(SS) Arthur Curtis Berggren Jr., USN, Ret. – 12/20/22.

The bell was tolled twice in remembrance of all the departed.

The **HISTORIAN**, Woody Woodworth, read an article on the USS Barbel's (SS-316) first war patrol. The article is included at the end of these minutes.

### MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 2023 meeting have been disseminated to the membership. There was no discussion on them and the minutes were accepted as promulgated.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported the status of the Base finances:

# NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for February 11, 2023

• Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,353.37</u>
• Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Dividends (January)	\$0.10
•Donation to Base from January 50/50 Raffle	\$30.00
•Donation to Base from Billy	\$25.00
•Donation to USSVCF Scholarship fund	\$50.00
•Donation to Base from Martin	\$40.00
•National Dues	\$200.00
•Base Dues	\$15.00
• Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to USSVI for Annual Dues	\$25.00
•Payment to USSVI for Lifetime Membership	\$175.00
•Donations to USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$50.00
•Payment to USSVI for Boat Sponsorship Program	\$60.00
•Donation to USSVI for National Holland Club	\$100.00
•Donation to Dolphin Scholarship Foundation (USS Scorpion Scholarship)	\$99.00
• Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,204.47</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
• Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$9,825.07</u>
• USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	<u>\$3,054.10</u>
• Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$4,433.50</u></u>

The Base Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** meet via Zoom on February 1, 2023. The meeting agenda included committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

**VICE CDR:** Nothing to report (NTR).

**COB:** NTR.

**PAO:** Mike Varone announced that our Sweetheart luncheon will be held after the meeting and got a show of hands of those planning on attending.

**TREASURER:** Howard Chatham thanked the membership again for getting their 2023 dues in on time.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Howard Chatham reported:

- Membership information
  - 84 Members
    - 47 Holland Club Members

- 02 WW II Members
- 28 Regular Members
  - 19 – Life Members
  - 9 – Annual Members
- 9 Associate Members

Our newest member, as noted above, is Ron Grabowski, MT2(SS), who qualified on USS Thomas A. Edison (SSBN 610) in 1973.

#### **CHAPLAIN:**

- For the Chaplain, Cathy Chatham provided information on Associate Member Debbie Bishop who is now home from the hospital but is not ready to receive visitors or phone calls.

#### **WEBMASTER:** Howard Chatham reported that:

- Our website is working properly but there have been some reports from other bases that the National website has some problems. He asked for anyone experiencing any problems with that website to contact him and he can provide an alternate link (to the old website). He is also updating membership records in our database and in the National records. He requested that anyone who has changed their contact information in the last year to let him know of the updates.

#### **STOREKEEPER:** Chuck Martin reported that:

- The Storekeeper has USSVI NOVA challenge coins, submarine stickers, Holland Club pins and decals, and USSVI NOVA Base patches available for purchase.
- 2023 USSVI Calendars are still available from the Base SK. The price is \$10 per calendar plus postage if mailed.
- Contact the Base SK, at [storekeeper@ussvinova.org](mailto:storekeeper@ussvinova.org), if interested in any items.

#### **SCOUTING COORDINATOR:** Chuck Martin reported that:

- The Base will be honoring Eagle Scouts Christopher Varone (the COB's grandson), Charles Smith, and Nathan Gearhardt on 27 Feb 23 at their Eagle Scout COH in Stafford, VA. Contact either the COB or Chuck Martin if you desire to attend.

#### **NE REGION/NE DISTRICT 4 NEWS** – Chuck Martin, the NE District 4 CDR, reported that:

- The nomination period for submitting a USSVI member for a USSVI National Award is 1 Feb – 31 Mar 2023.
- Dr. Alan Fickett is the Chairman USSVCF Scholarship Program. The 2023-2024 Academic Year Application Period is open until 15 May 2023. For information on USSVCF Scholarship Procedure visit <https://www.ussvcf.org/application.html> USSVCF Scholarships are available to USSVI Members' eligible children, grandchildren and legal dependents. Sponsors, Parents, and Applicants should read this procedure prior to registration of the applicant to ensure a smooth, accurate and successfully completed application. Specific Questions should be submitted to the Scholarship Chairman by email at [alan.cfsbvets@gmail.com](mailto:alan.cfsbvets@gmail.com) or phone at (407) 256-3638. Applications must be completed on or before 15 May 2023.
- Springtime is a busy time for the Bases in the District, so check the NE4 District calendar of events to see if there is an event you may want to attend. For example,

Tolling of the Boats ceremonies at either Arlington National Cemetery (Capitol Base) or the USS Torsk in Baltimore (Chesapeake Base), both in May.

- He also reported that the architect of the new USSVI website, Tim Carlisle, was recently injured and is going to have spinal surgery. There will be no new work done on the website until he recovers.

#### **NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE (NSL)**

- Tim Oliver, NSL Executive Director, reported that:
  - The Corporate Member Days will be held at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel 8-9 March 2023.
  - The NSL has been asked to host a corporate meeting to discuss building and plans for the Australian SSN program.
  - He also recommended that all of our members join the NSL, noting however that most of the folks attending this meeting were already members.
- George Wallace, NSL Capitol Chapter President, reported that the:
  - 2023 DC Submarine Birthday Ball hosted by DC Submarine Association will be Friday, 31 March from 1730 – 2300 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. A Facebook page has been created for updates. The URL is [https://www.facebook.com/events/483577613915703/?active\\_tab=discussion](https://www.facebook.com/events/483577613915703/?active_tab=discussion). He is still looking for folks to volunteer to set up the NSL sponsored tables. More information to come in a few weeks.
  - The next NSL Capitol Chapter luncheon/meeting date is TBD – probably late March or early April.

**ISA/USA** – The Base CDR spoke for Bud Cunnally noting that:

- Future Congress Locations/Hosts are –
  - 22-26 May 2023 Thessaloniki, Greece – the Russian delegation is not attending.
  - 2024 Ireland (hosted by ISA/USA)
  - 2025 Unknown
  - 2026 France has expressed interest
- To join the International Submariners Association of The United States of America (ISA/USA Inc.) visit their website at <http://www.isausa.org/> for an application. Lifetime Membership is \$50.00.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 364** – the CDR reported the following:

- American Legion Post 364 Lucian Butler Scholarship  
**Eligibility:**
  - High school boys and girls who are sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters of members of the Virginia American Legion family who exemplify the spirit and true American values and have been admitted to an accredited four-year college or university.
  - Current scholarships are limited to those entering the freshman class. Awards in follow-on years will be considered as funds are available.
- **Deadline:**
  - If mailed, it must be postmarked no later than 1 March. If submitted via email, deadline is no later than midnight 1 March. Call the Department of Virginia Headquarters at 804-353-6606 for the proper email address to use.

**Application: LUCIAN BUTLER AMERICAN LEGION APPLICATION**

- From: Bob Brady, 16th District Adjutant  
16th District Spring Conference March 18th at Triangle Post 28, Starting at 10 AM
- Past Post 364 Commander Ira Petersen passed away September 17, 2022.

**UPCOMING SUBMARINE REUNIONS** – the VCDR reported the following:

- USS James Madison (SSBN 627) March 20-23, 2023, Galveston Island, TX
- USS Finback (SS 230/SSN 670) April 12-16, 2023, San Antonio, TX
- USS Bluefish (SSN 675) April 20-23, 2023, Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635) May 22-27, 2023, Mobile, AL
- USS Tigrone (SS 419) May 18-22, 2023, Cleveland, Ohio
- USS Scamp (SSN 588) June 12-16, 2023, Groton, CT
- USS Archerfish (SS 311/SSN 678) August 24-26, 2023, Groton, CT

Call or email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- The NOVA Veterans Association and Dulles Area Transportation Association provide free transportation to medical appointments and COVID-19 vaccine appointments to Veterans who are disabled or over the age of 65.
  - Coverage areas are Alexandria, Arlington, Eastern Loudoun, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William.
  - Contact by phone at 703-659-0788 or by email at melissa@novavets.org.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **“DUES ANNOUNCEMENT FROM NATIONAL:**  
As we are all aware, inflation and cost of living increases have raised the cost of everything. In the last three years alone, because of increases in paper, printing, and mailing, costs for our American Submariner Magazine have gone up 25%. Another of our major expenses is travel, and in the last three years, the mileage reimbursement costs have gone from \$.40 cents per mile to \$.65 cents per mile. In order to offset some of these expenses, we find it necessary to raise our annual dues by \$5.00, from \$25.00 per year to \$30.00 per year. Our new dues structure will be as follows:  
National Term (Annual) Dues  
5-Year Term: Increase from \$115.00 to \$140.00  
3-Year Term: Increase from \$ 70.00 to \$85.00  
1-Year Term: (Jan thru Dec) Increase from \$25.00 to \$30.00  
For members joining in the last quarter of the year, 1 Year Term is \$5.00 (Oct thru Dec) plus \$30.00 for the follow-on year (Jan thru Dec) for a total of \$35.00.  
National Life Dues  
Ages 76 and older: Increase from \$100.00 to \$120.00  
Ages 66 thru 75: Increase from \$200.00 to \$240.00  
Ages 56 thru 65: Increase from \$300.00 to \$360.00  
Ages 46 thru 55: Increase from \$400.00 to \$500.00  
Ages 45 and younger: Increase from \$500.00 to \$600.00
- This increase will go into effect on 1 April 2023, at which time updated application forms will be posted and the PPM updated.”

The Treasurer noted that if you decide to upgrade to a Lifetime membership, you will be



credited for your annual 2023 National dues so the amount will be reduced by \$25.00. Contact him for more information on how to execute an upgrade.

- The CDR reported that the southern expansion of Arlington National Cemetery is underway. The expansion is expected to extend capacity into the 2060's.

**BINNACLE LIST:** read by the VCDR

Please keep the following, and their friends and families, in your prayers: Alvin Anceravage, Debbie Bishop, Art Bivens, Earl Griggs, Steve Jaeger, Francis McNamara, and Tom Perrault.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** read by the COB

**BIRTHDAYS** for **FEBRUARY** are: Donald Hall, Bill Lawton, Ross Sargent, and Gary Smith.

**BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Our next meeting will be on March 11<sup>th</sup> at American Legion Post 364 (3640 Friendly Post Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192). After the meeting we will have a guest speaker, Gary Wallick, who will discuss Submarine Associations and specifically his association with the USS Delaware.

**BENEDICTION:**

The Base Treasurer gave the Benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 1120.

**50/50 RAFFLE:**

The 50/50 raffle was won by Mark Riethmeier who donated \$20 of his winnings back to the Base. Thank you Mark.

A wonderful Sweetheart Luncheon was then enjoyed by 15 members and their guests.



Our thanks to the COB for setting up this event and to the CDR for the roses for the ladies and chocolates for all.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Howard Chatham for  
Stephen C. Bishop  
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

# SUBMARINE HISTORY

This history presentation was developed using text from the U.S.S. BARBEL (SS-316) first war patrol report available at the link [https://issuu.com/hnsa/docs/ss-316\\_barbel](https://issuu.com/hnsa/docs/ss-316_barbel), page 13. The Commanding Officer was Commander R.A. Keating.

After an early morning surface attack on a convoy, BARBEL submerged to evade detection and was basically “held down” by DD’s and aircraft for the rest of the day. BARBEL had a major problem with leaking periscope packing when at deep depths. The following is a reading of the patrol report for the rest of that day.

“9 August 1944.

1922

DD has doubtful contact on us. Water isothermal to 260 feet, then ragged to 360, giving a 8 degree drop, then isoballast from there on down. We have been down 16 hours now, the battery is low, the air is bad, and all hands are pretty-well exhausted. We reduced the auxiliary load to an absolute minimum, spread CO2 absorbent, running in hand power, one third speed (except once when we went standard to keep from dropping out of sight forever, and until enough water had been pumped out). Our trim pump is exceptionally quiet, and very effective. Periscope packing leaks dangerously, and since depth charging, we have developed an extremely noisy vibration around the periscope shears that becomes apparent at 55 turns.

Two ships have us pretty-well boxed in - we kept fishtailing, keeping the stern towards the nearest one, and keeping between him and TORI SHIMA, to take advantage of the land background noise. They seemed very reluctant to continue the search to the eastward, evidently searching our position circles from the attack point.

2025

It appeared that one ship was still astern, not pinging, but patrolling back and forth at a constant speed, listening, and waiting for us to surface. We were in pretty bad shape, CO<sub>2</sub> 3%, Hydrogen 3%, the battery getting lower, and all hands getting more exhausted. Offered a fervent prayer to God to turn the Jap east.

2100

Screws fading out to the eastward. Started up.

2136

At radar depth – all clear under 8000 yards.

2137

Surfaced on course 315T, all ahead frantic, one main and the auxiliary engine on charge, three mains on propulsion. Secured from battle stations, piped to a hot meal (the first in 26 hours).

2210

Slowed to full power.”