

## MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

The Base CDR, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1035 on December 7, 2024, at American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:** Debbie Bishop, Steve Bishop, Bruce Byrd, Erlinda Byrd, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Brian Haller, Pat Haller, Ginger Haskell, Janice Leonard, Jeff Leonard, Chuck Martin, Tim Oliver, Mark Riethmeier, Paul Siegrist, Mike Varone, George Wallace, Penny Wallace, Cliff Whitener, and Woody Woodworth. (20 total)

■ Holland Club Member      ■ Associate Member      ■ Guest

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

For the Chaplain, Howard Chatham delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, the VCDR, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in the month of December. These were:

USS F-1 / Carp (SS-20)	17 Dec 1917
USS S-4 (SS-109)	17 Dec 1927
USS Sealion (SS-195)	10 Dec 1941
USS Capelin (SS-289)	2 Dec 1943

### NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

- **Delbert Ennis**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Sam Houston (SSBN-609) in 1963. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 6 December 2020.
- **Roger S. Hall**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Baya (SS/AGSS-318) in 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 4 December 2015.
- **Jack Prisley**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Requin (SS-481) in 1951. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 31 December 2010.
- **Solveig Armstrong**, wife of Robert "Dex" Armstrong and an Associate Member. Departed on her Eternal Patrol on 13 December 2005.
- **Claude Hollar**, USSVI member. Qualified on USS Diablo (SS-479) in 1952. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 27 December 2003.

The COB tolled the ship's bell twice for the forty-three USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

### IN MEMORIAM

- CAPT Raymond Leslie Sphar, Jr., USN (Ret) – 16 October 2024
- CAPT Albert A. Brady, USN (Ret) - 26 October 2024
- CPO Burgan Byron Pugh, Jr., USN (Ret) - 30 October 2024
- James Spencer Dodd, USN (Vet) – 14 November 2024
- Pam Flanagan, wife of CAPT Tom Flanagan, USN (Ret) - 22 November 2024
- Dr. Robert Marvin Snuggs, III, NSL Distinguished Civilian Awardee 2011 - 3 December 2024

## BALLOTS

The Base CDR called for any more ballots for the 2025 USSVI NOVA Base elections to be given to the Base Election Master, Chuck Martin, for final processing

## PEARL HARBOR HISTORY

The Base VCDR read a passage from “Silent Victory” by Clay Blair regarding submarine actions in Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. USS Narwhal (SS-167), USS Dolphin (SS-169), USS Cachalot (SS-170), and USS Tautog (SS-199) were in Pearl Harbor on the morning of the attack. All directed 50 caliber machine gun fire at the attackers and claimed two downed aircraft. Only one submariner was wounded.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

The Base Treasurer, Howard Chatham, reported the following and the report was accepted as presented.

### NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for December 7, 2024

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$12,637.79</u>
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Checking Account Dividends (November)	\$0.06
•NFCU CD Dividends (November)	\$18.19
•Donation to Base from 50/50 raffle	\$35.00
•Donation to Base – M. Riethmeier	\$20.00
•Donation to USSVCF Scholarship Fund – C. Martin	\$20.00
•Storekeeper sales - calendars	\$50.00
•Base Dues – N. O’Brien, S. Gilbert, & G. Billy	\$100.00
•National Dues – N. O’Brien & S. Gilbert	\$60.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to National for USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
•Dues to National - N. O’Brien & S. Gilbert	\$60.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$12,861.04</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
Minus NFCU 12-month Share Certificate (CD)	\$5,000.00
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$6,481.64</u>
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	\$2,135.41
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$3,514.81</u></u>

## MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November meeting were previously distributed by e-mail and USPS. No comments or corrections were noted. The minutes were accepted as promulgated.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Board:** The Executive Committee met November 27<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and discussed:

Committee reports, meeting-related items, old business, new business, and meeting/event planning.

**VCDR:** had Nothing to Report (NTR).

**COB:** had NTR.

**PAO:** Mike Varone asked for a head count of the folks going to the luncheon following the meeting.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer presented the proposed NOVA Base budget for 2025. Paper copies were distributed for all attendees. The 2025 budget was approved by the membership, as presented. A copy of the 2025 NOVA Base approved budget will be sent to ALCON by the Base CDR.

**Membership Report:** Howard Chatham reported:

We have 93 Base members

- 50 are Holland Club Members
  - o 1 is a WW II member
- 34 are Regular Members
  - o 13 are Base Life members
  - o 21 are annual members
- 9 are Associate Members
- The Early Bird drawing for Regular and Associate members was held and the winners were: Steve Bishop and Nancy O'Brien (no Base dues for 2026 for them).

**WEBMASTER:** The company that has been hosting our website for over 20 years is going out of business at the end of this year. After a search of alternative providers, we have selected a local firm to use in the future. It was noted that there may be some issues with the website/e-mail forwarding during the next month while site transition takes effect.

**KAPS(SS) 4 KID(SS):** The K4K chair, Steve Bishop, reported that he is still waiting on the three hospitals we normally visit to inform him of when we can restart those visits.

**STOREKEEPER:**

- The Storekeeper, Chuck Martin, noted that he had a number of copies of the USN Nuclear Submarine Lineup foldout prepared by EB that was available at the November Naval Submarine League (NSL) Symposium. All these were passed out to eager attendees.

**USSVI AND NE4 DISTRICT NEWS:** EN4 District CDR, Chuck Martin, reported:

- NE4 USSV Charitable Foundation (USSVCF) Donation Challenge Winners
  - o The Base that doubled their annual average donation was USSVI Capitol Base – NE4 CDR made donation of \$25 to USSVCF on their behalf.
  - o The Base that donated the most was USSVI Northern Virginia Base – NE4 CDR donated \$300 to USSVCF and presented a \$300 donation to USSVI Northern Virginia Base.
- NSL Symposium USSVI results.
  - o Volunteers

- Ten volunteers helped Chuck staff the USSVI table: Howard Chatham, Brian Haller, Steve Burnett, and Jim & Bonnie Kraut (NOVA Base), Tim Abbott (Buffalo Base), Art Glover (Capitol Base), Mike Sears (SE1 District Commander & Old North State Base), Tom Denton (NE3 District Commander & Tri-State Base). Chuck thanked all for their support.
- Marketing & Recruitment Efforts
  - Passively marketed to 600 individuals through the USSVI write-up in the Symposium program.
  - Actively marketed and made recruiting efforts to 70 individuals at the USSVI vendor table and by roaming the exhibit hall.
  - Received contact information from 25 individuals that desire to join USSVI for follow up with local USSVI Bases from the states of AL, CA, CT, FL, IL, NY, PA, RI, VA, WA, and WI. Potentially 7 new members for our Base.
- USSVI Mid Atlantic Base will be hosting their Tolling of the Boats ceremony at Kete Monument Delaware Memorial Park on 20 March 2025 (USS Kete was lost 80 years ago on that date).
- The District CDR suggests each Base have a USSVCF Ambassador. The Base CDR asked for any volunteers for that position. None of the attendees responded to the request.

**NSL:** The Base CDR congratulated Tim Oliver on being relieved by Steve Fischer as NSL Executive Director and Tim was given a round of applause.

**UPCOMING SUBMARINE REUNIONS** – The CDR reported:

- USS Scamp (SSN 588), 1-7 June 2025, Punta Gorda, FL
- USS Sea Leopard (SS 483), 11-15 August 2025, Groton, CT

The VCDR added one more:

- USS Spadefish (SSN 668), 9-11 May 2025, Smithfield, VA

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

There was no **OLD BUSINESS**.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Bruce Byrd reported that Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) announced this week that the company is acquiring the assets of W International near Charleston, SC. The facility will focus on building modules used for Virginia Class and Columbia Class submarines. As part of the acquisition, HII will transform W International's manufacturing facility in Goose Creek, SC, into Newport News Shipbuilding – Charleston Operations.
- The Election Master provided the Base CDR with the results of the 2025 Base Officer elections. These were: CDR – Brian Haller, VCDR George Wallace, SECRETARY Howard Chatham, and TREASURER Howard Chatham.



The Triumphant Trio

- The Base CDR presented a donation to Post 364 for \$150.00 from NOVA Base which was received by Jen Donahue. The Base CDR also “delivered” the Base’s contributions to the Post’s Toys For Tots program.



- The Base CDR announced that the calendar of events for 2025 has been prepared but copies were unfortunately not available at this time. The document will be sent out by the CDR for review by the membership and for recommendations for guest speakers.

**The Binnacle List:** please keep the following in your prayers: Pat Haller, Steve Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Tom Perrault, Joe Phoenix, Tim Shannon, Anita Varone, Diane Whitener, and Woody Woodworth.

**For the Good of the Order, Birthdays for the Month are:** James Bertine, Sean Castell, John “Bud” Cunnally, Carol Fannan, Frank Fannan, Susan Frick, Mickey Garverick, Sheila Gilmore, Pat Haller, Darlene Jaeger, Barbara Miller, Tim Shannon, Stephanie Treece, and Mike White.

The Secretary delivered the Benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 1121.

Our **next** regularly scheduled **meeting** will be at 1030 on Saturday, 11 January 2025, at American Legion Post 364 in Woodbridge and on Zoom. At that meeting we will have our base officers' inductions.

**50/50 Raffle:** Chuck Martin was the winner and he donated his winnings to the Base treasury. THANK YOU, Chuck!.

After the meeting, 14 of us met at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant in Occoquan, VA, for a holiday meal.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Howard Chatham  
Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base