

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, October 8, 2016**

The Base VCDR, George Wallace, called the meeting to order at 1112 on Oct 8, 2016 at Famous Dave's Restaurant in Alexandria, VA, and welcomed all members and guests. The Base CDR, Chuck Martin, was participating in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony at the same time.

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

John Belt, **Debbie Bishop**, Steve Bishop, **Dan Burke**, Richard Carpel, **Cathy Chatham**, Howard Chatham, Bill Clement, Nate Compton, **Ed Ettner**, **Mary Ettner**, **Micky Garverick**, **Bob Glover**, Sam Harris, **Ginger Haskell**, **Darlene Jaeger**, Steve Jaeger, **Vickye Lowry**, Richard Lowry, Bruce Miller, **Mary Lou Naughton**, Mike Naughton, Tim Oliver, **Joe Phoenix**, **Marie Phoenix**, **Ross Sargent**, **Lorraine Sargent**, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (31total)

■ **Holland Club Member**

■ **Associate Member**

■ **Guest**

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

The Base Chaplain, Steve Jaeger, delivered the Invocation.

After a moment of silence, The Base VCDR read the list of boats lost in the month of October. These were:

USS Seawolf (SS-197)	Oct 3, 1944
USS S-44 (SS-155)	Oct 7, 1943
USS Wahoo (SS-238)	Oct 11, 1943
USS Dorado (SS-248)	Oct 12, 1943
USS Escolar (SS-294)	Oct 17, 1944
USS Shark (SS-314)	Oct 24, 1944
USS Darter (SS-227)	Oct 24, 1944
USS Tang (SS-306)	Oct 25, 1944
USS O-5 (SS-66)	Oct 29, 1923

The Chief of the Boat tolled the bell twice in Remembrance of the 21 USSVI NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

In Memoriam: CAPT John F Drain, USN, Ret; PNC(SS) Jim Page.

**HISTORIAN**

The Base Historian, Richard Lowry, read his prepared Remembrance of the USS S-44 (SS 155). USS S-44 (SS-155) was an old lady of the fleet by the time World War II broke out. She had been launched in October 1923, and had already operated throughout the western hemisphere. After an overhaul in New London, Ct, she arrived in Australia in April 1942. She headed out on her first war patrol ten days later, and sank the 5000-ton *Shoel Maru*. On her third war patrol on 10 August 1942, she came upon a formation of four heavy cruisers and sank the trailing warship *Kako*. On her fifth war patrol she attacked a freighter with its surface deck guns, but was subsequently counter-attacked by the minesweeper/escort *Ishigaki*. *Ishigaki's* gunners fired round after round into the wounded sub. Eleven crew members made it off the sub, yet only two

were pulled from the water. Chief Torpedoman's Mate Duva and Radioman Third Class Whitemore were sent to work in the Ashio copper mines until the end of the war.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 2016 meeting were previously distributed by e-mail. There were no comments or corrections. According to the USSVI National Parliamentarian, citing Robert's Rule of Order, there is no need to vote on or approve the minutes as they are only a report.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Steve Jaeger, reported that the base bank account balance was \$8,268.40 in September, and \$ 8,283.77 as of Oct 8, 2016. This includes Walmart Community Fund grant restricted use funds of \$2,750.00. This leaves a discretionary balance of \$5,533.77. The balance is sufficient and the budget includes paying for today's luncheon (alcohol and desserts not included). The Treasurer's report need not be approved or voted on for the same reason cited for the meeting minutes above.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

NOVA Base has 82 members

- 37 Holland Club members
  - o 2 World War II members
- 36 Regular members
- 9 Associate members

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Base VCDR summarized the discussion at the **Executive Board** meeting held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, including:

- Membership
- 2017 Holland Club initiation
- Finances and the need to develop the 2017 budget
- K4K plans for Fairfax visit this month and Charlottesville and Walter Reed in November
- Base website
- Scouting Recognition program
- Youth Outreach programs, and
- Public Affairs Officer items.

The next EXCOM meeting will be held on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**VCDR:** Nothing to report.

**COB:** Mike Varone reported that he has met with the Scoutmaster from Troop 165 to discuss future Eagle Scout recognitions.

**Public Relations** Mike Varone reported that he had will be submitting an article to the American Submariner for our recent Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) game table donation to the children undergoing infusion therapy at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He also reported that AFCEA had declined our invitation to speak at one of our meetings next year.

**Veterans Affairs:** Nothing to report.

### **Kap(ss) 4 Kid(ss)**

1. Steve Bishop reported the date for our next visit to Fairfax INOVA Hospital's pediatric oncology ward as Thursday, October, 20, 2016. We will muster at 2:15 PM in the first floor lounge near the outside playground near the INOVA green parking garage.
2. Our next K4K visit to the Walter Reed facility in Bethesda, MD will be on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. We intend to invite the USSVI National Chairman for Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS), John Riley, to attend this session with us, per his request.
3. Our next visit to the University of Virginia's Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA will be on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM.
4. We have re-ordered supplies from the National Storekeeper.
5. We are looking into designing a K4K coloring book, possibly using submarine art work from USSVI's artist Tom Denton.
6. Steve also noted that he has been helping the Hampton Roads Base in requesting grants from their local WalMart stores.
7. Steve then presented John Belt and Sam Harris with a letter of appreciation for the donation that Famous Dave's gave the base in support of K4K and gave John a K4K patch for being a member of the team when we visited INOVA Hospital last time.

### **Scouting Coordinator**

Chuck Martin, our Base CDR, is recognizing Eagle Scout Ethan Shea today. The Base CDR and COB, Mike Varone, will be recognizing Eagle Scout Jack Clabough on November 5<sup>th</sup> in Midlothian, VA (near Richmond).

### **Store Keeper**

Howard Chatham reported that the USSVI 2017 calendars have arrived and are for sale at \$10 each. Base Challenge coins are still for sale at \$10 each. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Shot Glasses are also available for sale.

### **Submarine League**

- George Wallace reported that the Fall Symposium will be held Oct 26th and 27th, 2016 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City. The 2016 Fleet Awardees will be feted at this event. USSVI Nova Base will have a recruiting booth there in conjunction with the author's table. Thank you, Penny and George!!
- USS Silversides Submarine Museum announces the opening of the Mom and Pop Kaye Naval/NASA Collection today.
- The NSL Capital Chapter fall luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, 13 October where Nautilus Chapter (Groton) member Jonathan Ward, will present a discussion on The Emerging Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean Region.

### **District CDS /Regional Director**

The USSVI Eastern Region North Conference is today at the Hyatt Place in Malta, NY.

### **American Legion Post 162**

The VCDR reported:

- Saturday, October 15th: Building and Grounds Working party from 8am to 10am
- Saturday, October 15th: Kids Halloween Party (sponsored by Auxiliary) from 12pm to 3pm

- Wednesday, October 19th: General Membership Meeting beginning at 7:15pm (Early Bird ends)
- Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>: Building and Grounds Working Party from 8am to 10am Saturday.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- The 2017 Base Officer Nomination Committee has been convened and is seeking candidates for Base Officers. If interested contact Howard Chatham, Bob Glover, or Brian Haller.
- Richard Laulor reported a local (South Carolina) retirement home created a Wall of Honor to recognize the residents with military service. Richard encourages fellow NOVA Base Members to register on any of the national registry websites, e.g., WWII Memorial, Navy Memorial, or Army Soldiers Registry.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- CVS Pharmacies, including CVS Target Pharmacies, will no longer accept TRICARE effective 1 December 2016. Walgreen's Pharmacies begin accepting TRICARE effective 1 December 2016.
- **Phishing Scam Alert.** Recently a USSVI member received an email allegedly from Navy Federal Credit Union stating a hold has been placed on their account and to release the hold click on the hyperlink. **DON'T CLICK ON ANY SUCH LINKS!**
- A similar scam was reported on USAA accounts.
- News from the Fleet and previous information emailed this month will be included in the minutes.
- Richard Lowry made it known that the Navy is dropping enlisted rating titles. All sailors will not be referred to by their rank, not rating..

**The Binnacle List** currently includes:

Richard Lowry, Steve & Darlene Jaeger for Darlene's mom, Art Bivens (doing well after both knees were operated on), Tony Poblete, Mike Naughton, and David Cooper.

**For the Good of the Order**, the VCDR read the list of birthdays for October: Al Anceravage, Louise Decker, Mike Kwiecien, Helen Laulor, Lou Maruzo, Ed Mattran, George Wallace, and the US Navy.

**The Benediction** was delivered by the Base Chaplain.

The next meeting will be held on November 12th, 2016 at American Legion Post 162 at 1100.

The VCDR adjourned the meeting at 11:39 AM.

We then dined on Famous Dave's BBQ fare for lunch. The base paid for everyone's lunch. Thank you, John Belt and Sam Harris for hosting us today.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
 Stephen C Bishop  
 Secretary, USSVI Northern Virginia Base

## **Navy Enlisted Rating Titles ► Deep-Sixed | NOS Will Replace**

Navy deep-sixed all of its 91 enlisted ratings titles 29 SEP, marking the beginning of an overhaul of the rigid career structure that has existed since the Continental Navy in a radical shift sure to reverberate through the fleet and the veterans community beyond. Sailors will no longer be identified by their job title, say, Fire Controlman 1st Class Joe Sailor, effective immediately. Instead, that would be Petty Officer 1st Class Joe Sailor. Officials say the controversial move will improve sailors' lives and ease their transition into the civilian workforce by broadening their skills in this tectonic shift in Navy's personnel system to redraw the traditional lines between enlisted job specialties — a massive shake-up that is only beginning. Within the next three to four years, earlier if possible, the service plans to allow sailors to retrain in related skills, expanding their worth to the Navy while reaping broader assignment opportunities as well as increased advancement changes and greater access to special pays and bonuses that come with the most critical skills.

“We’re going to immediately do away with rating titles and address each other by just our rank as the other services do,” said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke in a 19 SEP interview. “We recognize that’s going to be a large cultural change, it’s not going to happen overnight, but the direction is to start exercising that now.” Sailors past and present have longstanding and deep love of the titles that have defined their Navy lives. All of these now belong to the history books. To highlight a few: Gunner’s Mate stood up the watch in 1775 in the Continental Navy. Boatswain’s Mate dropped anchor in 1775, too. Hospital Corpsman rushed to duty in 1948 after being called four other names over the previous 150 years. Operations Specialists started tracking in 1972 an upgrade from the name Radarman before it. Through Navy history, as many as 700 titles have come and gone. Over 400 were created and eliminating during and immediately after World War II. But this move will disband these ratings entirely and reorganize sailors into Navy Occupational Specialties, or NOS, that will define the peer group they compete with for promotion. Under this new system, for example, Gunner’s mates will be identified as B320 and quartermasters will be B450. The move also strips the titles airman, fireman, constructionman and hospitalman, titles that will be also replaced by job codes. The title seaman is the sole non-rated rating remaining, for E-3 and below. The move leaves the enlisted force’s foremost symbols as the petty officer crow and the chief petty officer anchors. It remains unclear what will happen to the ratings badges that feature iconic rating insignia that officials are considering changing. An engineman’s gear. An information systems technician’s sparks. These images were beloved by many and inspired countless tattoos.

The huge shift was approved by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson and had been advocated by the now retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens, who urged it as way to promote more cross-training and boost sailors’ post-service employment opportunity. It began by a directive from Mabus to find gender-neutral rating titles that stripped them of the word "man," in an effort to be more inclusive to women sailors who make up an increasing size of the force. In June, the Marine Corps — also under the Mabus edict — announced they’d take “man” out of 19 occupational titles, as well. The Navy’s newly released answer is to take a much more difficult and controversial approach by scrapping their existing system and starting over. Sailors aren’t losing everything in their titles, however: the warfare qualifications that demonstrate mastery of their operational commands will remain. “Sailors take great pride in earning those coveted warfare designations and they like to place those behind their ratings because they want people to know they’ve earned them,” said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (IDW/SW) Steve Giordano said in the 19 SEP interview. “That won’t go away — they will still have those as part of their titles.”

Burke says the Navy's new occupational specialties will be regrouped under broader career fields, an improved version of the 13 communities the service ratings these specialties had been grouped into. Where a NOS falls in those career fields will be driven by the individual skills within that field and not traditional lines, he said. Officials say these changes will allow sailors to choose from a wider variety of jobs and duty stations and ultimately provide multiple avenues for advancement. And when they get out — their skills and experience will more directly translate into a civilian job. Still up in the air is what to do about the Navy's specialty marks — those rating-specific designs on dress uniforms, belt buckles — even pins on a sailor's ball cap. For now, there is no change, Burke said. “It’s definitely our plan to cross that bridge, but it will be one of the last thing we’ll do for a couple of reasons. One depends on how we draw the career fields lines and something may fall out, based on that, I just don’t know, yet.”

[Source: Navy Times | Mark D. Faram & Sam Fellman | September 29, 2016 ++]