

**MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 8 APRIL, 2023**

The Base VCDR, George Wallace, called the meeting to order at 1040 on 8 April 2023 at American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA, and welcomed all members and guests.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Bishop, Cathy Chatham, Howard Chatham, Tom Denton (NE District 3 CDR), Curtis Duncan, Mickey Garverick, Chuck Martin, Paul Nelson, Terry Nelson, Mike Niblack, Tim Oliver, Mike Varone, Penny Wallace, George Wallace, and Woody Woodworth. (15 attendees)

■ Holland Club Member

■ Associate Member

■ Guest

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

The Chaplain, Mickey Garverick, delivered the Invocation.

The list of boats lost in the month of April and a historical moment were not read due to the nature of today's Tolling of the Boats ceremony honoring all lost boats.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER(S) WHO DEPARTED ON
ETERNAL PATROL IN APRIL:**

- **Margaret Williams**, wife of Ron Williams and an Associate Member.
Departed on her Eternal Patrol on April 25th, 2013.
- **Arthur C. Esposito**, Qualified onboard the USS Dogfish (SS-350), 1964.
Departed on his Eternal Patrol on April 21st, 2005.

**THE BELL WAS TOLLED TWICE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 36
USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEMBERS ON ETERNAL PATROL.**

IN MEMORIAM:

ENCS(SS) Douglas A. Bryant, USN, Ret. (WWII submariner) – 11/10/22
CDR Toby Gene Warson, USN, Ret. – 2/1/23
CAPT Joseph P. Peterson, USN, Ret. – 3/5/23 (One of the Centennial Seven)
CAPT A. Lee Edwards, USN, Ret. – 3/8/23

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were distributed by e-mail. There was no discussion of them and they were accepted as promulgated.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Base Treasurer, Howard Chatham, reported:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for April 8, 2023

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,248.56</u>
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Dividends (March)	\$0.10
•Donation to Base from March 50/50 Raffle	\$38.00
•Donations to Base from Martin	\$37.00
•Storekeeper Sales	\$61.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Reimbursement to George Wallace for Holland Club submarine prints	\$102.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$11,282.66</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	\$1,379.40
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$9,903.26</u>
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance	<u>\$3,054.10</u>
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u><u>\$4,433.50</u></u>

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Howard then remarked that Steve Jaeger has been appointed as the Assistant to the Base Treasurer. As such he will conduct yearly audits, maintain backup financial documents, record the transactions during the Pirate Auction, and assist Howard as otherwise requested. It's great to see Steve come back with his oar in the water!!

Membership – Howard Chatham reported:

- 84 Members
 - 47 Holland Club Members
 - 02 WW II Members
 - 28 Regular Members
 - 15 – Base Life Members
 - 13 – Base Annual Members
 - 09 Associate Members
- Newest Member
 - Captain Curtis Duncan who attended the meeting via Zoom. He introduced himself noting that he served on the USS Norfolk (qualified in 1995), USS Louisiana, USS Columbus, and USS Key West. He is on terminal leave and will officially retire on 1 May. The Base officers introduced themselves to him.

In order to allow time for the Tolling of the Boats ceremony no Committee Reports were presented.

NE Regional/NE District 4 News - EN4 District CDR, Chuck Martin, reported:

- National/Region/District News
 - USSVI National Award Nomination period ends on April 30, 2023. Any USSVI member in good standing may nominate a person for an award. Chuck noted that there have not been very many nominations received so far.
 - USS Thresher (SSN 593) Wreath Laying ceremony will be held on April 10, 2023 commencing at 1500 at the USS Thresher memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. NE4 District Commander will be laying the wreath for Submarine Veterans.
 - Election for District Commanders are this year. Key dates for the NE4 District Commander election are:
 - Nomination letter submission for District Commander: 3 March 2023 - 15 April 2023
 - District Commander election period: 15 May 2023 - 30 June 2023
 - USSVI Chesapeake Base will be conducting a Tolling of the Boat ceremony at the USNA Submarine Wardroom Submarine Ball on April 15, 2023.
 - Some of the USSVI NOVA BASE framed pictures that survived the American Legion Post 162 fire are now hanging in the American Legion Post 364 hallway outside our meeting room.

NSL – Tim Oliver (NSL Executive Director) and George Wallace (NSL Capitol Chapter President) reported:

Naval Submarine League (NSL) and Related Events

- Tim thanks all the volunteers who helped man the NSL booth at the recent Sea-Air-Space Expo.
- He reminded folks of the upcoming classified technology symposium that will be held at Johns Hopkins on May 9 – 11.
- He also reported that there will be a briefing in DC the first week in June for contractors interested in the AUKUS submarine program
- He concluded his remarks recommending that ALCON become members of the NSL in addition to their membership in USSVI.
- NSL Capitol Chapter
 - Next Capitol Chapter Luncheon Meeting will be held April 14, 2023, at the Army-Navy Country Club.

The following information was not addressed at the meeting but is included

for your situational awareness.

Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS): Now that the DOD medical establishment has done away with the requirement for all visitors to wear a face mask within their buildings, Steve Bishop will approach Walter Reed National Military Medical Center's Child Life staff to try to re-establish our successful Kap(SS) 4 Kid(SS) visits there.

ISA/USA –

- Future Congress Locations –
 - 22-26 MAY 2023 Thessaloniki, Greece – 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.

Upcoming Submarine Reunions –

- USS Bluefish (SSN 675) April 20-23, 2023, Myrtle Beach, SC
- USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635) May 22-27, 2023, Mobile, AL
- USS Tigron (SS 419) May 18-22, 2023, Cleveland, Ohio
- USS Scamp (SSN 588) June 12-16, 2023, Groton, CT
- USS Sunfish (SSN 649) June 14-18, 2023, Nashua, NH
- USS Archerfish (SS 311/SSN 678) August 24-26, 2023, Groton, CT
- USS Bergall (SS 320/SSN 667) September 13-17, 2023, Cleveland, OH
- USS Rasher (SS/SSR/AGSS 269) September 13-17, 2023, Buffalo, NY
- USS Lapon (SSN 661) September 14-17, 2023, San Antonio, TX
- USS Angler (SS 240) September 24-28, 2023 Pigeon Forge, TN
- USS John Adams (SSBN 620) September 28 – October 1, Amelia Island, FL

Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion. Reunions not listed in the American Submariner can be found by Internet search.

STOREKEEPER: Chuck Martin, as the NE 4 DISTRICT Commander, developed a NE 4 District patch and, as our SK, he has those for sale at \$4 each (plus \$1 S&H if it needs to be mailed).



OLD BUSINESS

The new USSVI dues rates went into effect on 1 April 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

None

THE BINNACLE LIST currently includes:

Al Anceravage, Debbie Bishop, Art Bivens, Brian and Pat Haller, Barbara Harmody, Francis McNamara, Bruce Miller, Robert Miller, and Tom Perrault

For the Good of the Order, the VCDR read the list of birthdays for April: Jim Beavers, Robert Frick, Rufino Guntang, Paul Nelson, Tim Oliver, Patrick Peterson, Willie Petruy, and the U.S. Submarine Service.

The 50/50 raffle had only three participants and they requested that the amount collected (\$17) be donated to the Base.

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. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal, and it honors the memory of those submariners who lost their lives in the line of duty, and especially those who

perished during World War II. In 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 solemn Tolling of the Boats ceremony was conducted using the Base presentation with candles being extinguished at tables by the attendees after each boat’s name was read. The VCDR read the preamble for the ceremony, the COB read the list of boats, and the Secretary rang the ship’s bell after each boat’s name was called. The ship’s bell was then rung for the 36 NOVA Base members on Eternal Patrol.

After the ceremony, a champagne/cider toast to the past, present, and future U.S Submarine Service was offered by the Base VCDR.

A recording of the ceremony can be viewed at:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wpEbodJ-gBEeM_bNRJnosLX62FFpyPF4/view?usp=sharing

The next meeting will be at 1100 on May 13th for the 2023 Holland Club Induction and Luncheon Ceremony at Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon, VA 20170). Dress is Service Dress Blue, Equivalent Civilian Business Attire, or USSVI vest and tie. The invitation to the membership will be sent out by the Base CDR this week.

The Benediction was delivered by the Chaplain.

The VCDR adjourned the meeting at 1135.

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