

MINUTES OF THE USSVI NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

The Base **CDR**, Brian Haller, called the meeting to order at 1032 on January 10, 2026, and welcomed all members and guests. The meeting was conducted in person at the Woodbridge, VA American Legion Post 364 and via Zoom.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

George Billy, [Steve Bishop](#), [Bruce Byrd](#), Sean Castell, [Howard Chatham](#), [Ron Grabowski](#), Taylor Gray, [Brian Haller](#), [Jim Kraut](#), Chuck Martin, [Tyana Monette](#), [Carolyn Moss](#), Peter Moss, Paul Siegrist, Aaron Stroeh, [Mike Varone](#), George Wallace, [Penny Wallace](#), [Cliff Whitener](#), and [Woody Woodworth](#); and, via Zoom, Bruce Miller and Mike Niblack (20 total, 18 members).

 Holland Club Member

 Associate Member

 Guest

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

The **Chaplain**, Mike Varone, delivered the Invocation.

The **VCDR**, George Wallace, read the list of boats lost in January. These were:

USS S-36 (SS-141)	20 January 1942
USS S-26 (SS-131)	24 January 1942
USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)	10 January 1943
USS SCORPION (SS-278)	5 January 1944
USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)	12 January 1945

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBERS WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL IN JANUARY:

- **Edward R. Ettner**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Cabezon (SS-334), 1950. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 26 January 2022.
- **Gary Charles Grimes**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Diodon (SS-349), 1966. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 15 January 2021.
- **Michael "Mike" Naughton**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Baya (SS-318), 1967. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 12 January 2021.

- **Charles Thomas Pythian**, USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS Bancroft (SSBN-643), 1968. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 12 January 2011.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA BASE MEMBER WHO DEPARTED ON ETERNAL PATROL SINCE OUR LAST MEETING:

- **Joe Dan Phoenix**, Holland Club and USSVI Life Member. Qualified on USS John Adams (SSBN-620), 1964. Departed on his Eternal Patrol on 29 December 2025.

The COB then tolled the ship's bell twice for the 46 USSVI Northern Virginia Base members on Eternal Patrol.

IN MEMORIAM:

- CAPT Gerald "Corky" Corcoran, USN (Ret) – 17 December 2025

INDUCTION OF THE 2026 BASE OFFICERS

The Past Base CDR, Chuck Martin, swore in the incoming officers:

Commander	Brian Haller
Vice Commander	George Wallace
Treasurer	James Kraut
Secretary	Howard Chatham



Next the Base CDR presented the following nominations for Base approval:

CHAPLAIN – Mike Varone [incumbent];
CHIEF OF THE BOAT – Mike Varone [incumbent];
Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) – Ron Grabowski [incumbent];
MEMBERSHIP – James Kraut;
PAO – Taylor Gray [incumbent];
SCOUTING/SEA CADET COORDINATOR – Chuck Martin [incumbent];
STOREKEEPER – Chuck Martin [incumbent];
SUBMARINE HISTORIAN – Woody Woodworth [incumbent]; and
WEBMASTER – Howard Chatham [incumbent].

Hearing no objections, these appointments were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The **TREASURER**, Jim Kraut, presented the Treasurer's monthly report:

NOVA Base Treasurer's Report for January 10, 2026

● Beginning Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,784.34</u>
● Plus Receipts:	
•NFCU Checking Account Dividends (December)	\$0.05
•NFCU Savings Account Dividends (December)	\$0.02
•NFCU Certificates Dividends (December)	\$25.98
•50/50 raffle (won by T. Oliver)	\$30.00
•Donation from T. Oliver	\$35.00
•Base dues (R. Rempert & M. Tucci)	\$30.00
•National dues (R. Rempert & M. Tucci)	\$80.00
•Donations to USSVCF Scholarship Fund (Martin & Stroeh)	\$40.00
● Minus Expenditures:	
•Payment to National for USSVCF Scholarship Fund	\$40.00
•Payment to National for annual dues (Rempert & Tucci)	\$80.00
•Donation to American Legion Post 364	\$150.00
Payment to National for Rust Insurance 5 years of premiums	\$125.00
● Ending Cash on Hand:	<u>\$13,630.39</u>
Minus Local K4K Restricted Use Funds	<u>\$1,379.40</u>
Minus NFCU 10 & 12-month Share Certificates (CD)	<u>\$7,000.00</u>
● Total Local Discretionary Funds	<u>\$5,250.99</u>
● USSVCF NOVA Base K4K Balance (as of 11/30/25)	<u>\$2,315.59</u>
● Total K4K Funds (Local + USSVCF)	<u>\$3,694.99</u>

The CDR asked whether there were any questions regarding the report and, hearing none, the report was accepted as read.

MEETING MINUTES

The December 2025 NOVA Base meeting minutes were previously distributed to the membership via email/USPS. The CDR asked if there was any discussion on them. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as promulgated.

USSVI AND NE4 DISTRICT NEWS – The Base CDR reported that:

- Nominations for USSVI National Officer positions must be received by the Nominations Committee Chair, Ken Nichols, on or before 1 March 2026.

NAVAL SUBMARINE LEAGUE – The Base CDR also reported that:

- The Naval Submarine League Capitol Chapter Luncheon is being held on 22 January 2026, at the Army Navy Country Club. The guest speaker is Brent Sadler, published author, senior fellow, and one of the most clear-eyed voices on maritime competition and undersea warfare today. Brent's talk—"Undersea Warfare in the New Cold War"—will cut straight to why submarines and the undersea domain remain decisive for deterrence, industry, and national security.

American Legion Post 364 – The Base CDR presented a donation of \$150 to Jen Donahue of Post 364 in thanks for allowing us to hold our meetings at the Post.



UPCOMING SUBMARINE REUNIONS – The VCDR read the following:

- USS Finback (SSN 670) 9-13 March 2026, Ft Lauderdale, FL
- USS Darter (SS 576) 30 April - 3 May 2026, Little Rock, AR
- The Deep Submergence Group Assn. 17-20 September 2026, Groton, CT
- USS Chivo (SS 341) 18-21 October 2026, Myrtle Beach, SC
- **Call or Email the POC listed in the American Submariner to determine the status of the reunion.**

BINNACLE LIST - Please keep the following in your prayers: Tom DeBenedetto, Steve Jaeger, Terry McNamara, Tom Perrault, Marie Phoenix, Tim Shannon, Diane Whitener and Woody Woodworth.

At this time Taylor Gray announced that he was offering to give members, who live within an hour's drive of Woodbridge, transportation to/from the Base meetings. He can be reached at either PAO@ussvinova.org; arthur.gray1982@yahoo.com, or 619-306-9042.

Birthdays for the month of January are George Billy, Hank Chiles, Sam Dunlap, Nader Elquindi, Bob and Susan Glover, Richard Hamly, Bruce Miller, Mike Murphy, Judy Perrault, and Ken Wenzel.

BASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 1030 on Saturday, 14 February 2026, at American Legion Post 364. After the meeting we will have our Sweetheart's Luncheon at Armetta's Italian Grill and Pizzeria in Woodbridge. Individuals will be responsible for their own meals.

The Chaplain delivered the Benediction.

The CDR called for a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 1054.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Woody Woodworth who donated his winning back to the Base. Thank you, Woody.

Following the meeting Ms. Tyana Monette made a presentation on the Fort Belvoir Army Fisher House. She is the Business Manager at this facility which provides a temporary comfort home for military and veteran families at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment at local military and civilian facilities. Stays can last for

only a few days or up to several months if needed. The home at Fort Belvoir has 12 fully furnished guest rooms, a common kitchen, family room, dining room, living room, and library. There are several other Fisher Houses in the DMV. The Fisher House Foundation (www.fisherhouse.org) also operates the Hero Miles program which accepts donated frequent flyer miles/funds that bring family members to the bedside of injured service members as well as the Hotels for Heroes program which uses donated hotel points/dollars to allow family members to stay without charge at hotels near medical centers. Fisher House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information and how to make donations to the Fort Belvoir facility, Ms. Monette can be reached at 703-805-5203 (office), 571-533-8744 (cell), or tyana.m.monette2.naf@health.mil.

After her talk, the Base CDR presented her with a Base challenge coin.



THE BELOW INFORMATION WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING BUT IS INCLUDED IN THESE MINUTES FOR MEMBERS' SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Executive Committee meeting was held prior to this Base meeting.

The **VCDR** has arranged for VADM Hilarides to be the guest speaker at the upcoming Holland Club induction/luncheon in May.

The annual audit of the **Treasurer**'s accounts has been completed with no discrepancies and the report will be submitted at the next Base meeting.

Base Membership

- 93 Members
 - 49 Holland Club Members
 - 01 WW II Member
 - 36 Regular Members
 - 19 – Base Life Members
 - 17 – Base Annual Members
 - 08 Associate Members

Newest member – Peter Moss

We have one dink wrt National and Base dues for 2026. This member will be dropped from the rolls at the end of the month if dues are not paid by then.

The **STOREKEEPER**, Chuck Martin, still has a few 2026 USSVI Calendars for sale (\$10 each) and other items as well. If you are seeking an item and need some help finding it the SK can help.

The **WEBMASTER**, Howard Chatham, reported:

- We are still having issues forwarding email via the website to Chuck Martin. This seems to be only happening from those with verizon.net addresses. The web host is trying to correct this issue. In the meantime, please address any email to Chuck at submissile@hotmail.com.

There is no **OLD BUSINESS** or **NEW BUSINESS**.

Submitted by Howard Chatham
USSVI NOVA Base Secretary