

MINUTES FOR TARHEEL BASE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2022
AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #67 IN CARY, NC

Prior to the Base meeting, a coffee and donuts social took place. A first time "treat" was served by Stewburner Jim Wallace- SOS! All thanked Jim for this "award winning dish"!

Tarheel Base Commander Jim Davis called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Chaplain Gene Rutter asked all present to say a silent prayer for Jerry Leppart,s wife Sandy on her passing and Gene offered up a prayer of blessing during this 3rd year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Base Secretary Bill Lowe lead the 27 Subvets and guests in reciting the Pledge on Allegiance. He followed with a reading of the Purpose of USSVI: Our purpose is "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country." In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, we shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for the mutual benefit and enjoyment. The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice.

Recognize WWII Subvets- One WWII Subvet was present- Don Moyer. He was afforded the first introduction.

Recognize New Members- LCDR Dan Eddinger, Qual 1998 aboard USS James K. Polk SSBN 645. Retired after 21 years of service; MMN1(SS) Lawrence Gillet, Qual 2015 aboard USS Georgia SSGN 729. He is now on active duty at NTAG Raleigh. Neither of these 2 new members were present for the meeting. One new member was present- Michael (Mike) Lev. Another recent new member Chris Mendez wasn't in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS

The 27 Subvets and guests in attendance introduced themselves by stating the name of their qual boat and the year they qualified. These introductions included

our speaker Dr. Charles Hood. Guests present were Dan Wall's wife Ann, Ted Hurley's daughter Gretchin and Ted's granddaughter Nina.

LOST BOATS

Tom McFadden read the list along with details and a slide presentation of the 8 boats lost in March: USS Perch (SS-176); USS Grampus (SS-207); USS H-1 (SS-28); USS Triton (SS-201); USS Kete (SS-369); USS F-4 (SS-23); USS Trigger (SS-237); and USS Tullibee (SS-284). The 5 boats lost in April: USS Pickerel (SS-177); USS Snook (SS-279); USS Thresher (SSN-593); USS Gudgeon (SS-211) and USS Grenadier (SS-210). Tony Van Schaick rang the bell for each of these lost 13 boats and a total of 789 brave submariners. "For all those in peril on the sea"- Amen!

GUEST SPEAKER

Commander Jim introduced the guest speaker, Dr Charles Hood, co author of "Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots" along with 5 other submarine related books to date. Dr Hood has been in a radiology practice for 30 years down in South Carolina. His brother Frank is a former US Navy submarine officer and offered "first hand" info for the 6 books. As of to date, Charles and Frank have raised \$50,000 through the sales of their books and donated same to the USSVI Charitable Foundation. Dr Hood conducted a very informative and interesting program covering snippets from the history of three US Navy nuclear submarines.

- 1- President Dwight D. Eisenhower visit and cruise on the USS Seawolf (SSN-575).
- 2- USS Seadragon (SSN-584) surfaced at the North Pole and crew participating in a softball game on the ice. One of the softballs used in the game is enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.
- 3- 447 foot long USS Triton (SSN-586), with it's 2 nuclear reactors, made a trip around the world submerged. Quite a collection of pictures were shown during Dr Hood's presentation. All thanked him for a great program. Tom McFadden made a motion that the Tarheel Base purchase one set of 6 of the submarine books that Charles and Frank Hood have for sale. These books will be added to the Base Library. Motion approved.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Wellnesss Program Report- Chaplain Gene has recently made 26 calls to the 80+ year old Base members. Most are doing well and those with issues are included in the Binnacle list. There were a lot of no answers this month and that is a concern.

Binnacle List-

- 1- Bob Govern is getting used to the back device.
- 2- Bill Lowe with ongoing bladder restriction.
- 3- Sandy Leppart passed on Saturday, March 26th.
- 4- Jerry Leppart looks tired!
- 5- Wayne Powell tripped by cat and fell down. No update.
- 6- Peggy Emerson is still having some difficulty moving around.
- 7- Chuck Jensen, recently got a pacemaker installed. No update.
- 8- Mel Denis got the UraLift procedure for his prostrate situation and is much improved.
- 9- Donna Rutter, MG, home infusion every other week. No update.
- 10- John Cunningham- Wife with dementia which is getting worse although physically o.k.. John would love to come to the Base meetings!
- 11- Arv Klemp was not able to attend today's Base meeting. He is having a defibrilator removed on April 24th.
- 12- Don Moyer had knee/leg problems which resulted in sugery and had some complications with some of the meds.
- 13- Earl Buffalo fell in the Durham VA and broke his leg. He is now in the Richmond VA. No update- called.
- 14- Rich Cimino's sister passed away.
- 15- Jim Davis's wife Marilyn fell, but doing better. She is still having some ankle pain.
- 16- Your Chaplain Gene fell on 12/20/21 and doing much better now. No update.
- 17- Jim Kinney has had knee problem, however, due to some med mixup, surgery delayed until April 13th.

SUMMARY- MEMBERS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING FALLS LATELY, WHICH IS A MESSAGE TO ALL TO BE CAREFUL. PLEASE KEEP THESE FOLKS ON THIS LIST IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS!

Holland Club: Jim Davis inducted Leland Kuntzman into the Holland Club. Lee qualified aboard the USS Casimir Pulaski (SSBN-633) in 1972.

REPORTS

Base Commander- Jim Davis- Currently, the Tarheel Base has 100 regular members and 1 associate member. The USSVI National awards nomination period is now open and all nominations should be forwarded to Jim. The Cary Youth (15 & 16 year olds) Baseball team sponsored by the Tarheel Base will have their first game on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The game will be played at Field #5 in Bond Park in Cary. Jim urged members to come out and cheer our team to victory. Jim Wallace has very nice shirts for sale with the team logo. Next game will be on April 20th due to an Easter break. Commander Jim thanked the four Base members who attended the Prayer Service for submariner Robert 'Brian' Van Metre on March 28, 2022. Jim stated the Tarheel Base has a 25th Anniversary coming up on September 27, 2022. A possible celebration event may be scheduled during this year's picnic. More info is forthcoming.

Vice Commander- Rich Cimino- No comment.

Tarheel Base Secretary- Bill Lowe- Entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the last regular Base meeting held on February 5, 2022 via Zoom due to increased number of COVID-19 Omicron Variant infections in the State of North Carolina. Minutes were sent out on the Tarheel email buoy and posted on the NC Subvets.ORG website. Minutes were approved with no changes or additions.

Treasurer's Report- Tom McFadden- Membership Report- Tarheel Base Membership stands at 100 regular members and 1 associate member. Financial Report: Current Balances: Regular Account- \$5,931.98. Savings Account- \$6,147.91 and Total Balance- \$12,079.89 . Previous Balances (reported February

2022): Total Balance- \$11,818.23. Notes: Increase in the account balances is primarily due to the receipt of Base dues and profit from the blanket sale (approx. \$107). Balances as of 03/29/22. Savings account balance does not include interest from March (not reported). In addition , Tom has produced 2 St Patrick's Day banners to be displayed on the sides of the Old North State's submarine float. He unveiled one of the very nice banners to the Subvet group. Commander Jim made a motion that the Tarheel Base pay Tom 50 per cent (appx. \$150) of the cost for these banners. Motion was approved. Also, Tom will produce 2 Christmas banners for the submarine float later on this year.

COB- Tony Van Schaick- No comment.

ALL Clear/Webmaster- Joe Peek- Joe stated he will cover his items during the upcoming events section.

Storekeeper/PR Officer- Jim Wallace- Jim has a display of nice jackets for sale during the meeting. As usual, he passed around his catalogue of items he has in his inventory.

NC Subvets Commander- Jerry Emerson- Jerry apologized for not bringing the torpedo float to the St Patrick's Day Parade in Raleigh this year. He felt it was an unsafe trip with the wind and rain weather forecast. As info, there is, presently, a total of \$300.00 in the NC Subvets Fund. Jerry stated there is a conflict with events scheduled to take place during this year's Memorial Day Observance- 1- Wilmington Memorial Day Celebration at the Battleship North Carolina and S-28 Memorial - 2- Thomasville Memorial Day Parade. Hopefully, we can poll Subvets members as to what they will like to attend.

District Commander- Vince Sievert- Vince covered the following items: 1- Currently, USSVI has a total of 11,467 members. 2- Election of National Officers is now open with all members running unopposed. Members are urged to vote to show support for all of these candidates who have volunteered to serve. 3- Vince stated the #1 topic he is hearing from Subvets is the status of the USSVI website. The latest is: A company in France has tried for 1- 1/2 years to solve the website problem at a cost of \$33,000 per year. We have "pulled" the plug on them and

have gone with a company in South Carolina at a cost of \$26,000 per year. Good news! There is now a committee overseeing the project. 4- The next USSVI National Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY on August 24-27, 2022 (a 3 day convention). There is a need for a Base to host the 2024 National Convention. A couple possibilities are the Cod Base or the Hampton Roads Base.

Regional Commander- Ken Nichols- Not Present

National Office Information- Paul Hiser- Not Present

UPCOMING EVENTS

1-Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial Wall- Garner Lake Benson Park through Sunday, April 3, 2022.

2-Subvets breakfast at the Golden Corral on Capital Blvd. in Raleigh on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

3- Executive Board meeting on May 19, 2022.

4- Moonshine Mountain Memorial Weekend- May 20 to May 22. Registration form is available on NCSUBVETS.ORG. Joe Peek mentioned there are alternate lodging sites available in Spruce Pine and Little Switzerland for the weekend meeting. Also, Joe stated the May-July issue of the All-Clear will contain an article on the history of the Moonshine Mountain Memorial.

5- Thomasville Memorial Day Parade- May 30, 2022. Question? Will the Old North State be participating with their submarine float?

6- Wilmington Memorial Day Celebration on Monday, May 30, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Commander Jim covered the following: Proposed amendment to bylaws to create the position of "Veteran Affairs Liason". Amend the Tarheel Bylaws as to read as follows:

Tarheel Base Bylaws- Organization Section- Article VII- Officers- Section 2, Appointed Officers

A. Appointed Officers will include, but not be limited to: Chaplain, Membership Chairman, Holland Club Coordinator, Historian, Webmaster, Storekeeper, Public Relations Officer, Eagle Scout Award Coordinator, Chief of the Boat (COB), Lost Boat Liaison, and Veteran Affairs Liason.

Tarheel Base Bylaws-
Section-
Appointed Officers
Liason

Administration
Article V- Duties of
Section 11. Veteran Affairs

The duties of the Veteran Affairs Liason shall include but not be limited to: Be familiar with VA Benefits available to all eligible veterans. Provide Base members with information on availability and eligibility for VA Benefits. Assist Base members in the preparation and filing of Claims for VA Benefits.

Jim moved we make this change to the bylaws. Motion passed. Next step- Members will vote on this change during the next Tarheel Base meeting.

50/50 Raffle- Conducted by Jerry Leppart- A total of \$125.00 was collected. The big winner was none other than Chaplain Gene Rutter. He graciously donated his winnings to the Base treasury.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain Gene Rutter- A prayer of thanks was offered up for allowing Subvets to hold their Base meeting in person.

Motion to adjourn was made at 12:25 PM. Next meeting will be on June 4, 2022

COB- Surface the Boat

