



PARCH-E-GRAM

PARCHE / THOUSAND ISLANDS BASE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.

MONTHLY MEETING/NEWSLETTER DATE 1/18/2025

Meeting called to order by CMDR David Strong at 10:30.

Note: This is a combined in-person & teleconference meeting.

ON-LINE ATTENDEES: Paul Walker

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES: CMDR David Strong, Vice CMDR Ed Hyne, Treasurer Joe Demars, Secretary Brent Beltran, Chaplain Ken Lang, Tom Hall, Ed Harris, Mark Kite, Kim Reed, James VanBen Coton, and Fred White

New Members/Guests: Commander Henry Rausch

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by CMDR David Strong

Opening Prayer: Led by Chaplain Ken Lang

Tolling of the Boats: Led by Vice CMDR Ed Hyne

Creed & Purpose: Led by CMDR David Strong

Reports:

- Secretary's Report: CMDR David Strong asked if any members, having read the minutes of the 12/21/24 meeting had any corrections or concerns. The minutes were accepted as written.
- Treasurer's Report:

Last meeting starting balance	\$3,074.44
Deposits since last meeting	\$55.00
Disbursements since last meeting	\$35.00

Checking balance as of today \$3,094.44
*Deposits were for Base and National Dues from new member Mike Shultz.
Disbursements were for new member Mike Shultz National Dues.

Old Business

- Parade dates for 2025 are Fulton in May, Phoenix in May, Waterloo in May, Oswego in June/July, and Veterans Day at the State Fairgrounds in November. Also for this year will be Armed Forces Day in Watertown, which last year was held on May 18. If you haven't participated in a parade recently consider 2025 the year to do so.
- Bill Handy sent a link for Challenge Coins – <https://www.silent-service-challenge-coins.com/>. Anyone interested in obtaining Challenge coins for any boat or for National Subvets will be able to find them on this website. Cost is \$25 per coin or \$27 with stand.
- The next Honor Flight, which is Mission 22, is scheduled for May 3rd. Our Base banner is still a work in progress, but should be ready by then. More details about the flight will be discussed in future meetings.
- A Next of Kin letter was handed out during the meeting. The letter is to help surviving family members with "Who to Contact" for military participation after a member has passed. The letter is available by contacting CMDR Strong.
- Ray Forbes was looking into a National site for Subvets plates. Currently the DMV will direct you to Ed Rivoire at (516) 938-8104 for availability and approval.

New Business

- Commander Henry Rausch, author of "Submerged, Life on a Fast Attack Submarine in the Last Days of the Cold War" will speak to the Base after the meeting. Chaplain Lang has arranged for Lunch while the Commander speaks to us.
- The yearly Financial Audit will be conducted after the meeting. Mark Kite and Ed Harris have volunteered to conduct the audit.
- CMDR Strong brought to the Bases attention that Brandon Williams hasn't paid yearly dues. Chaplain Lang will contact him and inform CMDR Strong as to his findings.
- Tom Hall talked about the Fowler High School Navy National Defense Corp. Tom will reach out to the Commander of the group and find out more information about it to see if that is something our Base would like to support. Tom will also reach out to the principle of Baldwinsville High School about a similar program.
- CMDR Strong reiterated that if someone would like to follow our Facebook page, a Base member needs to contact CMDR Strong to let him know the person is acceptable to follow the Base.

- Tom Hall discussed the Enhanced Star Program. Members should contact their local Tax Assessor to see if they are eligible, upgrade their status based on dates which they served, or if they are still in good standing.

FYI...anything of interest? New?

- A vote was held to reimburse Chaplain Lang for Lunch. Joe Demars made a motion, Fred White seconded, All were in favor.
- Tom Hall let members know he does Therapy Dog work and recommended members find activities to keep themselves active both mentally and physically.

Next meeting is set for March 15, 2025, Face to Face and Telecom

Good of the Order

- CMDR Strong opened with discussion wearing subvets items and handing out cards.

Closing Prayer: Led by Chaplain Ken Lang

Meeting Adjourned: by CMDR David Strong at 11:07