



PARCH-E-GRAM

PARCHE / THOUSAND ISLANDS BASE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.

MONTHLY MEETING/NEWSLETTER DATE 3/15/2025

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

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

ON-LINE ATTENDEES: None

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

New Members/Guests: Nancy Walker and Tanya Demars

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by CMDR David Strong

Opening Prayer: Led by Chaplain Ken Lang

Tolling of the Boats: Led by James VanBen Coton

Creed & Purpose: Led by CMDR David Strong

Reports:

- Secretary's Report: CMDR David Strong asked if any members, having read the minutes of the 1/18/25 meeting had any corrections or concerns. The minutes were accepted as written.
- Treasurer's Report:

Last meeting starting balance	\$3,094.44
Deposits since last meeting	\$0.00
Disbursements since last meeting	\$0.00

Checking balance as of today

\$3,094.44

Old Business

- Parade dates for 2025 are Baldwinsville in April (Ed will be Lead), Fulton in May, Phoenix on May 26th, Waterloo on May 24th (Brent will be Lead) Oswego in June/July, and Veterans Day at the State Fairgrounds in November (Dave will be Lead). 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. Commander Strong brought in several examples for members to look at.
- The next Honor Flight, which is Mission 22, is scheduled for May 3rd. Our Base banner is still a work in progress. A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$150 for the banner. More details about the flight will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The annual Base Financial Audit was conducted after our last meeting by Mark Kite and Ed Harris. No errors were found and the yearly report was submitted to National.
- Tom Hall emailed the Baldwinsville High Schools and Fowler High School Navy National Defense Corp about our group. There is no update or response. The hope is that students showing interest in the military, specifically the Submarine Service, could attend our meetings, possibly becoming members.
- Commander Strong informed the Base that he was able to change the Birthdate of our Base on Facebook to the date the Base was formed. Also, if anyone would like to join our Facebook page, they first must contact Commander Strong for permission.
- All in attendance enjoyed having Commander Henry Rausch, author of "Submerged, Life on a Fast Attack Submarine in the Last Days of the Cold War", speak at the last meeting.
- John Artz suggested a Scouting Award given locally through the Base or National.

New Business

- A Holland Club Presentation will be given to Glen Bridges. Commander Strong reached out to him, with no response. The presentation will happen as soon as possible.
- Commander Strong discussed Longevity Pins, Base patches, and Elected Position Rockers for vests. The Longevity pins would be for those having memberships at the five year point, and every five years after that. Commander Strong also would like to order Position Rockers for the Officers of the Base. A motion to approve

both the Pins and Rockers was made by Ed Harris, seconded by Fred White, approved by all in attendance.

- Commander Strong made the Base aware of pricing for advertisement in the Phoenix Parade Brochure. After some discussion, it was decided that Commander Strong will talk to Vice Commander Hyne and inform the Base at the next meeting.

FYI...anything of interest? New?

- Ray Forbes reminded everyone to see him about any physical record issues they might have.
- Tom Hall suggested members take SUNY college courses to keep their minds exercised.

Next meeting is set for April 19, 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 11:15