



## **PARCH-E—GRAM**

### **PARCHE / THOUSAND ISLANDS BASE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.**

#### **MONTHLY MEETING/NEWSLETTER DATE 6/21/2025**

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, Vice CMDR Edward Hyne, Treasurer Joe Demars, Secretary Brent Beltran, Chaplain Ken Lang, Ray Forbes, Tom Hall, Stewart Handy, Ed Harris, Steven Hoffman, Mark Kite, Gregg Pitts, Michael Rastley, James VanBen Coton, and Fred White

New Members/Guests: Randy McCoy, Shari Derleth, and Tanya Demars

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by CMDR David Strong

Opening Prayer: Led by Chaplain Ken Lang

Tolling of the Boats: Led by Vice CMDR Edward Hyne

Creed & Purpose: Led by Fred White

#### **Reports:**

- Secretary's Report: CMDR David Strong asked if any members, having read the minutes of the 5/10/25 meeting had any corrections or concerns. The minutes were accepted as written.
- Treasurer's Report:

Last meeting starting balance	\$3,302.99
Deposits since last meeting	\$90.00

Disbursements since last meeting	\$0.00
Checking balance as of today	\$3,392.99

Deposits were \$40.00 from last meetings 50/50 raffle and \$50.00 for dues.

## Old Business

- Starting with past parades were Waterloo and Phoenix. Secretary Beltran reported that Waterloo started out rainy, but cleared shortly after starting. Organization of the parade was confusing to participants. The Base agreed to try one more year. Phoenix went as planned, no major issues. Oswego is the next parade on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Lineup starts at 10:30, but be ready no later than 11:00. Dave will be sending details. Beyond Oswego is the Veterans Day Parade in November, details will be in following meetings.
- Longevity Pins were handed out by CMDR Strong to Gregg Pitts for 5 years, Stewart Handy for 5 years, Steven Hoffman for 5 years, Ray Forbes for 10 years, and Michael Rastley for 25 years of membership in Subvets. Congratulations to all.
- The list of Base members needing a National Membership Card has been sent to National by CMDR Strong.
- Honor Fight - Mission 23 is on 9/13/25. We now have a stand for the banner. All members are encouraged to attend, details will be distributed in following meetings and email.
- A discussion with the Southern Tier Base was on the agenda, unfortunately they weren't able to make it. Hopefully they can make our next meeting.
- Ray Forbes reports the local VA has lost five faculty members due to Doge cuts. There is concern about the VA and what National is doing for the Bases. CMDR Strong will email Fritz (District Commander) to get further information.
- The VFW in Mattydale has a Veterans Pantry which is open 4:00 – 6:00pm. The Pantry is a Grocery Store. For further information contact the VFW.
- The Hometown Hero, Hometown Hero's Flags, and Scouting Awards are headed by John Artz, who wasn't in attendance today. Hopefully next meeting John will have additional information.
- The Honor Flight Mail Call is open to anyone. If you would like to send a general card or letter to next Honor Flights participants, you may bring them to the next meeting, and we will forward to the appropriate contact.
- Thank you to all who attended Paul Walkers Funeral. Those who attended agreed that it was solemn and respectful. Rest your oars Paul!

## New Business

- The Holland Club Presentation for Glen Bridges will be given to Treasurer Demars to be mailed.

- Secretary Beltran updated everyone on repairs to the Base Float. He will check with owner of the winery where he works, to see if the float can be stored indoors during the winter.
- CMDR Strong is asking for input on dates for the Summer Base Party. The dates he has available are 16 or 23 August. If you have a preference, please let Dave know as soon as possible.

FYI

- Treasurer Demars reiterated that Veterans can be given a Veteran Ride Pass to ride the Syracuse Centro for free. The pass is free and is good for 10 years. For further information go to [www.centro.org](http://www.centro.org). He also let the base know that Amazon has USSVI patches and stickers.
- Ed Harris inquired about the Submarine Veterans National Convention. The convention is in Orlando Florida from August 31 – September 6. For further details go to [subvetconvention.org](http://subvetconvention.org).

Next meeting will be at the picnic, either 16 or 23 August 2025, in-person only

Good of the Order

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

Closing Prayer: Led by Chaplain Lang

Meeting Adjourned: by CMDR David Strong at 11:20