



## **PARCH-E-GRAM**

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

#### **MONTHLY MEETING/NEWSLETTER DATE 1/17/2026**

Meeting called to order by CMDR David Strong at 10:35.

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

ON-LINE ATTENDEES: Brad Fish, Don Basil

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES: CMDR David Strong, Vice CMDR Edward Hyne, Treasurer Joe Demars, Secretary Brent Beltran, Chaplain Ken Lang, John Artz, Ray Forbes, Tom Hall, Ed Harris, Mark Kite, Harvey Sellers, and James VanBen Coton

New Members/Guests: Tonya Demars, Jennifer Artz

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 Treasurer Joe Demars

Reports:

- Secretary's Report: CMDR David Strong asked if any members, having read the minutes of the 12/13/25 meeting had any corrections or concerns. The minutes were accepted as written.
- Treasurer's Report:

Last meeting starting balance	\$3,412.94
Deposits since last meeting	\$500.00
Disbursements since last meeting	\$500.00

Checking balance as of today

\$3,412.94

Note: The deposit was for members' dues and the disbursement was for payment to National.

## Old Business

- Starting with past parades; Phoenix – done, Waterloo – done, Oswego – done. Veterans Day Parade – done.
- Honor Flight – The next Honor Flight, Mission 24, has been changed to 5/02/2026. If you have not attended a ceremony, you are encourage to participate. It is a very moving experience.
- If anyone would like to suggest a Breakfast restaurant to meet at prior to meetings, please let one of the Base Officers know.
- CMDR Strong asked if anyone had any changes to the Website. There were no suggestions.
- CMDR Strong also gave a status update on the merger with the Southern Tier Base. Brad Fish (Southern Tiers outgoing Commander) would request small amounts of money for various functions at the Southern Tier. Money would have to be approved by CMDR Strong and one other Officer. Southern Tier will transfer Checking account to us after paying off bills and receiving remaining deposits. A second Banner will be made to incorporate the Southern Tier. Brad would also like a banner for Parades and functions in the Southern Tier area.
- Also discussed in regards to the Southern Base was a possible change to our Bylaws. This change might be needed so that the Southern Base can meet locally and hold functions.
- A Banner with "If you have Dolphins...", to be used along with our float was suggested by CMDR Strong as a way of recruiting new members to our Base. Chaplain Lang will be lead on all the suggested banners.
- 2026 Submarine calendars are available from CMDR Strong. Cost is \$5.00.
- We are looking for any ideas or suggestions in regards to fundraising. Please contact a Base Officer or voice your suggestion at our next meeting.
- Chaplain Lang thanked the Base for our donation to the church.
- It has come to our attention that one of our members, Ted Bergene, has Parkinson's disease. CMDR Strong, along with Treasurer Demars, approved paying his National dues. Our prayers are with you Ted.
- CMDR Strong would like to start a "Brotherhood Fund". This fund would be used to help a member in need, such as yearly dues. The Base would vote and decide where the money is used. It would be funded with the Bases half of the 50/50 raffle and any private donations.

## New Business

- Our yearly financial audit will be conducted after this meeting. Ed Harris and Mark Kite have volunteered to conduct the audit.
- The Southern Tier will be transferring 13 members as of last count. Welcome aboard to all of our new shipmates!
- Past Commander Fred White continues to recover. CMDR Strong has been emailing the Base with updates and when to visit. Brad Fish and the Southern Tier sends their thoughts and prayers. We all wish you a speedy and safe recovery, Fred!
- CMDR Strong presented skipping the February meeting, approved by all in attendance. The next Face to Face & Teleconference meeting will be 21 March.

## FYI

- Tom Hall recommended checking with local towns to see if they have a Veterans Liason, which could be helpful property tax benefits or other useful information. He also met with the Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs at OCC, while working with his Therapy Dog, Lucy.
- Mark Kite made the Base aware that this is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Desert Storm.
- John Artz let the Base know there is an Eagle Scout application in May. Further details will be announced at the next meeting.
- Ed Hyne asked if we should have signs for vehicles that don't have metal doors, as many new cars have plastic doors. If anyone has a suggestion, please let the Base know.

Next meeting is set for March 26, 2026, 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 11:40