

Minutes of the meeting conducted 03/17/09.

The Bremerton Base Commander, Don Bassler, called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

- Opening observances were conducted.
- Over 32 members were present. New members Bob Walker (San Diego Base), and Bob Kiefer were introduced. Western District 4 Commander, John Mansfield, was in attendance.
- The Western District 4 Commander was introduced. He has had an interesting life. He served on USS Menhaden (SS 377), served with the CIA for many years, was an instructor, and an author. He has been active with his local VFW and the Lions Club. John Mansfield is a founding member of the South Sound Base of the USSVI. He became interested in the last patrol of USS Darter (SS 227) and the crew's rescue by USS Dace (SS 247). It turned out that the Darter crew became the commissioning crew of USS Menhaden. John stayed long after the meeting showing pictures of his time on Menhaden and the pictures he has found while researching the Darter/Dace patrol during WWII.
- Base Treasurer, Dutch Kaiser, reports \$71,955 in assets.
- Base Membership Chairman, Dutch Kaiser, states that the base has 291 paid up members.
- Base Storekeeper, Ralph Harris, has a new supply of hats to go with the patches, pins, shirts, and vests.
- Puget Soundings Editor-in-Chief, Sam Swenson, has set April 22 for the cutoff date for the next issue. All pictures or ideas for articles should be submitted by that date.
- Sam also reports that no work has been done on the USS Bonefish float due to weather. The float will be at the starting line for the Bangor Dolphin Dash in April.
- Scholarship Chairman, Bob Webster, has received \$6,025 from raffle ticket sales and donations. 138 members have responded to the raffle ticket letters sent out last month.
- The National Office Manager, Fred Borgmann, states that he and his staff of volunteers are tracking 12,807 members. He also has the extra raffle tickets at the office along with scholarship applications and letters of introduction for potential supporters.
- As the Base Chaplain, Fred Borgmann asks that he be informed by the membership when they hear of any sickness or death.
- Holland Club Chairman, Dave Davenport, reports that there are currently 11 possible inductees for this year.
- TTF Graduation Coordinator, John Gardner, announces that the next graduating class will be the James Monroe (SSBN 622) on April 17 at 1100 hours. Anybody having served on that boat or any of the membership is invited to attend and take part in the program. There won't be another class until July.
- The Western District 4/WWII Regional conference is scheduled for May 20-22 at the Silverdale Beach Hotel. There have been 31 registration applications received

- to date. Volunteers to assemble registration packages, decorate/provide flowers, help in the hospitality room, and etc. check with the Base Commander.
- The Submarine Birthday Dolphin Dash Coordinator, John Gardner, needs volunteers at Bangor on Saturday, April 11. If you need help with Base access, contact John before April 6. Registration begins at 0900 hours with races beginning at 1000 hours. Volunteers should be there about 0830.
  - The Armed Forces Day Parade is set for Saturday, May 16, about 1000 hours.
  - Chief-of-the-Boat, Hank Hollis, has Illahee State Park reserved for our annual picnic on Saturday, July 18. The State may close the park before that date so contingency plans are underway.
  - Nominations are open for Base Officer Elections. Committee Chairman, Fred Borgmann, has a nominee for Base Treasurer (Tommy Robinson), Base Secretary (Dick Litscher), and for the Base COB (Hank Hollis). The Base Commander and Base Vice Commander positions are in need of nominees.
  - The Submarine Birthday Ball is Saturday, April 18, at Bangor. The committee has allotted 10 tickets for USSVI use. So far four tickets have gone to USSVI WWII. All other tickets will cost \$45 each. See Don Bassler.
  - There is a discussion that Bremerton Base participate in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade at Bainbridge Island. The USS Bonefish float is available for that day. Members with ideas should contact an E-Board member.
  - The April meeting guest speaker will be Susan Walters. She knows the ins and outs of the VA claims systems. The meeting is scheduled for April 21.
  - The 50/50 drawing was won by Jon Mansfield (\$33.25) our guest speaker and WD4 Commander.

The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours.