



# United States Submarine Veterans Bremerton Base

P. O. Box 465, Silverdale, WA 98383-0465

<http://gertrude-check.org/>



Minutes of the Bremerton Base USSVI meeting conducted  
20 Nov 2012

Base Commander Jim DeMott called the meeting to order at 1900

Opening observances were conducted. 35 members and guest Dave Peterson, Wayne Peterson's Father signed the roster.

Western District Commander John Mansfield and South Sound Chief of the Boat Al Smith were in attendance.

Base Chaplin Fred Borgmann conducted the opening invocation.

Potential new member in attendance was Arnold Gomez and a new member Chris Martin who qualified on the USS Salt Lake City SSN 716.

The speaker was Base Life member and WWII submarine veteran **Paul Christofferson MOMM3 (SS)**. Paul made war patrols #2, 3, and 4 on USS Raton (SS-270). Paul, 87, served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946. Qualifying in 1943, Paul has been qualified for 67 years. After his naval service, he served in the Army and retired as a Master Sergeant.

Paul began the talk about his voluntary enlistment in the Navy in 1942 at the age of 17. A little guy, he weighed in at 101 pounds. He told interesting tales of boot camp at Great Lakes, then on to motor machinist school, sub school, additional submarine related machinery school and then on leave for a week and a 2 month trip by train, bus, ship and more train rides to his boat in Fremantle, Australia. Quite an experience, as he related a story of the natives following the train just to obtain the garbage after they would stop to eat chow. Paul's submarine experience on *Raton* was also interesting as they participated in wolf packs in the South Pacific. One incident of much interest was load thud on the hull that was not fully diagnosed until they returned to port with a deep dent in the hull from a torpedo shot at them by *Lapon*, likely one of the duds we had left at the time. This is a no shitter! Paul talk was very interesting.

Minutes for the October 2012 meeting were accepted and approved as corrected.

Base Treasurer Dennis Nardone reports the total base financial assets as of 31 October 2012 are \$70,947.49.

Membership Chairman Dennis Nardone reports the base has 277 members of which 213 are USSVI Life Members, 166 Base Life Members, 120 Holland Club members and 262 war veterans.

Base Storekeeper Ralph Harris has 2013 Calendars and 3 Challenge Coins left. Ken Northfield will engrave bracelets and or coins. Ralph always has hats, shirts etc. for sale.

Trailer and Float Manager Sam Swenson reports the float is storage until next parade season.

John Gardner reports the TTF Graduation program is alive. During the Auburn Veterans Day parade on 10 November, a 90 year old veteran rode with us. The Armed Forces Day Observances at the Fairgrounds was very successful.

The Annual Christmas Party will be 8 December 2012 at the Elks on Pine rode. During the party Vice Commander Steve Corcoran will conduct a survey about upcoming meeting. At the Christmas Party a collection will be conducted for Washington States Veterans Home at Retsil. The base will match up to \$200.00 for Retsil.

The Ways and Means Committee made up of Vice Commander Steve Corcoran, Gary Dutch Kaiser, Dick Litscher, and Tommy Robinson submitted a budget for 2013. The E Board approved and accepted the budget.

The February 2013 USSVI meeting will be held Saturday 16 February 2013 at 0930 at the FRA. Breakfast will be served and guests are invited.

Base Commander Jim DeMott, Secretary Wayne Sieckowski and Webmaster and Past Commander Don Bassler took part in the Downtown Bremerton's Library's Telebration were they told sea stories.

Don Bassler will always accept changes and updates and articles for the website.

Western District Commander John Mansfield said he enjoyed the meeting and Paul's talked. He reported the South Sound Base conducted a fund raiser in front of Wal-Mart and raised over \$500.00. The next USSVI Convention will be in Rochester, MN at the end of August 2013.

Don Quinn won the 50/50 raffle.

Cmdr. Jim DeMott adjourned the meeting at 2045

Respectfully Submitted

Wayne Sieckowski, Base Secretary

