



United States Submarine Veterans Bremerton Base

P. O. Box 465, Silverdale, WA 98383-0465
<http://gertrude-check.org/>



February 16, 2013

Base Commander Jim DeMott called the February 16, 2013, meeting to order at 0930 hours.

Opening observances were conducted. Over 56 members and guest were present for this meeting which included a breakfast buffet made up of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage etc. Cmdr. Jim DeMott discussed how this Saturday morning meeting is a way to try and get more participation in our monthly meetings.

After breakfast, Cmdr. Jim DeMott commenced the regular monthly meeting. He introduced two World War II Submarine Veterans in attendance Paul Christopherson and Harold Baker. Also in attendance was Western Region Director John Mansfield.

Cmdr. Jim DeMott introduced our guest speakers from the USS Maine (SSBN 741) (Blue).

CO, William (Bill) Johnson, talked about Submarine Duty and the USS Maine.

XO, LT Commander William (Bill) Johansson talked about the Qualification Program as it exists today in the Submarine Force and on the USS Maine. He feels enlisted female sailors will be on their way to submarines. Accommodations will be made for females on the new Virginia class being built in the future. Likely no females will be serving permanent duty on current fast attacks.

Newly qualified officers, Lt John Schaeffer and Lt(jg) Jennifer Noonan addressed their backgrounds and answered questions from the big picture side of the submarine force to personal questions. They presented a very enlightening talk.

A very short meeting followed with short reports from base officers.

The minutes of the January Meeting were approved as presented.

Base Treasurer, Dennis Nardone, gave a report on the Base finances, which was approved as presented.

Base Membership Committee Chairman, Dennis Nardone, reports base membership is 278. Six new members were in attendance and they are:

Luis Talavera for 3 years National, 1 year base
Pat Guderski for 3 years National, 1 year base
Joseph Pastorella for 5 years National, 1 year base
Dale McVey for 3 years National, 1 year base
Rick Atkins for 1 year national & Base
Terry Fessner for 5 years National, 1 year base.

Western Region Director John Mansfield made a few comments on how he always enjoys attending our meetings. Then he and three other members of South Sound Base, Vice **Cmdr. Dave Richards**, Capt. **Hal Barker** (Sabalo), **Jon Schoenfeld** captured the Traveling Dolphins that had been held in captivity in Bremerton for four months.

John Gardner the Scholarship Chairman Dolphin Dash will be held 13 April 2013 at Bangor. Scholarship applications are also available.

Gertrude-Check and Deterrent Park Brick Coordinator, Don Bassler, notes that the Base website is running good. There are no new orders for a brick at this time but expects some applicants before the next laying scheduled for May 2013.

The next Bremerton Base meeting will be at the FRA home, Tuesday, March 19, at 1900 hours.

The Base Vice Commander, Steve Corcoran, is conducting a membership survey on how we might improve Bremerton Base.

Shipmate John Hertz won the 50/50 raffle and donated the money to the Scholarship Fund.

Cmdr. Jim DeMott adjourned the meeting at 1130.