



# United States Submarine Veterans Bremerton Base

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

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



18 January 2014

Base Commander, Jim DeMott, called the January 18, 2014 meeting to order at 1000 hours.

Opening observances were conducted. 35 members were present and Western Region Director, John Mansfield was in attendance.

Bremerton Base Officers were then sworn in to their respective positions by the Western Region Director. Base Commander: Jim DeMott; Base Vice Commander: Steve Corcoran; Base Treasurer: Dennis Nardone; and Base Chief-of-the-Boat: Wayne Peterson. The Base Secretary, Wayne Sieckowski was not present.

Outgoing COB, Hank Hollis, was recognized for his long and dedicated service in that position.

Captain George Norman, Commanding Officer of USS Ohio (SSGN 726) Blue was introduced. He gave a great presentation of the workings of a SSGN. He answered a lot of questions from the membership. Captain Norman is a member of USSVI Groton Base and will keep his membership there as he is a native of the area and will retire nearby when this command is through.

The minutes of the December meeting were excused as that meeting was the Christmas Luncheon.

The Base Treasurer announced that there is \$73,770.16 in various accounts.

There are 284 Bremerton Base members as of the end of 2013. There are 20 members needing to pay dues to continue their membership in the organization.

Base Chaplain, Fred Borgmann, stated that nearly \$600 was donated by the membership before and during the luncheon. The Base then matched that total so we provided nearly \$1200 in gifts to the veterans at the Washington State Veterans Home in Retsil. Santa, John Gardner, and his helpers: Fred Borgmann, Jim DeMott, Steve Corcoran, Don Bassler, Ralph Harris, Dennis Nardone and Wayne Sieckowski.

Shipmate, Dutch Kaiser, paid tribute to a previous guest speaker, Stan Everett, who recently passed away. Stan became a POW during the WWII Battle of the Bulge and was rescued by the Russian army. He and several others then escaped Germany to join up with allied forces.

Storekeeper, Ralph Harris, and shipmate Joe Hanisko, hawked their wares. Ralph always has new and usually interesting things to sell. Joe is a member of the rec committee of USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) and brought some shirts, hats, patches, belt buckles, etc to sell. Some of the proceeds will go to community children activities.

Scholarship raffle tickets are in the mail to the membership. Applications for the 2014 scholarships are available at various local schools and on-line. Help is needed for the 2014 Dolphin Dash at Bangor in April.

New COB, Wayne Peterson, has the annual Base Picnic tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 20, at the Bremerton Elks Lodge RV shelter.

The Base VC reported on the new storage unit which was recently leased. He also told of capturing the Traveling Dolphins from the Olympic Base with the Base Commander and four other Bremerton members. He then presented a Denver Bronco Teddy Bear to the Denver-dressed COB with a few words before the Super Bowl.

Bremerton Base has the old fireworks stand lying outside in storage which hasn't been used in three years. The E-Board will look into ways to destroy or recycle the materials.

The February 15 meeting will be a Base Breakfast meeting. Breakfast will be served at 0900 with meeting following at 1000 hours.

National Office Manager, Fred Borgmann, displayed the banner that USSVI, as one of 5200 other supporters, received from the DOD commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Western District Director and newly elected South Sound Base Commander, John Mansfield, stated that this region contains 13 districts. Bremerton is a popular stop for him in District 4. He reminds the membership that this year the USSVI will celebrate its' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the National Convention in San Francisco September 1 to September 7.

Dave Crawford won \$44 from the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 1150 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Litscher for Wayne Sieckowski, Base Secretary