



UNITED STATES  
SUBMARINE VETERANS INC

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# STRYKER SIGNALS

## Our Creed

“To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. We pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its’ constitution.”

21 March 2010

**Social** Our next social will be on 10 April 2010 at Tejeda Middle School in conjunction with the Annual History and Cultural Faire. You can bring your own food and drink, but there will be booths selling food, drinks, and goodies for the kids.

**Meeting** The next meeting will be at the VFW Post #8315 (1000 FM 78, Schertz) will be 16 May starting with a Pot Luck lunch at 1300 hours. Guests and family are always welcome.

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1347 hours by Base Commander Frank Simpson

**Invocation** Given by Base Chaplain John Buchanan. John gave a summary of the WW II Sub Vets Convention in Galveston. There were 42 USSVI/USSVWWII in attendance, two of which are Pearl Harbor Survivors.

**Pledge of Allegiance** Led by Base Commander Frank Simpson

**Reading of Our Creed** Read by Frank Lister

**New Member Introduction** None

**Secretary's Report** Minutes of January meeting accepted with corrections; one date error, one addition, and one spelling error.

**Treasurer's Report** Accept as presented

**Old Business** A. Saturday, 10 April, 0930 to 1600 hrs., will be the annual Tejeda Middle School History and Culture Faire, located on Evans between Bulverde Rd. and Hwy. 281. We are having our Social/Picnic at the school. Bring your kids/grand kids.

B. We need projects, speakers, and other input about how you want to conduct future meetings. We will have a presentation by Navy Federal Credit Union at the 18 July meeting.

C. USSVWWII Final Convention Patches available for \$15.

D. February's Social had a good turn out; 20 people were in attendance at the Clear Springs Restaurant.

**New Business** A. USS Cavalla Historical Foundation needs help, both physical and financial. Motion was made and seconded to donate \$200.

B. USSVI National Library needs selected issues of American Submariner, years 1966-1990. See BC for info.

C. Last call for applications for USSVI Scholarships. See BC for info.

D. Torpedomen: On 10 March, USS Razorback loaded three Mk. 14s on board.

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## **For the Good of the Order**

A. Please sign Get Well cards for Capt Eric Barr and John Lee, both are WWII Sub Vets.

B. Cold War Recognition Certificate. Any military or Federal Government personnel who served between 2 December 1945 and 26 December 1991 are eligible. Go to [ww.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/coldwar/default.htm](http://ww.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/coldwar/default.htm).

C. You qualify for a higher Social Security benefit if you served between January 1957 and 31 December 2001. Contact the Social Security office with your DD 214 in hand. It is suggested to contact the SS office in Seguin.

## **Benediction**

Base Chaplain John Buchanan gave the benediction.

## **Adjourned**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 1454 hrs.

## **USSVI Belongs to the Membership**

The most important thing at this time is the USSVI members to vote for the candidate of their choice in the 2010 elections. USSVI belongs to the membership. Let your voices be heard.

Shipmates, I believe I understand the needs of our organization. I have served on Diesel Boats, a FBM, and SSRN during my 22 year Navy career, retiring as a CPO. I am a charter member of the USS Razorback and its first Base Commander and today I am the Base Chaplain. I have almost 4 years experience as a District Commander. During the time as a DC it gave me the opportunity to visit with many bases in the Central Region. I was the USSVI District Commander of the year selectee in 2007. I was Chairman of the Memorial and Ceremony Committee for 3 years. This gave me a good understanding of our Charitable Foundation and its various charitable funds and how they operate. I have been a Regional Director and Voting member on the USSVI E-board for almost (4) years. I have been a voting member longer than any of the other Candidates for National Commander. This additional experience working with the National officers and Regional Directors has been an excellent training experience, to be a National Commander representing the USSVI membership.

Communications are a major problem in USSVI that needs immediate improvement. I hear most often from around USSVI our National Officers don't listen to the membership. I will work hard to improve the base communication with District Commanders, Regional Directors and National Officers. The first thing I intend to do if elected as National Commander, is contact each District Commander by phone and ask him to send me an e-mail, after he contacts his bases and tell me what the base membership feels the USSVI officers and Regional Directors need to discuss to make the organization better for the members. I am going to send an amendment to the Amendment Committee which I hope they will approve to add another member to the voting E-Board, the National District Commander of USSVI, that the District Commanders elect from the (4) candidates nominated by the Regional Directors every two years. A new District Commander of USSVI will serve on the E-board as a voting member every two years.

Retention and Recruiting are issues that need to be addressed if our organization is to grow. The Central Region has had the best retention record of Annual members in USSVI for the past two years. The District Commanders and Base Commanders working together and calling delinquent members was one factor to reduce our Region annual member lost along with other interventions. I will appoint a committee comprising of a District Commander from each region and a chairman to report to the National Commander their recommendations in (6) months that will be submitted to the board for approval and given to the NSVC to use in retention of USSVI Annual and MAL members in 2011.

I strongly believe that it is important for all USSVI bases to be active in their communities in parades and other veterans' activities in their community. I would like to see every base in USSVI have an annual Tolling of the Boat ceremony and invite the public and other Veterans organizations to be in attendance.

I feel we need a 5 to 10 year long range plan for USSVI. I will appoint a Chairman and a 5 member committee of USSVI members to bring to the board in (6) months for approval of their recommendations for USSVI long Range planning.

I would also like to see another committee of Senior Officers of USSVI (5) and (5) members of the rank and file one being the NSVC to develop a major plan to raise funds for the approved Charitable Foundation funds that have been approved. They are those that oppose and agree on USSVI having its own building. I would be in favor of this happening if USSVI had the necessary funding to afford this project. I see 10 to 20 years from now that this is a possibility. Recently the board approved to have a building fund established for USSVI. Shipmates these ideas are not new they have been discussed many times in the past by previous boards.

I encourage all Base Commanders, and base officers and base members to attend District and Regional meeting and share ideas and suggestions that could be of benefit to other bases in USSVI. Shipmates I'm retired and ready to work to

make USSVI a stronger organization if you feel I'm the shipmate to be the next National Commander representing the submariners of USSVI, I would like your vote.

Our organization purposes are summarized in three broad categories, Remembrance, Fellowship, and Compassion.

Fraternally,

Carl Schmidt CPO USN Ret.

## **Pumping the Humor Bilge**

A man boarded a plane with six kids. After all the kids were seated and belted in, a woman leaned over and asked: "Are all these kids yours?" His reply: "No, I work for a condom company. These are customer complaints."

A woman took her 66 year old father to the mall. They stopped to get lunch at a food court. Sitting nearby was a teenage hippy looking girl with her hair dyed red, green, blue, and purple. The old man could not take his eyes off the girl's hair. Finally the girl had had enough, and asked: "Old man, haven't you ever done anything wild?" He replied: "Yeah, once I got stoned and screwed a peacock. Are you my daughter?"

### **He said, she said.....**

He said: "I don't know why you wear a bra. You don't have anything to put in it."

She said: "You wear pants, don't you?"

He said: "What have you been doing with the grocery money I gave you?"

She said: "Turn sideways and look in the mirror."

He said: "Why don't women blink during foreplay?"

She said: "They don't have time."

He said: "How many men does it take to change a roll of toilet paper?"

She said: "I don't know. It has never happened before."

He said: "Why is it so hard to find men who are sensitive, caring, and good looking?"

She said: "They already have boyfriends."

He said: "Why are married women heavier than single women?"

She said: "Single women come home, look what's in the refrigerator, and go to bed. Married women come home, look at what's in the bed, and go to the refrigerator."

He said: "What do you call a woman who knows where her husband is every night?"

She said: "A widow."

He said: "Let's swap positions tonight."

She said: "Good idea. You stand by the stove and I'll sit on the couch and fart."

Mary O'Mally goes into the confessional in tears. The good father says: "Why, Mary, what is it, my child?" "My husband died last night," she sobs. "Did he have any last words?" Mary says: "Yes, father, just before he died he said 'Mary, put down that gun!'"

A drunk stumbles into the confessional. He sits down but says nothing. The priest waits patiently, but finally coughs. Nothing happens. The priest waits a few moments more, then knocks on the wall. The drunk says: "No use knocking. There's no toilet paper here either."

Comment by Rep. Hank Johnson (D, Macon, GA): If we build a new Marine Corps base on the Island of Guam, he was concerned: "My fear is that the whole island will become so overly populated that it will tip over and capsize." CSPAN, 1 April 2010, and this is not an April Fools story!