

MINUTES OF ANNAPOLIS BRANCH 24
USS SQUALUS CEREMONY
May 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President John Gough at 7:00 pm. All Branch Officers were present. After appropriate opening ceremonies were held, we moved into the initiation of new members. Shipmates Noelle Freeland-Huffer, Abigail Murphy and Matthew Hatch were initiated and introduced to the Branch members. We welcomed them to our Branch Home.

Next, a motion was made to suspend the normal branch business and to prepare for the USS Squalus Ceremony conducted by Shipmate Lew Bearden. This ceremony would be held under New Business. It was Second/Approved by the majority of the members in attendance. The quorum was a total of 53 shipmates. 31 seated 22 logged on virtually.

New Business

Shipmate Lew Bearden read an account of what happened with the USS Squalus (SS-192), a US Sargo-class submarine, when it sank off the coast of New Hampshire during test dives on 23 May 1939. Twenty-six sailors and civilians lost their lives on that awful day. When Shipmate Lew completed the ceremony, our Branch Chaplain, Chuck Castelaw and PRPEC Don Hoover gave the Two-Bell ceremony to honor the memory of these military personnel and civilians. The people honored were:

ENS Joseph H. Patterson, USN	S2 John Joseph Marino, USN
FC3 James Andrew Aitken, USN	EM2 Huie King McAfee, USN
EM1 John James Batick, USN	TM2 Alfred Charles Priester, USN
F1 Joshua Casey, USN	MM1 Frank Henry Shulte, USN
CMM John Allan Chesnutt, USN	EM1 Bascom Slemph Scyphers, USN
EM2 Robert Lyle Coffey, USN	TM1 Sherman Luther Shirley, USN
MM2 Elvin Leon Deal, USN	MM1 Jack John Strong, USN
EM3 Lionel Hugh Fletcher, USN	MM1 John Laurise Thomala, USN
CMM Kenneth Ross Garrison, USN	SC3 Robert Preson Thompson, USN
TM1 Robert Franklin Gibbs, USN	RM3 Marion Lawrence Ward, USN
F1 John Plesent Hathaway, USN	F2 Robert Ross Weld, USN
MM1 Eugene Arthur Hoffman, USN	Charles M. Wood, Civilian
S1 Alexander Biggs Keegan, USN	Electrician, PNSY
S2 John Joseph Marino, USN	Don Smith, Civilian, Civilian
EM2 Huie King McAfee, USN	Electrician, GM

We concluded the ceremony and entertained a motion to resume the Branch 24 monthly meeting. It was seconded and approved by the members.

We proceeded to the final election of Branch Officers for President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President. The following shipmates were nominated during the April meeting and still remained the same:

Branch Officers – 2021-2022

President (elect): Shipmate 1st Vice President Jimmy Beckett
1st Vice President (elect): Shipmate 2nd Vice President Chris Wallace
2nd Vice President (elect): Shipmate Pat Guibao

The nominations were closed. Since there were no other nominees for these offices, PRPEC Don Hoover made a motion for the Secretary to cast one vote for each of the offices. It was seconded and approved by the members in attendance.

The next set of nominees were for the Board of Directors as follows:

Board of Directors – 2021-2022

Lew Bearden
Kim Biggs
John Bocchiocchio
Richard Bonnett
Pat Fedorowicz
PRPEC Don Hoover
Kenneth J. Liedy
Daniel McGrath
PRPEC Claire Purdy
George Shannon
Fransway Talbert
PNC Valerie Toulotte
Deborah Webb

The nominations were closed. There were two other nominees for Board of Directors but they were not eligible because they did not 2 years of membership at Branch 24. PRPEC Don Hoover made a motion for the Secretary to cast one vote for each member for the Board of Directors. It was seconded and approved by the members in attendance.

Good of the Order:

Since the City of Annapolis cancelled the Annual Memorial Day Parade, we discussed whether Branch 24 should schedule a Memorial Day Program at the Branch Home on May 31. Motion made and seconded. It was approved. The program will be held at the Fleet Club from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon with lite lunch to follow.

The next discussion was should the Branch participate in the Independence Day parade scheduled for Saturday, July 3rd and sponsored by the Mayor's office. There was not

much enthusiasm from the members to participate unless an individual shipmate desired to do so. Mention was also given to contact FRA Auxiliary Unit 24 and ask if they would be interested in participating. The Branch Secretary will contact the Auxiliary Unit as well as other shipmates to discuss their interest in participating in the July 3, parade.

The Branch 24 meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Prepared by:

Approved:

Penny Collins
Secretary/Treasurer

John H. Gough
President