

USS GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN 643 – ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2ND QUARTER MEETING
MAY 9, 2025
1800 ET

Roll Call

- Time: 1800
- Present
 - Craig Cravey, Commander
 - Hockey Hockensmith, Vice Commander
 - Eric Cooper, Treasurer (and Parliamentarian)
 - Eric Shaw, Secretary (and Timekeeper)
 - Ted Corbeil (Committee Chair)
 - Paul Hoffman (Webmaster)
- Quorum - Yes

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Crewmates on Eternal Patrol

Previous BOD Meeting Minutes

- Eric S read the minutes from last business meeting at the 2025 Reunion on 3/15/2025– recorded by Bill Badalucca.
- There was some discussion regarding the posting of BOD meeting minutes, that we should share/post draft minutes until they are approved at the next BOD meeting.
- ***Motion by Hockey to accept the minutes as presented.***
 - Second by: Eric C.
 - Discussion: none
 - Amendment: none
 - Vote: Motion approved - unanimous

Treasurer's Report

- Eric C shared that our current Association balance is \$8,816.33.
- He will check with INSERVE regarding our business license, when to pay annual fee versus when paperwork is due to the government.
- He will pay outstanding final invoice for reunion t-shirts. Craig approved the payment, Eric C. agreed that an e-payment would be made to the vendor.
- Preparing a draft budget for the remainder of 2025. (See Operating Budget item below.)
- Summary of the 2025 Reunion finances:
 - Expenses:

▪ Reunion Spending:	\$5,504.10
▪ Outstanding Shirt Bill:	\$1,500.00
▪ Total Spend	\$7,004.10
 - Income:

▪ Reunion Registration	\$6,405.00
▪ Reunion T-Shirt Sales	\$2,143.00
▪ Auction	\$2,000.00 (approximate)
▪ Total Revenue	\$10,500.00 (approximate)
- ***Motion by Craig to accept the Treasurer's report.***
 - Second by Hockey
 - Discussion: none

- Amendment: none
- Vote: Motion approved – unanimous

Standing Committee Reports

- Membership
 - Ted Corbeill shared that we currently have 108 MIGS, including 24 Lifetime MIGS. Paul Hoffman confirmed that the numbers on our website are accurate.
 - Captain Honeycutt has provided the decommissioning crew list of 250 crew members. Ted is incorporating into our master crew list.
 - Ted is updating the crew list – current number remains approximately 2,500.
 - ***Motion by Hockey to accept the Membership Committee report as presented.***
 - Second by Eric S.
 - Discussion: none
 - Amendment: none
 - Vote: Motion approved – unanimous
- Crew Memorial Walk Project
 - Ted Corbeil and Keith Post (St. Mary's Submarine Museum chairman) will be speaking with the new Kings Bay Submarine Base commander who will report on July 1, 2025, to obtain his approval for the Bancroft Memorial Walk project even though we already obtained approval from the previous base commander.
 - Eric C and Ted are working with Keith Post to set up a non-profit account for our project, separate from the Museum finances and our Association finances.
 - Ted is working with Paul Hoffman to establish a secure QR code to be placed at the memorial and the Submarine Museum for people to scan and donate.
 - Agreed to include Plank Owner and Decom Crew designations as options for the pavers.
 - Current status
 - No updates on the brick manufacturer or installer. Current quotes for brick manufacturing and installation are good until December 2026.
 - Once order is placed brick manufacturing takes 6–8 weeks, installation will take less than one week.
 - Paver company requires 50% down payment to start brick manufacturing. We should raise all funds before we contract for the project work to begin.
 - Initial project estimate is \$82,000. Recommend target for project funding is \$90,000 to ensure adequate funding.
 - Project committee needs to develop a 2-year strategic plan to include:
 - Next steps
 - Fundraising plan
 - Committee enlisted
 - Schedule with timeline and major milestones
 - Periodic and Final BOD approvals
 - ***Motion by Craig to accept the Crew Memorial Walk Project report as presented.***
 - Second by Hockey
 - Discussion: none
 - Amendment: none
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous
 - ***Motion by Craig that the BOD and the Crew Memorial Walk Project committee chair work together to enlist a special project committee by June 9, 2025.***
 - Second by Eric C
 - Discussion: none
 - Amendment: none
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous

- ***Motion by Craig that the Crew Memorial Walk Project committee will work with the BOD to develop and submit a two-year strategic plan that includes key objectives, key stakeholders, timelines, milestones, periodic BOD reviews and approvals, fundraising plan, etc., to the BOD for approval by July 9, 2025.***
 - Second by Eric C
 - Discussion: none
 - Amendment: none
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous
- Several suggestions were discussed for funding the memorial project:
 - Consider increasing membership dues.
 - Ask current Association members to update to a lifetime membership.
 - Ask non-MIGS crew members to join with a lifetime membership.
 - Find missing crew members and encouraging lifetime membership.
 - Leverage sources such as corporations (such as Electric Boat), grants, veterans/submarine associations (such as SubVets), matching gifts.
 - Communicate memorial fundraising efforts via the Association website and the commander's All Hands to maintain crew interest and excitement about the project, possibly leading some to make big donations, even if they aren't MIGS.
- Issues, concerns, questions:
 - Cybersecurity concerns regarding physical QR code at site.
 - Eric C mentioned that our bylaws allow increasing or decreasing our dues based on the financial well-being of the Association. It doesn't allow changing dues for special projects such as the memorial project.
 - Ted suggested that we leave our dues alone and fund the memorial project separately, see if people respond. We should ask people to donate as much as they can rather than just buying their stone. Consider changing dues in mid-2026, only if required, along with a revision/clarification to the bylaws.

New Business

- Draft operating budget for remainder of 2025
 - Eric C. is drafting an operating budget for 2025.
 - Eric C. mentioned that we don't have very many annual operating expenses to run the Association.
 - Paul H. will break out website expenses.
 - Craig approved expense payment to Paul H. for website expenses, approximately \$300. Eric C to make reimbursement.
 - Suggestions
 - Hockey suggested that the Association should consider making a contribution to St. Mary's Submarine Museum for the work they do on the Bancroft Sail Memorial and cover the cost of replacing the US flag periodically (e.g. King's Bay Submarine Vets donates \$1,000/yr). He will identify and report the cost of the flags and how many should be needed per year.
 - Association should select and pay for a virtual meeting account (e.g., Teams, Google Meet, Zoom). Currently we are using Eric C.'s personal Teams account and we should have an account in the Association's name that could be used by the BOD and our committees. Craig to work with Paul to identify solution.
 - Craig suggested tabling the review and approval of an annual operating budget for the remainder of 2025 until a draft budget is ready for BOD review.
 - Motion by Craig that the Association prepare and use an operating budget for each fiscal year that begins on January 1st.
 - Second by Hockey
 - Discussion: Discussed several fiscal year term options.

- ***Amendment: Amended motion by Eric C that the Association prepare and use an operating budget for each fiscal year that begins on January 1st beginning in 2026.***
 - Second by Craig
 - Discussion: none
 - Amendment: none
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous
- 2026 Off-Year Picnic
 - Motion by Hockey that the Association will not officially host or endorse a 2026 event.
 - Second by Craig
 - Discussion:
 - Discussions on promotion vs. endorsement of the picnic.
 - Discussion about the use of the website vs. Facebook group.
 - The off-year picnic event is not covered in our bylaws.
 - Discussed the cost to members to attend another event.
 - Eric C. mentioned that interest in the off-year picnic was instrumental in keeping the Association relevant and increased membership.
 - Discussed option to allow members to promote an off-year picnic/event on our website without official hosting by the Association.
 - Craig will check with Aubrey Ducker, our pro-bono counsel, on potential liability issues related to the Association's promotion of a non-reunion event.
 - ***Amendment: Motion by Craig that the Association will not officially host a 2026 event.***
 - Second by Eric C
 - Discussion: none
 - Amendment: none
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous
- 2027 Reunion
 - Location & Date:
 - We've received some input about possible locations for next reunion:
 - Cape Canaveral, FL
 - Jacksonville, FL
 - Savannah, GA
 - Mobile, AL
 - Groton, CT
 - With consideration of our effort to complete the Crew Memorial Walk Project at the Bancroft Sail Memorial...the next reunion should probably be held nearby so the crew can see and experience the new memorial.
 - Motion by Craig that the 2027 reunion be held in Jacksonville, FL, during the month of September 2027.
 - Second by Eric C.
 - Discussion:
 - ◆ Hockey suggested that date should be as close as possible to September 21
 - ***Amendment: Motion by Craig that the 2027 reunion be held in Jacksonville, FL, as close as possible to the September decommissioning date of the USS Bancroft on September 21.***
 - ◆ Second by Eric C.
 - ◆ Discussion: none

- ◆ Amendment: none
- ◆ Vote: Approved – unanimous
- Reunion Committee:
 - Discussed the need to enlist an association member who lives in the Jacksonville area to chair or vice chair the 2027 reunion committee. Discussed several potential chairman and committee members.
 - Motion by Craig to enlist a committee chair and members by June 9 develop a budget for the 2027 reunion.
 - Second by Hockey
 - Discussion:
 - ◆ Hockey made a point of order that the Commander has the right/responsibility to appoint Reunion Committee chairman, and the chairman enlists/appoints the committee members.
 - ◆ The reunion budget should be a separate motion.
 - ***Amendment: Amended motion by Craig for the Commander to appoint a committee chairman for the 2027 reunion.***
 - Second by Hockey
 - Discussion: none
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous
- Reunion Budget
 - Motion by (Craig) to require the reunion committee to submit a 2027 reunion plan and budget by August 9, 2026.
 - Second by Hockey
 - Discussion:
 - ◆ Budget schedule may be too accelerated. The committee chair needs to focus on enlisting the committee members and preparing a plan. The committee won't know all of the expenses until much later, so they should strive to prepare a rough budget.
 - ◆ The Commander will request to develop a budget and provide to the BOD on a date TBD.
 - ***Amendment: Amended motion by Craig to require the reunion committee chairman enlist committee members no later than August 8 for the 2027 reunion.***
 - ◆ Second by Hockey
 - ◆ Discussion: none
 - ◆ Vote: Approved – unanimous

Next Quarterly BOD Meeting

- Proposed August 8, 6-7pm ET
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous

Adjourn

- Motion by Craig to adjourn the meeting.
 - Second by Eric C.
 - Vote: Approved – unanimous
- Meeting adjourned at 2000.