

USS Virginia Base
Meeting Minutes for the Month of February 2026
On 02/14/2026

- The meeting was held at Anna's Restaurant & Pizzeria
- Due to our low in-person attendance, Anna's has us ordering off the menu.
- 10 members and 4 guests were present and X on Zoom.
- The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Guest Anderson \$60 (30 each)
- Ladies left.
- Base Commander John Williams called the meeting to order with the traditional sounding of two blasts from the Diving Alarm and a good hearty "DIVE, DIVE" from all of those in attendance at 1314.
 - The opening ceremony was led by Base Commander John Williams.
 - Base Commander John Williams offered the invocation.
 - Reading of the USSVI Creed
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Tolling of the Lost Boats for February -
 - 5 Boats lost with the loss of 373 Souls
 - USS Barbel (SS-316) 02/04/1945 All hands 81 crewmen
 - USS Shark (SS-174) 02/11/1942 All hands 59 crewmen
 - USS Amberjack (SS-219) 02/16/1943 All hands 72 crewmen
 - USS Grayback (SS-208) 02/26/1944 All hands 80 crewmen
 - USS Trout (SS-202) 02/29/1944 All hands 81 crewmen
 - Music video The Three Tenors singing "God Bless the USA".
 - Birthdays – Sandy Sanford, we sang "the" song !!
 - Binnacle List
 - Treasurer's report was read.
 - Cris reported on Richmond War Memorial with Dog Day event coming, and a story on the Thompson Machine and a book he wrote.
 - Al Ptaszniak sworn in as Secretary and Chris as Treasurer.
 - Base Commander reported on a boot camp book for a CB camp from Jun 12 1944. Anyone interested and if War Memorial might like it.
 - Discussed the next USSVI convention.
 - Turns out The Base Secretary is the newsletter chair. So need an assistant.
 - Report on the latest Sub MAG with a WWII sub being raised.
 - Gave Book report on the book "Blackmail" by Campbell. Suggested it is very much in tune to current events.
- Base Commander John Williams read the Submariner Benediction. A traditional sounding of three blasts from the Diving Alarm and a joyful "SURFACE, SURFACE, SURFACE" from all in attendance.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1359