



**USS Henry L Stimson SSBN 655 Association  
Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2025  
Holiday Inn, Norwich CT  
Reunion #13**



**Announcements:**

- Please silence your phones during the meeting.
- When speaking from the floor please come to the microphone so all can hear.

**Call Meeting to Order:** called to order at 1306 by President Jerry Blevins

**Pledge of Allegiance:** led by President Jerry Blevins

**Purpose of the Stimson Association:** Jerry Blevins, President (from the Bylaws)

- **The Bylaws Article 1 Part II. a. The purpose of the Association is to promote the memory of the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN-655) and to foster good fellowship and camaraderie among the shipmates who served aboard the ship.**

**Invocation:** given by Bruce Stefanik, Stimson Association Chaplain

**Special Recognitions:** given by President Jerry Blevins

- I would like to note in the absence of our Association Secretary that Tom Krauser will be the Acting Secretary.
- All past Stimson Association officers present acknowledged and asked to please stand.
  - Chuck Hladik; Tom Krauser
- John & Gretchen Glaub, 2025 Reunion Co-Chairs. John and Gretchen asked to introduce their committee:
  - Members: John Glaub, Gretchen Glaub, Karen Huckeba for decorations, Tom and Judy Bradish for Transportation, Tina and Steven Hettmansperger, Bill Lindley, and many others.

**Special Guests:**

- Jerry Blevins acknowledged Previous Reunion Chairs and asked them to stand:
  - Dick Young, Reunion 11, 2021 – Erlanger KY
  - Chuck & Joyce Hladik, Reunion 10, 2018 – Oklahoma City OK
  - Ron & Linda Testa, Reunion 3, 2003 – Silverdale WA
- Jerry Blevins asked any Previous Reunion Committee Members to stand and be recognized.

- Jerry Blevins asked if anyone was a Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, COB/CMC or Bull Nuc of the Stimson or any other command. If so to please stand and let us know who you and what command you held the position at.
  
- Jerry Blevins introduced shipmates attending their first Stimson reunion and asked to please stand when their name was called.
  - Kenneth Buetow, MM1 B 78-84 - RI
  - Robert & Elaine Dougherty, G 70-74 - PA
  - Peter & Sylvia Friedman, B 86-89 - VA
  - Michael Frey, B 78-82 - PA
  - Garry Grabins & Noreen Donnelly, G & B 70-74 – IL
  - Tom Harvey, B 65-68 - CT
  - Chuck Mihalko, G 77-80 - CT
  - Rick Pannone & Roberta Travis, G 76-79 – KS
  - Stanley Penning, G 65-68 – IN
  - Ed & Kathleen Topolewski, B 70-72 – NJ
  - John Wallace, G 65-70 – MA
  
- Jerry Blevins introduced the 7 shipmates who were Stimson Plank Owners and asked them to stand when their name was called.
  - BJ Boyle, B 65-67 – TX
  - Tom Harvey, B 65-68 - CT
  - Anthony Jacobs, G 66-70 – CT 19:51
  - Don Kornowski, B 65-66 – TN
  - Gerald Rowe, B 66-69 – NY
  - Michael Schulz, G 65-69 – CT
  - John Wallace, G 65-70 MA 20:18 13:09

### **President's opening remarks & Introduction of Present Officers**

- Elected Officers & Board of Directors for 2023-2025
  - President: Jerry Blevins
  - Vice President: Ray Kreul [not present]
  - Treasurer: Ken Meigs [not present]
  - Secretary: Nick Nichols [not present]
  - Past President: Tom Krauser
- Appointed Officers
  - Chaplain: Bruce Stefanik
  - Historian: Larry Knutson [not present]
  - Webmaster: Nick Nichols [not present]

### **Secretary's report: Tom Krauser presented the Secretary's Report for Nick Nichols**

- 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes have been posted on the website and a copy emailed to all reunion attendees.

- The BOD made a motion to approve the 2023 Draft Minutes.
  - Motion seconded by: Paul Clark
  - Questions: No questions were raised about the previous Business Meeting document.
  - Voted to approve 2023 Minutes: Vote was Unanimous and approved. The 2023 Business Meeting are to be incorporated on the website.
- Association membership statistics presented by Jerry Blevins
  - Reunion update: Registered to attend **97** Attending **93**
  - Those attending completed **269** patrols on Stimson and **363** patrols on all boats. This does not include fast attack deployments many made.
  - Regular members:
    - With active email **793**
    - No email/phone number & not able to contact **692**
    - Life Members: Total: **96** Active: **76** Eternal Patrol: **20**
      - Since the 2023 Reunion there have been **10** Association members join as Lifetime members Plus **3** at this reunion
      - LTM (Life Time Membership) is a onetime donation of \$100 dollars. If you would like to join as Life Member see Tom after the meeting.
    - Shipmates on Eternal Patrol: **334**
  - NOTE: If you are in contact with a Stimson shipmate on Facebook, tell them about the Stimson Association and ask them to contact the Secretary to be added to the Sailing List.

#### **Treasurer's report: Presented by Ken Meigs via Zoom**

- Financial books are open to any Association member to view. Send your request for a copy of the financial report to Ken Meigs.
  - The account is divided into 3 funds IAW the bylaws:
  - Operational Fund: **\$8,813.06**
  - Reunion Fund: **\$1,100.00**
  - Charity Fund: **\$5,400.00**

**Total Funds: \$15,313.05**
- Ken noted that the Chase Bank Account charges no fees for 3 accounts. Accounts were combined about 10 years ago into Chase account because Bank of America started charging fees for each account.
- The Reunion fund at \$1100 is a little low until seed money returned from the current reunion.
- Ken noted that in past reunions we have donated between \$1000 and \$2000 from the charitable funds to St. Mary Submarine Museum.

- Tom Bradish asked about a financial statement for the Association. Ken Meigs stated he forwards financial statement to Board for review.
  - Tom Bradish asked if financial statement was available to members online. Ken stated that it was forwarded to Board but not currently posted on the website.
  - A discussion was conducted about posting the financial report on the website.
  - Tom Bradish made a Motion to post financial statement on website for all to view.
  - Motion was seconded by David Hinkle.
  - Members present voted to have financial statement posted on website: Vote was unanimous and approved. Board agreed to post a copy of the financial statement on the Stimson Website.
- IAW our bylaws, for those who are not life members of the Association, a \$10 dues “voluntary donation” at each Association Business Meeting is requested. Please see the Acting Secretary to make your donation.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Historian/Historic Items: Tom Krauser gave update for Larry Knutson**
  - Since the storage area was broken into between November 13 and 28, 2020 there's not been much of a change in our items. Larry continues to check all social media to locate any of our items but none of our items have been found.
- **Website: Tom Krauser gave update for Nick Nichols**
  - Don Ort continues doing a great job finding information for me to use on the Eternal Patrol page and the Memorial Pages. Additionally, he has been a great help contacting those whose emails bounce and getting a good email for them. BZ Don!!
  - With the October 2025 newsletter, 130 newsletters have been published since they began. These are being published to the website as soon as completed.
  - The best content is the stories and inputs from our Stimson shipmates. Please continue adding your input to the newsletter.
  - Our Eternal Patrol page continues to grow. Every attempt is made to add a memorial page for every shipmate who is listed on Eternal Patrol but some don't have one due to lack of information. If you know of a shipmate on Eternal Patrol please check to see if there is something you can add.
  - If you see a problem with information or links when you look at the site, please let the Secretary know.
- **Chaplain: Bruce Stefanik gave an update.**

Has his wife receive the emails from Nick. He sends cards and makes phone calls to shipmates who are ill or deceased.

- **Social Media: Tom Krauser gave update for Nick Nichols**
  - A motion was passed at the 2021 reunion stating the Henry L. Stimson Association recognizes the Henry L. Stimson Facebook Page is the official Facebook Page of the Association.
  - With the passing of Lorree Riggs, there are 3 administrators to manage the Facebook Page: Derek Lyons; Ray Varkalis; Glen Clark.
  - As a refresher the Association guidelines the Administrators use are:
    - This is a closed private page and you must be approved to post anything. To get approved to have access contact the administrator who will verify the person is on the Sailing List. If not, they will be told to contact the Secretary to become an Association Member. There is no cost to become a member.
    - Criteria: 1) must be a shipmate and able to document it; 2) spouses of departed members; 3) direct family members
    - Verification methods: 1) check requester's page for any submarine association; 2) check 655 Sailing List for name and then approved if on there; 3) if no documentation then they receive a note showing reason for asking access and they must send email to webmaster with info to be added to sailing list; 4) if they do not respond to be added they will not be given access to the 655 Facebook Page.
    - Posts are limited to one that is directly related to 655. If not related the post is deleted and the admin that deletes it will contact the one that made the post.
    - No Ads, nothing to be sold on our Facebook Page
    - No Politics
    - No bad language
    - No dirty/inappropriate cartoons
  - The Facebook Page is used to promote the Reunion.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Stimson Bench at the Cold War Memorial – Jerry Blevins discussed.**
  - Past reunions have donated to the Cold War Memorial fund when requested. This year no request has being received for a donation.
  - Gordon Long clarified funding of the Cold War Memorial: In Charleston, a Cold War Maintenance Fund is maintained. Stimson Organization has given money several times to this fund. There has not been much funds taken from that fund lately. Thus, there has not been any requests for additional funds to the Cold War Memorial Funds.
- **Out of Pocket Expenses**
  - Chuck Hladik gave a discussion on spending money out of pocket on reunion expenses. The Board does not want anyone to have to spend money out of pocked

for a reunion and should request reimbursement from the Board for legitimate expenses.

- Jerry emphasized that money should be reimbursed for any legitimate expense for reunion.
- Tom Krauser talked about past reunion practices and the Board does not want any legitimate reunion expenses to come out of pocket.

**New Business:** Jerry Blevins stated the election of officers for 2025-2027 was open.

- **Election of 2025-2027 Officers:**

- Jerry Blevins discussed that the bylaws list the responsibilities for the elected Board of Directors members.
- **Vote for President of the Stimson Association**
  - The Current President Jerry Blevins offered to continue in the position of President.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Krauser
  - Tom Krauser asked if there were any other nominations from the floor?
  - There were no other nominations for President.
  - **Vote for Jerry Blevins as President** – The vote for Jerry Blevins as President passed.
- **Vote for Vice President of the Stimson Association**
  - Jerry Blevins stated that the current Vice President, Ray Kreul, has opted not to run for the VP position again.
  - Jerry Blevins asked for any other nominations from the floor.
  - Paul Clark for VP was nominated by David Huckeba.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Flynn
  - Jerry Blevins asked for any other nominations and none were received for Vice President.
  - **Vote for Paul Clark as VP** – The vote for Paul Clark as Vice President passed.
- **Vote for Treasurer of the Stimson Association**
  - Jerry Blevins said current Treasurer, Ken Meigs, has agreed to remain as Treasurer and he nominated Ken Meigs to continue in the position of Treasurer.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Clark
  - Jerry Blevins asked for any other nominations from the floor.
  - There were no other nominations from the floor.
  - **Vote for Ken Meigs for Treasurer:** The vote for Ken Meigs as Treasurer passed.

- **Vote for Secretary for the Stimson Association**
  - Jerry Blevins stated that the current Secretary, Nick Nichols, has agreed to remain as Secretary and that he nominated Nick Nichols to continue in the position of Secretary.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harry Daugherty
  - Jerry Blevins asked if there were any other nominations from the floor?
- There were no other nominations received from the floor.
- **Vote for Secretary of the Stimson Association:** The vote for Nick Nichols for Secretary passed.
  
- **Officers for the 2025-2027 Period (Or Until Next Reunion Business Meeting)**

Jerry Blevins announced the Officers for the 2025-2027 period.

  - Officers for the 2025-2027 (or next Business Meeting) term. Officers will assume office at the completion of the 2025 reunion:
    - President – Jerry Blevins
    - Vice President - Paul Clark
    - Treasurer – Ken Meigs
    - Secretary – Nick Nichols
    - Since Jerry Blevins continues as the President, Tom Krauser will remain on the Board as the Past President.
  
- **Donation to St. Mary Submarine Museum:**
  - Tom Krauser moved to donate \$1000 from the Charity Fund to the St. Mary's Submarine Museum to assist them with their building fund. The Museum already houses several pieces of Stimson artifacts and has agreed to receive whatever historical items we have when the Association is dissolved IAW the bylaws.
  - Motion seconded: Dave Huckeba
  - **Discussion:**
    - St. Mary Submarine Museum is moving to a new building and needs funding.
    - Dave Huckeba clarified move of Museum. Big expansion of museum with more floor space for exhibits. Not sure of when it will be completed but think middle of next year. They have a website you can visit.
    - There was a discussion on stolen items and where to send any items you want to donate.
    - Ken Meigs discussed past donations. Donated \$2000 about 3-4 reunions ago. Since then, have donated \$1000 per reunion. Charity fund now has \$5400 in it.
    - Tom Bradish stated that the Charity Fund has more money in it than allowed by the Bylaws.

- Dick Young proposed to make the donation to St. Mary's Submarine Museum \$1400 instead of \$1000 to bring the Charitable Fund to the \$4,000 allowed by bylaws.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Chuck Hladik
- **Vote to Donate \$1400 to St. Mary Submarine Museum:** The vote to donate \$1400 to St. Mary Submarine Museum bringing charitable fund to \$4000 passed.
  
- **Bylaw Revisions:**
  - Jerry Blevins discussed that The Board has reviewed the current Bylaws and felt that no changes were needed.
  - Jerry asked if there were any Bylaws concerns from the floor.
  - No Bylaw concerns were brought up.
  
- **2027 Reunion Location & Chairman**
  - Proposed 2027 Reunion Locations & Chairman were requested in the August, September and October newsletters.
  - No proposals were received by the Secretary to vote on at the meeting.
  - The floor was opened to discuss the location and chairman for the 2027 Reunion.
  - At first there were no volunteers for 2027 reunion.
  - Gretchen Glaub - Discussion on combining reunion with other reunions such as WW2 Submarine Memorial so reunion planning done by others as part of that reunion.
  - Jerry Blevins discussed the importance of having reunions which is the main purpose of the Stimson Association.
  - Tom Krauser discussed that at the last reunion there were 3 or 4 other sites proposed. He also discussed the purpose of the association and what would happen if we adjourned without a reunion site proposed.
  - Chuck Hladik asked what happens if no one steps forward? Tom Krauser stated that the purpose of the Association is to promote reunions and without reunions the Association has no real purpose.
  - A discussion of what happens if someone steps forward after reunion? Tom Krauser reminded everyone that it would have to be voted on by membership "present at the reunion" which would be difficult and not in accordance with bylaws.
    - **NOTE:** The Bylaws need to be reviewed to address this situation in the future and a change proposed at the next reunion.
  - Jerry Blevins talked about co-chairs for reunions.
  - Doug Cooper proposed Indianapolis, Indiana as the next reunion site for 2027. He volunteered to Co-Chair with Gary Owen.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Owen
  - There was a discussion on incorporating our reunion with National reunions such as the Sub Vet reunion in Corpus Christi. Three boats are doing reunions in

conjunction with National Reunions. It was stated that we could leverage off National Plans for rooms, events, etc. The 2027 National Sub Vet Meeting will be in Reno Nevada.

- Dick Young stated he is going to 640 reunion in St. Marys next month where the reunion organized by Reunion Brats an organization that puts together reunions. This is a service that would be contracted to plan the reunion.
  - No other locations were proposed for the 2027 Reunion so a vote was conducted to have the 2027 reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana.
  - **Note:** Members present passed resolution to have 2027 reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana with Doug Cooper and Gary Owen as Co-Chairs.  
**Note:** Per the Bylaws, the Board needs to approve the reunion Chair persons.
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- **Good of the Order by Jerry Blevins: Allows shipmates to give suggestions for improvement or to give compliments concerning the work of the organization.**
  
  - **Other Discussions:** Are there any other discussions:
    - Dick Young – Proposed that there should be an Award in Nick Nichols name for extra dedication to be presented at future reunions.
    - Someone proposed a plaque at the Cold War Memorial in Nicks name to be discussed by the board. There was a discussion on what Nick does for the Organization.
    - Chuck Hladik discussed what Loree Riggs also did for the Stimson organization.
    - Dick Young – Proposed an award at each reunion in Nicks name to be presented at future reunions.
    - Paul Clark – Proposed Stimson Board to take input from Shipmates and establish an award for future reunions.
    - Dave Huckeba seconded motion
    - **Voted** – Passed for Board to take input from Shipmates and establish an award to be presented at future reunions.
      - Board to meet and discuss an award to be presented at future reunions.  
Input to be solicited from shipmates for names to receive the award.
  
  - **USSV Charitable Fund:**
    - Rick Pannoe discussed how Nick helped get charitable funds from USSVI and helped him after a fire destroyed everything they owned. Nick helped get funding from USSVI to help.
    - Gordon Long clarified how the USSV charitable funds work and some different funds and services available to shipmates. There are ten different sections of the fund. Brotherhood Fund helps shipmates that need help. Nuclear Power School in Charleston has a 1<sup>st</sup> class organization to provide labor for shipmates in need. They provided the labor and charitable fund provided funds.

- **Certificates of Appreciation:** Tom Krauser presented Certificates of Appreciation to:
  - Jerry Blevins for President 2023-2025
  - Ray Krueel (not present) for VP 2023-2025
  - Gretchen Glaub for 2025 co-chair reunions Norwich, CT
  - John Glaub for 2025 co-chair reunion Norwich, CT
  - Tom Bradish for transportation support 2025 reunion Norwich, CT
  - Stephen Hettmansperger for support 2025 reunion Norwich, CT
  - Tina Hettmansperger for support 2025 reunion Norwich, CT
  - Karen Huckeba – for support 2025 reunion Norwich, CT and past reunions support
  - Joyce Hladik for raffle/door prizes for support 2025 reunion Norwich, CT and past reunions
  - Bill Lindley for support 2025 reunion Norwich, CT
  - Ron and Linda Testa from 2025 reunion.
  - Anthony Jacobs 2001-2007 reunions Groton CT
  
- These people help keep our organization and reunions as good as they are and we owe a big thank you and to all the reunion chairs and members.

**Benediction:** Chaplain Bruce Stefanik gave the Benediction.

**Meeting adjourned:** Jerry Blevins adjourned meeting at 1429