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BLOW NEGATIVE

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2025

Publisher/Editor Timothy Blevins

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The Official Newsletter of
South Lake Florida
Chartered chapter of USSVI

United States Submarine Veterans

U.S. SUBMARINE REMEMBRANCE VETERANS INC. CAMARADERIE
CONTINUING TO SERVE
SOUTH LAKE FLORIDA BASE, EST 2021

SOUTH LAKE FLORIDA CHAPTER, CLERMONT

USS Puffer (SS-268)¹

USS Puffer (SS-368) was built in Manitowoc Shipyard in Wisconsin. Commissioned in April 1943, Puffer mid-summer 1943 in New Orleans. She began her war patrol duties in early September to patrol the Makassar Strait-Celebes Sea.

Sailing from Fremantle and covering the period 7 September to 17 October, Puffer found few targets and counted only some damaged ships. Puffer returned to Fremantle.

Second War Patrol (November 1942 - January 1943)

On 20 December, Puffer sank the 820-ton Ryuyo Maru. She put into Fremantle on 12 January.

Third War Patrol (February 1943 - 4 April 1943)

On 4 February, Puffer sank the 15,105-ton transport Teikyo Maru, returning to Fremantle on 4 April

Fourth and Fifth War Patrols (April - December 1943)

Puffer provided lifeguard duty for an Allied carrier strike force and then continued on patrol for the Madoer Straits, Makassar Strait, and the Sulu Sea. During this patrol period, Puffer sank the 3,181 freighter Shintyu Maru, the 2,166-ton Ashizuri, and the 2,500-ton Takasaki. It was the action taking place on 12 August where controversy in Puffer's history diverges. It was on



this date Puffer the 5,113-ton tanker Teikon Maru.

What follows was reported in the NSL 2006 edition

Following the sinking of the Teikon Maru, Puffer was immediately attacked by escorts from the convoy. Puffer dove to a depth of 500 feet while undergoing intense depth charge attacks. For the next 38 hours Puffer remained submerged.

Temperatures and humidity rose. Lights and hope waned. And oxygen dwindled. The crew was ordered to their racks. Watch station went unmanned, The environment took on a hypnotic sense. Men were unable to stand. Discipline began to breakdown as men ignored orders choosing to remain in their racks. Depression, helplessness, and indifference rose as the effect of hypoxia became more intense. Four members of the crew lost control of their mental orientation.



Lt. Commander Jensen, the CO, was unable to

¹ This recounting of USS Puffer's history was developed from an article written by Craig McDonald, the son submariner McDonald, a crew member of Puffer. The article appeared in the July 2006 edition of the Naval Submarine League (<https://archive.navalsubleague.or>

[g/2006/the-distorted-history-of-uss-puffer-ss268](https://www.history.navy.mil/research/arch/histories/ship-histories/danfs/p/puffer-i.html)) and refutes many of the articles published under the auspicious of the US Navy (<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/arch/histories/ship-histories/danfs/p/puffer-i.html>).

make a decision, decided to take a vote among the officers and crew with three choices: a) scuttle the boat; b) fight it out with the deck gun; and c) wait it out until darkness. It was this option which the crew voted to support. Somehow the decision to wait until darkness prevailed. Jensen retired to his cabin for a few hours rest with the words to the crew, "I've done all I can do boys. If you know how to pray, pray."

Puffer surfaced under the cover of darkness. I Reserve training at Seattle.

Puffer returned to Darwin. Cheering crowds getting g the Puffer and her crew. Jensen was subsequently relieved of his command. Testimony and narratives of the officers and crew were contradictory and lacked merit.

Puffer went on three additional war patrols but was unable to more than inflict some damage on enemy shipping. Puffer was decommissioned and then recommissioned for Nava



USS Dorado (SS-248)

Dorado's sea trials proved the readiness of the crew, and she sailed from Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut, on 6 October 1943 for the Panama Canal Zone. She did not arrive.

The transit from the Caribbean to the canal zone was fraught with danger from German U-boats. Transit lanes were identified by the US Navy and aircraft providing coverage for US submarines were instructed as to the location of these lanes. Flay-boat patrols were provided with lanes coordinates and any submarine appearing outside of the safe lanes were presumed to be enemy submarines. However, the crew of 210-P-9, a PBM Mariner flying boat of Patrol Squadron 210 (VP-210) based at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, assigned to provide air coverage on the evening of 12 October 1943 was flying 36 miles off the designated safe lane in USS Dorado was sailing.



through stormy but moonlit sky. Three depth charges were deployed along with a demotion bomb. Prior to releasing its charges, the aircraft had little time to verify the submarine's identity. Believing they had attacked a German submarine and circled back to verify a kill and drop a marker flare. The detonation was not observed but the crew were confident that two of the charges had detonated. The aircraft commander immediately put the aircraft into a tight left turn with the intent to circle back around and re-attack. They arrived over the attack datum point one minute later and dropped a yellow flare. No wreckage or oil slick was observed. The aircraft took no further action and continued on patrol. At 9:50 pm local the crew of 210-P-9, having earlier reported their attack, received a message warning them that a friendly submarine was in the area.

Germany did in fact have a submarine in the immediate area; U-214 had just laid mines in the vicinity. Post-war records revealed the German submarine had observed the flare. U-214 returned to Germany.

At 10:33 pm local time, 210-P-9 gained radar contact on a second submarine. Now cautious, the crew of 210-P-9 attempted to exchange recognition signals. This second submarine fired upon the plane, forcing it to veer off, then immediately dived.

Just before 2100 the aircraft spotted an unidentified

The convoy scheduled to pass through the restricted

area surrounding Dorado on the evening of 12 October 1943 reported no contact.

Mine Theory ²On 12 October 1943, a Martin PBM-3C Mariner from Patrol Squadron (VP) 210, Lt. (j.g.) Daniel T. Felix, Jr., patrol plane commander, flying from Guantanamo Bay and covering Convoy GAT-92, spotted U-



214 and attacked at 2051, dropping three depth charges and one bomb. Felix and his crew observed no explosions, however, and saw neither debris nor oil that would have indicated destruction of the submarine. During the same patrol, Felix again sighted U-214 at 2233, not far from the scene of the first attack. Aware of the presence of a U.S. submarine in the vicinity, Felix tried to exchange recognition signals, but the U-boat immediately opened fire and drove off the Mariner before it could attack again.

Given the fact that the Mariner crew spotted no evidence of a successful attack, it is most likely that Dorado fouled one of the mines laid by U-214 en route to Colon on 14 October. The mine field was detected on 16 October and ten mines swept.

U-214 had been on a mission to lay a minefield of 15 type SMA mines off the Caribbean entrance to the Panama Canal. She successfully completed that mission on 08 October 1943 before heading home. It has been theorized that Dorado struck one of these mines and sank. However, recent research shows that this is very unlikely. The mine field was laid in a west to east line approximately 5 nautical miles (9.3 km; 5.8 mi) north of the entrance of the canal. The final navigation waypoint of Dorado was 8 nautical miles (15 km; 9.2 mi) to the north of this line. She was to rendezvous with a U.S. warship which was to escort her on the surface beyond that point.

Furthermore, the mine field had already been discovered and was in the process of being swept by 14 October, the date of the rendezvous. 10 of the 15 mines were eventually swept or accounted for. The rest either sank without deploying or broke free from their cables. Any mines that may have broken free and drifted would have traveled east-northeast on the prevailing current and out of the path of the submarine. Therefore, there were none left for Dorado to strike. This makes the theory of Dorado's loss to a mine strike very unlikely.

Conclusions from information in official inquiries

- No other U.S. submarine was in the central Caribbean on the night of 12 October 1943, and the only German U-boat within 800 nautical miles (1,500 km; 920 mi) was U-214.
- The first attack by 210-P-9 was not on U-214, but the second certainly was.
- Dorado, based on her navigation orders, was in the central Caribbean on the night of 12 October 1943.
- Dorado did not strike one of the mines laid by U-214 near the entrance of the Panama Canal.

Therefore, it is likely that Dorado was lost as a result of the attack by 210-P-9 on the night of 12 October 1943 and sank in the vicinity of the attack

Ed. Note: These two articles are examples depicting how the official reports of the US Navy can vary from the investigative journalistic writers that had the advantage of quarterback hindsight. tdb

FARMER'S MARKET

With the 2025 USSVI Convention in town, there will not be a Foundation table at the market this month. We will again be at the market on September 28 and all chapter members are invited.

2025 SOUTH LAKE FLORIDA CHRISTMAS PARTY

We need to begin planning for our annual Christmas Party. Last year we had our party at Valor Lakes on US27. That venue is no longer available to us so we need another location. For the previous two years we held our party at Ruby Tuesday's on SR50. We may want to return to Ruby Tuesday. Give it some thought and if you have any ideas, please share them with the BOD.

CHALLENGE COINS

We will offer the remaining inventory of our base challenge coins for sale during the USSVI Convention. If you are thinking about obtaining one for yourself or as a Christmas gift to someone, you should contact Bill Bish to place your order prior to the convention.

2026 USSVI CALENDARS

Bill Bish is putting together an order for the calendars. Contact Bill this week and he may be able to get you a calendar and not pay postage. The calendars will be available at the convention.

NAME TAGS AND LONGEVITY PINS

Carlos has some nametags for those members not currently having one. Check with him for yours. He also has longevity pins for any member having one year of membership in USSVI.

BIRTHDAYS

September	Doug Rapone	Gary Shindele	
October	Tom Barber	K. Kenard	Bobby Mock
December	Paul Hernandez	Paul Hornberger	Tim Blevins

MINNEOLA'S HALLOWEEN NIGHT

We will again participate in the Scaremont activities this year. Chris Singh has always made our presence with the children enjoyable. We should look forward to volunteering at this event.

MINNEOLA'S CHRISTMAS PARADE

Although this event was not discussed at the August chapter meeting, I suggest you put this on your reminder list as I feel we will again be part of the festivities.

ROYAL HIGHLANDS MEMORIAL

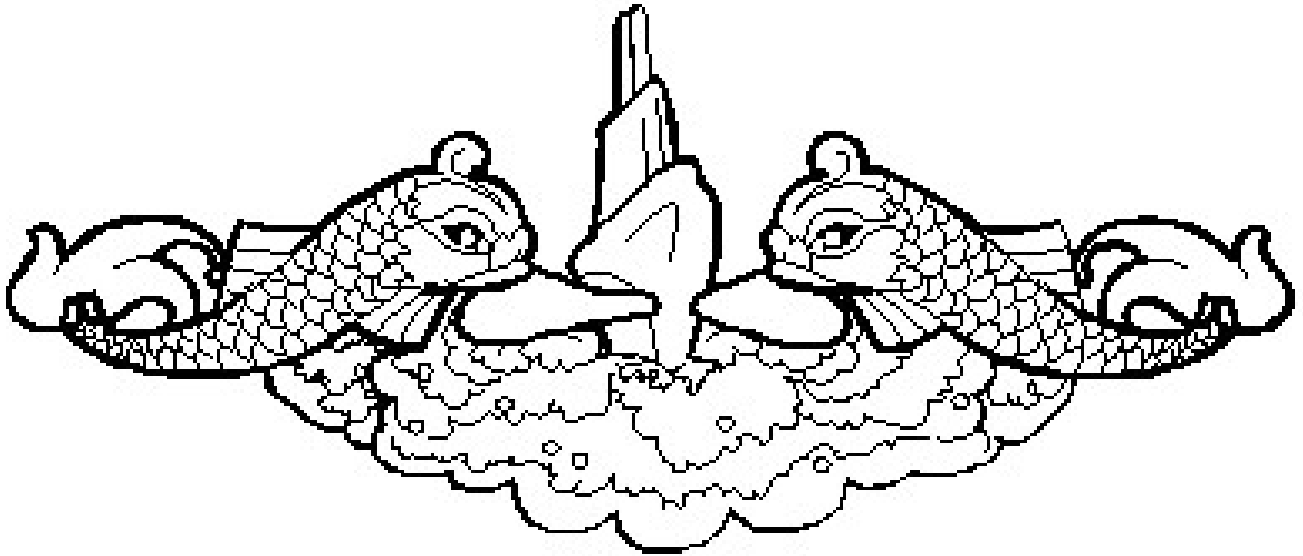
Royal Highlands Community, 5350 Monarch Blvd, Leesburg, is proud to announce the completion of our Veterans Memorial. It was conceived, funded, and implemented solely by the RH Veterans Social Club and the Residents of our community. We are very proud of our accomplishment and will have a formal dedication on Saturday, October 11TH at 12:00 noon.

If your schedule permits, we would like you to join us for this occasion. A light lunch will be served after at our Great

Hall, which is one block up the street from the Memorial site.

Hoping you'll join us for this Special Occasion!

RSVP NLT 9/10/25- to Bobbie Rapone, (973) 945-0303.



Chapter Resources

USSVI

<http://www.subvets.org>

USSVCF

<http://www.ussvcf.org>

South Lake Florida SubVets

<http://www.southlakesubvets.org>

Legal Services

The advice is free as the lawyers are donating pro bono services.

1. Bay Area Legal Services www.bals.org 727-398
2. Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc. Jay Mobley VALOR Project Coordinator 407-841-8310 ext. 3167

Wills

Need a will? You can create a legally enforceable will at no cost. <http://www.legacywills.com>

VA Resources

<http://www.va.gov>

Tim Blevins recently completed Service Officer training conducted by FDVA. He is not a certified VSO, but he can provide you with some assistance while you work through the VA maze.

There are two Lake County VSO personnel who can provide you with direct assistance with VA claims. When in doubt, contact a VSO. VSO personnel are available at all medical centers (Lake Baldwin, Lake Nona).

This is not an exhaustive list of available health benefits available to all US military veterans who have received an honorable discharge following 24 months of continuous service. After completing the required form, the applicant should contact a local VSO or the local VA facility.

VA Health Care

www.va.gov/healthcare

Once you have enrolled, a veteran may receive: **Basic Care**

- A. Outpatient
- B. Inpatient
- C. Medications
- D. Emergency care
- E. Bereavement counseling
- F. Rehabilitative services
- G. Counseling
- H. Prosthetic items including eyewear and hearing aids
- I. Home health
- J. Reconstructive surgery

1. Hospice

- 1) Medical exam
- 2) Health education
- 3) Maintenance of medication data
- 4) Mental Health
- 5) Prevention of Musculo Immunizations
- 6) skeletal issues
- 7) Genetic issues
- 8) Routine eyecare
- 9) Sensory deficiencies
- 10) Chiropractic services

Will VA Pay for Your Funeral? The Answer May Surprise You

What Will the VA Pay?

Since you're reading this, you probably are a veteran. Doesn't the VA pay for all of this?

- It will pay some, but not all, of your burial costs, and probably very little of your funeral costs. Of course, all these benefits are only for veterans with at least an "other-than-dishonorable" discharge.
- [The VA will provide most veterans a free headstone or marker.](#)
- [Most states also have programs to provide some type of burial or memorial benefits.](#)

Burial and Plot Allowance

The VA will pay a [burial allowance](#) to an eligible veteran's family to help defray burial and funeral costs. The burial allowance is a tax-free benefit paid automatically. If you are eligible for a plot allowance the VA requires receipts to show the actual cost paid.

- If the death occurs while hospitalized by the VA, it will pay a \$978 burial allowance and \$978 for a burial plot.
- If the death is considered service-connected, the VA will pay a burial allowance of up to \$2,000 and may reimburse some of the costs of transporting remains.
- If the death isn't service-connected, the VA pays a burial allowance of \$978 and \$978 for a burial plot
- For an indigent veteran with no next of kin, the VA will furnish either a casket or cremation urn for interment in either a national, state or tribal veterans cemetery.
- The [Social Security Administration](#) also will pay a death benefit of \$255.
- The VA's amounts usually change every year.

Cemetery

- All veterans with other-than-dishonorable discharges are eligible for [free burial in a national VA cemetery](#). Space is limited; the VA recommends you request a [pre-determination of burial eligibility](#) to avoid any delay when the time comes.
- [Most states have their own veterans cemeteries](#). Usually, the eligibility requirements are the same as for federal cemeteries.
- In most cases, [spouses](#) are eligible for burial next to the veteran at little or no cost. Also, markers are provided.
- [Arlington National Cemetery](#) has very limited space for burial; there is more space available for inurnment of cremated remains. Only certain veterans are eligible for burial at Arlington.
- If you wish to be buried in a civilian cemetery, the VA may pay a small fee, as described earlier, for your plot allowance. It will also provide a [free headstone](#), urn or memorial plaque. [Some states](#) also help with the cost of burial and the cost of setting a headstone.

- You can always choose to be [buried at sea](#) from a [Navy](#) ship.

Whatever the case, it's a good idea to make a plan. Also, remember that the funeral director can help with a lot of this stuff. They know how to submit the paperwork to the VA, and usually how to get the most out of your state benefits as well.

[Check out all memorial benefits, including requesting military honors at a funeral.](#)

VA HealthCare

VAHealthCare is a program within the Veterans Administration. Veterans can apply for the program regardless of whether the veteran has ever or will ever have a claim for compensation. This program, when Veteran eligibility has been verified, will allow the Veteran to make appointments and be seen at any VA Medical Clinic for routine health issues (colds, flu, health concerns). When prescribed by a VA physician, medications can also be obtained for little or no charge.

Basic eligibility requirements.

1. Must be a veteran.
2. Served on active duty 24+ months.
3. Honorable discharge.
4. For a veteran with no dependents, a most recent annual income of less than \$50,000.

Veterans with one or more dependent, please contact the Clermont MC and ask for a healthcare representative. 352-536-8200

REAL ID

No Better Time Than NOW.

Military retirees are required to update their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards to the new Next Generation USID card by December 31, 2025. The paper-based USID cards with indefinite expiration dates will no longer be accepted after this date. The new cards are more secure and durable, incorporating features like plastic cardstock and enhanced security measures.

According to the DoD Common Access Card website, USID cards are issued to retired military and Reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy.

It's important for military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses to know these old forms of ID will not be valid to access a military installation, and you will need issuance of the NextGen ID card. This will be true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it - the ID will still be invalid. The deadline is 31 December 2025.

Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card. (1). You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or (2). schedule your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block. - do it now!

You may want to get your REAL ID at the Naval Support Activity Orlando site on Science Drive takes walk-ins. Doors open at 7:30. Arrive early and you may be headed home in an hour. Carlos had an effortless time getting his REAL ID.

Chapter Officers

Commander	Carlos Martinez
Vice-Commander	Fred Walter
Secretary	Tim Blevins
Treasurer	Sam Goodwin
Storekeeper	Bill Bish

Foundation

President	Sam Goodwin
Secretary	Bill Bish
Treasurer	Bob Stout
E-VP	Tim Blevins

USSVI CREED

THE PURPOSE/CREED OF USSVI IS 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 MAY BE A CONSTANT SOURCE OF MOTIVATION TOWARD GREATER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND TO PLEDGE LOYALTY AND PATRIOTISM TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ITS CONSTITUTION.

IN ADDITION TO PERPETUATING THE MEMORY OF DEPARTED SHIPMATES, USSVI SHALL PROVIDE A WAY FOR ALL SUBMARINERS TO GATHER FOR THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT. OUR COMMON HERITAGE AS SUBMARINERS SHALL BE STRENGTHENED BY CAMARADERIE. THE USSVI SUPPORTS A STRONG U.S. SUBMARINE FORCE.

THE ORGANIZATION WILL ENGAGE IN VARIOUS PROJECTS AND DEEDS THAT WILL BRING ABOUT THE PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE SHIPMATES WHO HAVE GIVEN THE SUPREME SACRIFICE. THE ORGANIZATION WILL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO EDUCATE ALL THIRD PARTIES IT COMES IN CONTACT WITH ABOUT THE SERVICES OUR SUBMARINE BROTHERS PERFORMED AND HOW THEIR SACRIFICES MADE POSSIBLE THE FREEDOM AND LIFESTYLE WE ENJOY TODAY.

Come out and enjoy your afternoon.

SOUTH LAKE FLORIDA SubVets Annual Bowling Tournament



Clermont Bowling Center
4 Westgate Plaza (on SR50)
Clermont, FL 34711

September 21,
2025
2p – 4p



Order of Moose
Clermont



Prizes and Awards

Registration:

Payable at the event

\$20.00 if you bring a sponsor,

\$25.00 without a sponsor per bowler.

Open to bowlers of all ages and all abilities.

Sponsors:





9/11 MEMORIAL

MORNING OF REMEMBRANCE
JOIN THE CLERMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CLERMONT
FIRE DEPARTMENT
AS WE HONOR AND REMEMBER THE LIVES LOST ON
SEPTEMBER 11TH.

CLERMONT ARTS AND RECREATION CENTER
10AM

LET US COME TOGETHER IN REFLECTION AND UNITY AS A
COMMUNITY.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY MISSION BBQ



REMEMBERING THE HEROES. HONORING THE FALLEN. UNITED IN TRIBUTE.

2025 SOUTH LAKE FLORIDA BASE SURVEY

1. In what year did you join SLF? _____

2. How often did you attend SLF Base meetings (including fund raisers, Holiday parties, picnics)?

- Every time
- Most times
- When I can
- Do not attend

3. We are currently meeting on the 3rd Thursday every month, 1800 at Minneola City Hall. Would you be more likely attend meetings if it were held on a different day and time?

- Yes. (Suggest day and time. _____)
- No – happy with current meeting day and time I work

4. a. Is a monthly meeting sufficient?

Yes

b. How frequent should we meet?

- Monthly
- Bi-Monthly

5. Are you planning to attend the 2025 USSVI Convention in Orlando?

- Yes
- NO

8. Would you be interested in a Life Base membership, if offered?

- Yes (Suggest lifetime membership fee. \$ _____)
- No, keep as is - good yearly income.

9. If we were to have a guest speaker / specific program every month, would you attend more meetings?

- I attend most meetings
- Yes, would attend more meetings
- Not interested.
- Don't attend due to health reasons.

10. If you had a ride, would you more likely attend the meetings?

___ Yes

11. If we had a program, we might have to add 30-45 minutes to the meeting.

Where should we add it?

- ___ No program
- ___ Start 30 minutes earlier
- ___ End 30 minutes later

12. What type of topics?

- ___ Navy/Military
- ___ non-military topics
- ___ Veteran's Benefits

13. How often do you read the Base Newsletter "Blow Negative"

- ___ Every issue
- ___ Some issues
- ___ Not at all

14. How often do you read the USSVI the American Submariner Magazine?

- ___ Every issue
- ___ Some issues
- ___ Not at all

15. Rate the South Lake Florida Base on a scale of 1 to 5. 1 being the worse and 5 being the best (meetings, functions, community involvement)

1 2 3 4 5

16. Would you be interested in serving as Base Officer / BOD as any of these?

Commander Vice Commander Treasurer Secretary
 Storekeeper Chaplain COB.
 Not interested

17. Would you be interested in serving as Base Charitable Event Coordinator?

(organize food drives, back to school drive, local Christmas toy drive,

I will chair
 I will help
 Not interested

18. What types of community events do you feel we should participate in?

(like Visit Clermont Sea Cadet Battalion, South Lake HS NJROTC)

19. Would you be interested in serving as a Community Event Coordinator? (plan, organize, coordinate BASE events and participations)

I am interested
 I will help
 Not interested

20. Would you be interested in planning and organizing 50/50 Raffles to generate Base Funds?

Yes
 No

21. Would you be interested in planning and organizing fund raising events to generate funds for the SLF Base scholarship?

Yes

No

22. Would you be interested in attending / manning a booth at Clermont's Farmers Market?

Yes

No

Comments:

Please share your responses with Carlos.