

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2026

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Dave Harvey and attended by Larry Knutson, Woody Woodsmall, Tom Holcombe, Glenn Little, Ricky Collins, Ed Stank, Tom Lawson III, Anthony Mazza, Lewis Leal, Fred Bolz, Gordon Long, Nick Nichols, and Art Sattler. Base Member Butch Bryar and Associated Members Linda Nichols and Dee Dee Harvey also attended the Board Meeting.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- We currently have 237 members and are still fourth in membership of USSVI.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1053 w/39 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 298 w/6 AM – 3) Bremerton 268 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 237 w/19 AM

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report.
- Humorous note: My daughter took a picture of a black Ram pickup on I-26, photo had STS1(SS) US Navy retired. Her text stated, “Subvets spent their lives hiding underwater, now they want to be seen.”
- Serious note: I charge this governing body with the fact as a Base we are reciting the Pledge of Allegiance incorrectly. There's NO pause after one Nation. It is one Nation under God, indivisible, ...1954 the Knights of Columbus had added "under God" in their recitings and asked Pres. Eisenhower to add which he did with an executive order.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- No events currently scheduled.
- Tom suggested that we should invite the other SC bases to the next Amberjack ceremony. Nick Nichols reported that he sends an invitation email each year already to each base.
- Tom suggested that perhaps we could all meet for lunch afterward.
- Art Sattler stated that this kind of invitation could be a job for the new District Commander.
- Dave Harvey has plans to visit the other bases in the next 60 days. He will advise of the interest from the other bases.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing to report.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Still taking pictures.
- Glenn notified everyone that, for anyone who has photographs, he is archiving SubVet pictures. Please send him copies of the files.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Ricky reported that he recently received another check from SCDMV for license plates. So far we have received about \$1,500 for the plates.
- had to revise the Treasurer's report due to receiving another check from SC. We, so far, have received almost \$350 for license plates.
- Ricky explained the color coding in the Treasurer's report.

Distinguished Submariner Award – Ricky Collins:

- xRicky referenced the name of the Adm. Osborn Scholarship Award and proposed that we rename the Distinguished Submariner Award to be the Rick Wise Distinguished Submariner Award in honor of all the contributions that he did for Charleston Base. The motion was seconded by Ed Stank and carried unanimously.

USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:

- Bob reported that the Daniel Webster MTS-626 will be making her final trip down the Cooper River under tow on August 18. The time frame has been moved up and there will be no access to the boat beforehand. It was suggested that Riverfront Park would probably provide the best views for photos.
- USSVCF has agreed to help fund striking of commemorative coins to be provided to all of the Webster final crew members.
- USSVI is planning a "Last of the 41 for Freedom" last-boat coin as a fund raiser for USSVCF. Bob will provide more info as it becomes available, but plans are to have Webster on one side.

NAVY Ball – Bob MacPherson:

- The 2026 Navy Ball will held on October 17 at the Redbank Club. Bob is on the committee and will provide more info as it becomes available.

SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:

- Ed has received notice that 153 SC Submariner license plates have been issued.
- In order to continue the plate a minimum of 300 plates must be ordered over the first two years.
- If anyone is having difficulty getting through the DMV process, please see Ed.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- The balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$5,307.
- The raffle for the SubVet flag will conducted at the Base Meeting next week.
- Tom announced that is resigning as Scholarship Committee Chairman. He is prepared to do a proper turnover of duties.
- Dave Harvey stated that he has two U.S. Navy pea coats. One has enlisted buttons; the other has officer buttons. Both have been cleaned and will be provided as a raffle for the Scholarship Fund.

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- The Navy Chief Initiation has begun however, due to some additional requirements and scheduling issues, a Chief Selectee Breakfast will not be held this year. Advance arrangements will be made for the breakfast next year.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

NPS Awards – Anthony Mazza for Phil Nunnally:

- The next NPS graduation will be September 11. There had been an erroneous report about the date being changed, but September 11 is, in fact, the correct date.
- Nick verified that the Events Page on the Charleston Base website is accurate.
- Meet at NEX at 0800 to carpool.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- The video from the July Base Meeting has now been posted. There had been concern about some of the content. Lewis verified from proper authority that it was acceptable before releasing the video.
- Lewis visited Kings Bay and the construction site for the new St. Mary's Submarine museum. While there, he made a personal donation and was given a few pens, which he shared with those in the room.

VA – Fred Bolz:

- The Veteran's Affairs YouTube channel has an episode concerning dementia. There is a lot of good information. Fred will provide this to Nick to put on the Base website or to make it available for the Base Newsletter.
- GLP-1 Trials are being conducted. Fred will provide this info to Nick also.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

T2T Hotel – Ed Stank:

- Ed and others from Charleston Base attended the opening of the Tunnel to Towers Veterans Home located just behind Cracker Barrel off Ashley Phosphate. It was previously a hotel but was converted into a place for veterans.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey asked Ed to be our POC for T2T. Ed is to let us know what types of supplies that they need.
- Information will be provided to the FRA also.
- The location will serve all military branches of Service.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

ETERNAL PATROL

- **MMCS(SS) Rick Wise's** funeral was held Tuesday, 4 August, with over 40 SUBVETS present.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **RMCM(SS) Harry Kirk, 88**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sunday morning, 2 August 2026. He joined the Navy in 1955 and retired in 1990. Harry joined USSVI / Charleston Base as a Life Member in 2003. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1957 on USS SABLEFISH SS-303. He also served on USS CROAKER SS-246, USS PATRICK HENRY SSBN-599 Plank Owner, USS ULYSSES S GRANT SSBN-632, USS JOHN MARSHALL SSBN-611, USS NATHANAEL GREENE SSBN-636, USS SEA DEVIL SSN-664, USS JAMES MONROE SSBN-622 COB, and USS STONEWALL JACKSON SSBN-634 COB. He retired after his tour on the STONEWALL JACKSON. In addition to his USSVI Life Membership he was a Life Member of FRA Branch 269 for 42 years and a Member of VFW Post 9509 Moncks Corner SC. Jacqueline, his wife, said at Harry's request there will not be any services.
- **TMC(SS) Edward J. Simokat II, 82**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 7 July at his home. He joined the navy in 1962 and retired in 1983. Ed was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 1999. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1963 on USS WAHOO SS-565. Other submarine duty was USS IREX SS-482.
 - o Memorial Service: Wednesday, 19 Aug @ 1100. ST Luke's Lutheran Church Summerville. EP Bell Tolling between service and reception about 1230 in fellowship hall
- **TMC(SS) Steve H. Curry, 72**, departed on Eternal Patrol on the morning of 4 July. He joined the navy in 1972 and retired in 1994. Steve was a member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2008. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1974 on USS TUNNY SSN-682. Other duty stations were USS SUNFISH SSN-649 and USS BILLFISH SSN-656. Additionally, he served at NAVMAG HI, SUBTORPFAC/NWS Charleston, NWS Yorktown VA, and POMFLANT Charleston.
 - o Memorial service: Saturday, 29 Aug @ 1100. Carolina Memorial Gardens chapel across from Trident Tech. EP Bell Tolling will be done as part of the service. Visitation and lite refreshments will follow the service.
- **STS2(SS) Charles Wood** departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan 24 of this year. His postponed memorial service was held on Saturday, 25 July at 1700 at the FRA. It was attended by several base and FRA members.
- **END2(SS) Edward Joseph Wolf** departed on Eternal Patrol in 2024 just as they were getting ready to move from the home in AZ. He was a member of Perch Base. His wife settled in Mt Pleasant with their children. She held a memorial service for him on 18 July. 17 CB members attended and conducted an Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling for him.

BINNACLE LIST

- Ken Farrell has been diagnosed with cancer on his vertebrae. He has had a MRI and PET scan. The plans are to treat with radiation only. This is a slow growing Cancer. The doctor told him that he probably die with it but would not die from the cancer.
- **Pete Garrison's** catheterization at Trident on 22 July found 3 blockages all greater than 90%. He had a single and a double stent put in. He is doing well and recovering.

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings. Has had foot surgery, with many more to come, to correct his problem.
[843.475.7043]

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is **cbussvicob@yahoo.com** and his cell phone is [843.509.3962]

Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- The <https://ussubvets.org> can no longer be forwarded to <https://ussvi.org> - please just use <https://ussvi.org> to get to our website.
- Any changes to your info on National can be updated by you or send the info to either Larry or me to get them made on National and local.

USSVI National Convention – Nick Nichols:

- The USSVI National Convention is Sept 6-11 in Corpus Christi, TX. The room block cutoff date is 10 August, and registration will close shortly after Aug 21.
- Dave Harvey commented about arrangements for the National Convention.

USSVI National Election – Nick Nichols:

- The 2026 National Election (On-Line Voting) closes on **September 5th, 2026**. If you have not received an email from "Election Buddy" contact Mike Bost, the USSVI National Election. You should have received an email with a personal link to vote. Several of us have already voted. It's very easy. Associate members cannot vote in this election even though they received an email.
- Dave Harvey advised that he has received hard copy USSVI ballots. They are available for those who have trouble voting online.

Base Job Descriptions – Nick Nichols:

- I have received all of the updated D&R pages except for Historian which I'm working on. When complete the file will go to all BOD members for proofing and vote to accept next BOD meeting

Contacts – Nick Nichols:

- You should have the names, phone numbers and email addresses of all BOD members in your phone contacts or use the link to the officers' page to get contact info.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- Always carry a couple of the new base business cards at all times. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the Base and one for National.

FRA– Nick Nichols:

- Remember the rules we must follow at the fleet when attending a SUBVET meeting regarding non-FRA members. [SECRETARY'S NOTE: If you need to review what these are, please go to the Base Website and look at the May/June BOD or Base Meeting Minutes.]

Cold War Memorial – Dave Harvey/Tom Holcombe:

- Dave Harvey inquired about CWM preservation status since he has requested a forensic engineer from National to do an inspection and provide an official report. Tom stated that

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

according to the latest info he has received, about 3-4 feet of water has been drained from the sail. Otherwise, he has received no contact from anyone.

2026 Christmas Party – Nick Nichols:

- Nick expressed concern that we will not have a proper attendance at the Christmas Party since the planned date of December 4 is too close to Thanksgiving. Nick made a motion to change the date to December 11. Art Sattler seconded the motion. Dave Harvey had asked for the December 4 date because he had planned to go to Panama City, FL on December 11. There was discussion about the merits of different dates. The date is available at the FRA. The motion to change the date to December 11 without any expressed objection. Some in the room cast neither a yea nor a nay vote. Gordon Long reminded everyone that Friday is Karaoke Night and he expects everyone to sing.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler:

- Nothing reported.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:

- Nothing reported.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey:

- The following offices need someone to fill these positions: Scholarship, Public Affairs, Recreation

SE Regional Conference – Dave Harvey:

- SER is to be held in the Kings Bay, GA area for February or March 2027. No information has yet been published, but hopefully it will be out by the time for the National Convention.
- Two bases (one GA/one FL) working together are responsible for the planning of this event to be held in St. Mary's near to the WWII Submarine Museum.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey:

- Dave Harvey notified that he is resigning as Float Coordinator. The float just made a 2,000 mile round trip to WI and is in better shape than it has ever been. He is ready to turn that work over to someone else.
- Butch Bryar inquired about whether we were planning to have the float at the fairgrounds this year. Tom Holcombe will contact them this week.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Not present.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Not present

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1902.