USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2026

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1802 by Base Commander Dave Harvey and attended by Tom Lawson III, Woody Woodsmall, Tom Holcombe, Bill Freligh, Bob MacPherson, Phil Nunnally, Ricky Collins, Ed Stank, Glenn Little, Art Sattler, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols. Associate Members Linda Nichols and Dee Dee Harvey also attended the Board Meeting.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:
- Nothing to report except that he is prepared for turnover of Scholarship Chairman duties.
- Base Commander will again ask for a replacement at the Base Meeting next week.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:
- Woody has 2027 SubVet Calendars. This year, the theme is the Ohio Class boats. They are $10 from Woody, but are available from the National Storekeeper for $13 plus shipping.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:
- Tom visited the Coastal Carolina Fair. The float will not be in the same exact place as before, but on the other side of the caboose.
- Tom has the schedule finalized for those working the fair, and will send it to Nick for group email so that people can start signing up.
- The Veterans Day ceremony at Coastal Coffee Roasters is upcoming.
- Tom is checking on the Pearl Harbor Remembrance at Patriots Point.
- We are expecting to participate in Mount Pleasant and Goose Creek Christmas parades. Tom had been asked about Summerville, Elloree and Harleyville, so Tom checked these other parade schedules. Both Summerville and Elloree conflict with Mt. P and GC, leaving only Harleyville.
- Dave Harvey mentioned the Flowertown Festival to be held 2-4 APR 2027. The registration fee is $250 due by 1 DEC 2026. Dave will make arrangements for this event. Nick Nichols pointed out that Charleston Base had previously participated at Flowertown and held a Lost Boats bell-tolling ceremony each day.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe:
- Tom will have the proposed 2027 budget for review at the Base Meeting next week.
- Tom asked about the FRA Budget item. We voted to provide the FRA with $200 per month at a recent meeting.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:
- The Hunley oyster roast will be on Friday, 23 OCT.
- The Hunley behind-the-scenes tours will be held on Saturday, 24 OCT. Tom will provide the info to Phil for the Newsletter. Nick advised everyone that to provide info to him about any events – SubVets or not – so that he can also get it put up on the Base Website.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:
- Nothing to report
- Nick Nichols spoke about Russ Ningen in MN who does not have a nearby base – so, rather than being a Member-at-Large, he joined Charleston Base as a Life Member. At our Base

Meeting, Nick will have Henry L Stimson shipmates participate in a special Holland Club induction for Russ and send the hat and certificate to him in the mail.

USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:

- Bob stated that there is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity right now, but at this time, he has nothing to report that affects the Base.

NAVY League – Bob MacPherson:

- Bob will be the guest speaker at the Navy Ball on October 17.
- Bob is making contacts and will soon visit the Huntington-Ingalls facility.
- Bob talked about the Navy League and Sea Power magazine. He also wants the Navy League and SubVets to work together on common goals.

USSVI National Convention – Dave Harvey:

- Dave stated that the Charitable Foundation is the beneficiary of the proceeds from the National Convention.
- There was discussion about how the awards were handled at the most recent National Convention.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- The next NPS graduation will be November 6.
- Meet at NEX at 0800 to carpool.
- Phil presented a motion with Art Sattler seconding for proposal by another Charleston Base member to sponsor the NPS Legacy Award recipients as Associate Members of USSVI and Charleston Base for one year.
  - Topics presented during discussion:
    - This would introduce the sailors to SubVets. Most of us only heard of USSVI after we were no longer on active duty.
    - Based on current USSVI By-Laws, it would require sixteen (16) separate Charleston Base Members to be sponsors.
    - While the Base membership would effectively be free, the payment to National would cost Charleston Base $320 each year.
    - The recipients are too busy with Navy duties to be active in any way and will be leaving the area to be stationed on a submarine somewhere far away from here.
    - While it is all about the numbers, historically, this was attempted by the Requin Base in Pittsburgh, PA in that the entire crew of the USS Pittsburgh was given a year-long membership in USSVI. The result was zero renewals.
  - A vote was taken and the motion was denied.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report has been sent to the Base Members.

SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:

- Ed reported that 183 SubVet license plates have been issued.
- The amount of money that is being paid to Charleston Base for the plates is not working out to $20 per plate. Ed will investigate.
- Johnny Brown has a wheelchair available. Charleston Base Member that needs one, please let Ed know. Ed is to make this info know at the Base Meeting next week. Nick Nichols also suggested that DAV will take it if no SubVet wants it. Fred Bolz is the DAV representative for Charleston Base.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glenn will only be able to attend the fair for three days. October 29, November 2, 3. Other members can take pictures and send them to Nick Nichols.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:

- Art stated that when he took over K4K, he had 45 hats. He now has only 10. Many hats were provided to children at the fair last year.
- Art made a motion with several members seconding that we purchase 30 hats (about $210). No objection. Motion carried.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler:

- The changes to the USSVI By-Laws passed. Once actually enacted, Associate Members – in good standing after 3 years will no longer be required to have an individual sponsor, but would be sponsored by the Base. In addition, the Associate Member will have the option to join as a Life Member.
- Election Buddy functioned well for the recent USSVI election. About 23 percent of the members voted. The one problem that occurred was someone having an old email address still recorded at USSVI. If a member has not logged onto USSVI.ORG, please do so and verify your info. If you have trouble, contact Art, Nick or Larry.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Not present
- Nick Nichols provided membership standings:
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
  - Groton 1064 w/40 AM – 2) Hampton Roads 308 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 274 w/14 AM – 4) Charleston 240 w/19 AM

VA/DAV – Art Sattler for Fred Bolz:

- Nothing to report.
- Fred is out of town for FRA business.

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
NONE

BINNACLE LIST
- Pete Garrison has started the radiation treatments for his tonsil cancer. It will be continuing until the 27th of October with him going to the MUSC Cancer Center M-F and having the weekends off. His immune system will be compromised, so he is going to avoid as many public engagements as possible.
  - A recent email said "They weren't kidding when they said the side effects kicked in on week two! I'm hanging in there pretty good. Keeping my spirits up.
  - Yes, the radiation treatments have affected my vocal cords, and taste buds and swallowing. I recommend not getting throat cancer. It's not fun. I've been a recluse since starting the treatments. Thanks for all the prayers, they truly help.
  - Another SUBVET is down at the treatment center. We get to swap sea stories while we are in the waiting room. Short guy, radioman, fast attack sailor, first name Patrick. Don't know his last name, but he's a member of our base.

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]
- **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:
- The address to the National website is: **https://ussvi.org**
- As a member you should log into the National website as soon as possible. Use the email address you used for the old website. If you aren't sure what it is you can contact Nick, Larry or Artie to look it up. The first time you log in you will click on FORGOT PASSWORD to receive an email allowing you to make a change. Closeout and then log in again. Once in check all of your info to ensure it is correct.
- Any changes to your info on National can be updated by you or send the info to either Larry or Nick to get changes made on National and local.

FRA – Nick Nichols:
- FRA will be celebrating the U.S. Navy's 251st Birthday with a cake-cutting on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 1900 at the Fleet Home. Everyone is invited.
- FRA will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day from 1300–1530 at the Fleet Home. If you plan to attend, please be sure to sign up in the book located behind the bar to help us plan appropriately for the number of people attending.

Base Job Descriptions – Nick Nichols:

- Nick has nearly completed the Base Job Description Binder. He will soon send it to everyone soon.

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. The one for national is bad and when I make another order I will change it.

FRA – Nick Nichols:

- Continue to remember the rules for entering the bar at the meetings. [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.]

Veteran's Standdown For Homelessness – Nick Nichols:

- Nick read an invitation to join an effort by the VA against Veteran's Homelessness.

PAO – Dave Harvey (Acting):

- Dave talked about media exposure or rather the lack of it.

SER – Dave Harvey:

- Dave talked about getting bases working together.

Float Coordinator – OPEN:

- Nothing Reported.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey:

- Dave mentioned a discussion that he had with Jon Jaques at the National Convention regarding not causing offense to other members.
- Dave talked about an upcoming trip to Brookgreen Gardens.
- Dave talked about the Shrimp Festival in Beaufort.
- Dave talked about Submarine Advocacy Group.

Not Present at Tonight's Meeting: (In no particular order)
COB – Greg Landry
Membership = Larry Knutson
FRA – Ken Hutchison
NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza
Social Media – Lewis Leal
VA/DAV – Fred Bolz

Meeting adjourned at 1912.