

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting**  
**8 January 2026**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The January 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 65 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Art Sattler and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of January:
  - **USS SCORPION (SS-278) January 5, 1944 – 4<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
  - **USS ARGONAUT (SS-166) January 10, 1943 – 3<sup>rd</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 102 souls**
  - **USS SWORDFISH (SS-193) January 12, 1945 – 13<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 89 souls**
  - **USS S-36 (SS-141) January 20, 1942 – 2<sup>nd</sup> War Patrol No loss of life**
  - **USS S-26 (SS-131) January 24, 1942 – 2<sup>nd</sup> War Patrol Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued**  
**Five Boats and 314 Men Lost**
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Art Sattler.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**Guest Speaker:**

- We were scheduled to have a guest speaker from the VA Hospital, but she cancelled due to illness. We will reschedule her at a later time.

**Introductions of New Attendees:**

- There were two shipmates in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
  - Jim Salzman – IC1 – Qualified on USS Tinosa SSN606
  - Jim Bardman – MMCM – Qualified on USS Finback SSN670 – Also served aboard USS Houston SSN713, USS Norfolk SSN714, USS Pasadena SSN752 and USS Orion AS18

**Old Business:**

- No Old Business

**New Business:**

- **Base Treasury Audit – Base Commander**
  - Base Commander Dave Harvey initially assigned Tom Holcombe and Art Sattler to conduct the audit of the Base Bank Account, however since Tom Holcombe has assumed the duties of Comptroller, he cannot be part of the audit team. Tom Thompson has been assigned in his place.
  - No Further New Business

**Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the November Base Meeting and the December Base Meeting/Christmas Party were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have also been published on the Charleston Base website. With no corrections noted at the Base Meeting, the Minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The Treasurer's Report for December was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

## Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**

- **USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)** was lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off the coast of Rabaul, Papua New Guinea on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who, along with 2 other destroyers, depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sank her by gun fire.

Beginning this month I will divide my reports up into three areas: Eternal Patrol, Binnacle List and Long Term which will include those who are homebound and in assisted living.

- **ETERNAL PATROL**

- **HMCM(SS) William T. “Doc” McCance** departed on Eternal Patrol on 5 December 2025. Doc joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1980. He was a life member of National and Groton Base [1998]. He was also a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1971 on USS THOMAS A. EDISON SSBN-610. Doc also served on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN-602 AND USS GEORGE MARSHALL SSBN-654. He completed 26 years of service, serving at 17 commands, including 3 submarines and 2 surface ships. He completed 11 strategic deterrent patrols. Doc was the first Hospital Corpsman to be a Chief of the Boat on a nuclear submarine (USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN) and he was also the first Hospital Corpsman to be the Command, Master Chief for Commander Submarine Group TWO.
- **CAPT Gerald ‘Corky’ Corcoran** departed on Eternal Patrol on 17 December 2025. He served on several submarines and commanded the USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630. He was a regular at the After Battery. He was not a member of USSVI. There will be a service with full military honors sometime in January at the Beaufort National Cemetery.
- **CDR Thomas S. Czulewicz** recently departed on Eternal Patrol recently at his Texas home. He was the founding Base Commander for Grand Strand Base. He joined the Navy in 1961 and retired in 1995. He began his career as a FTGSN and was commissioned in 1975. He was a member of USSVI and GRAND STRAND Base along with the Holland Club qualifying in 1965 on USS SAM RAYBURN SSBN-635. He also served on USS TUSK SS-426, USS DANIEL WEBSTER SSBN-626, USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SSBN-657 and USS HUNLEY AS-31. Tom was the Commanding Officer of POMFLANT during the base closing. There was an accident at his home from which he didn't recover. Tom was a member of Charleston Base for a couple of years about 12 years ago.
- **Debbie Knaub**, Mike's wife, passed away November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Lucy Trump**, Terry's wife, passed away December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- **BINNACLE LIST**

- **Dave Harvey** was in the hospital after Christmas due to an AFIB issue. It turned out to be arrhythmia. He will have an ablation procedure on 23 Jan.
- **Rick Wise** had a bone biopsy and bronchoscope that was unable to determine the type of cancer he has. On Fri 2 Jan he had a CT and this found a brain but no evidence of any problems. He had his first Immuno-chemo therapy yesterday and so far has had no side effects.
- **Jay Rowland** was admitted to Roper Berkeley on 6 Jan and is in ICU with several issues. As of this afternoon his wife Sandy informed me there has been no significant improvement and he is transitioning to hospice at Roper Berkeley.
- **Casey Power** thinks he possibly has a kidney stone and is on pain pills. He doesn't think it is a wise decision to drive from Atlanta to be here but he said to tell everyone he misses them.
- **Tom Ishee** is recovering well after a serious fall on his bicycle in November.
- **Jerry Stout** has a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney and will be having treatment for that.
- **Tom Lawson** is home and constantly on 5-6 liters of oxygen.

- **LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND**

- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, still recovering from a Feb 2024 stroke that happened during a heart bypass procedure.
- **Charles Wood** has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he was able to bring his wife to the Christmas Party which was a blessing for him.

- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers. Call before visiting. His number is 843-501-7368
- **Ed Simokat** is confined to his home and can't attend meetings. He enjoys calls from his shipmates: 843.810.0382
- **Mike Knaub** is in assisted living on Daniel Island. His address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email [mlk91444@yahoo.com](mailto:mlk91444@yahoo.com) or cell 843-795-6665.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. This is behind Trident. He no longer answers his phone.
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky is 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](mailto: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:**

- All event pictures for 2025 are now listed on the Base website home page.
- I'm beginning an update on our website to remove out of date info and pages. If you find a broken link, please let me know.
- Please continue to report any change in your personal info to either Larry, COB, or me so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.

#### **Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:**

- New Base business cards are available. The cards now have the Base website and a new contact email address which is **SubVetsCharleston@ussvicb.org**. Hopefully each of you will pick up 5 of these cards and give them to any submariner's you see in town to let them know about the Base. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the Base and one for National.

#### **Submariner's Advocacy Group – Nick Nichols:**

- After the Base Commander brought Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) to our attention at the November meeting, I sent the info out to the Base via email and added the SAG report, The Unseen Burden, to the home page of the website.

#### **FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:**

- FRA Auxiliary is continuing their project to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called **Curbside Veterans Delivery**. There is a box in the bar area for you to bring items to that can be used in this program. The BOD encourages you to support the FRA Auxiliary in this program.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report.

#### **Scholarship – Tom Lawson III**

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$10,807. The Eloree event netted \$1,027 and at the November Rummage Sale we raised \$825. Tom thanked all those who worked at or supported each of these.
- The latest Scholarship information has been updated on the Base website for 2026. Last year we had no applications, so if you have graduates in your family this year, please apply.
- The raffle for the 250th Navy Anniversary bottle of bourbon will be held at the end of the meeting tonight.
- Tom has a SubVet flag that will be raffled. The double-sided flag was paid for by Charleston Base, so anything over \$150 will be given to the Scholarship Fund.
- Tom has Challenge Coins available for \$12.
- Tom has some glassware that was provided by Bob Browning. It is available for donations to the Scholarship fund.
- Tom has a "United States Navy Sub Veteran" jacket – size XL

### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- Charleston Base currently has 249 members. The National website is having issues. Larry was informed that we should start collecting the next year's Dues in September vice October.
- Some new members joined this evening and several others paid their Dues.
- Even so, we still have about 20 members who have not paid National Dues and about 40 who still owe Base Dues. All of the Dinks (National/Base or both) were notified individually by email in early December. The entire list of Dinks received another email (BCC) this week after the BOD Meeting informing them of pending imminent removal of membership by National for unpaid Dues.
- If USSVI drops a member, the individual is automatically removed as a Base member, since you MUST be registered at National to be a member of Charleston Base.
- We previously have had members in hardship situations (Nursing or Veteran's Homes) that we "passed the hat" to pay the man's Dues. None of current list of Dinks are in this category.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = Associate Member]
  - o Groton 1152 w/65 AM – 2) Hampton Roads 294 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 249 w/13 AM – 4) Bremerton 247 w/14 AM – 5) Requin 204 w/21 AM

### **USSVI National Awards – Dave Harvey**

- Any Base member can recommend someone for any award. National Award submissions must be provided to Tom Holcombe NLT February 28. The awards MUST be provided to National by April, so, if you do not believe that you can word the suggestion well, we have several men who can write it up.

### **Comptroller – Tom Holcombe**

- Nothing to report.

### **Special Events – Tom Holcombe**

- Tom relayed the report that the Goose Creek Christmas Parade went very well. Johnny Brown pulled the float.
- Tom reported that the Mount Pleasant parade went well with one casualty. Tom's neighbor's mailbox was knocked down. Tom is working on a replacement.
- The Battery Gadsden Cultural Center is scheduled to have a program – with Warren Lasch speaking – held at Sunrise Presbyterian Church on February 19. Tom will provide the details to Phil for the Newsletter.
- Dave Harvey informed the members that Charleston Base has been "accepted as a vendor" for the Flowertown Festival in Summerville. We will have the float on static display. Dave requested a watchbill coordinator for the event dates March 26-29. Tom Holcombe is already working on it. He had good results making a watchbill for the Coastal Carolina Fair.

### **CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe**

- February 17 is the annual Hunley/Housatonic remembrance. Tom is waiting on info from the lead group. We still have another Base meeting before that date.

### **NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza**

- Not present

### **Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally**

- January 30 will be the next graduation. The last class had 450 graduates and they expect the numbers to increase next time. We will meet at the NEX at 0800 and carpool due to limited parking.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally**

- Phil reported that that input by the Base members for the Newsletter is good, but if you have something that is submarine related or of interest to SubVets, please get the info to Phil.
- Dave requested to know when the Newsletter was submitted for a National award. Answer: 2013.

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally**

- Based on the last inspection, Phil is planning for a work party after the Hog Roast to replace a few boards.

### **Recreation – Art Sattler for Johnny Brown**

- Art reported that the Stingray's hockey game is on January 17. For all those who want tickets and have not ordered them online, see Art immediately after the meeting tonight. He needs to have the money this evening to get the tickets.

### **Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison**

- Nothing to report.

### **Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey**

- The float has been taken to The After Battery. The undercarriage will be removed to prepare the float for mounting onto the new trailer. Once the welding is complete, Dave will ask for volunteers to help repaint the float.

### **Southeast Regional Conference – Dave Harvey**

- The next SE Conference will be held in Gulfport, MS. The deadline for registrations is January 20.

### **Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson**

- Bob and Debbie were unable to attend the Christmas Party last month, but Bob expressed his gratitude, because at the party, the Base collected money raising \$1,500 for USSVCF.
- Bob read a letter from USSVCF addressed to Ray Sparks thanking Charleston Base for the contribution. Most of the money that USSVCF receives is from individual donors and not collective donations from bases. USSVCF will be sending Charleston Base a GENEROUS BASE certificate.
- Bob also, without going into personal details, outlined a few recent instances where the USSVCF Brotherhood Fund provided help to SubVets and families.
- Bob mentioned the eight areas within USSVCF including the Scholarship and Memorial funds but his most cherished is the Brotherhood Fund due to the amount of assistance that is provided to SubVets in need.

### **PAO – Jerry Stout**

- Jerry just recently was reappointed as PAO.
- Jerry stated that he wants to get more articles in the National Magazine but most importantly, we need more young members. He wants to let younger folks know that we exist even for those who are not retired.
- Do you have any personal interest stories, e.g. volunteer events that you do. Please provide these to Jerry.
- Jerry told of his skin cancer issues and help that he has received from the VA.
- Jerry has placed his name for SE Region Director. He is waiting to hear from National on this before he begins his campaign.

### **Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler**

- Nothing reported.

### **Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank**

- Ed talked about the Mount Pleasant parade.
- The design for the SC Submariner (SV) license plate is available for view on the Charleston Base website.
- Ed is selling raffle tickets for the SV00001 numbered plate. The tickets are 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, 14 for \$10 and 30 for \$20. Members of Charleston Base and Golden Corner Base in Easley be provided this raffle opportunity. The drawing will be held at the February Charleston Base Meeting.
- Purchase availability of the SV license plate will begin in February.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall**

- PSA – Someone purchased a hat at a previous meeting and then left it. It was found on the cabinet. FOUND owner has come forward.
- Woody has one USSVI Silent Hunter 2026 calendar left. SOLD.
- Woody has some 125 years challenge coins with Gold dolphins.
- Woody has an oak whiskey barrel pen with etched Dolphins made by one of our Base members. The pen takes a Parker pen refill, available for \$30
- Woody has hats “UNSEEN – UNHEARD – ALWAYS THERE. ONLY THE QUALIFIED SURVIVE” available in gray, tan and blue. ONLY \$5 – marked down from \$9.
- Woody has 5 National Meritorious Base Award patches available \$8, for anyone who was a Base member in 2024. More can be ordered upon request.
- Woody reported the military bases are on 100% ID check now. Anyone that does not have a valid DOD ID card will need someone with one, to vouch for them at the pass office and escort them on the base.

### **Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison**

- Nothing to report today. See you next month.

### **COB – Greg Landry**

- Not present.

### **Vice Commander – Art Sattler**

- Art plans to hold a CPR class on January 31 at the FRA. See Art to sign up. The class is \$10.
- A fish fry is scheduled for afterward.
- We are starting a Facebook Group to provide information about Charleston Base. You must be a Charleston Base member. Art, Woody and Lou will be the administrators.

### **Base Commander – Dave Harvey**

- Dave admitted error in asking someone to make a purchase. The amount was excessive. The amount required BOD/Base approval. If you are asked to do something, verify the cost beforehand. Expenditures of this level MUST be approved ahead of time.
- The upcoming Fish Fry is to raise funds for the SER transportation (rental van) to Gulfport along with the New Orleans WWII Museum and the Alabama/Drum Memorial in Mobile. Dave hopes to have good participation since the proceeds are going to a good cause.
- There was mention of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Gulfport, MS.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- The Hog Roast will be held from April 11 to 18 with Hog Day on Saturday April 18.
- There are lots of RV hookups.
- The After Battery is open for dinner every Wednesday at 1700
- On February 7, The After Battery will hold an Oyster Roast/Frogmore Stew from 1200 - 1800.
- Ray thanked the FRA for loaning some chairs to The After Battery for a recent event.

### **GUN CLUB – Mike Ciesielko**

- Not present.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

- Scholarship – Bourbon Raffle – Bob MacPherson
- FRA Drawing – Don Meadows
- Depth Charge Drawing – Roger Gibson – Donated \$80 to Scholarship Fund

**Closing Ceremony**

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2005.