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

Opening Ceremonies:

- The October 2026 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of four officers and a total of 69 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 October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of October:
  - **USS SEAWOLF (SS 197) Oct 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 99 souls (82 crew and 17 Army)**
  - **USS S-44 (SS 155) Oct 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol Lost with 54 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war**
  - **USS WAHOO (SS 238) Oct 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 80 souls**
  - **USS DORADO (SS 248) Oct 12, 1944 – New - Training Lost with all hands – 76 souls**
  - **USS ESCOLAR (SS 294) Oct 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol Lost with all hands – 82 souls**
  - **USS DARTER (SS 227) Oct 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol No loss of life**
  - **USS SHARK II (SS 314) Oct 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol Lost with all hands – 90 souls**
  - **USS TANG (SS 306) Oct 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol Lost with 80 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war**
  - **USS O-5 (SS 66) Oct 29, 1923 – Near Panama Canal Lost with 3 souls**
  - **Nine Boats and 564 Men Lost**

<u>Charleston Base Shipmates on Eternal Patrol</u>
TMC(SS) Robert Duane Finch - 1 September 2009
TMC(SS) George Dewey Wells Jr. - 2 November 2009
CAPT George Frenger Lisle - 5 November 2009
LCDR James Warren Eckles - 12 November 2009
MMC(SS) Benjamin William Heber - 24 November 2009
TM1(SS) Michael James Stuffle - 21 December 2009
QM2(SS) William Clyde Yates Jr. WW2 SUBVET – 23 December 2009
MMCS(SS) Andrew Larry Hendrix – 13 March 2010
EMC(SS) Alvin Eugene Addington – 26 May 2010
ETCM(SS) Francis John Young – 17 July 2010
LCDR William F. Kopacka WW2 SUBVET – 24 July 2010
It is said we die twice – once when you stop breathing and
The second when you name is said for the last time.

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Art Sattler.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Special Holland Club Induction – Nick Nichols:

- Nick Nichols requested that all who served on the USS Henry L Stimson (SSBN-655) come to the front of the room to participate in a special Holland Club presentation for Russell Ningen – who opted to join as a new USSVI and Charleston Base Life Member – who lives in Minnesota with the nearest base located more than 200 miles away from him. Nick had served with Russ as his AWEPS before the shipyard in the ‘70s and as his WEPS afterward. Shortly after SY, they went separate ways. Russ also served aboard the USS Daniel Boone (SSBN-629).
- Bill Freligh explained the purpose of the Holland Club and read the text of the USSVI National award.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey read the award from Charleston Base and signed the certificate.

- Nick Nichols accepted the Holland Club hat, Holland Club certificates and Holland Club coin on behalf of Russ Ningen. The presentation included a group picture with fourteen former Stimson sailors present. Nick shall send these items and a video copy of tonight's ceremony to Russ Ningen in Minnesota.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were FOUR shipmates in attendance at the Base Meeting for the first time this evening.
  - Matt Hoffmann – FTG2 – Qualified on USS Honolulu SSN718 – 1991
  - Al Beaty – EMCM – Qualified on USS Los Angeles SSN688 – 1980 – Also served aboard USS John C Calhoun SSBN630 and USS Seawolf SSN21.
  - Dennis Kincaid – MM1 (A-Gang) – Qualified on USS Daniel Boone SSBN629 – 1981 – Also served aboard USS Memphis SSN691 and USS Atlanta SSN712. Shore duty also included work on numerous submarines.
  - Brent O'Tool – SK3 – Qualified on USS Simon Bolivar SSBN641 – 1992 – Also served aboard USS Key West SSN722
- In addition, there were two new Associate Members in attendance for the first time tonight.
  - Kathy Beaty
  - Virginia Kincaid

Old Business:

- Dave Harvey reminded members of currently open committee chairmanships. These, which will be discussed more toward the end of the meeting, are:
  - Scholarship – Tom Lawson is prepared for turnover at this time.
  - Recreation –
  - PAO –
  - Float Coordinator –
- No other Old Business

New Business:

- **National Award Presentation – Base Commander Dave Harvey:**
  - Dave Harvey read the USSVI citation and presented Bob MacPherson with the 2026 Ben Bastura Award. Bob was to receive this prestigious honor at the USSVI National Convention in Corpus Christi, TX, but was unable to attend.
  - Bob spoke briefly about The Lean Submariner blog, which has more than 1,400 stories and will soon surpass one million page views. Bob's family was with us tonight to witness this achievement. Photographs were taken to record the event.
- **2026 Christmas Party Menu**
  - The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be held at the FRA in the Meeting Room. Dave Harvey read two catered menus. The only difference was whether to choose pork or beef for the meat portion. The cost for beef is ~$3,800. The cost for pork is ~$2,800. A show of hands was done initially to select the option, then Art Sattler made the motion with Bob MacPherson seconding to accept beef as the choice for Christmas Dinner on December 10. Services will be provided by Crazy Dutchman Catering. The motion for the beef menu carried. The cost for Base Member and one guest is free. Additional guests will be $35 each. The budget of $3,800 is an estimate for 90 people. We must provide a final count of attendees NLT November 20.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the September Base Meeting 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 September was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat this month:**
  - **USS SEAWOLF SS-197** was lost on **Oct 3,1944** with the loss of 83 officers and men and 17 US Army troops when she was sunk just north of Moritai Philippines by USS Rowell, a Destroyer Escort (DE). In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another Destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

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

All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found on the Sailing List.

- Linda Knutson came home from vacation feeling bad. They went to the doctor who diagnosed her with a diseased gall bladder. She had her gall bladder removed. She is home recovering, in good spirits and glad to be home. She's a little sore, but not in the pain that she was previously having.
- Pete Garrison's radiation treatments for his tonsil cancer will continue 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.
  - In a recent email he 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.

As you know, my policy for placing anyone on the public binnacle list is that either the person or the family has authorized it. I do want to know anything you learn so I can contact the member/family but if it doesn't hit the printed binnacle list you know why.

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**
- 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.

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 Rules – Nick Nichols:

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

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Nothing to report

Scholarship – OPEN (Base Commander)

- Nothing to report

Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 240 Members.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
  - Groton 1065 w/40 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 307 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 274 w/14 AM – 4) Charleston 240 w/19 AM
- If you are an annual member of either national or life or both it is time pay your dues for 2027. If you have your money tonight, I will collect it and make a note on who paid so Larry can update the membership files at National.
  - Annual Dues are due NOW. $40 for National / $20 Base (Total of $60)
  - If you don't desire to become a Life Member then consider paying your dues for either 3 or 5 years. It saves you the trouble of going through the process every year and says Larry a lot of work each year.
  - We have about 50 members who pay yearly.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- The Coastal Carolina Fair will be held beginning 29 OCT. The float will be positioned on 26 OCT. We will take pictures and go over procedures. This will also be provided via email.
- Tom has a hard copy of the watch bill to sign-up sheet for working at the float during the fair. Be sure to wear your vest. The link to the watch bill is on the Charleston Base website homepage.
- We will hold the Lost Boat Ceremony at Coastal Coffee Roasters in Summerville on Veterans Day. Tom will send a list of needed participants via email. The event begins at 1100. Muster at 1030. They have a catered lunch each year also.
- The Patriots Point Pearl Harbor Remembrance will be held on Monday, 7 DEC at 1100. We would like as many SubVets there as we can. We will have two from the group launch a wreath in memory of the 27 South Carolina military members who died that day in 1941. Afterward, VFW Post 624 will have a lunch available for everyone.
- About Christmas parades, we will participate in both Goose Creek and Mount Pleasant. There was a request by a member about Elloree and Harleyville, which we had done in years past. Harleyville at 1900 is possible, if there are enough members to ride and pull the float. A show of hands indicated enough interest for Harleyville. It was pointed out, however that evening is the BOD annual planning meeting. We cannot do Elloree because of a scheduling conflict.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe

- A copy of the proposed Charleston Base 2027 Budget has been placed on each table for the members to look at while Tom reviewed the proposed budget.
- Ed Stank suggested that the budgeted amount for the float was insufficient, but with all of the money spent on the float in the last year, it should be sufficient.
- Walt Deal asked about the candy for the float. Tom will find a section of the budget from which this could be designated. Most of the time, Tom simply purchases the candy himself.

CSS Hunley – Tom Holcombe

- Friends of the Hunley will have an Oyster Roast/catered BBQ at the city bus shed downtown Charleston to raise funds for the CSS Hunley on Friday, October 23. The cost for this is $55.
- On Saturday, October 24, they will hold a Behind-the-Scenes tour. As SubVets, we are invited at no charge. Any guests will be $10 each.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

Fleet Reserve Association – Nick Nichols for Ken Hutchison:

- FRA will celebrate 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, you will need to sign up in the book located behind the bar so they can plan for the number of people attending.

Nuclear Power School Legacy Awards – Phil Nunnally

- The next NPS graduation is Friday, November 6. Meet at the NEX at 0800.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- In last month's Newsletter, Phil had an article about a submarine veteran – LCDR Robert E Ryan (SSBN-602 Plankowner – who is buried at Beaufort National Cemetery. Phil learned of this man from Rusty Pickett

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Nothing to report

Ambassador USSVCF – Bob MacPherson

- Nothing reported

PAO – OPEN (Base Commander)

- Base Commander sent two articles to American Submariner
- The office of PAO is available.

Recreation – OPEN (Base Commander)

- Wednesday is Seniors Day at Coastal Carolina Fair
- Brookgreen Gardens – Trip, Saturday 28 NOV – Admission price $34/person if we have 20 people. Provide own transportation. All that are going must be confirmed and paid by 12 NOV (November Base Meeting).

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- At this time 185 SC Submarine Veteran (SV) License plates have been sold. The goal is at least 300.
- Ed has been asked about handicapped plates. Rather than that, get a placard that hangs from the mirror and put a SV plate on your vehicle.
- The cost is $20 in addition to the regular registration fee. The plate is only available through mail. It CANNOT be obtained at the local DMV office.
- A link to the DMV is on the home page of the Charleston Base website.

Tunnel to Towers – ED STANK

- Ed visited the T2T Veteran's House off Ashley Phosphate Rd. They have only 20 of the 81 rooms occupied. There is a list on the tables is a paper with items that are being requested as donations.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody promoted only one item tonight:
- 2027 calendars are available which highlights the Ohio class boats. Woody only ordered 40 and about 15 are gone already. See Woody after the meeting tonight.

DAV – Fred Bolz

- From DAV Meeting of Sept. 12, 2026
  - Treasurer reported a total of $22,712.27 in treasury.
  - VSO Training on Oct. 07 (Virtual).
  - DAV is to have a booth outside Costal Carolina Fair on Nov. 04 from 1000 – 1200.

- Fund raiser to be held at Marvin's Hamburger in Moncks Corner on Oct. 03 from 0800 – 1600.
- Giving $500.00 for "Gifts for Needy Vets".
- The "Traveling Wall" will be in Lancaster, S. C. Nov. 05 – 08.

VA – Fred Bolz

- VA Awards $1.7 billion to fight Veterans homelessness. The grant goes to 680 organizations across the country to help homeless vets. Use to prevent loss of home, identify new and better housing, rapidly rehouse vets and families who might remain homeless.
- The VA awards $112 Million in Suicide prevention programs. $111.9 million in grants to 197 community organizations that provide suicide prevention services to veterans across the country. This is through the "Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Program" and became available FY 2027. Suicide is VA's top clinical priority. Community organizations are critical to reaching Veerans who may noy otherwise connect with VA care.
- VA launches new pilot program at six VA facilities to help Veterans establish VA.gov accounts faster. CLEAR is the program. It uses the same scanning technology used at airports and other secure locations. You can access your account with a driver's license, gov issued photo id such as driver's license, state id, etc.
- Fred attended the VAVS meeting at the RHJ VAMC by phone on Sept 28. The hospital still stands as one of the top hospital facilities. Summerville Nexton Facility is on hold pending funding.
- Volunteer Services is holding a "Winter Coat Drive" all sizes are needed.
- For those eligible flu shots can be obtained from Oct 08 – Nov30.
- A summary of various statistics was given on volunteer Services.

COB – Greg Landry

- Not present

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- K4K provides Teddy Bears to the children. One of our Base Members donated $100. This will purchase 15 bears.
- At the Coastal Carolina Fair, SubVets will have a K4K event.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler

- For the USSVI National election, 23 percent of the members voted.
- The Changes to the National By-Laws include:
  - Once an Associate Member has reached three (3) years, he/she is allowed to sign up for Life Membership and will not require an individual member as sponsor, but rather by the Base. Effective date not yet announced.
- Everyone is being asked to login the USSVI National website using your email address. If you don't know what address National has for you, please see Art/Nick or Larry.

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.
- There are currently a lot of open chairmanships that Dave is reporting on. These positions need to be filled: PAO / Scholarship / Recreation / Float Coordinator (This was also previously mentioned during Old Business.)
- Dave also thinks that we need a new COB. Greg's work schedule is not allowing him to attend meetings and our other activities.

Float Coordinator – OPEN (Base Commander)

- Although it is in good shape, we need to prepare the float for the fair (OCT/NOV) and the December Christmas Parades. There will be a working party at The After Battery. Let Dave know if you are able to help.
- We are still in need of a new Float Coordinator.

SER Conference – Dave Harvey
- The 2027 Conference will be hosted by Kings Bay and First Coast Bases on March 10-12.
- The primary hotel is SureStay Best Western, 2710 Osborne Road, St. Marys, Georgia

National Awards – Dave Harvey
- Anyone can write an award. Please provide the info to Tom Holcombe.

National Convention – Dave Harvey
- The 2027 National Convention will be in Reno, NV. The date is August 22 through 27.
- The Base Membership has approved Charleston Base to apply for hosting the 2029 National Convention. The papers will be submitted to National in November as required. USSVI will do a work-up on the documents and Visitor's Center. Dave will be meeting with personnel at the Marriott Downtown.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson
- Not present

After Battery – Ray Sparks
- Nothing to report

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko
- Not present

Drawings & Auctions
- FRA Drawing – Eva Sollo
- Depth Charge Drawing – Randy Haas

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 2016.

POST-MEETING:
At the conclusion of the Charleston Base Meeting, two men (Kelly Price and Matt Hoffman) came to the front table about the Scholarship Committee. Tom Lawson III will turn over the Chairmanship to Kelly Price. Matt Hoffman will become a new committee member. Anthony Mazza was on the committee last year and will remain as a member this year.