

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**July 3, 2025**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Vice Commander Tom Lawson. Base Commander David Harvey is currently on travel. Attending were Board of Directors members Phil Nunnally, Tom Lawson III, Greg Landry, Lewis Leal, Larry Knutson, Ricky Collins, Art Sattler, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Tom Lawson welcomed members to the Board Meeting tonight.

### **NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:**

- The next NPS graduation is August 1.

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:**

- Nothing to report.

### **COB – Greg Landry:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Larry Knutson & Nick Nichols recommended adding the 3 & 5 years payment to the base dues paying schedule beginning in October when dues are being paid for next year. The hope is to reduce the number who forget to pay their dues. Fee will remain \$20/yr.
- The board approved this to happen beginning in October.
- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
  - Groton 1115 w/61 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 287 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 248 w/12 AM – 4) Bremerton 243 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 206 w/20 AM

### **Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:**

- Art has contacted MUSC and is expecting a return call.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The Treasurer's report has been published.
- \$1,000 was taken from the Investment Fund. With the majority of the Base Members currently Life Members, we may need to pull from the fund more often. This was the purpose of the Investment Fund.

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### Secretary – Gordon Long:

- BOD Minutes are posted on the Base website. Thank you Nick.
- Base Minutes to follow shortly.

### 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.

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.

- **Al Dempster's** memorial service was held on 14 June @ 11am with 30 SUBVET/FRA members/spouses attending. The FRA conducted the Two Bell and SUBVETS conducted the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling. Received the following email from Al's son:
  - *Just wanted to send you a quick thank you. You and the rest of our shipmates did an awesome job! I received many comments about how wonderful and special the military honors and ceremonies were. My wife said she cried through the whole thing. I think my Dad appreciates it very much. Thanks again! Ed Dempster*
- **SK1(SS) William R. 'Billy' Walters Sr., 82**, of Goose Creek SC departed on EP on June 29, 2025. He joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1983 having served on several submarines including USS Henry L. Stimson G in 79-80. Billy was not a member of USSVI. His visitation will be Saturday, July 5 from 1300-1400 with the funeral service following at 1400. It will be at McAlister-Smith Funeral & Cremation, 869 St. James Avenue, Goose Creek, SC 29445
- **YNCS(SS) Robert A. 'Bob' Betz, 82**, of Florence AL departed on EP on Jun 15, 2025. He retired in 1980. He was served in several submarines, including USS Andrew Jackson, USS James Polk, and USS James Madison, and at POMPLANT. Bob was not a member of USSVI.
- **Budda Nelms** was taken to the hospital with a serious case of the flu. He was there from Sunday 7 June until Tuesday 10 June. He is home taking his meds and doing much better.
- **Pete Garrison** had not been able to attend meetings due to his lung issues but was at the June meeting. He's now on supplemental O2 and his portable O2 machine runs at full capacity. He was able to plug in his machine to attend the meeting.
- **Ron Snyder** is still recovering from his late May heart attack and thanks everyone for their prayers. Plans on seeing us at the July meeting.
- **Rick Carlson** has been diagnosed with a main blood vessel rupture behind his left eye causing him to have double vision. A procedure was done to stop the bleeding but he is not driving or doing much of anything.
- **Kit Sparger** is at home and according to her son, Rick Jr., she is doing OK. Continuing to do treatments and so far, looks positive.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time. Even though he can't attend the meetings he does watch them on YouTube. His seizures are getting worse and more frequent.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers.
- **Al Stoll** is in Room 3 at the skilled Nursing section at the villages at Summerville rehab center at the end of West 9th North Street. He has a very hard time hearing so phone calls are not easy for him. If visiting before or after lunch is best time.

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- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. He is answering his cell 843.873.0564. This is behind Trident.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** are living in the Villages, him in Cottage 606 with Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville SC 29483-6715.
- **Connie Dempster** is in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. Mailing address is: Connie Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. Apartment phone – (843) 793-1187.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- The FRA will be having an Indoor picnic tomorrow 1100-1400. It is free to all FRA members. If you can bring a desert or side dish for hamburgers/hotdogs it would be appreciated.
- It is election time for our ESR District 2 Commander for the 2025-27 Term of Office. The current ESD2 is Wayne Phillips and is running unopposed. Next week an email will be sent to all base members with both Word and PDF ballots and instructions. Please take time to vote...it is important to show that the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest base in USSVI cares about electing our leaders.
- Glenn, Linda and I represented SUBVETS at the American Legion Post 166 Flag Disposal ceremony on June 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a very moving ceremony. I would when they have it again that we find some way to participate like other groups did.
- Boat reunion info for those being held in Charleston will be placed on the home page of the base website when received. Send the info to [webmaster@ussvicb.org](mailto:webmaster@ussvicb.org)
- Please report any change in your personal info to either Larry, Nick or the COB so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.
- “**Shift Colors**” has been discontinued. The new eMagazine is **Sailor for Life**, It will be delivered to you via email if you have a DFAS email address. Also, you can find the first two issues of this magazine on our base website on the Documents webpage.

### **Meeting Change – Nick Nichols**

- The Base Commander is recommending we move the October meeting from Thursday evening Oct 9<sup>th</sup> to the following Saturday Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. At 1200 there would be a free lunch for all those who attend and then our normal meeting to follow at 1300. The goal for this change would be to get those members who need assistance/drivers to help get them to a meeting.
- Many of our members don't drive at night so this might help too. If it goes well, it could possibly be done up to 3 times each year.
- To do this it would take some work with planning, transportation, contacting members who need help to attend, etc.
- The board passed a motion to bring this to the base

### **Groton Base Annual Appeal – Nick Nichols / Lewis Leal**

- Groton Base has requested for bases and individuals to provide monetary support for the Groton Clubhouse which is owned by USSVI National. These funds will help with renovations needed at the clubhouse. This is something we can put out to the base membership to donate to as individuals if they want to.

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- The board passed a motion to present this to the base at the next meeting and then to send an email informing members how to make donations if they would like to.

### **BBQ Competition – Nick Nichols**

- Johnny Brown will be participating in the SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BBQ Competition on James Island being held on October 21-25. He would like the OK to display the SubVets Banner at his cook site, have the team's name as "Charleston Submarine Veterans" and maybe have some information available like we did at the fair. He will cover all the costs. He plans on submitting the entry form next week before the competition fills up.
- The board gave the OK to use the SubVets banner, name the team "**Charleston Submarine Veterans**" and have our information available.

### **Kings Bay WWII – Nick Nichols**

- The Kings Bay WWII Celebration is Nov 5-9<sup>th</sup>. More info should be coming out soon.

### **USSVI National Convention – Nick Nichols**

- A total of 17 from Charleston and 1 guest from another base are planning to attend the National Convention Aug 31 – Sep 6 in Orlando FL.
  - a. Ken & Barbara **Brennerman**
  - b. Bill & Mary **Freligh**
  - c. Dave & Dee Dee **Harvey**
  - d. Tom & Lisa **Holcombe**
  - e. Richard **Jordan** & Austin Jordan [Hampton Rds Base]
  - f. Nick & Linda **Nichols**
  - g. Art & JonAnne **Sattler**
  - h. Ed Stank & Carolyn Berry
  - i. Steve **Woodside** & Peg O'Donnell

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Not present.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:**

- Not present.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Not present.

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

- Not present.

### **Special Events – Tom Holcombe:**

- Not present.

### **HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:**

- Not present.

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### **NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:**

- Not present.

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

- Not present.

### **Base Commander – Dave Harvey:**

- Not present.

### **PAO – Bob MacPherson:**

- Not present.

### **USSVCF – Bob McPherson:**

- Not present.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Not present.

### **FRA – Ken Hutchison:**

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1840.