

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2025

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander David Harvey. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Tom Lawson III, Larry Knutson, Art Sattler, Ricky Collins, Gordon Long, Nick Nichols, Tom Holcombe, Woody Woodsmall, Johnny Brown, Bill Freligh, Ed Stank, Anthony Mazza, Glenn Little and Bob MacPherson. Ray Sparks was also in attendance.

Base Commander – David Harvey:

- David Harvey welcomed members to the Board Meeting tonight.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Tom Lawson advised the Board that, due to his health, he will be resigning his position as Vice Commander. Base Commander David Harvey needs to appoint a replacement for the remainder of Tom's term until May 2026 when regular elections are scheduled for Vice Commander and Secretary.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present – Sent Message: The August 1st NPS School graduation was hot but good with 377 graduates. The next scheduled graduation is September 26th.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present – Sent message: Nothing to report.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present – Sent message: Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- Still planning the Rummage Sale. Anthony Mazza is also helping with the effort. There was much discussion from those in the room, including the fact that Tom had not been not given a proper turnover when he assumed the duties of Chairman. Because of this, Tom needs assistance from each of us. The location for the sale has not yet been determined, but was previously held on Old Trolley Rd.
- Dave Harvey stated that he has been collecting items for the Rummage Sale, but recently a Base member has provided him with a sizeable quantity of antiques that are too good to be sold at a rummage sale. Dave suggested that, with the amount involved, opening up a small store as an option. There would be business type expenses and legalities involved. Nick Nichols noted the takeover of the Groton clubhouse by National because of it being operated improperly. We, as an organization are not setup to be running a business to raise money for the scholarship fund. Other possibilities are in person/online private sale or consignment with a dealer.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Not present.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present – Sent message: Nothing to report.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 247 members.
- Larry reported that a charity check to National finally cleared the bank.
- The membership form will be updated to include 1/3/5 year renewals. The annual dues will remain at \$20 regardless of length of renewal.
- Nick spoke briefly about Associate Members and the need to vet applications. We know that family members are easily accepted, but discussion of contribution by non-family members to Charleston Base is needed.
- There was additional discussion about Associate Members. For more information regarding requirements, see Charleston Base By-Laws Article V, Section 3.
- Nick reminded everyone that Associate Members are Members. The only difference is whether the small piece of chest metal was earned or not.
- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - Groton 1125 w/62 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 288 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 247 w/12 AM - 4) Bremerton 243 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 207 w/20 AM

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:

- Art is expecting a visitor form from MUSC. We should begin plans for the second week in October.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Money for the SC License plates has been transferred. The account now has \$6,855.
- The Treasurer's report has been published.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

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.

- **FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, 80**, departed on Eternal Patrol at the Victory House in Walterboro on 5 July 2025. The family held a Celebration of Life Memorial at the FRA Home on July 25th with standing room only. Al was given a FRA Two Bell Ceremony and SUBVET Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling. There were a large # of SUBVETs at the service.
- **YNC(SS) Elmer 'Moon' Mullins, 89**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 18 July 2025. Moon joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1978. He was a Member of USSVI National [2002] and Charleston Base [2002]. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1964 on USS RATON SS/SSR/AGSS-270. There was a Memorial Service on 26 July at Parks Funeral Home Chapel where Moon was given a FRA Two Bell Ceremony and SUBVET Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling. There were a large # of SUBVETs at the service.
- **Tom Holcombe's** sister, Norma Jean Holcombe, passed away in 15 July. Tom traveled home for her service on 19 July.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **Bobbi Sutton's** daughter, Becky Grammer, passed away on July 17. Bobbi is the FRA Branch 269 Chaplain and widow of Jon Sutton EP 28 June 2011. Her service was held on 29 July at Hillcrest Baptist Church.
- **Walt Deal's granddaughters** heart surgery went great. She was home in record time is now playing like a little girl should.
- **Ed Simokat** fell in his house on 22 July, and after being treated at the hospital was sent home. He was banged up badly. If you get a chance give him a call.
- **Fred Woodley** continues to have urinary tract problems. He had a procedure conducted that went very well and is recovering at home.
- **Rick Wise** had a CT scan on 28 July. The results of the CT scans were very good. No new nodules were found in my lungs but a small nodule that has been present in the right lung has had a small increase in size. In 3 months, he will have a PET scan to check it out. Everything in the abdomen was unchanged.
- **Kit Sparger** is at home. Rick Jr., says she is doing OK and continuing her 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.
- **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:

- 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.

Meeting Change – Nick Nichols

- After much discussion, the possible date change of the October Base meeting date was dropped. We will bring it back up again later in January for a Saturday Base Meeting date in March 2026.

Annual FRA Donation – Nick Nichols

- Nick Nichols made a motion for Charleston Base to make an annual donation of \$1000. The donation will be presented each September 1. Art Sattler seconded the motion. We use this facility for our meetings, Christmas Party, fund raisers and anything else we want to do. The FRA could be renting the meeting room out but elect to let us use it. We should support them as much as possible other than buying food and drinks.
- Treasurer Ricky Collins reported that we currently have only two annual donations:

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- Friends of the Hunley - \$250
- Shriner's Hospital - \$250
- Ricky also reported that we gave a sponsored the Navy Ball Golf Tournament \$500 one year and \$1000 last year. The motion passed unanimously. Nick will bring the question to the Base Meeting next week as new business.

Meeting Agenda – Nick Nichols

- Nick Nichols noted that we need to add to the Meeting Order of Business for the Base Commander to state: “At this time we ask that anyone who is not a member of the Base or is not a submarine qualified guest, please depart the meeting room so we can conduct our Base business.” We recently had one of our members bring his wife to the meeting who was not an Associate Member. Secretary Gordon Long will get this into the agenda.

Meeting Presentation – Nick Nichols

- Nick is awaiting confirmation for Sharon Sessler to attend the next Base Meeting to make a presentation to Charleston Base in honor of Marty.

USSVI National Convention – Nick Nichols

- A total of 21 from Charleston and 1 guest from another base are planning to attend the National Convention Aug 31 - Sep 6 in Orlando FL.
 - Ken & Barbara Brennerman
 - Rick Collins
 - Bill & Mary Freligh
 - Dave & Dee Dee [AM] Harvey
 - Tom & Lisa Holcombe
 - Richard Jordan & Richard J. Jordan [father – Southern Colorado Base Base]
 - Bob & Debbie MacPherson
 - Nick & Linda [AM] Nichols
 - Art & JonAnne [AM] Sattler
 - Ray & Lois Sparks
 - Steve Woodside & Peg O'Donnell
 - Bob & Eva [AM] Sollo

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Plans are being made to have the float at the Coastal Carolina Fair. Tom will get a watchbill together soon.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody talked about the label on his cup with Dolphins which states, “Unseen. Unheard. Always There. Only the Qualified Survive”. He contacted the National Storekeeper about putting this on hats. Woody had to pay for digitizing the design, but he ordered three each of tan, gray and blue hats. The first batch will be \$21 each.
- He may get decals also with the statement above.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Johnny gave a report on the recent picnic at Marrington. It was HOT, but we had a good time. The big take-away from this event is that Johnny NEEDS help before, during and after.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

A lot of work went into this picnic that the load should have been shared by others. Johnny is the Recreation Committee Chair, but he is not the Recreation Committee by himself.

- The next big event is the Christmas Party on December 12.

The After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The Hog Roast at The After Battery, will be April 11-18.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nothing to report.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Nothing reported.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- NNPTC has a Chief Selectee Breakfast on September 13. Because of the time, it is more like a brunch. It is for chiefs only.
- The Sub Ball is Saturday evening, April 18, 2026
- The Charleston Base float is definitely requested at the Sub Ball. Someone else is expected to contact us about having the float displayed for the Navy Ball.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Has taken a bunch of pictures and some have made it to the Newsletter.

PAO – Bob MacPherson:

- The Navy Ball was going to have us pay the higher civilian registration fee for the ball, but changed to allow SubVets to pay the reduced price for retired folks.
- To put on events such as the Sub Ball and the Navy Ball require a lot of money. To keep the prices at a reasonable rate for those attending, there is sponsorship of some sort. Bob talked about the Navy League and possible ways that we could sponsor an event, listing a few of the levels for us to consider now and into the future. This year, being the 250th year of the Navy, will have a significant amount of exposure.
- There was discussion of dress for the Navy Ball.
- Bob is a member of the Scottish Highland Society. The Highland Games will be held on November 1, 2025. Bob suggested parking the float somewhere at the games. There were a lot of people who saw his submarine hat and talked about being stationed in Holy Loch. This could be a good recruiting opportunity for Charleston Base however, it conflicts with the dates for the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- Johnny Brown noted that when we sponsored the Navy Ball Golf Tournament, we put up both the USSVI and the Charleston Base banners. Nick Nichols had received a call from someone at the tournament noting his appreciation of the SubVet sponsorship of the event.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

USSVCF – Bob McPherson:

- The USSVCF website has been re-registered because of an issue with the company.
- The last of the special edition coins are now being sold. You must get them now or never. Contact the Storekeeper now.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey:

- Nothing reported.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey:

- At the Regional Meeting in Aiken, Dave was the only Base Commander who attended.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1920.