

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**November 6, 2025**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Dave Harvey. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson III, Johnny Brown, Tom Holcombe, Greg Landry, Woody Woodsmall, Lewis Leal, Anthony Mazza, Larry Knutson, Bob MacPherson, Art Sattler, Ed Stank, Gordon Long, and Nick Nichols,. Base Member Dennis Lanier also attended the Board Meeting.

### **Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:**

- The Rummage Sale will be held at Rodney's Rockets / Halloween Express at 1825 Old Trolley Rd. (The same location as before) on November 15. Tom needs help as he will be getting there early to set up. Help is also needed during the day.
- Tom has received a bottle of bourbon labeled for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Navy. This will be on a raffle soon.
- Tom has received a box of books which was provided by Janice (widow of George Burton – EP). He will have a raffle for one of the books. The others will be available for the cost of a small donation to the Scholarship Fund.
- We were able to obtain over \$1,000 from the Trash to Treasures event in Elloree. It rained all day during this sale. Thanks to those who were present to assist in the endeavor.
- Two yard signs for the Rummage Sale had been provided and were on display at the meeting tonight. They are reusable since there is no date on them.
- Tom requested the insurance information.

### **Recreation – Johnny Brown**

- Johnny won second place at the American Legion barbeque contest on where he displayed the Charleston Base Banner. A photo was provided to Phil for the Newsletter. Dave Harvey suggested that this kind of activity should be provided to American Submariner. Johnny has \$300 from the winnings that will be donated to the Scholarship Fund.
- The Christmas Party is December 12. Johnny expects to have brisket, chicken and fish along with sides.
- Johnny had an offer by someone to donate items for door prizes.

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

- Tom reported that the Coastal Carolina Fair (currently in progress) is going well. They have made about thirty new contacts. They are also getting visits from some that provided info at last year's event.
- Charleston Base Membership Forms are available at the fair and Tom has received two completed applications on which to follow up.
- Tom's POC at the fair will be changing for next year. He expects to meet the new man soon.
- The Veterans Day remembrance at Coastal Coffee Roasters is next week.
- Tom will be out of town, but he has submitted the application for the Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade on December 14. He has a driver arranged to tow the float in that parade. He needs names of those will be decorating and riding the float.
- Tom had not planned to participate in the Goose Creek parade on December 13 since our Christmas Party was the night before – really just hours ahead of when we would need to prepare the float. Johnny Brown, however, offered to pick up the float at The After Battery

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on Thursday, taking it to his house, then pull the float for Goose Creek on Saturday and take it to Mount Pleasant afterward.

- Tom has signed up for the Pearl Harbor remembrance at Patriots Point on December 7. He will soon ask for volunteers for the ceremony.

### **HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:**

- Nothing reported.

### **COB – Greg Landry:**

- A picture of the Submarine Veteran license plate is on the Charleston Base website, but Greg asked if everyone has seen the plate.
- Dave Harvey noted that someone in the Southeast Region published that the plate was available, but it will not be until about February.

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

- Nothing to report

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Lou has posted the current flyer for the Christmas Party on Facebook. He requested that Johnny send the text since what is posted is an image without searchable text.
- Lou asked Tom to send info about the Rummage Sale so that he can put it up on Facebook.

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

- Anthony requested use of the float at the next Submarine Ball on April 18, 2026. The Board agreed without question.
- Anthony, COB and others had a brief discussion about how to interest the active duty sailors to join SubVets. In this, we discovered that none of us in the room became SubVet members until sometime after the completion of our active duty. We can let the young sailors know about us, but really cannot expect too much response from those still serving as they have families to take care of.
- The actual number of submarine qualified active duty sailors at NNPTC is very small.
- There was further discussion about students attending our Base Meeting. Some positive aspects were noted, but not all.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey suggested that we discuss activities with nuclear power students at a later date – possibly the January meetings.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- We will review all of the contact info from the fair at the Base Meeting next week.
- Larry is scheduled to be at the Coastal Carolina Fair on its last night.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston dropped to #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
  - Groton 1143 w/65 AM – 2) Hampton Roads 293 w/11 AM – 3) Bremerton 254 w/16 AM – 4) Charleston 246 w/13 AM – 5) Requin 205 w/20 AM
- Nick noted that we have 75 Annual Base Members. We must do what we can to retain these members.

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### **PAO – Bob MacPherson:**

- Bob must resign as PAO due to his health situation. He is not able to perform the job as he desires and must turn over that task to someone else.
- As of now the PAO position is open.

### **USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:**

- We had about 400 people at the Navy Ball.
- The Navy League is not expected to be a sponsor of the Navy Ball next year. They are considering a biennial sponsorship, but they also sponsor the Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.
- Bob has a program called, “Steel Boats and Iron Men”.

### **Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:**

- Kaps for kids is going well at the fair. We have lots of pictures we’ll submit at the end.

### **Vice Commander – Art Sattler:**

- Nothing to report.

### **SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:**

- Ed provided a printout of the sample license plate for everyone to review. He will visit the DMV to get the plate finalized and production started.
- Ed plans to auction/raffle the first plate (SV 00001).
- Charleston Base (Currently Ed Stank) will be the reviewer of SubVet license plate applications. The simple requirement is a DD-214. For those on active duty, they can get the info from their service record to provide proof of submarine qualification.
- The cost of the plate will be \$20 above that of a regular registration. The plates may be available by February 2026.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Not present.
- The Treasurer’s report had been sent.

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- **EM1(SS) Antonio William ‘Tony’ Faella, 103**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 23 October 2025 at home in South Kingstown RI. Tony enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and left in 1945. He qualified on USS SPEARFISH and made 5 war patrols. He was a life member of Submarine Veterans WWII, USSVI National and Groton Base. Tony attended every convention he could with the last one being the 2025 USSVI National Convention in Orlando. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> he and Betty would have been married for 74 years. His service was held on 1 Nov 2025.
- **MMCS(SS) James M. ‘Jim’ McDonald, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 28 September 2025, in Norfolk VA. He was a member of Charleston Base since 2008.
  - \*A memorial service will be held at Deer Park Baptist Church on November 15 1100.
  - \*The service will be conducted by their pastor and Jim’s brother-in-law.

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\*The family has requested Charleston Base to conduct the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling during the service. More information will be coming out later.

- **EMC(SS) John T. Brotherton, 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 12 October 2025. John joined the Navy in 1970 serving 6 years active duty and retired from the Navy Reserves in 1998. He was a life member of National and Charleston Base [2014]. He was a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1974 on USS HAWKBILL SSN-666.  
\*A memorial service will be held in early 2026, location to be announced. The family has requested Charleston Base to conduct the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling during the service
- **Charles Wood** has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. It was diagnosed as Stage 1 when it was first found and developed to Stage 4 in a month.
- **Tom Lawson** had a pacemaker put in late Monday 10 Nov. He stayed overnight and got home on Tue afternoon exhausted. After some sleep he feels much better.
  - \*NOTE: Jerry Stout visited Tom before his pacemaker procedure and he was up and around although still tethered to the Oxygen Generator. His spirits are good and he has gotten out of the house.
- **Bill Hayes** went to the ER on Thursday, 2 Oct. On 3 Oct he had a pacemaker put in. He is home recovering and feeling much better.
- **Bill Roberts** went to the VA hospital 29 October for a Trigger finger. The hand surgery doctor surprised him with a shot in the affected finger and said that it should cure it by Thanksgiving. So far, my finger has not locked up. I was worried I might need surgery. Hope this helps someone else who might have one.
- **Bob Browning** had very serious back surgery on 7 October. He was discharged on Friday 10 October. He is doing very well but is still limited with the BLTs [bending, lifting, twisting...his words]. He has received the help he needs from friends, neighbors and shipmates. Bob is here tonight at his table doing his duty.
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, had a stroke in February 2024 during a heart bypass procedure. They also had to replace her aorta during all of that. She is still recovering.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time. He had spinal surgery to fix issues in his left leg and now he can't use either one. 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. Call before visiting. His number is 843-501-7368
- **Mike & Deborah Knaub** have moved to Daniel Island to an assisted living location. Their 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.
  - \*NOTE: Jerry Stout visited Marvin he only said a few words and was asleep most of the time while he was there. He doesn't get out of bed.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

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### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- I'm planning on reworking our website next year. There are many things on there that using the host analytics I don't see anyone ever checking the pages and information. I hope to streamline it and to give it a cleaner look.
- 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.

### **January BOD Meeting – Nick Nichols:**

- Due to the January BOD Meeting falling on January 1, we cannot cancel, but need to reschedule that meeting. We have a lot of things to discuss at the first of the year. After a bit of discussion, Nick checked on availability of the meeting room and made a motion that we move the January 2026 BOD Meeting to Monday, January 5. Received several seconds and even one third from members in attendance followed by unanimous approval.

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

- The current business cards that we give out has Rick Wise's name and phone number. This must be updated. There was discussion about designing a new card. Nick will do this including placement of a QR code.

### **FRA 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.

### **Scholarship Fund Limit – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick discussed the Scholarship fund and our efforts to raise money for this worthy cause, however he pointed out that last year, there were no applications submitted. Nick suggested that, perhaps our fund raising for the Scholarship Fund should have a limit and anything above that should be donated to another cause. Bob MacPherson suggested that we could donate to the USSVCF as we have had Charleston Base Members assisted by the National CF. Nick echoed this suggestion. We will have further discussion on this.

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

- Nothing reported.

### **SE Conference Committee – David Harvey:**

- Dave talked about the upcoming SE Region Conference in Gulfport, MS.
- Dave expects that we should have at least 40 and possibly 50 people (members/wives) to attend SER–Gulfport.
- The room availability will be for the whole week at \$168.
- There is a train that goes to and from New Orleans twice per day that guests can visit the WWII Museum on days preceding the big SER planned days February 26-28.
- The next USSVI National Convention will be held in Corpus Christi, TX.

### **Base Commander – David Harvey:**

- Nothing to report.

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### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Not present

### **NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:**

- Not present.

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally:**

- Not present.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:**

- Not present.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Not present.

### **FRA – Ken Hutchison:**

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1927.