

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2025

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1804 by Base Commander David Harvey and attended by Tom Lawson III, Woody Woodsmall, Bill Freligh, Johnny Brown, Anthony Mazza, Tom Holcombe, Lewis Leal, Ed Stank, Ricky Collins, Larry Knutson, Art Sattler, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols. We also had Associate Members Linda Nichols, Dee Dee Harvey, and JonAnn Sattler in attendance this evening.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- Tom expressed his appreciation for those who were at his dad's Eternal Patrol Ceremony.
- Tom is expecting applications soon. The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$11,067 and the application deadline is May 1.
- The minimum award amount will be \$1,000. Each award will be reasonable but not excessive.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill has everything in order for the Holland Club Induction to be held at the Base Meeting next week. The new inductees will be:
 - James J. Bargmann – MMCM(SS)
 - Loye Ray Bryant – QMC(SS)
 - A.B. Campbell – MTCS(SS)
 - Marvin Clift – MT1(SS)
 - Donald Donofrio – ICCS(SS)
 - David C. Horton – MS1(SS)
 - Don Kopczynski – FS1(SS)
 - Jay W. Pierce HMCS(SS)
 - Paul D. Reeves II – ETN2(SS)
 - Ray Dean Standfield – CMDCM(SS)
 - Jerry K. Stout – CWO4
 - Ronnie Vandiver – MMCS(SS)
 - Michael J. Welch – YN1(SS)
 - William M. Wilson – STS1(SS)
 - Joseph B. Rodgers – LCDR
 - Olin E. Thomas – CWO4

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- The Riverdogs Baseball Military Appreciation Night is April 3. Johnny purchased 20 tickets and has four left. Charleston Base Submarine Veterans can expect to be announced during the evening. There are three other nights for veterans: May, June and August.
- Johnny talked about the combined SubVet/FRA picnic that we had last year.
- Johnny addressed the fact that some of Charleston Base's equipment has been checked out for an excessive amount of time and it needs to come back to the storage area.
- The 2026 Christmas Party is scheduled for December 11. Johnny is aware of a conflict with another gathering elsewhere, but he stated that we could not have the Christmas Party the week after Thanksgiving or the week before Christmas.

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Anthony reminded everyone about the Submarine Ball on April 18 beginning at 1700. The link is posted on the Base website.
- The plan is to have the float in static display at Trident Tech for the ball.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom reported that Patriot's Point has opened the sail and inspected the Cold War Memorial. Tom is expecting a report on the findings. The outside of the CWM is expected to be painted but will not be done before we hold the Amberjack Ceremony on April 11. Tom will contact Patriot's Point to let them know about our ceremony and to be sure the grass has been cut.
- Tom reviewed the names and availability of the Amberjack participants. Muster at 0930 for the 1000 ceremony.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lewis requested the list of names/qual boats for the Holland Club Induction so that he can include the information into the video. The names are in the BOD Meeting Minutes from last month. The associated qual boats are listed on the Base Sailing List.

SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:

- The Submarine License Plates are available by completing the online form. Membership in USSVI is acceptable proof of eligibility or a copy of your DD214. Be sure to redact your SSN from the form before sending it.
- Ed now has a new SV tag and has turned in his Handicap Tag for a mirror placard. Ed reminded everyone to be sure to turn in your old tag otherwise SCDMV will be looking for you; costing you a \$400 fine.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Ricky talked about the reinvestments (Dividends/Capital Gains) in the Investment Fund. Last year, we had about \$3,600 redeposited. When we pulled the money from the fund for the Submarine License Plates, we had to sell shares to get the cash. If we were to have the quarterly dividends applied to the checking account, we would not have to sell shares. Ricky noted that, while not knowing exactly how much, we pay commission when we sell shares.
- Nick Nichols made the motion with Art Sattler seconding for the Treasurer to direct the dividends/capital gains to the checking account rather than being reinvested in the Investment Fund. Nick emphasized that – just because we have the money – we are not to go spend it on a party.
- Ricky said that our bank charges a fee if the balance in the checking account drops below \$5k. Last year, this happened twice totaling \$14 due to large expenditures that we had. Although it is not a large amount, it is money that we could have kept.
- In discussion, it was suggested to put the money into a high-yield savings account. For this, we would have to open another account which would require a minimum amount of likely \$10k. There was also a suggestion to take half of the dividends into the checking and leave the rest in the Investment Fund to build more capital. Treasurer Rick Collins stated that he can simply make a phone call at any time to have the money go back to reinvestments. Although for the purposes of the motion there is no difference, a distinction was made between dividends/capital gains and where the source of the money is actually derived.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- Following discussion, Base Commander Dave Harvey repeated the motion that the Treasurer is to have the quarterly dividends/capital gains be applied to the Base checking account. The motion passed with no objections.
- There was no discussion regarding the second bank account which is associated with the SER.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- We currently have 243 members and are still fourth in membership of USSVI.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1170 w/70 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 299 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 254 w/17 AM – 4) Charleston 243 w/14 AM

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present.

Little David – Nick Nichols for Phil Nunnally:

- Maintenance is planned for the Little David on April 7.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler:

- The CPR class went well.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:

- Art is still in contact with the hospitals, but they are not responding well to his requests. Other locations were suggested. More discussion will happen outside the meeting.

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.

ETERNAL PATROL

- **FTCS(SS) Thomas W. Lawson, USN Ret., 84**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Thursday, 19 March 2026. He was a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2009 and a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1975 on USS JAMES K. POLK SSBN-645. Tom recently served 6 years as the Base Vice Commander from 2019 to 2025.
 - o Funeral Service was held on March 27th with 31 SUBVETS there.
 - o Inurnment with Military Honors was held Beaufort National Cemetery on March 29th. I know Bob Browning and Gerry Starr attended.
- **FTCM(SS) John Edward Newby, USN Ret., 82**, departed on Eternal Patrol Wednesday, 18 March. He joined the Navy in 1962 retiring in 1992 with 30 years of service. He was not a member of USSVI. He was a member of FRA Branch 269.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

BINNACLE LIST

- **Walt Deal** is in Summerville Hospital Rm 322 diagnosed with double pneumonia. He will be there for a few more days. Having difficulty in getting his O2 level to increase. Visits and calls are welcome. [843-509-7973]
- **Mike Knaub** was scheduled for surgery today. I saw this on the After Battery email.
- **Roger Gibson** is home from the hospital. He went in with possible gall bladder issues. Surgery was not needed and after some tests he was released on 26 March. Visits and calls are welcome. [843-875-4933]
- **Jerry Stout** has been in the VA since 23 March. His discharge date is unknown. Results from meds have not changed much. Visits and calls are welcome. [843-568-5923]
NOTE: Due to being in the hospital Jerry missed Tom Lawson's funeral but sent a note that was read to the family.
- **Jim Higgins** is doing well recovering from having part of his leg amputated. He is going to PT and the leg is healing. He is in good spirits. [843-553-7510]
- **Rick Wise** reports the PET Scan performed March 30 showed that some of the areas of concern have decreased in size and that the bone lesions have not increased in size. Overall, I consider it a good report. He will not be at the April base meeting due to Chemo on April 7. [843.276.0899]
- **Ed Simokat** is now on hospice care. Between hospice and home health he is covered just about every day. If you want to visit, please call first and talk to Judy. [843.810.0383]
- **Don Meadows** has recently had his foot surgery, with many more to come, to correct his problem. He is in a lot of pain.
- **Sonny Rash** is recovering from having part of his leg amputated. [843.345.1430]

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Steve Curry** was diagnosed with AFIB and congenital heart failure in July 2025. He is on 24/7 oxygen with very limited travel. Phone calls are welcome [843.270.9905]
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, is still recovering from a stroke in 2024 during a heart bypass.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings.
- **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 or [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 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 – Nick Nichols:

- The National website has been down since last Thursday. The new website is due to be back online around midnight Friday morning 3 April. I had the privilege to be a beta tester on the

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

new site. It has been put together well but you will notice a total change in how to navigate it. It definitely looks different and is more graphical. I'm sure there will be many questions on how to find info and how to operate the site. I can help with that. Also, I believe they are planning to have short tutorial videos for everyone, if not immediately at least very soon. All the info we had on the old site is there just a matter of where to find it.

- 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.
- 2026 Submarine Birthday Ball is 18 April 1700-2230 at the Trident Tech Center. Cost is \$76.54 for SUBVETS and guest. Uniforms: Vest Uniform or Charleston Tuxedo or Military Uniform.

Contacts – Nick Nichols:

- Please add names, phone numbers and email addresses of all BOD members to your phone contacts. Or create a link to the officer's page of the website and add it to your home page on your phone.

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- Everyone should be carrying 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.

FRA– Nick Nichols:

- At the April SUBVET meeting we will have a 'Break the Table Challenge' for our attending members. FRA Auxiliary is supports the VA **Curbside Veterans Delivery**, which is a program to help feed hungry veterans. There is a box on a table in the bar area for you to bring items that can be used in this program.
 - Items include: cans of meat/vegetables/soup/stew/fruit, peanut butter, box of noodles/Ramen/rice, ready meals Mac & Cheese, cereal/oatmeal, etc.
- There are some new rules we must follow at the fleet when attending a SUBVET meeting:
 - If you are an FRA member you can go into the bar area anytime you want to.
 - If you are not an FRA member, use the bartenders in our meeting room to order food and drinks.
 - If you bring a guest and you are an FRA member the guest can enter the bar area as long as you (the FRA member) sign them in the guest log at the bar.
 - If you bring a guest and you are not an FRA member then you and guest must stay in the meeting room unless an FRA member signs you into the guest log at the bar.
- If you are not an FRA member, consider joining. Support the FRA as they support SUBVETS by allowing our use of the meeting room.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey:

- The float is at the weld shop getting mounted to the new trailer. It is extremely light and must have some extra weight added to put some weight on the tongue, but is supposed to be ready in time for display at the Sub Ball.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Manitowoc – Dave Harvey/Tom Holcombe:

- Dave plans to tow the float to Manitowoc this year rather than have it transported by truck.
- Since we are expecting a group from Charleston Base attending the Manitowoc event, Tom researched the hotel room rates and also found a four bedroom (all queens) /three bath AIR B/B about two miles from the location. He has booked the AIR B/B for four nights.

Base Commander – David Harvey:

- Dave emphasized that we need to have good representation at all of our SubVet Funerals.
- Tom Lawson noted that, even though it listed his dad's submarines where he was stationed, the DD214 which he had to present to the cemetery did not show his dad's (SS) designation on his rank, therefore they would not put the (SS) on the headstone.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Not present.

PAO – Jerry Stout:

- Not present

USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:

- Not present.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1901.