

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2026

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Dave Harvey and attended by Tom Lawson III, Ricky Collins, Bob MacPherson, Tom Holcombe, Woody Woodsmall, Larry Knutson, Ed Stank, Gordon Long, Art Sattler, and Nick Nichols,. Associated Members Linda Nichols, Dee Dee Harvey and Carolyn Berry also attended the Board Meeting.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- The balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$5,333.
- The \$150 for the SubVet flag has been paid from the raffle tickets. Tom has provided all money in his possession to the Base Treasurer Ricky Collins.
- Tom is prepared to do a proper turnover of duties of Scholarship Chairman.
- Base Commander will ask for a replacement at the Base Meeting next week.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Nothing to report.

USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:

- Bob reported that the Daniel Webster MTS-626 has left – making her final trip down the Cooper River under tow.
- As a member of the Navy League, Bob attended the “Commander’s Tour” at NPTU and found it to be interesting. For the next one, he wants to get SubVets to be part of it. Although Bob was not able get aboard, he was next to one of his old boats – now numbered as MTS-711.
- Although USSVCF agreed to help fund striking of commemorative coins to be provided to all of the Webster final crew members, what was actually made was nothing like what was requested by USSVCF. The Webster members now have about 1,000 coins – geared only toward the final tow – which they will likely be unable to sell. Bob offered the BOD Members a chance to purchase the Webster coin.
- The design requested by USSVCF was supposed to commemorate the “Last of the 41 for Freedom” on one side and the Daniel Webster on the other side. USSVCF will have their own coins made to the original concept.
- The USSVCF continues to function in all its roles.

NAVY Ball – Bob MacPherson:

- Bob has tickets reserved for SubVets for the 2026 Navy Ball to be held on October 17 at the Redbank Club. The tickets are selling out quickly, so get online and order the tickets.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom had been asked about participating in other parades at the last meeting. Since that time, he has done some inquiries such as Elloree and Harleyville. As of this point, they have not set dates. He hopes to get some information soon. Tom will send an email soon to gauge interest in various locations. Dave Harvey reported that the parade dates for Elloree and Summerville are December 12 and 13 respectively. At this point, Tom is planning for Goose Creek and Mount Pleasant, which are the same dates. Tom will work out details at the October BOD and Base Meetings.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- We currently have 239 members and are still fourth in membership of USSVI.
- Annual Dues are due next month (October).
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - o Groton 1060 w/39 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 304 w/12 AM – 3) Bremerton 271 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 239 w/19 AM

SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:

- Ed stated that some are sending DMV \$20 for the SubVet plate, but are failing to include the normal registration fee resulting in a rejection from DMV. The registration is required since the plate number is now different.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

NPS Awards – Gordon Long for Phil Nunnally:

- The next NPS graduation will be September 11.
- Meet at NEX at 0800 to carpool.

Little David – Gordon Long for Phil Nunnally:

- Inspected Little David. No work is needed this Fall. Phil will provide complete report at the Base Meeting next week.

Newsletter – Gordon Long for Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Gordon Long for Glenn Little:

- If anyone who has photographs, Glenn is archiving SubVet pictures. Please send him copies of the files.

BBQ Competition – Art Sattler

- Johnny Brown will be participating in the SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BBQ Competition again this year. Just as last year, he is asking to display the SubVets Banner at his cook site, have the team's name as "Charleston Submarine Veterans" and have some information available like he did previously. There is no cost to Charleston Base.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- Art Sattler made a motion to permit Johnny to do this. The motion was seconded by several. The board had no objections and gave the OK to use the SubVets banner, name the team “**Charleston Submarine Veterans**” and have our information available.

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

- **TMC(SS) Edward J. Simokat II, 82**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 7 July at his home. His funeral service was on Wednesday, 19 Aug with 20 SUBVETS in attendance.
- **TMC(SS) Steve H. Curry, 72**, departed on Eternal Patrol on the morning of 4 July. His Memorial service was held on Saturday, 29 Aug with 17 SUBVETS attending.
- **MM2/CM1ISS) Thomas Skorepa, 82**, departed on Eternal patrol on 14 August 2026 in Columbia SC. Tom joined the Navy in 1962 and left in 1966. He reenlisted in the Navy in 1980 and retired in 1999. He joined USSVI / Charleston Base in 2003 and became a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base in 2004. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1962 on USS ENTEMEDOR SS-340. After reenlisting as a Seabee, his rate changed to CM [Construction Mechanic]. He was assigned to USN Reserve Construction Battalion 14 in Charleston SC and was the AOIC when he retired. Additionally, Tom was a Member of FRA Branch 269 for the last 13 years joining in 2013.
 - A memorial service will be held at Santee Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Sept 5th.
 - A graveside service will be held at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Road, Columbia, South Carolina, on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., with military honors.
- **EMCS(SS) Kwock Gong Kam, 91**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 23 March 2025 in Summerville SC. Kwock joined the Navy in 1952 and retired in 1972. He joined USSVI / Charleston Base as a Life Member in 2016. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1953 on USS SEA LEOPARD SS-483. He was qualified in submarines for 73 years. He also served on USS POMODON SS-486, USS TUNNY SS-282, USS HALIBUT SSN-587, ULYSSES S GRANT SSBN-631 and USS GUARDFISH SSN-612. His shore duty was at FBMSTC Charleston SC. Services and Burial were held on 23 May 2025 in Pensacola FL at Barrancas National Cemetery.

Between July and August, we had six shipmates depart on Eternal Patrol, seven if you count Kam who we just found out about.

BINNACLE LIST

Please understand I will not put out information on any member unless he or his family has authorized it. I do want to know anything you learn but if it doesn't hit the printed binnacle list you know why.

- Ken Farrell has been diagnosed with cancer on his vertebrae. He has completed two radiation treatments as of 19 August which is all he'll have this year.
- Ray Stanfield was in the hospital recently for an MRI.
- Larry Pepper recently had a pacemaker put in. He is doing well.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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 – Nick Nichols:

- 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 Job Descriptions – Nick Nichols:

- With all the funerals I have worked on I have not had time to finish the D&R file. That will be ready to be reviewed at the October meeting.

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 – Nick Nichols:

- Continue to remember the rules for entering the bar at the meetings. [SECRETARY'S NOTE: If you need to review what these are, please go to the Base Website and look at the May/June BOD or Base Meeting Minutes.]

PAO – Dave Harvey (Acting):

- Dave Harvey has sent pictures and an articles to American Submariner about both Manitowoc and the Daniel Webster.

SER Conference – Dave Harvey:

- The SE Regional Conference will be held in Kings Bay on March 25-27, 2027.
- The Conference needs \$3k in start-up funds. Dave wants Charleston Base to provide \$1,500 (half) and the other bases will have to raise the remainder. Art Satler presented the motion for Charleston Base to front \$1,500 in seed money that will be paid back by the SER Conference. Tom Holcombe seconded the motion. Base Treasurer Ricky Collins asked when the check is needed and reminded the Board of the pending expenses of the Christmas Party. Dave stated that the check for the seed money can wait until the New Year. The motion carried without objection. This request will be presented to the members at the Base Meeting next week.
- Dave noted that all checks for the conference need to be written to USSVI because of the bank's rules.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2026 Christmas Party – Dave Harvey:

- Dave Harvey stated that he was unable to find a caterer for Friday, December 11, but has one with availability on Thursday December 10. Dave read two different menus – with/without beef and listed the prices.
- Nick asked about the cost for previous Christmas parties. Base Treasurer Ricky Collins reported that the cost for 2024/2025 was \$4,453/3630 respectively.

USSVI 2029 National Convention – Dave Harvey:

- Dave talked about the convention space requirements at the hotel with respect to meeting rooms, vendor and gathering areas. The Charleston Marriott hotel near Brittlebank park does meet all of those requirements. We would, however like to stay out of downtown due to parking issues – especially availability and cost.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler:

- Nothing reported.

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:

- Nothing reported.

Base Commander – Dave Harvey:

- Dave discussed the Charleston Base offices which need positions filled: Scholarship, Public Affairs, Recreation
- Dave discussed the annual Base By-Laws review. Nick Nichols noted that we normally assign a committee for this each April.
- Dave discussed Submarine Advocacy Group – SAG.
- Dave discussed the work performed for Charleston Base by various officers – most notably Nick as Chaplain. Dave does not see this amount of effort put forth by other bases.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey:

- Nothing Reported.

Not Present at Tonight's Meeting: (In no particular order)

COB – Greg Landry

Holland Club – Bill Freligh

FRA – Ken Hutchison

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza

Social Media – Lewis Leal

VA – Fred Bolz

Phil Nunnally – Reports provided via email

Glenn Little – Report provided via email

Meeting adjourned at 1900.