

Summary

The meeting focused on forming a new submarine veterans base. Key decisions included naming the base "Appalachian," electing officers (Ron Bennett as commander, Brian Rieck as vice commander, John Harmon as secretary, and David Allen as treasurer), and setting monthly meetings for the second Saturday of each month at 2 PM. The base will use the Kingsport VFW Post as its physical address. Membership dues will be determined at a future meeting. The group also discussed the need for a logo and the possibility of remote meeting attendance via Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14.

Attendance

First	MI	Last
Mark		Adler
David	S.	Allen
Ron		Bennett
Gary		Christopher
Frank	E.	D'Amato
Stan		Gedelman
Dan		Gibbons
Raymond		Hajny
John	W.	Harmon
Michael		Hatfield
Bryson		Hyskell
Gil		Kaelin
Barbara (Bobbie)		Killgore
Carlos (Chuck)		Killgore
Phillip	D.	Leonard
James (Jim)		Long
Richard		Morgan
Brian	K.	Rieck
Dan		Stophel
John (Jes)	E.	Sutton
David		Williams
Rick		Wilson

Action Items

- John Harmon – maintain the master roster (aka sailing list)
- Any members submit logo designs to Brian before next meeting
- Someone volunteer as storekeeper for the base (manage vests, patches, hats and merchandise and coordinate orders and distribution).
- John Harmon – Investigate and set up a remote meeting solution (Zoom/Teams/Jitsi or similar) to enable remote participation at future base meetings and report recommended platform/options to the group.

- Register and establish the base physical address using the Kingsport VFW Post address for official registration and government/organization filings.
- Ron Bennett – draft bylaws for submission to district commander
- John Harmon – update roster for charter submission
- Regional Director – submit charter request to National

Minutes

Base Formation and Initial Setup

- Brian takes the gavel and introduces the meeting, mentioning the need to name the base, select officers, and vote on bylaws.
- Brian opens the meeting and leads a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Brian thanks special guest William Sauer from Virginia Beach for his support and Marlin Helms, Central Region District 5 Commander for his participation.
- Brian outlines the roles of various officers, including base commander, vice commander, secretary, and treasurer.

Officer Nominations and Elections

- Brian calls for a break to allow members to sign in and nominate officer positions.
- The break also allows people to nominate base names and logos.
- Brian leads the group in introducing themselves and their qualifications.
- Marlin Helms explains the process of voting and the importance of having dues-paying members.
- Brian conducts the election for base commander, vice commander, secretary, and treasurer. Results:
 - Ron Bennett as commander
 - Brian Rieck as vice commander
 - John Harmon as secretary
 - David Allen as treasurer
- Marlin Helms swears in the four newly-elected officers.

Base Name Selection and Logo Discussion

- Ron takes the gavel from Brian.
- Ron asks for the officer terms (e.g., one-year, two-year) and when they are voted on.
- The members voted that the four officers' term be two years and that the commander and treasurer be voted on in odd years; and, the vice commander and secretary be voted on in even years.
- Ron discusses the need to select a base name and physical address.
- The group votes on various base name options, with "Appalachia" being the top choice.
- The group votes that "Appalachian" will be the base name.

- Ron proposes using the Kingsport VFW Post as the physical address (830 Minga Rd., Kingsport, TN 37663).
- The group agrees to meet monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 2 PM.
- Ron suggests creating a committee to design a logo for the base.
- The members request that anyone can submit a proposed logo to Brian for a vote at the next meeting and all agreed.

Bylaws and Meeting Procedures

- Ron explains the importance of adopting bylaws and the process for making changes.
- The group votes to adopt the boilerplate bylaws as written by USSVI, filling in placeholders (e.g., base name) and adjusting rules based upon decisions voted on during this meeting.
- Ron discusses the need for a nomination committee and the process for holding elections.
- The group decides to allow remote attendance via Zoom or similar technology.
- Ron outlines the responsibilities of the various officers and the importance of maintaining membership.

Future Plans and Community Engagement

- Ron mentions the possibility of fundraising and community engagement activities.
- The group discusses the importance of attending events like the Veterans Fair on March 25.
- Ron encourages members to volunteer for various roles and committees.
- The group plans to meet again on March 14 to continue their discussions and finalize details.
- Ron thanks everyone for their participation and contributions to the meeting.

Proposed Chaplain said a prayer.

Ron adjourned the meeting.

Approved

I certify that these minutes have been approved by the base membership.



Base Commander

14 MAR 2026

Date