

# USSVI APPALACHIAN BASE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

18 APR 2026 1400 HRS

AmVets Post 5, Bristol, VA



# AGENDA

- Member Sign-in
- Call to Order
- Zoom Protocols 
- Moment of Silence
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Reading of the USSVI Creed
- Tolling of the Boats 
- Introductions
  - USSVI Officials
  - New Members
  - Guests
- Ice Breaker (15 minutes) 
- Adoption of Minutes
  - Action Item Review 
- Adoption of Treasurer's Report
- Announcements
- Correspondence
- Reports
  - Binnacle List 
  - Membership
  - Program
  - Fundraising
  - Storekeeper
  - Newsletter
  - Web/Media
- Break (10 minutes)
- Old Business
- New Business
- Good of the Order
- Open Floor
- Benediction
- Adjourn

# MOMENT OF SILENCE

- Prisoners of War (PoW)
- Missing in Action (MiA)
- On Eternal Patrol:
  - Those that lost their lives defending our nation while serving in the US Submarine Force
  - Those that lost their lives defending our nation while serving in Epic Fury

# INVOCATION

## Eternal Father:

We humbly approach You with our petition for blessings upon our nation, military, navy, submarine force, and veterans. Guide our leaders into Your wisdom that they may serve Your mission. Enable the United States to be a blessing to all the other nations, promoting peace and the love You have shown toward us. And when we falter, we ask for Your great mercy, redirecting us on Your path. We thank you for the liberties we enjoy and the privilege to have served in protecting them. In Your holy name we pray. **Amen!**

## USSVI CREED

The purpose/creed of USSVI is to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country; that their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments; and, to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its constitution.

In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all Submariners to gather for mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine force.

The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifices. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers and sisters performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and lifestyle we enjoy today.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ① Base Web Site: <https://USSVIAppalachianBase.org/>
- ① Base Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022215555028032>
- ① US Submarine Force Strength 

# CORRESPONDENCE

- ① *New USSVI Web Site: [USSubVets.org](http://USSubVets.org) or [USSVI.org](http://USSVI.org)* 
- ① *Secure Message Scam – From Tim Carlisle (National Sr. Vice Commander and CTO)*
- ① *Shipmate Fire Victim – GoFundMe: [www.gofundme.com/f/rebuilding-after-the-fire-support-our-friend-the-halldays](http://www.gofundme.com/f/rebuilding-after-the-fire-support-our-friend-the-halldays)*

# OLD BUSINESS

## Remote Meeting Technology Deployment – Zoom

## Appalachian Base Logo

- Committee Formed Last Meeting
- Vote on Logo 

## Appointments:

- Membership Chair: Brian Rieck (Vice Commander)
- Logo Chair: Brian Rieck (Vice Commander)
- Logo Committee: Gil Kaelin, Jim Long
- KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Chair: Gary Christopher
- Web/Media Master: Alex Price (co-worker with Brian Rieck)

# OLD BUSINESS

- 👤 **Membership Committee – Volunteer with Vice Commander**
  - Recruiting Events – Partner or Schedule Events (e.g., Veteran Fair, Appalachian Fair, VA)
  - Recruiting Items – Table Sign/Cover, Tent, Swag, Certificate, Challenge Coins
- 👤 **Programming Committee – Volunteer with Secretary**
  - Charity – USSVI Foundation, KAP(SS)4KID(SS), Boat Sponsorship
  - Community Engagement – Monuments at Veteran Memorials, Parades, Schools
  - Base Activities – Events/Venues, Cadence, Wives' Involvement
  - Membership Recognition – Rickover Club, Holland Club, Sailor of the Year
- 👤 **Fundraising Committee – Volunteer with Treasurer**
  - Raffles, Silent Auction, 50/50
  - Meals – Bring in prepared food and serve (sell tickets), Base activity charges
  - Advertising, Donations

# OLD BUSINESS

## **Volunteers Needed (see Vice Commander):**

- Chief of the Base (CoB)
- Newsletter Editor
- Parliamentarian

## **Bank Account Opened – Eastman Credit Union, Gray, TN**

## **Base Dues are Due! Grace period ends 31 MAY**

- Pay Treasurer or send to base address:

USSVI Appalachian Base



c/o Treasurer

830 Minga Road

Kingsport, TN 37663

- Checks Payable To: USSVI – Appalachian Base
- Transfers – Update Primary and (optionally) Dual Membership Bases Online

# NEW BUSINESS

-  **Meeting Days/Times**
  - Next Meeting Scheduled for 09 MAY – Mother's Day weekend
    - Suggestion was to move to Third Saturday in May
  - Second Saturday works in June to avoid Father's Day
  - Looking further, second Saturday works rest of year
-  **Interest in Veteran Service Officer (VSO)/Benefit Advisor Session**
  - American Legion Post 255/MFW Post 4933 VSO – Cecil Carter
  - Special Session or Invitation to Regular Meeting

# NEW BUSINESS

## Fundraising Limitations

- TN: NOT Registered with State as Foreign Entity and Charitable Organization (\$600)
  - Cannot raise funds from general public
  - No games of chance allowed (e.g., 50/50)
- VA: NOT Registered with State as Foreign Entity
  - Cannot raise funds from general public
  - Fundraising and gaming subject to audit (\$20K)
- USSVI (and the base) are 501(c)(19) with less than 90% wartime veterans
  - Contributions to the base are NOT tax deductible

## Possible Work Arounds

- VFW Post 4933 (base host) is 501(c)(19) with 100% wartime veterans – tax deductible contributions
  - VFW Post 4933 is Registered with TN as Corp. and Charitable Organization
  - Contributions may be passed through VFW Post 4933 to allow contributors' tax deductions
- USSVI Foundation is 501(c)(3) and Registered with some states for fundraising with the general public
  - Experimental: Use Foundation as Pass-through
- Fundraising Committee to explore

# GOOD OF THE ORDER

## More Donations Received

- Gold Fringe Ensign with Gold Tassels and Flagpole with Eagle Topper
- USSVI Flagpole with Ball Topper
- Flag Spreaders
- Two Cash Drawers

## Recruiting

- Veteran's Fair – 25 MAR 2026 1000-1600 HRS 
- VFW Post 4933/American Legion Post 255 at VA Mountain Home – 08 APR 2026 1000-1400 HRS 

# GOOD OF THE ORDER

## Darth Rickover Award

- Brian Rieck
- For professional achievement in the scouting and recruiting of new members for USSVI and the Appalachian Base, exceptional results in building a new base to nearly 30 members in three months, and for going above and beyond the call to duty in developing relationships that reflect highly on our organization and the ideals it espouses.



# BENEDICTION

**Heavenly Father:**

We are grateful for the privilege of this meeting and serving You. We ask Your protection upon our shipmates who defend and protect us on land and at sea. Grant us safe passage home and set our hearts on fire with the motivation to forward Your mission until we meet again.

**Amen!**

# ADJOURNED

## Next Meeting

09 MAY 2026 1400 HRS

AmVets Post 5, Bristol, VA

Appalachian Base: 830 Minga Rd., Kingsport, TN 37663 | [Appalachian.Base.USSVI@gmail.com](mailto:Appalachian.Base.USSVI@gmail.com) | (423) 398-1778

Commander: Ron Bennett | [R1Bennett@Outlook.com](mailto:R1Bennett@Outlook.com) | (512) 535-1773

Vice Commander (PoC): Brian Rieck | [SaxMusicGospel@Yahoo.com](mailto:SaxMusicGospel@Yahoo.com) | (423) 384-4464

Secretary (TOOLS): John Harmon | [John@MarionCS.com](mailto:John@MarionCS.com) | (276) 685-3601

Treasurer: David Allen | [DAllen3939@Gmail.com](mailto:DAllen3939@Gmail.com) | (541) 244-0209

Chaplain: Jes Sutton | [JesSutton@Hotmail.com](mailto:JesSutton@Hotmail.com) | (423) 342-7169



# APPENDIX

USSVI Appalachian Base Membership Meeting



# ZOOM PROTOCOLS

- *Remote Attendees will see just the presentation and are muted during the meeting*
- *Cannot participate in ice breakers, 50/50, or other in-person activities*
- *Making a Motion, Point of Order, Question, or Discussion (Members Only)*
  - *Raise Zoom hand – Secretary will monitor, proxy the request to have the floor, and unmute when the Commander gives them the floor*
  - *The remote member will state their motion, ask their question, or participate in a discussion*
  - *Secretary will mute them upon giving up the floor*
- *Voting (Members Only)*
  - *When voting in the affirmative, raise Zoom hand when Commander asks for Ayes; similarly, when voting in the negative*
  - *Secretary will count votes from remote members and report to the Commander*

# TOLLING OF THE BOATS

Date	Boat	Loss
03 APR 1943	USS Pickerel (SS-177)	74 shipmates lost
08 APR 1945	USS Snook (SS-279)	84 shipmates lost
10 APR 1963	USS Thresher (SSN-593)	129 shipmates lost
18 APR 1944	USS Gudgeon (SS-211)	79 shipmates lost
20 APR 1926	USS S-49 (SS-160)	4 shipmates lost
22 APR 1943	USS Grenadier (SS-210)	4 shipmates captured as PoW
24 APR 1988	USS Bonefish (SS-582)	3 shipmates lost

Shipmates, rest your oars

# BLUE NOSE ICE BREAKER

- **Instructions**
  - Fill up your bingo card by finding shipmates that served on each class of boats
  - Write their last name and the hull number they served on
  - Have the shipmate initial in the square
- First one to give the Commander a completed card wins
- After 15 minutes, time will be called and the one with the most filled in squares will be the winner
- Prize: Five (5) 50/50 Tickets

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>SS/SSK/SSG (DBF)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN 571</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN 578 (Skate)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN 585 (Skipjack)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____
<b>SSN 594 (Permit)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN 637 (Sturgeon)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN 688 (Los Angeles)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN-21 (Seawolf)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____
<b>SSN 774 (Virginia)</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSBN Poseidon</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSBN Trident</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSGN Trident</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____
<b>DSV</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN SpecOps</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>SSN One-of-a-Kind</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____	<b>AS Sub Tender</b> Name: _____ Hull: _____ Initial: _____

Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ HRS      Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ HRS

# ACTION ITEMS

Item	Assignment	Due	Status
Deploy Remote Meeting Technology (Zoom)	Secretary	18 APR	Completed
Develop Base Web Site Phase 1	Web Master	18 APR	In Progress
Submit more than 2 logos for member vote	Logo Committee	18 APR	Completed
Volunteers – Open Positions	All	18 APR	In Progress
Donations – Multiple Items	All	18 APR	Completed
Pay Base Dues	All	31 MAY	In Progress

# NATIONAL WEB SITE

**- Welcome to USSVI -**

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

**Member Login**

**Find a Base**

**USSVI Members**

**Eternal Patrol**

**Bismarck List**

**Boats & Crews**

**Boat Reunions**

**Lost Boats**

**Sub Memorials**

**Sub School Plus**

**Today in History**

**Walk of Honor**

**Officers**

**USSVI Magazine**

**Communications**

**USSVC**

**Kids & Kids**

**Awards**

**Calendars**

**Conventions**

**Documents**

**Links**

**USSVI History**

**Store/keep**

**Video**

**SubVet News**

**Contact USSVI**

**Got a Problem?**

You are  
Visitor #  
**2,714,457**

**the National Office**  
USSVI  
PO Box 1063  
Groton, CT 06340-1063  
(360) 337-2978  
[ussvi@telebyte.net](mailto:ussvi@telebyte.net)  
Prospective USSVI members  
Call 1-877-542-Dive



We now have **11,327** members

**USS L Y Spear (AS-36)**  
Different boat displayed on each visit (click on name for more information)



Official Navy Photo



<http://www.bluejacket.com>



Official Navy Photo

**The purpose/creed of USSVI is to perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments, and to pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.**


**In addition to perpetuating the memory of departed shipmates, USSVI shall provide a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie. The USSVI supports a strong U.S. Submarine Force.**

**The organization will engage in various projects and deeds that will bring about the perpetual remembrance of those shipmates who have given the supreme sacrifice. The organization will also endeavor to educate all third parties it comes in contact with about the services our submarine brothers performed and how their sacrifices made possible the freedom and**

**Special Alerts**

[Base Website](#)

3/26/1945  
[USS Trigger \(SS-237\)](#)  
click Title to see full Alert

About Us - Visitors -  [Join](#) [Login](#)

**United States Submarine Veterans**

Perpetuating the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country.

[Join USSVI](#) [Our History](#)

**Our Creed**

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country that their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice may be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments.

[Join The USSVI](#)

**Our Purpose**

USSVI provides a way for all submariners to gather for their mutual benefit and enjoyment. Our common heritage as Submariners shall be strengthened by camaraderie.

[USSVI History](#)

**Why You Belong**

Whether you are/ere an E-2, a 4 star admiral, or anything in between, if you are QUALIFIED IN SUBMARINES and have honorably served, you belong in USSVI.

[Charitable Foundation](#)

Before

After

# BINNACLE LIST

- *Jes Sutton*
- *Michael Hatfield*

# BASE LOGO GROUND RULES

- Logo Committee submitted more than two (2) logos, per the carried motion
- Base members will vote on one, and only one, logo
- The logo with the most votes will become the base logo
- There will be no vote or discussion about modifying any of the logos
  - The logos submitted by the Logo Committee will be voted on as-is, with no modifications
  - Members had an opportunity to serve on the Logo Committee to have their inputs heard
  - Those on the Logo Committee were free to submit what they saw fit
- Voting will be by a show of hands
  - The Secretary will count the vote for each logo, including those on Zoom
  - Please, only vote for one logo

# BASE LOGO

#1

#2

#3



# VETERAN'S FAIR



# VA MOUNTAIN HOME

