



USSVI APPALACHIAN BASE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

08 AUG 2026 1400 HRS

AmVets Post 5 Bingo Hall, 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
- Adoption of JUL Minutes
 - Action Item Review
- Adoption of JUL Treasurer's Report
- Break (5 minutes)
- Announcements
- Correspondence
- Reports
 - Binnacle List
 - Membership
 - Program
 - Fundraising
 - Storekeeper
 - Newsletter
 - Web/Media
- Break (5 minutes)
- Old Business
- New Business
- Good of the Order
- Open Floor
- Benediction
- Adjourn



MOMENT OF SILENCE

Stand and uncover

Please join in a moment of silence to remember the sacrifices of:

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





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!**



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Cover and Face the Ensign

Present Arms

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America;

And to the Republic for which it stands;

One nation, under God, indivisible;

With liberty and justice for all.

Order Arms



USSVI CREED

Uncover

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.



TOLLING OF THE BOATS

Date	Boat	Loss
06 AUG 1945	USS Bullhead (SS-332)	84 shipmates lost
13 AUG 1944	USS Flier (SS-250)	78 shipmates lost
24 AUG 1944	USS Harder (SS-257)	79 shipmates lost
26 AUG 1949	USS Cochino (SS 345)	7 shipmates lost (1 lost on Cochino) (6 sailors lost from Tusk during rescue)

Shipmates, rest your oars

Cover and be seated



ACTION ITEMS

Item	Assignment	Due	Status
Volunteers – Open Positions	All	Ongoing	In Progress
Base Store Catalog on Website	Web Master	12 SEP	In Progress
Expand Store Catalog	Storekeeper	Ongoing	In Progress



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i** Temporary Base Web Site: <https://vfw4933.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=158931>
- i** Base Web Site: <https://USSVIAppalachianBase.org/>
- i** Base Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USSVIAppalachianBase>
- i** Annual Report filed with USSVI National
- i** Base Newsletter published – AUG 2026



CORRESPONDENCE

- ❖ USSVCF (Charitable Organization) Newsletter
- ❖ Verify YOUR profile in the USSVI National Web Site
 - Name, address, phone number, e-mail address
 - USSVI Information: Base (or Dual) = Appalachian – *when dues are paid*
 - Use Feedback Form to report issues
 - Membership Communications (Cc: Regional Director and District Commander)
- ❖ 2026 National Election On-Line Voting: 07 JUL – 05 SEP
 - Election Buddy e-mails (invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com) were sent with Web address (URL) and instructions
 - *American Submariner* has a physical mail-in ballot
- ❖ 2026 USSVI National Convention in Corpus Christi





BINNACLE LIST

- Jes Sutton (Chaplain)
- Chuck Kilgore
- Vernon Wells (new member)



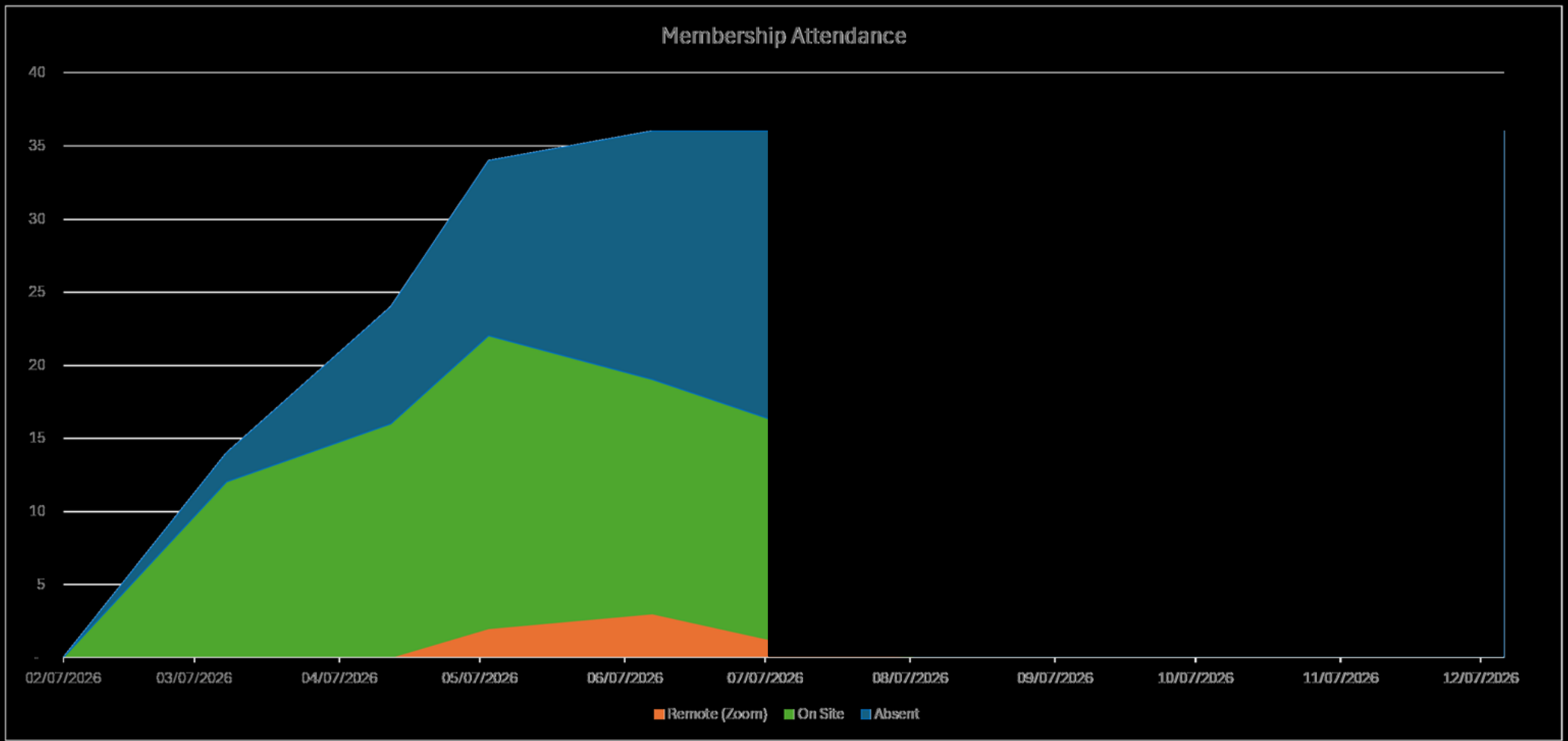
MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

Summary	Population	Good Standing	
	Quantity	National	Base
Person Types	78	37	37
Prospect	41	-	
Member	37	37	37
Prospect Type	41	-	-
Recruit	11	-	-
Interest	14	-	-
Applied	-	-	-
Transfer	16	-	-
Member Type	37	37	37
Plank Owner	21	21	21
Charter	12	12	12
Regular	1	1	1
Dual - Regular	1	1	1
Dual - Associate	-	-	-
Associate - Plank Owner	1	1	1
Associate - Charter	1	1	1
Associate	-	-	-

Summary	Population	Good Standing	
	Quantity	National	Base
Volunteers	16		
Elected Officers	4		
Appointed Officers	3		
Appointed Positions	5		
Committee Members	4		
Geography	77	37	37
TN	58	27	27
VA	17	10	10
WA	1	-	-
FL	1	-	-
Age	51	35	35
<26	1	1	1
26-35	-	-	-
36-45	1	-	-
46-55	6	4	4
56-65	11	10	10
66-75	15	13	13
76-85	14	7	7
>85	3	-	-



MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE





OLD BUSINESS

Appointments

- Newsletter Editor: Harry Heisner
- Fundraising Committee Chair: Gil Kaelin
- Fundraising Committee Member: Frank D'Amato
- Membership Committee Member: Raymond Hajny

Volunteer Opportunities

- Librarian/Historian
- Parliamentarian
- Committee Members – Membership, Program, and Fundraising



OLD BUSINESS

Content Committee (temporary)

- Determine Content Taxonomy (e.g., Gallery, News, Correspondence, Commander's Corner)
- Assign Content Owners (e.g., Commander owns Commander's Corner)
- Define Content Publishing Platforms (e.g., Newsletter, Website, Facebook)
- Operationalize Content Publishing – Overlap across Platforms vs Platform Specific & Publishing Process
- Minimum Committee Membership: Platform Administrators (i.e., Newsletter Editor, Web Master, Facebook Admin)

Needed: Committee Chair & Members

Program/Membership Committee – Table Setup

- Tablecloth
- Table Sign



NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

-  At Least Two Members not Running for Office
 - Appointment in OCT (SEP this year)
 - Present Nominations for Elected Offices in NOV
 - Elections are in DEC
 - This Year: Vice Commander and Secretary

Membership Drive

- Bristol Motor Speedway
- 17-19 SEP 1000 – 1800 HRS
-  Volunteers Needed
-  Challenge Coin Issuance to New Members Upon Base Dues Payment



NEW BUSINESS

Base Picnic

 Picnic Date: 10 OCT (instead of regular meeting at AmVets Bingo)

- Time: 1200 – 1500
- Location: Steel Creek Park, Bristol, TN; VFW Shelter

 Funding Budget: \$500

- Shelter Rental
- Hamburgers & Hotdogs
- Drinks
- Paper/Plastic Wear

 Potluck Side Dishes and Desserts

- Agenda: Fun & Awards



NEW BUSINESS

i Gun Raffle Proposal

- Tickets: \$25 each
- Three Drawings on One Set of Tickets
 - 1st Prize: Henry Classic 22 Rifle
 - 2nd Prize: 12 Gauge Shotgun
 - 3rd Prize: \$25 Rural King Gift Card
- Raffle Held during NOV meeting
- Decision Point to Cut Bait with low ticket sales

e Interest Poll



Henry Classic 22 S/L/LR 15/17/21+1
Lever Action Rifle



TR RZ17 Tactical 12 Gauge Pump
Action 18.5" Shotgun RZ17TAC



GOOD OF THE ORDER

Veteran Voices

- Brian Aired on 19 JUN
- Ron
Interviewed 01 JUL & 05 AUG

 Base logo hangs on host VFW facility

 Neon Logo coming soon to inside





BENEDICTION

Stand and uncover

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

12 SEP 2026 1400 HRS

AmVets Post 5 Bingo Hall, Bristol, VA

Position	Name	E-mail
Commander	Ron Bennett	Commander@USSVIAppalachianBase.org
Vice Commander	Brian Rieck	ViceCommander@USSVIAppalachianBase.org
Secretary	John Harmon	Secretary@USSVIAppalachianBase.org
Treasurer	David Allen	Treasurer@USSVIAppalachianBase.org
Chaplain	Jes Sutton	Chaplain@USSVIAppalachianBase.org



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



Send new ideas to Storekeeper

BASE STORE

Item	Image	QR	Cost (USD)
Base Decal			5
Base Patch			8
Base Ball Cap			20
Base Challenge Coin (Silver Dolphins)			20
Base Challenge Coin (Mustang Dolphins)			20



BASE DUES

Membership	National (USD)		Base (USD)	Combined (USD)
Annual (1 yr)	40		20	60
Annual (1¼ yr)	47		23	70
Annual (3 yr)	113		57	170
Annual (5 yr)	185		90	275
Lifetime (age <45)	750		375	1,125
Lifetime (age 46-55)	625		315	940
Lifetime (age 56-65)	450		225	675
Lifetime (age 66-75)	300		150	450
Lifetime (age >75)	150		75	225