



USSVI APPALACHIAN BASE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

19 SEP 2026 1400 HRS

VFW Post 4933, Kingsport, TN





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 [AUG 2026 Membership Minutes](#)
 - [Action Item Review](#)
- Adoption of [AUG 2026 Treasurer's Report](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Correspondence](#)
- Reports
 - Chaplain: [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

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
01 SEP 1920	USS S-5 (SS-110)	no loss of life
09 SEP 1943	USS Grayling (SS-209)	76 shipmates lost
25 SEP 1925	USS S-51 (SS-162)	33 shipmates lost
25 SEP 1943	USS Pompano (SS-181)	77 shipmates lost
28 SEP 1943	USS Cisco (SS-290)	76 shipmates lost

Shipmates, rest your oars

Cover and be seated



ACTION ITEMS

Item	Assignment	Due	Status
Base Store Catalog on Website	Web Master	12 SEP	In Progress
Validate Picnic Budget	Jim Long	12 SEP	In Progress
Signup Sheet for KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Veterans Day Visit	Gary Christopher	12 SEP	In Progress
Signup Sheet for Jr. ROTC high school visits around Veterans Day	Jim Long	12 SEP	In Progress
Nominate members for Vice Commander and Secretary	Nomination Committee	14 NOV	In Progress
Submit Committee CY/FY 2027 Budgets to Board of Directors	Committee Chairs	14 NOV	In Progress



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Base logo hangs on host VFW facility
- Neon Logo hangs inside Canteen
- Base Charter hangs in Lobby





ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❗ Base Newsletter delayed
- ❗ Free Concert – Dan Herrell on 17 OCT 1900 HRS

VFW
VETERAND BY FEASHER WARS

**VETERANS & SUPPORT MEMBERS
OFF-POST EVENT**

Hosted By: VFW Post 4933, American Legion 255,
Appalachian Base Submarine Veterans,
Veteran Support Members

WHEN: Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30 PM

WHERE: Knob Creek Vineyard
1055 W. Oakland Ave., Johnson City, TN

TRANSPORTATION DETAILS:
Meet at the Post: 830 Minga Rd., Kingsport, TN at 6:00 PM
(VFW van departs at 6:15 PM)
Or Meet at the Venue: Arrive directly at Knob Creek
Vineyard by 6:30 PM

COST: The cost per person is \$6

***The Post is generously covering this cost for post members**
***Join us for an evening of camaraderie and community.**

SERVICE & CAMARADERIE

**AN AWESOME NIGHT OF
GREAT MUSIC
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH**

**TRI-CITIES MUSIC ENTERTAINER
DAN HERRELL**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

VFW POST 4933 AT BOONE DAM, 830 MINGA RD.

7PM START • DOORS OPEN AT 5PM
OCTOBER 17TH EVENT
COME EARLY TO GET THE BEST SEATS!



CORRESPONDENCE

- 2026 USSVI National Convention in Corpus Christi
 - 07-12 SEP
 - Base Commander Attended
 - Information & Results at NOV Membership Meeting
- National Elections Completed: 05 SEP – 23% Participation Rate
 - Officer Status Quo
 - Bylaws Changed to allow Associates Lifetime Membership (again)
- Central District 5 Commander Resigned (Marlin Helms)
 - Replacement Appointment: Tom Peschke from USS Haddo Base





CORRESPONDENCE

i Verify YOUR profile in the USSVI National Web Site (>1,000 bad e-mails in USSVI):

- Name, address, phone number, e-mail address
- USSVI Information: Base (or Dual) = Appalachian – *when dues are paid*
- E-mail is User ID and essential for voting, information sharing, and access

i Bad Base Member E-mails (Please correct on USSVI.org):

- Michael Johnson
- David Qusenberry
- Dan Stophel
- Mark Wallner
- Jeffery Webb
- Bill Young



BINNACLE LIST

- Jes Sutton (Chaplain)
- Chuck Kilgore
- Vernon Wells
- Rick Wilson
- Brian Rieck (Vice Commander)



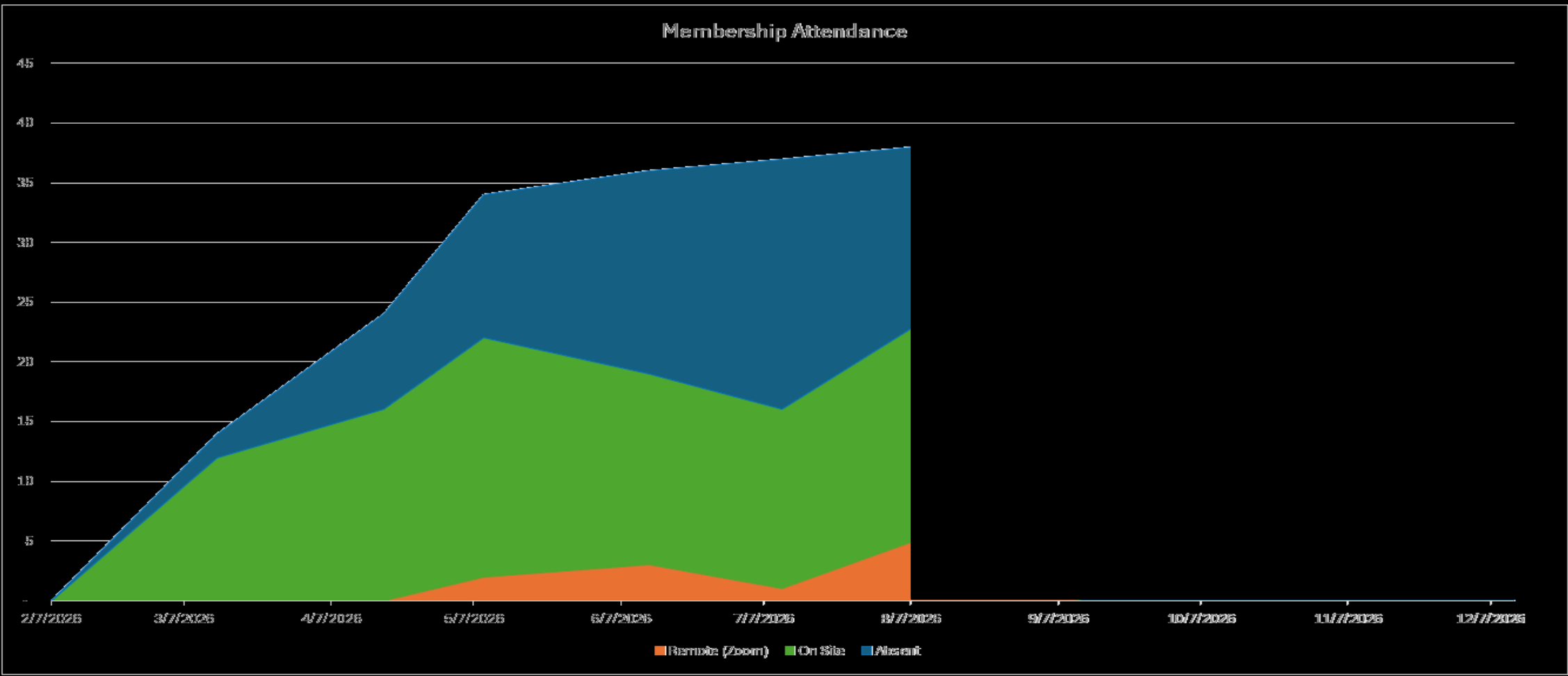
MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

Summary	Population	Good Standing	
	Quantity	National	Base
Person Types	80	39	39
Prospect	41	-	
Member	39	39	39
Prospect Type	41	-	-
Recruit	11	-	-
Interest	15	-	-
Applied	-	-	-
Transfer	15	-	-
Member Type	39	39	39
Plank Owner	21	21	21
Charter	12	12	12
Regular	1	1	1
Dual - Regular	3	3	3
Dual - Associate	-	-	-
Associate - Plank Owner	1	1	1
Associate - Charter	1	1	1
Associate	-	-	-

Summary	Population	Good Standing	
	Quantity	National	Base
Volunteers	15		
Elected Officers	4		
Appointed Officers	2		
Appointed Positions	5		
Committee Members	4		
Geography	79	39	39
TN	59	29	29
VA	17	10	10
WA	1	-	-
FL	2	-	-
Age	53	37	37
<26	1	1	1
26-35	-	-	-
36-45	1	-	-
46-55	6	4	4
56-65	12	10	10
66-75	15	13	13
76-85	15	9	9
>85	3	-	-



MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE





OLD BUSINESS

Appointments

- Program Committee
 - KAP(SS)4KID(SS): Stan Gedelman
 - Member: Rick Wilson
- Nominating Committee (temporary)
 - Members: Gil Kaelin and Jim Long

Volunteer Opportunities

- Chief of the Base (CoB)
- Ambassador to USSV Charitable Foundation
- 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



OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Venue: NOV and Beyond

- Venue Change due to AmVets access and storage issues
- SEP – VFW Post 4933
- OCT – Picnic
- Need Permanent Meeting Venue:

- Appropriate Location for Members
- Items may be stored (big blue bag)
- Base has access (key)
- Meeting Hall Capacity: 40
- Big Screen/Projector



NOV and Beyond Venue

- AmVets Bingo
- DAV#39
- VFW Post 4933



Members



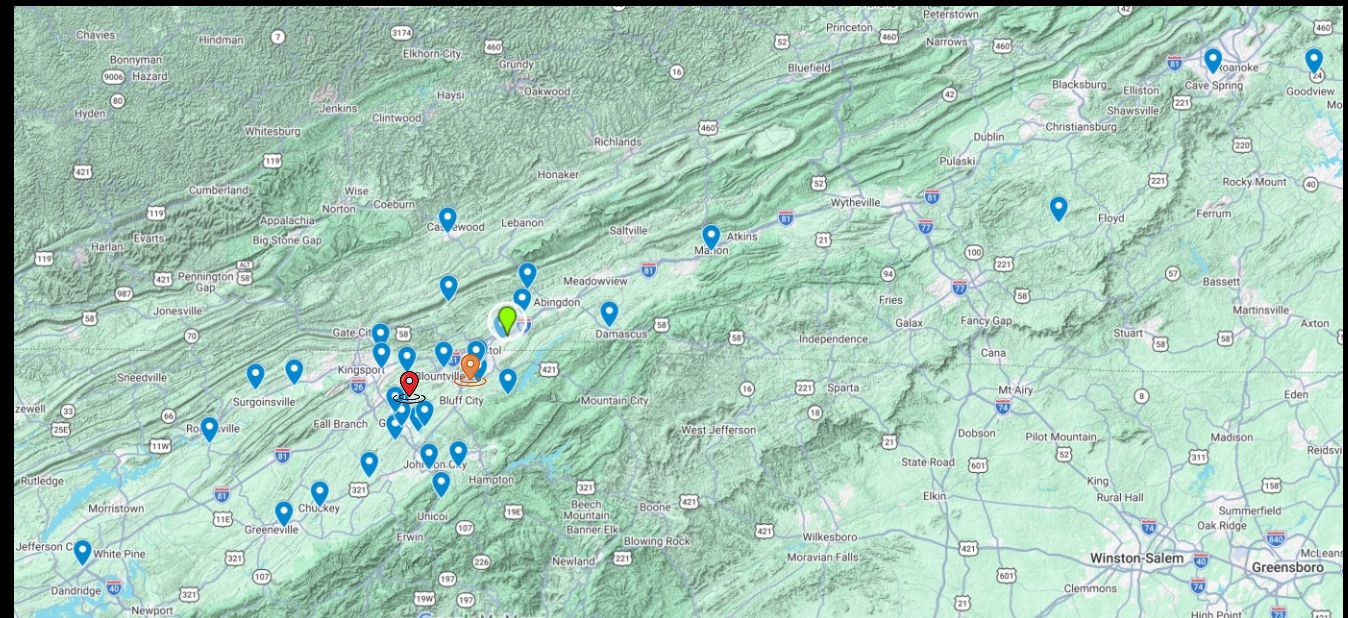
AmVets Bingo



VFW Post 4933 (27 min from AmVets; All Highway)



DAV #39 (20 min from AmVets; Many Traffic Lights)





NEW BUSINESS

2026 Officer Elections

- Vice Commander and Secretary – Two (2) year term CY2027-2028
- See Nomination Committee if interested in running for office
- Nominations: NOV meeting
- Elections: DEC meeting

Committee Budgets

- Committee Chairs Submit to Board of Directors NLT 14 NOV 2026 for CY/FY2027
- Provide Item Details and Justification
- Budget Vote: DEC meeting

Program Committee [KAP(SS)4KID(SS)] 2026 Budget Request (Veterans Day)

- \$1,165.00 for hats, coloring books, crayons



GOOD OF THE ORDER

i Membership Drive

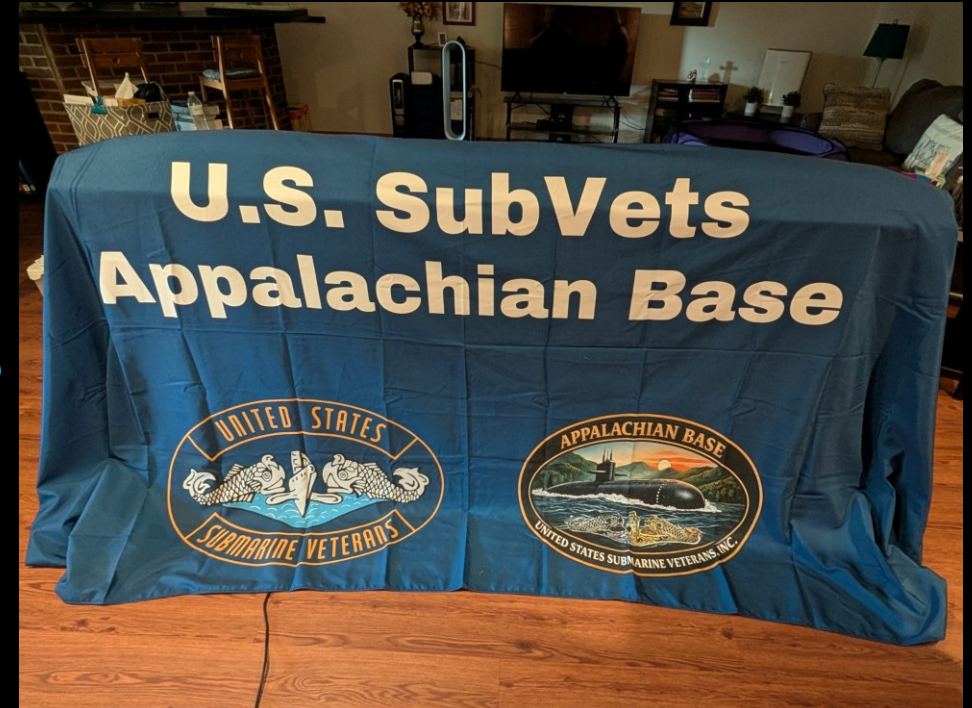
- Bristol Motor Speedway
- 17-19 SEP 1000 – 1800 HRS

i Program/Membership Committee – Table Setup

- Tablecloth
- Table Sign

i Veteran Voices

- Brian Aired on 19 JUN
- Ron Aired on 14 AUG





GOOD OF THE ORDER

Base Picnic

- Picnic Date: 10 OCT (instead of regular meeting)
- Time: 1100 – 1400
- Location: VFW Shelter, Steele Creek Park, Bristol, TN
- Attire: Vest & Base Ballcaps
- Agenda: Fun & Awards
- Base Providing:
 - Hamburgers & Hotdogs
 - Condiments
 - Drinks
 - Paper/Plastic Wear
-  Potluck Side Dishes and Desserts
 - Sign up with Program Committee



GOOD OF THE ORDER

i Gun Raffle

- 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
- Obtain Tickets for Sale and/or Buy Tickets from Fundraising Committee (Gil is chair)
- VFW/Legion Tickets – Leave with Canteen



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



TR RZ17 Tactical 12 Gauge Pump
Action 18.5" Shotgun RZ17TAC



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

14 NOV 2026 1400 HRS

TBD: 12 SEP 2026 Meeting Vote

Base Picnic: 10 OCT 2026 1100 – 1400 HRS

VFW Shelter, Steele Creek Park, Bristol, TN

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



830 Minga Road, Kingsport, TN 37663

PoC@USSVIAppalachianBase.org

(423) 398-1778



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