



**United States Submarine
Veterans, Inc.
Appalachian Base**
830 Minga Rd
Kingsport TN 37615
(423) 398-1778

Meeting Minutes
18 April 2026

Attendance

- Adler, Mark
- Allen, David
- Bennett, Ron
- Christopher, Gary
- Fisher, Stephen
- Gedelman, Stan
- Hajny, Raymond
- Harmon, John
- Heisner, Harry
- Kaelin, Gil
- Long, Jim
- Morgan, Richard
- Pearce, John
- Rieck, Brain Reck
- Stamper, Paul
- Warner, Mark
- Williams, David
- Wilson, Rick

Opening and Adoption of Minutes and Treasury Report

- Ron Bennett opened the meeting by initiating ceremonies at 1404 hours.
- John Harmon motions to adopt the March minutes and sent via e-mail, asking for any corrections or comments.
 - Someone mentions not receiving the minutes via e-mail and requests them again.
 - Brian Rieck reads the minutes from the last meeting, including the call to order, opening ceremonies, and greetings from regional and district commanders.
 - The minutes are adopted by voice vote.
- Treasury report is reviewed and adopted by verbal vote.

Old Business

- Announcements and Correspondence is reviewed.

- Ron reviews old business, including remote meeting capability, and base logo submissions.
 - Ron explains the process of voting on the base logo, mentioning the Logo Committee that decided the submissions.
 - Three logos are presented for voting, with specific details on each logo, including the use of Mustang dolphins. The voting is conducted by a show of hands, with the winning logo being number one, which includes the name "Appalachian Base."
 - The winning logo will be turned into a patch, and members are encouraged buy their patches, and hats from Base Storekeeper when available. Sourcing vests and sewing patches on was discussed in the March meeting.
- Committees are discussed with openings for members and chairs.
 - Raymond Hajny volunteers to be on the Membership Committee
 - Jim Long volunteers to become Program Committee Chair
 - Gary Christopher had already volunteered to chair KAP(SS)4KID(SS), which seats him on the Program Committee
 - Paul Stamper volunteers to be on the Program Committee
- Appointments are discussed, with outstanding positions for chief of the base (CoB), parliamentarian and newsletter editor.
 - Rick Wilson volunteers to be the CoB
- 2026 Base Dues are due 31 MAY. Those that do not pay dues by the end of this grace period will be moved to Member at Large until base dues are paid. Dues may be paid to the Treasurer today or next meeting in person, or mailed to the base address. Checks should be payable to USSVI – Appalachian Base.

New Business

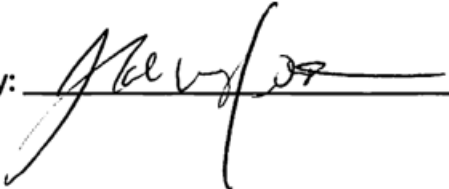
- Ron pointed out next meeting is Mother's Day weekend and asked whether it should be moved. There were no motions to do so.
- Ron discusses the challenges of setting up a bank account, including the need to register as a foreign entity in Tennessee and Virginia.
 - Fundraising limitations are explained, including the inability to raise funds from the general public and no gambling with the need for audits in Virginia.
 - The possibility of using VFW posts as a funnel for donations is considered, allowing donors to write off their contributions.
 - The USSVI Foundation is mentioned as a potential vehicle for tax-deductible donations.
 - Fundraising committee and chairperson needed to figure out above

Good of the Order

- Ron announces the receipt of various donations, including a gold fringe Ensign, flag poles, and cash drawers.
- Recruiting efforts are discussed, including partnerships with American Legion and VFW.
- The Darth Rickover award is presented to Brian for professional achievement in scouting and recruiting.
- The possibility of a presentation by the President of the USS Greenville Incorporated is mentioned.

Meeting Adjournment

- The benediction is offered and the meeting is adjourned at 1548.
- Reminder of the next meeting date and time: 09 MAR at 1400 HRS, AMVet Post 5.

Submitted by:  _____

Approved by:  _____