



United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.



Appalachian Base Membership Meeting Minutes

8 August 2026

Attendance

- Adler, Mark
- Allen, David (Remote)
- Bennett, Ron
- Burkholder, Jim
- Casey, Brian
- Christopher, Gary
- D'Amato, Frank
- Fisher, Steve (Remote)
- Gedelman, Stan
- Hajney, Ray (Remote)
- Harmon, John
- Hatfield, Karen (guest)
- Hatfield, Michael
- Kaelin, Gil
- Long, Jim;
- Long, Roxanne (guest)
- Midget, Roland
- Pearse, John
- Price, Alex (Remote)
- Rieck, Brian
- Stamper, Paul
- Stophel, Dan
- Wallner, Mark
- Williams, David
- Wilson, Rick (Remote)

Opening

- Commander called the meeting to order at 1404 HRS having met quorum.
- Ceremonies performed.
- Introductions.

Adoption & Action Items

- 12 JUL 2026 Membership Meeting Minutes — adopted as published.
- Action items reviewed:
 - Volunteers needed – moved to ongoing.
 - Base Store Catalog on website – due 12 SEP.
 - Expanding Store Catalog – moved to ongoing.

Treasurer's Report

- JUL 2026 Treasurer's Report adopted as published.
- Ending balance: \$2,721.43.

Announcements & Correspondence

- Websites: temporary (VFW), Base, and Facebook.
- Base Annual Report published.
- Base August Newsletter still in progress
- USSVCF charitable organization newsletter.
- Members should verify their profile on the National Website.
- National elections are available online (see ElectionBuddy email); closes 5 SEP.
- 2026 National Convention in Corpus Christi — SEP.

Committee Reports

- Binnacle List: 3 members.

- Membership: 37 members + 1 today and 41 prospects; average meeting attendance above 50%; recruiting event at BMS in SEP, partnered with DAV.
- Program: Planning a social event/picnic; KAP(SS)4KID(SS) events in Roanoke and Johnson City on Veterans Day; possible school NJROTC events during Veterans Day week.
- Storekeeper: Decals, patches, ball caps, and challenge coins available for sale.
- Web/Media: Website development progressing; newsletter delayed until mid-SEP.

Old Business

- Appointments:
 - Newsletter Editor — Harry Heisner.
 - Fundraising Committee Chair — Gil Kaelin.
 - Fundraising Committee Member — Frank D'Amato.
 - Membership Committee Member — Ray Hajney.
 - Program Committee (KAP(SS)4KID(SS)) – Stan Gedelman
- Volunteer opportunities:
 - Librarian/Historian.
 - Parliamentarian.
 - Committee members: Membership, Program, and Fundraising.
 - Content Committee (temporary).
- Program and membership committee table setup:
 - Tablecloth purchased (6' and 8' tables).
 - Table sign purchased – clear page holder with business card holder.

New Business

- Meeting Venue Change
 - Issues:
 - AmVets Post 5 Bingo Hall was again not available (second time) and we have to meet at Logan's Roadhouse today (last minute; no notification).
 - AmVets doesn't allow the Base to store their meeting items (e.g., flags, bell) nor provide a key to the base.
 - Venue change seems necessary with criteria that certain Base officers (e.g., Commander, Treasurer, CoB) be granted access (i.e., a key or key lock box combination), the facility allows Base to store meeting items, and there is no cost to the Base.
 - Options Discussed:
 - VFW Post 4933 Boone Dam, Kingsport: Base physical address is this VFW Post; Post has already authorized Base access, storage, and free meeting hall with large screen and WiFi.
 - DAV #39 (new facility on Volunteer Pkwy) is voting on whether to allow Base free meetings; access and storage criteria are unknown.
 - Motion to hold next meeting at VFW Post 4933 was passed with intent to vote on venue for future meetings during the SEP meeting.
- Nominating Committee for December elections:
 - Appointments in September/October for the next term.
 - Volunteers: Gil Kaelin and Jim Long.
 - Elections in December for Vice Commander and Secretary.
- Membership Drive: Bristol Motor Speedway, 17–19 September; volunteers needed (sign up sheet with Brian).
- Base Picnic:
 - Motion to replace OCT membership meeting with picnic was passed.

- Date: 10 October
- Location: Steel Creek Park in Bristol, TN, at the VFW shelter.
- Motion to budget \$500 was passed.
 - Shelter cost
 - Hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, drinks, paper/plastic wear supplied by Base
- Potluck side dishes and desserts.
- Sign up sheet with Jim.
- Gun raffle proposal:
 - First (Henry), second (Shotgun), and third prizes (gift card).
 - Raffle to be held during the November meeting.
 - Determine feasibility by ticket count.
 - Interest poll indicated majority would buy tickets.
 - Ticket sales may be expanded to other veteran organizations (e.g., VFW Post 4933).
 - Base Board of Directors voted to authorize the raffle following the meeting.

Good of the Order

- Veteran Voices:
 - Brian aired on 19 JUN.
 - Ron interviewed 01 JUL and 05 AUG; air date TBD.
- VFW Post 4933 now displays banners for VFW, American Legion, and USSVI Appalachian Base logos on the front of their building.
- Neon Logo for inside building ordered and should be installed by SEP meeting.

Closing

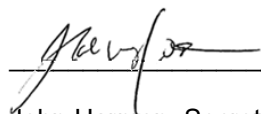
- Open floor discussion — none.
- Benediction.
- Commander adjourned the meeting at 1530 HRS.
- Next Meeting: 12 SEP 2026 at VFW Post 4933 (830 Minga Rd., Kingsport, TN 37663).

Action Assignments

Action	Assignment	Due
Prepare for officer nominations and appointments in September/October for the next term.	Nominating Committee	14 NOV
Coordinate volunteers for the October picnic at Steel Creek Park; confirm pavilion reservation and headcount.	Jim Long	10 OCT
Organize KAP(SS)4KID(SS) Veterans Day initiative at children's hospitals with signup sheet.	Gary Christopher	12 SEP
Provide List of Junior ROTC high schools to visit around Veterans Day and signup sheet.	Jim Long	12 SEP
Validate the \$500 budget (based on approximately 80 attendees) for the upcoming event and ensure volunteer and logistical needs are accounted for. Motion for additional funding if needed.	Jim Long	12 SEP
Work on the priority budget and provide feedback to the Board of Directors.	Committee Chairs	14 NOV

Submission and Approval

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Harmon', written over a horizontal line.

John Harmon, Secretary

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Bennett', written over a horizontal line.

Ron Bennett, Commander