

Membership Meeting

Minutes Rev. a
2026-09-14



USSVI Groton Base

860.445.5262
40 School St., Groton CT

CALL TO ORDER:

Base Commander (BC) (Steve Ricard) called the meeting to order at (1830). A quorum was present. Members in attendance (26). ZOOM Attendance (6). Pledge of Allegiance was led by (Robert Dulin). Opening prayer by Base Chaplain (Asst Chaplain John Carcioppolo). SUBVETS Creed was led by (BC Steve Ricard). Tolling of the Boats presented by JVC (Jim Lawton).

INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Charlie Murray, attending the 2026 USSVI National Convention for Groton Base presented the National Award "Silver Anchor award" to John Carcioppolo. An award for the recipient for going above and beyond expectations for USSVI Groton Base.

RECOGNITION OF VIP AND GUESTS:

Introduced and recognized New Members & First Meeting participants
Recognized National Officers
Recognized former Base Commanders
Recognized WWII Members present
Recognized Holland Club Members
Recognized Chris Quijada Distinguished Member of the year
Recognized Joe Negri Recipients
Recognized Robert Link Recipients

MEMBERSHIP SOUND-OFF:

BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING:

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS:

BC REPORT:

BC Ricard stated received request from Hometown Foundation for Thanksgiving food supplies. Also, request from Ivoryton Playhouse for veteran's special ticket price. Cribbage tournament October 17th from noon to 1600 at the clubhouse and will dovetail with Our monthly dinner Octoberfest. Captain Curtin reached out to announce that St Patrick's church in Norwich wants to restart RED White and Blue mass on November 15 and Gorden Conrad will head up the event. City of Groton is looking for sponsors for Christmas light parade.

TREASURERS REPORT:

BT announced all bills paid for by September 1, 2026. Full report can be found on USSVI Groton Base website.

Annual appeal – completed

Thanksgiving appeal – letters, broadcast & emails have been completed. Less than \$2,000 received since appeal letters mailed so approximately \$5,000 raised to date

Other: I discussed bylaws change for hours of business, will submit in written form

- I believe this needs to be considered outside of the bylaws current review, because we are not being flexible on when to remain open and we need flexibility

Other : I attended the national convention from Sept 8 to 12

- Accepted Award for John C – to be delivered at Sept 14th membership meeting
- Work as volunteer in support of the Charitable Foundation
- Supported a Groton table at the convention
- Attended all business related meetings
- Meet with National Commander & Treasurer on building improvement issues

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- They have asked for a review of the building roofing – this is underway at this time
- Discussed the new members database and Groton needs for more access and information on members similar to what we had it Tools
- Groton provided excess plaques, coins, 2 tee shirts, 2 golf shirts and 2 hats to the Charitable Foundation to help them with their fundraising
 - This is payback for the efforts by the Foundation to assist Groton with fund raising and assistance
- Associate members – National approved Life Membership for Associate Members
 - Work underway to make this happen with goal to have ready for membership renewals prior to end of 2026

Funds at Edward Jones Total \$105000 (as of August 2026)

Memorial \$68884

Scholarship \$5,000

Holland Club \$4,000

Base \$1000

This money is currently included with Base (Clubhouse funds)

Funds at the USSCF (charitable foundation) (as of July 2026)

K4K Groton 4033

Scholarship 16032

WWII Memorial 40401

Building 16088

2026 Annual Appeal has ended, 2026 Thanksgiving/Holiday Appeal letters mailed out week of Sept 7th. Constant Contact messages are already out. No change to PayPal necessary.

Note: under \$3000 thanksgiving appeal donation have been submitted, \$800 direct to subvets Groton, the other amounts to the Charitable Foundation into our Thanksgiving Account

Currently Planning in 2026

- Waiting on contractors revised quotes (have received one from plumber under \$10,000, but need one from electrician and contractor (Michael))
 - Based on scheduling in September and work to get ready for Thanksgiving we may wait until First Quarter 2027
- Quote \$7500 to add insulation to the building
 - Objective is to continue to lower costs for heating and air conditioning
 - We have taken steps to manage these costs, I estimate since 2000 these costs are down by \$150 a month (note: 2 summer months continue to be higher)
- Quote waiting on quotes for roofing
- (asked Anderson to update) Get revised quotes on heating & air conditioning
 - Purpose to have current estimates and identified vendors
- (not started, but search for commercial vendor) Get quotes for replacement windows for Hall area & Foyer
 - Current windows provide limited insulation and some windows can't be opened – there are 5
- Larry Wilkinson has fixed front door and added lock to sliding door between men's room and bar (for future use)

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- (not started) Inquire about solar panels for building
- (not started) Looking to install a storage container behind the building

SECRETARY REPORT/ARCHIVES:

CORRESPONDENCE:

Received email from Nathan Nelson ETVSA(SU), requesting a statement from SUBVETS stating that while in NAVSUBSCOL in 2025 he volunteered for memorial day ceremony. Prepared draft statement confirming his volunteer status for BC signature. Letter was forwarded to Nathan Nelson at TRITRAFAC BANGOR, 2000 Thresher Ave Silverdale WA 98315.

BYLAWS

the subcommittee has met once and made good progress.

Our next meeting is September 22 at 1530 here at the club.

We have asked all officers to read their job description and make changes whether it is additions, deletion or no change at all We will be conducting a total review of all PPM's in conjunction with the bylaw review.

SR. VICE REPORT:

SVC mentioned the pinning installation ceremony for Select chiefs will be at the clubhouse.

JR. VICE REPORT:

JVC requesting gutters installed and corrective action on side of building where to ramp is to eliminate collection of water.

Also, there are additional motion lights needed at the side entrances to the building. Read the boat notes monthly calendar to know what's going on at the clubhouse.

NATIONAL OFFICERS' REPORTS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP: Jim Kading

Category	June	July	Aug
Total Membership	1047	1049	1059
National Life Membership	858	809	821
Groton Base Life Membership	404	404	404
Holland Club Membership	657	657	655
Associate Membership	61	61	61

SUBSCHOL GRADUATION SCHEDULE: BC Ricard

BC Ricard reported a new list for the remainder of the year will be posted on bulletin board and Boat Notes..

CHAPLAIN REPORT: Earl Colella/John Carcioppolo

Honors Detail

EM1(SS) Ralph V. Masi Departed on Eternal Patrol 18 March.

FT3(SS) Walter Wadja Departed on Eternal Patrol 8 August Honors Detail 26 August Earl Colella, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Dennis Hopkins Bob Sharpe, Joe Wread

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TMCM(SS) Barry Russack Departed on Eternal Patrol 15 August Honors Detail 27 September Col Ledyard Cemetery Mitchell Street, Groton 1300.

Eternal Light

Ella Mae Kuzel Widow of Norm Kuzel Eternal Light 22 August The Honors Detail presented Honors for an Eternal Light Ceremony on Saturday Friday 22 August. I was joined by Earl Colella, Alex Ducette, Bob Dulin, Bob Gustafson, Jim Lawton, Charlie Murray, Bob Sharpe, and Joe Wread

HOLLAND CLUB: John Carcioppolo

August Lunch

Total Meals 57

Total Income

Meals \$855

50/50 \$220

Donation \$5

Total \$1080

Total Expenses

Meals (\$10 x 65) \$570

Gratuity (\$1 x 50) \$60

50/50 \$110

Total \$740

Net \$340

21 July Guest Speaker – We had a great luncheon in August with 57 people in attendance. Chris Zenda, SUBASE PAO was the guest speaker. He gave a great presentation on 3 of the Memorials on SUBASE and some of the background stories. Charlie Murray won \$110 in 50/50 and donated it to the building fund.

A special thank you to Jim and Hodge

UPCOMING HOLLAND CLUB LUNCHESES

- 15 September Guest Speaker – CO/COB PCU ARIZONA (SSN 803) CDR Christian Olsen and MMACM(SS) Cody Henry
- 20 October Guest Speaker – Damien Cregeau the author of "Portraits of Patriots"
- 17 November Guest Speaker – Commander, Submarine Squadron Twelve and CMC Captain Thomas Bullock MC Dustin Brunner
- 15 December Guest Speaker - Commander, Undersea Warfare Development Center RDML Eric Rozek and CMDCM(SS) Nicholas Harr

HOLLAND CLUB 2027 Nothing to report 5 June 2027

COLOR GUARD REPORT: Bob Sharpe

Supporting two reunions and preparing for veteran's day ceremony.

EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM: Jim Weaver

Eagle Scout project working with local boy scout chapter.

SMALL STORES: Alex Doucette

Chairman reported looking for ideas for 2027 challenge coin.

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DOCENT COORDINATOR: Al Kinsall

Museum is open daily 9-5pm during the summer schedule and 9:4:00 during the winter schedule except on Tuesdays

October 19-30 Museum is closed for Fall maintenance

Docents will be changing to winter hours on November 1st

The museum library is available by appointment on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9-1130 and 1300-1545

The Museum is holding its 6th annual golf tournament on October 15th Lake of Isles (Active duty, retirees, civilians) \$200pp E7 and above, \$185 E6 and below Register your foursome online by Oct 5th ussnautilus.org/golfregistration

We need volunteers, all watches, every day except Tuesdays. Please consider volunteering for a watch or two a month.

Jennifer.a.bourque2.civ@us.navy.mil

DMV LIAISON: Michael Hodges

No report

KAP (SS) 4 KIDS PROGRAM: John Riley

Bob Dulin reported that John is still south on a family matter. Hopes to be available for Vet Day memorial

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Marion Galbraith

Dick Wornock reported that the memorial ceremony for Veterans Day is Nov 11th.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER: Jim Lawton

Again asked members to use the Website as a means for obtaining what is going on at the clubhouse.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Greg Kane

Latest information is on Boat notes.

VETERAN AFFAIRS: Brian Hague

Chairman Hague reported announced veterans' stand-down in Norwich. Also, reported defects in Big Beautiful Bill in Washington DC.

WEST PORT SATGRP: Paul Grammer

Monthly meeting first Thursday of each month. Looking for new location for Christmas party.

STAN MATHIS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Paul Skalski

BC reported that Paul Skalski chairman cancelled September monthly dinner due to only 2 members signed up.

CLOSING EVENTS:

GOOD OF THE ORDER -

Nautilus Museum is moving its artifacts to New Port RI.

Dining-in registration form can be obtained from John C.

Attendance drawing (COIN/HAT)– Winner New Guy?

50/50 Drawing Rob Davis wins \$66.

Closing Prayer Asst Chaplain John Carcioppolo

Meeting adjourned: adjourned at 1952.

Submitted by: Alvin G. Kinsall, Base Secretary

Minutes Approved by membership:

Date: October 5, 2026

NEXT MEETING October 5, 2026