



USSVI Groton Base
Membership
Meeting Minutes 06 April 2026



The meeting was called to order by the Base Commander S. Ricard at 1830.

In attendance (in person (27) and Zoom (7)) for a total of 34 members.

Jim Lawton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Base Chaplin led the opening prayer.

The Base Commander led the **SUBVETS CREED**.

The Tolling of the Lost Boats was prepared and presented by PAO Jim Lawton.

BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING.

BASE COMMANDER: STEVE RICARD

Introduced and recognized New Members & First Meeting participants

Recognized National Officers present

Recognized Former Base Commanders present

Recognized WWII Members present

Recognized Holland Club Members present

Recognized Chris Quijada Distinguished Member of the Year Award

Recognized past Joe Negri Recipients

Recognized Robert Link Recipients

Membership Sound Off: (Optional) Please stand and sound off – Your name and Year Qualified.

ANYONE QUALIFIED

PRIOR TO 1946

1946 – 1989 COLD WAR BOATS

1990 – 2024

Associate Members

• **PRESENTATIONS: NONE**



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Sr. Vice Commander Report: Open.

Base Treasurer: Charlie Murray

All bills paid. Talked about donations database and Constant Contact.
Baby Diaper drive for our submarine community families and provide diapers by Mother's Day
Weekly giveaways at lunchtime

ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

The Appeal Letters are out and you should have received yours, please consider a donation to support our efforts to maintain the building, keep it open and a place for the submarine community.

COINS:

Another collector's item probably could be.... but give one to a buddy and watch for the reaction, it's worth a million.

The cost remains \$10 again this year...

FINANCIALS:

Check our website for current financial statements.

Suggested Groton Building Improvements:

- 1st level ladies' room
- Fix the front door, get back to using the buzzer
- Add locks to provide additional security to in building doors
- Hall create storage area for tables and chairs
- Outside storage building or shipping container for items used once or twice a year.
- Propane storage rack
- Gutters

Note: if you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know

DONATIONS:

DONATIONS ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT BUT CRITICAL. Our National and local bases need donations to keep activities available to our submarine communities. For Groton it's keeping the doors open but just one visit and you can see the difference individual donations have made in maintaining the building and improving services to all of us!



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Base Secretary Report – David Frease

The Minutes for the 02 March 2026 Membership meeting were approved by the members present without objection.

The Election Master issued a call for nominations of eligible candidates for Sr. Base Vice Commander, and Base Secretary to all Members in good standing.

Nominations:

Base Sr. Vice Commander – Dominic Grimaldi
Base Secretary – Alvin Kinsall

- Membership Meeting Nominations will be closed on 15 April 2026

Correspondence to Report – None.

Jr. Vice Commander Report: Jim Lawton

April Plan of the Month posted in the bar area.
 Talked about updates to the National Website.
 We are working hard to maintain and improve your Clubhouse.
 Please notify me if you find a discrepancy.
 General comments for consideration can be sent to my email below. If it is a material deficiency, ask the bartender for the Maintenance Deficiency Log to document it.
 This log will be maintained by me to document issues.
 This document is Appendix B of the Club Operations Policy and Procedures manual available on our USSVI Groton Website - <https://www.ussvigroton.org/bylaws-ppm> (PPM - USSVIGB - Groton Base Clubhouse).

NERD UPDATE:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- MEMBERSHIP REPOR: **Steve Ricard**

DATA PROVIDED FROM USSVI NATIONAL DATA BASE

CATEGORY	
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	1105



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NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS	864
GROTON BASE LIFE MEMBERS	404
HOLLAND CLUB	668
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	64

- SUB SCHOOL GRADUATION SCHEDULE: **Steve Ricard**
- CHAPLAIN: **EARL COLELLA/JOHN CARCIOPPOLO**

The following members departed on Eternal Patrol since the last membership meeting.

RM3(SS) Michael M. Dunn Departed on Eternal Patrol on 6 December 2025.
 BM3(SS) William “Bill” Scarano Departed on Eternal Patrol on 20 March 2026.
 EM1(SS) Charles S. Wilkinson Jr. Departed on Eternal Patrol on 22 March 2026
 HMCS(SS) James Moseley Departed on Eternal Patrol 1 April 2026.

- HOLLAND CLUB: **John Carcioppolo**

Holland Club Lunch

April	
Lunch	
Income	\$825.00
50/50	\$230.00
Donation	\$25.000
Total	\$1080.00
Expense	
Meals (\$10.00 X 0)	\$890.00
Gratuity (\$1.00 X 0)	\$60.00
50/50	\$115.00
Total	\$765.00
Net Deposited	\$315.00

UPCOMING HOLLAND CLUB LUNCHESES

- **Guest Speaker** - 21 April – OIC Historic Ship Nautilus LCDR Lucas
- **Guest Speaker** – 19 May – Groton Sail Foundation
- **Guest Speaker** – 16 Jun – Commadore Squadron 16 Admiral James Cawdell



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HOLLAND CLUB 2026:

48 Inductees. 33 On the stage.

- HONORS DETAIL: **John Carcioppolo**
- COLOR GUARD: **Bob Sharpe**

During the month of March, the color guard presented our National Stars and Stripes along with the USSVI flag during our U. S. S. Texas SSN-775 home coming salute. We thanked her crew for a job well done and for bringing her home safely from deployment.

The Color Guard next scheduled muster will be in April 2026 for the Groton Base's USS Thresher (SSN-593) memorial service. The color guard detail will consist of flag carriers for the U. S. National, U. S. Navy, USSVI flags and two flag escorts.

We are now registered for the Town of Groton's USA's 250th Anniversary 4th of July Parade. Groton base members, the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII Memorial – East committee and Naval Submarine School staff, students and Silver Dolphins Color Guard and Drill Team will provide the parade with a U. S. Submarine Service presentation.

I am looking for people to help me decorate the 'People Mover' trailer with posters and banners. Let me know if you can help.

As part of our reunion event plans, for hosting your reunion with the Joe Negri Clubhouse, our color guard can also present the National Colors at your banquet. Email Ashley at events@ussvigroton.org for more information.

- EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM COORDINATOR: **Jim Weaver**
- SMALL STORES: **Alex Doucette**

Talked about flags to hand out. 50 year pins \$5.00

- DOCENTS: **Artie Gager**

Docents needed at Submarine Museum

- DMV LIAISON: **Michael Hodges**

The pace has picked up quite a bit since last month's report, and we've received eight new inquiries and gained three new USSVI/Groton base members (with a fourth who is active duty and in the process of joining). I've mailed DMV applications with instructions to five of the new inquiries and received back one that I'm presently processing to send on to the DMV. We've also received an email from one member to say they were very happy with the new plates.



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If you would like to display our unique “Silent Service” on your vehicle, please contact me and I would be glad to answer any questions and guide you through the process. If you have questions shoot a quick email to me at: ctsubvetplates@ussvigroton.org.

I’m also listed on our USSVI Groton Website under <https://www.ussvigroton.org/linksofinterest>.

Applications are also available at the clubhouse in the document holder next to the bulletin board in the pumphouse.

KAPS4KIDS: John Riley

Since its inception in 2009, Groton Base’s Kap (SS) 4 Kid (SS) Program has provided comfort and joy to over 2,500 Children facing illness, and their families.

Our K4K Team visits young patients at various facilities, including Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, Connecticut Children's Hospital, the Child Psychiatric Units at Yale New Haven Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House, Connecticut Hospice, and other designated locations.

We are committed to continuing this program as long as there are children in need of our support.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Marian Galbraith

- Talked about flowers for the Memorial – Planting May 15th.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER: Jim Lawton

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Greg Kane

- Applications online

VETERANS AFFAIRS: Brian Hague

Backlog claims under 100,000
New London Coffee House opening 9:00 – 11:00 – 17 April Third Friday every month.

WEST PORT: Paul Grammer

Next Meeting is May 7th, 1830, at Port 5.

STAN MATHIS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Paul Skalski



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OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

CLOSING EVENTS:

Meeting Attendance Drawing Winner: 2026 Coin or Hat to Steve Ricard.

50/50 DRAWING Winner: \$130.00/\$65.00 to Paul Grammer.

CLOSING PRAYER – USSVIGB Chaplain

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1930

Respectfully submitted,

Base Secretary

Approved: **by the membership present and voting.**