

Executive Summary

USSVI Bremerton Base Executive Board Meeting

16 June 2026

The Executive Board of the USSVI Bremerton Base met via Zoom on 16 June 2026. The Executive Summary of the May 2026 meeting was approved without amendment. Secretary Bob Hickman reported continued improvement in his health and has returned to normal activities.

Membership and Financial Status

Membership stands at 266 members, including 188 USSVI Life Members, 188 Base Life Members, 146 Holland Club members, and 218 wartime veterans. No members currently owe National or Base dues.

The Treasurer's May report showed a General Fund balance of \$51,575.08, representing a year-to-date deficit of \$10,731.13. The month closed with receipts of \$2,107.67 and expenditures of \$2,690.36, for a net monthly loss of \$582.69.

Member Welfare and Next-of-Kin Concerns

Considerable discussion centered on the inability to locate Tommy Robinson. Multiple attempts to contact him have been unsuccessful, and concerns were raised regarding missing next-of-kin information following the transition to the new national membership system. The Board agreed to investigate access to historical membership records and encourage all members to verify and update emergency contact information in their profiles.

Operations and Activities

Storekeeper turnover activities continue, with Jason Chamness assuming increasing responsibilities and coordination underway with outgoing personnel. The Board also reviewed preparations for upcoming events, including:

- Kingston Fourth of July Parade
- Summer Picnic
- Tacoma Rainiers Baseball Night
- TTF Family Day
- Joe's Memorial Service
- National Convention activities
- Ongoing Coffee with the COB gatherings

Operation Hot Dog, the Armed Forces Parade, and Ivy Green Cemetery Memorial Day activities were highlighted as particularly successful recent events with strong member participation.

Governance and Elections

Past Commander Dave Bowman reported progress on a comprehensive review of the Base Bylaws. The objective is to present proposed revisions to the membership in October, vote in November, and implement changes with the installation of officers in January 2027. A motion was approved adopting the reformatted May 2026 edition of the bylaws as the official Base version while authorizing the Secretary to make future non-substantive corrections to formatting, grammar, numbering, and cross-references.

Members were reminded of upcoming National elections and cautioned about phishing scams and fraudulent emails impersonating National officers. The Board reaffirmed that proxy voting is not permitted.

Membership Growth and Community Outreach

Commander Ileene Davis reported that the Base recruited 32 new members during the past reporting year. She also briefed the Board on potential outreach opportunities with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers conference in Seattle and ongoing collaboration with local community organizations and the Kitsap Chamber of Commerce.

Good of the Order

The Board discussed efforts to preserve members' stories and photographs for historical purposes. Plans were announced to photograph additional members for future heritage projects. Congratulations were extended to members celebrating significant milestones, including wedding anniversaries and Dan McClellan's retirement after a distinguished career at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1857 hours.

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Bremerton Base Executive Board Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2026

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time Called to Order: 1800 Hours

Presiding: Base Commander Ileene Davis

Attendees

Executive Board Members Present:

- Ileene Davis, Base Commander
- Waylan Shropshire, Vice Commander
- Bob Hickman, Base Secretary
- David Pittman, Chief of the Boat
- Dave Bowman, Past Base Commander
- C.J. Smith, Assistant Treasurer (presenting Membership and Treasurer reports)

Members and Appointees Present:

- Fred Borgmann
- John Gardner
- Mike Friend (Float Manager)
- Dan McClellan ("Dan the Brickman")

Call to Order

Commander Ileene Davis called the meeting to order at 1800 hours and welcomed all attendees.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Bob Hickman reported that the Executive Summary of the May 12, 2026, Executive Board Meeting had been reviewed and no corrections were identified.

Motion: Accept the Executive Summary of the May 12, 2026, Executive Board Meeting as presented.

Moved: Bob Hickman

Seconded: Waylan Shropshire

Motion Passed.

Bob Hickman also reported that he continues to recover well and is approximately 90–95 percent back to normal activities.

Treasurer and Membership Reports

C.J. Smith presented the Membership Report as of May 31, 2026.

Membership currently stands at 266 members, including 59 Regular Annual Members, 188 USSVI Life Members, 188 Base Life Members, 146 Holland Club Members, 13 Associate Members, 5 Associate Life Members, 6 Senior Members, and 218 Wartime Veterans. No members currently owe either National or Base dues.

The May Treasurer's Report was presented. The Base General Fund balance stands at \$51,575.08 with a year-to-date net loss of \$10,731.13. Monthly receipts totaled \$2,107.67 and expenses totaled \$2,690.36.

No questions were raised regarding either report.

Chaplain's Report

No report was presented.

Member Welfare

Dave Bowman reported concern regarding member Tommy Robinson, who has not been seen or heard from for approximately two months. Multiple attempts to contact him by telephone, email, Facebook, and personal visits have been unsuccessful.

Discussion followed regarding the inability to access next-of-kin information through the current National membership database. Commander Davis noted that the issue had already been raised at the district and national levels and that the loss of next-of-kin data appears to be a broader concern affecting multiple bases.

C.J. Smith advised that Dennis Nardone may still have access to legacy membership records. Dave Bowman agreed to contact Dennis regarding possible next-of-kin information.

Members were encouraged to review their personal profiles and update emergency contact information where necessary.

Storekeeper Report

John Gardner reported that recent Ship's Store sales have been primarily patches, with fewer coin sales than usual. Inventory turnover activities continue as responsibilities transition to Al.

David Pittman reported that he and Al have discussed inventory tracking and spreadsheet management. Additional work will be required to modernize inventory records.

Jason Chamness will continue assuming Storekeeper responsibilities during Base meetings as turnover progresses.

The next Soupdawn is scheduled for June 19 at Olive Garden.

Float Manager and Parade Report

The Kingston Fourth of July Parade registration has been completed. Additional parade registrations are being monitored as opportunities become available. Details regarding staging, parking, and event logistics will be distributed when received.

Deterrent Park Report

Dan McClellan reported that he is now fully retired and preparing for an extended retirement cruise.

Two Deterrent Park bricks remain pending installation. One of the bricks honors Eric Schmick. C.J. Smith advised that he would coordinate with family members and interested shipmates regarding an installation ceremony following Dan's return after July 5.

The Board congratulated Dan on his retirement from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Charitable Foundation Report

Commander Davis reported ongoing work with the USSVI Charitable Foundation, including development of ambassador training materials and educational presentations. Additional information regarding Foundation programs and available assistance will be presented at the July General Membership Meeting.

Holland Club Report

Commander Davis reported receipt of Holland Club presentation materials and certificates for Francis Frank Luce. These materials will be provided to Holland Club leadership for presentation.

Historian, Webmaster, and Social Media Reports

Dave Bowman reported that website and social media activity remain limited. Members were encouraged to submit articles, photographs, and event reports to improve website content and engagement.

WordPress training materials remain available for any member wishing additional instruction.

From a historian's perspective, Bowman reported no major updates beyond ongoing efforts to locate Tommy Robinson.

Commander's Report

Commander Davis reported that the annual Base Activity Report has been completed and submitted to National Headquarters.

During the reporting period, Bremerton Base recruited 32 new members.

National election materials have been distributed and will also be available at the June General Membership Meeting. Members were reminded to remain alert for phishing attempts and fraudulent emails appearing to originate from National officers.

Chief of the Boat Report

David Pittman reported that Trident Galley lunch is scheduled for June 17. Coffee with the COB gatherings will continue on Naval Base Kitsap.

Planning continues for the Summer Picnic. Pittman noted that future beverage purchases will be adjusted to better match attendance trends.

Upcoming travel dates were reported as July 29 through August 7 and September 1 through October 2.

Vice Commander Report

Waylan Shropshire reported attendance at the Nathanael Greene SSBN 636 Reunion in New London, CT and advised that he is now custodian of the Nathanael Greene SSBN 636 Ship's Bow Banner from 1963. Herb Larson and his wife, from Bremerton Base was also at the reunion.

He also reported upcoming travel from July 26 through August 1.

Past Commander's Report

Dave Bowman reported progress on the comprehensive review and revision of the Bremerton Base Bylaws. The current objective is to present proposed revisions to the

membership during October 2026, conduct a vote in November, and implement approved changes with the installation of officers in January 2027.

Bowman also reported that a reformatted version of the bylaws had been completed to correct formatting, grammar, numbering, and cross-reference issues without altering any substantive provisions.

Motion: To adopt the reformatted May 2026 version of the Bremerton Base Bylaws as the official version of the document and authorize the Secretary to make future corrections to spelling, grammar, numbering, and cross-references, provided such corrections do not alter the substantive meaning of the bylaws.

Moved: Dave Bowman

Seconded: David Pittman

Motion Passed.

Bowman also reported that no next-of-kin information for Tommy Robinson was found during discussions with Dennis Nardone.

Commander's Additional Report

Commander Davis reviewed several recent Base activities, including Operation Hot Dog, the Armed Forces Parade, and participation in Memorial Day activities at Ivy Green Cemetery. She expressed appreciation to all volunteers who participated.

She reported that she will attend the National Convention from July 9 through July 12.

The Alzheimer's Association presentation scheduled for the June General Membership Meeting has been confirmed. Necessary audiovisual equipment will be available.

Commander Davis also reported a potential opportunity for Bremerton Base participation in a presentation for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers during a Seattle-area conference in July. Waylan Shropshire expressed interest in participating.

Old Business

Dave Bowman reported that the Rickover Letters presentation materials are complete and available for presentation during the June General Membership Meeting.

Discussion regarding breakfast meetings was deferred until the July General Membership Meeting.

New Business

Members were reminded of upcoming events, including:

- TTF Family Day on July 17
- Joe's Memorial Service on July 18
- Tacoma Rainiers Game on June 26
- Tacoma Rainiers Game on August 2
- Summer Picnic
- Kingston Fourth of July Parade

Dave Bowman announced plans to begin photographing members for future historical and memorial projects. He encouraged members to participate in preserving Base history and personal stories.

Bowman also noted the completion of Liberty 250, a year-long historical series commemorating the 250th anniversary of American Independence.

Good of the Order

Congratulations were extended to Bob and Ora Hickman on their upcoming 44th wedding anniversary.

Fred reported that he and his wife will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary next month.

Discussion followed regarding National election procedures. Members were reminded that proxy voting is not permitted under National election rules.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.

Moved: David Pittman

Seconded: Bob Hickman

Motion Passed.

Commander Davis adjourned the meeting at approximately 1857 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hickman

Base Secretary

USSVI Bremerton Base

These minutes are not official until approved by the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

