

Bremerton Base eBoard Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2026

Called to Order	6:00 p.m.
Presiding	Base Commander Ileene Davis
Format	Electronic meeting
Participants	Ileene Davis; Bob Hickman; Dan Inman; Angela Chamness; John Gardner; Frederick Borgmann; Dave Bowman; Thelma; Waylan Shropshire; Michael Talpai. Additional participants may have attended without speaking or without being identified in the transcript.

1 Approval of Previous Minutes

Bob Hickman moved to approve the previous meeting minutes as written. Waylan Shropshire seconded. The motion carried without objection.

2 Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer and Membership

The Base ended August with 271 members, an increase of three from the previous month. The membership report listed 257 members with email addresses on file; 48 members owing 2027 National dues; and 48 members owing 2027 Base dues. The roster included 59 regular annual members, 200 USSVI life members, 197 Base life members, 147 Holland Club members, 13 regular associate members, five life associate members, four charter members, and 248 war veterans.

The August financial report showed a beginning balance of \$58,911.93, receipts of \$1,649.94, expenses of \$3,250.57, and an ending General Fund balance of \$57,311.30. The monthly net change was a decrease of \$1,600.63. Year-to-date revenue totaled \$27,697.30 and expenses totaled \$32,692.21, producing a year-to-date net decrease of \$4,994.91. The Treasurer noted that significant August activity was associated with the Halloween Bash, including the purchase of two pavilions at a cost of nearly \$2,000. No questions were raised.

Storekeeper and Soup Down

The Storekeeper reported no new business. The next Soup Down was scheduled for Friday at McCloud's, and an updated schedule had been distributed by email.

Float Parades and Deterrent Park

The Commander reported that Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 17, one week before the Kitsap Halloween Bash, and stated that she would confirm float arrangements and transportation support with the Float Manager. One memorial brick remains pending for installation in November. Dan reported that he would inspect the memorial bricks to determine where serious deterioration begins and what restoration options may be practical.

Historian Website and Social Media

The Historian reported that a new documentary concerning the USS Chopper incident had been obtained for review. After screening the film and confirming its length, he will advise whether it may be suitable for a future Base meeting. The website was operating normally. Because the former Gertrude Check web address is inactive, existing printed QR codes tied to that address cannot be restored; replacement cards with a current QR code are being prepared.

National Convention and National Business

The Board reviewed information from the National Convention. Approximately 23 percent of eligible USSVI members participated in the national election. National intends to continue using ElectionBuddy, and members should keep their email information current. A national bylaw change allowing associate members in good standing for three years to obtain life membership was approved; implementation guidance is expected after the November National eBoard meeting. The 2027 convention is planned for Reno and the 2028 convention for the Norfolk and Hampton Roads area.

Past Commander and Bylaws

The Past Commander reported that the initial draft of revised Base bylaws had been distributed to the eBoard. Proposed changes include removing dues and travel-reimbursement details from the bylaws; adding the Junior Vice Commander; adjusting quorum requirements; resolving conflicting language concerning voting authority at eBoard meetings; modernizing the Newsletter Editor description and official communications methods; removing the inactive Scholarship Committee; designating the Past Commander as Election Committee chair; and replacing detailed meeting provisions with references to Base meeting manuals. Gendered references were also revised to neutral language.

Board members were asked to provide comments by email. The draft is scheduled for final eBoard review on October 13 and presentation to the membership at the October 17 general meeting. The Board discussed preserving membership continuity for members who pay annual dues shortly after the deadline, especially deployed members or members experiencing hardship. No bylaw language or formal financial policy was adopted, although there was general support for case-by-case assistance when appropriate.

Commander

The Commander reported that candy collection and bagging for Trunk or Treat were well underway. She also reported progress in reconnecting the Base with local Eagle Scout recognition activities and will continue coordinating with local Scouting contacts so presentations can be placed on the Base calendar. National Commander John Jakes asked whether Bremerton Base would serve as the local communications contact for a possible 2029 Alaska cruise convention. National would retain responsibility for planning and the travel agent. The matter was left open for later discussion.

3 Old Business

Eagle Scout Recognition

Dan reported that the recent Eagle Scout presentation was well received. The Base intends to continue participating in recognition ceremonies and to expand coordination with local Scouting organizations.

Charitable Foundation Account

The Treasurer reported that a general Bremerton Base account could be established through the USSVI Charitable Foundation. Based on guidance received from the Foundation Treasurer, funds could be used for qualifying charitable and mission-related purposes, including Deterrent Park, Ivy Green Cemetery, the float, and donations to organizations such as KAVA. Funds could not be used for social expenses such as the Christmas party or picnic. No motion was offered and no account was authorized at this meeting. The Treasurer will continue coordination concerning filing and administrative requirements.

Doug Terry Donation

The Board considered the disposition of a \$150 donation from Doug Terry, who had indicated that the contribution was intended for calendars and scholarship support. By consensus, the Board directed that the donation be placed in the Willie Spoon Scholarship Fund.

4 New Business

Kitsap Halloween Bash

Volunteer registration will be promoted at the September general meeting. Opportunities will include setup on the preceding Friday, food service, non-food assignments, and float staffing. The Commander will distribute the online volunteer link, and the Treasurer will provide a muster sheet with shift information. The Base will seek the required health permit and related sanitation provisions so hot dogs may be cooked on site. The planned quantity was reduced from 1,000 to 600 hot dogs. The float may be placed inside the event hall or outside, depending on final arrangements.

A \$1,000 advertising sponsorship was proposed to increase Base visibility through event promotions, website placement, and on-site signage. The matter was left open for further discussion because of the amount and the approaching sponsorship deadline. No expenditure was authorized. Michael Talpai reported that event promotion was progressing, including advertising at Kitsap Mall and an October 3 appearance by the event mascot. Michael and Deborah planned to present an event update at the September general meeting.

Greater Kitsap Chamber Calendar

The Board supported placing Greater Kitsap Chamber meetings on the Base calendar because of the relationship and networking value. Calendar notices must state that attendance requires advance coordination with the Base Commander, that tickets are required, and that Base-paid attendance will generally be limited to two participants.

Other New Business

- The Commander agreed to provide Angela Chamness with information for requesting a military color guard for a memorial service.
- Submarine-related apparel donated by the family of deceased member Ted Hunt will be provided to the Storekeeper and may be used in connection with the 50/50 raffle, subject to inspection and final handling by the Storekeeper.
- Members were reminded of KAVA volunteer opportunities, Caps for Kids coordination, the Veterans Day pinning ceremony, and a possible future presentation by retired sonarman and author Dennis Pinser.

5 Action Items

Responsible	Follow Up
Dave Bowman	Collect eBoard comments on the proposed bylaws and prepare the draft for October review and presentation.
Deene Davis	Distribute Halloween Bash volunteer information; coordinate the health permit, float arrangements, and event presentation; provide color guard request information; and follow up on Scouting contacts.
Jan Inman	Provide Halloween Bash muster and shift information; continue Charitable Foundation and filing follow-up; and direct the \$150 donation to the Willie Spoon Scholarship Fund.
Deterrent Park Manager	Inspect deteriorated Deterrent Park bricks and prepare for installation of the pending brick in November.
Board	Continue review of the \$1,000 Halloween Bash advertising proposal and the possible 2029 Alaska cruise convention support role.

6 Next Meeting

The next eBoard meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2026.

7 Adjournment

Bob Hickman moved to adjourn. Dave Bowman seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Submitted for approval

Secretary or Recording Officer

Date Approved