



★ ★ ★ USS Oklahoma City Base ★ ★ ★

Mailing Address: 3201 Bishop Rock Place
Yukon, OK 73099-3357



Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2026

Location: American Legion Post 73
5000 S.E. 24th St.
Del City, OK 73115

Attendance:

Todd Holmes – Base
Cmdr; Webmaster
Jim Owen – Base Treasurer
Dale Sanders – Base Vice Cmdr/
Base Secretary

W. Becket Bircher – Base Chaplin
Chuck Hladik – Past Base Cmdr
Gary Palmer
Michael Skaggs
Bob Zahn

Officers Absent:

Ken Box - Chief of the Boat
Donald LeBlanc – Base
Quartermaster

Visitors:

None

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 0900 by Base Commander Holmes. A quorum was present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Chuck led base members in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Previous Minutes – Dale read the minutes from December. Chuck motioned to approve the minutes as read, Becket seconded, minutes approved.
4. Treasurers Report – Jim provided a report of a balance of \$2,431.⁴⁹ on deposit, and petty cash again of \$95.⁰⁰. Primary change was payment of National dues. Detailed records are available upon request. Dale motioned to approve the report, Chuck seconded, report approved.
 - a. Note **2026 Dues should be paid**. Either at a meeting or mail to the above address. Dues are \$50 year, unless you are a National Life member (still own \$10 local dues). Make checks to OKC Subvets.
5. OKC Subvets Website and Facebook page (Todd) –
 - a. Need to post JB Messer on the Memorial page. **ACTION: Todd.**
 - b. WhatsApp Group Messaging setup. No new information (**ACTION: Gabe and Chris**)
6. USS Oklahoma City SSN 723 Memorial Park (Steve) – No new information.
7. USS Oklahoma commissioning (Don) – Todd noted that our Facebook page now has an article on the change of command.
8. Storekeeper Items (Don) – No new information
9. Base Positions to be filled (Todd Holmes) – There are several positions which need to be filled.
 - a. Secretary - Darrin Husmann was elected but has been given additional duties at work that prevent him from taking office. Per our base By-Laws, the Base Commander must appoint a person to fill this. Until a volunteer is found, Dale will continue to fulfil these duties.
 - b. Webmaster – With taking office as Base Commander, Todd wants to be relieved of these duties. Let him know if interested.
 - c. Membership Chairman – An optional appointed office, Todd desires to get a volunteer. Becket agreed to do this job, and Todd appointed him as such.
 - d. Tolling of the Bells – Not an office, but Todd asked someone to take on this duty. Becket agreed. Dale will provide a turnover.
10. “Rust” Insurance (Todd Holmes) – This National program is so called because of the name of the brokerage used. Bases are accessed based on their membership. We have been below the minimum threshold but now we are close. Todd is seeking more information from the District Commander.

11. February Social Dinner (Todd Holmes) – In lieu of a business meeting, we will have a social dinner
 - a. Location: Saltgrass Steakhouse (1445 W I 240 Service Rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73159)
 - b. Date/Time: Saturday Feb 7th at 4:30 pm.
 - c. Full menu is available. Each member is responsible for paying their own ticket.
 - d. RSVP by January 30, including if your spouse or other will attend.
12. Letter to Senator Mullin (Gabe Long & Dale Sanders) – Letter regarding inclusion in planning the USS Oklahoma City memorial. Letter was written and provided to Chuck. He stated that he still needs to mail it.
13. American Legion Post 73 Food Baskets (Todd Holmes) – Post 73 was collecting for food baskets for active duty families. The Executive Board approved a \$250 donation, which was made.
14. New Attendees share Naval Experiences – No new attendees, but a fun discussion of TDU adventures was had.
15. New Business –
 - a. Del City parade is May 16th. Dale motioned to participate, Chuck seconded. MOTION CARRIED. **ACTION:** *Todd (complete registration)*
 - b. Longevity pins are something that other bases due for membership recognition. After a brief discussion it was agreed to begin awarding longevity pins from this point forward.
 - c. Jim has some base patches that have a minor error. As it was not caught at the proof, the merchant will not give any credit. It was agreed to make them available to members for a donation, with any left over patches being disposed of.
16. Concerns and Open Discussion –
 - a. Ken has on going concerns with cancer and his overall health.
 - b. Todd had an angiogram earlier in the week. It came out good.
 - c. Joyce (Chuck) had shoulder surgery.
17. Tolling of Boats – Becket and Dale led us in the tolling of the boats for September.
18. Closing Prayer –Becket led a closing prayer.
19. Depth Charge – Bob won the Depth Charge drawing and donated his portion.
20. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Mike, seconded by Becket. Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.

★ ★ ★ **Social Meeting – Feb 7, 2026 @ 1630** ★ ★ ★
RSVP by Jan 30

★ ★ ★ **Next Business Meeting – March 7, 2026 @ 0900** ★ ★ ★

