



☆☆☆USS Oklahoma City Base☆☆☆

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



Meeting Minutes for September 5th, 2026

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

Attendance:

Todd Holmes – <i>Base Cmdr; Webmaster</i>	Gary Palmer
Jim Owen – <i>Base Treasurer</i>	Gary Lee
Ken Box - <i>Chief of the Boat</i>	Gabe Long
Michael Skaggs - <i>(Incoming Webmaster)</i>	Steve Damlo
Chuck Hladik – <i>Past Base Cmdr</i>	Jay Van Duzer
"Gus" Hawkins	

Officers Absent: :
Dale Sanders – *Base Vice Cmdr*
Conor Lembeck– *Base Secretary*
Donald LeBlanc– *Base Quartermaster*
W. Becket Bircher– *Base Chaplin*

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 0900 by Base Commander Holmes. A quorum was present.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Gary Lee led base members in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Previous Minutes** (Conor) – Todd read the minutes from August. **Correction: Michael Skaggs recently lost his Grandfather.** Gus motioned to approve the minutes with change, Steve seconded, minutes approved.
4. **Treasurers Report** (Jim) – Jim provided a report of a balance of \$3,090.06 on deposit, and \$90.00 petty cash. Detailed records are available upon request. Motion to accept by Gus seconded by Jay.
 - a. **Status of 2026 Dues** – 1 person reported as late on dues by Jim. Dues are \$50 year, unless you are a National Life member (still owe \$10 local dues).
5. **USS OKC Base life membership option** (Dale) - Tabled
6. **USSVI-OKC Website, Facebook Page, and USSVI Website** (Todd) -
 - a. USSVI-OKC website has been updated and website is up to date.
 - b. Minutes have been uploaded, change to August minutes are still pending
 - c. Go Daddy Website still requires 2 factor authentication to edit, Dale was able to sign in to edit as a second person.
 - d. Michael Skaggs turnover issues regarding editing permissions, once sign-in is finished, turnover will be completed.
 - e. We are still waiting on National Website information to bring website up to compliance if needed. Changes are in progress.
 - f. No scams or major issues with Facebook page, up to date.
7. **Facebook Advertising Status** (Michael) - Michael Skaggs is receiving a 'Fraud' alert as he tries to set this up. Michael plans to use his own funds to start a 100 mile, Submarine vet campaign.
8. **Storekeeper Items** (Don) – Tabled, neither Don nor Dale were present to report.
9. **USS Oklahoma City SSN 723 Memorial Park updates** (Steve and Todd) – Groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for 10AM on Sept 23, 2026. Dedication is TBD, scheduled for early spring. \$3.8 million project does not include the delivery and installation of the actual sail
 - a. **Letter to Senator Armstrong** (Dale) – Tabled, Dale was absent
10. **USS Oklahoma commissioning** (Don) – Tabled. The launch is projected for fall, and the commissioning next year at the USS Arizona memoria, Hawaii.
11. **Float Speakers** (Gus) – 45 Watt speakers were found. Cost is ~\$275, but only \$250 was allocated. Approved by executives Todd and Jim to exceed initial estimate. Gus to purchase them.

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12. **Czech Festival Parade** (Todd) – Parade scheduled for Oct 3rd. Parade Registration was completed. Todd will not be available. Gus will coordinate with the Legion to get the float from storage, get the float to the parade sight, and return the float to storage.
13. **Midwest City Parade** (Todd) – Parade scheduled for Nov 11th. Parade Registration was completed.
14. **“Rust” Insurance** (Todd) - Todd contacted USSVI National. “Yes” Rust insurance covers us in a parade. National provided the necessary insurance paperwork.
15. **Upcoming USSVI Elections** (Todd) – September 5th is the last day to vote.
16. **Presentation/PowerPoint for Children/Youth** (Becket) – Tabled.
17. **Membership Chairperson Turnover** (Todd, Beckett, Jim) – Tabled.
18. **Navy League/Navv Ball** – No date set, Formal/Black Tie event. ~\$100 per person estimate. Contact Chuck Hladik if interested.
19. **New Business** –
 - a. Gus presented design concepts of two different pins to commemorate the commissioning of the USS Oklahoma. The Base discussed the potential problems one of the pins may present. Pins are “3/4 in size. Base cost was \$1.99 each plus shipping for a lot of 200. (\$400). Base asked Gus to check on smaller lot costs; especially for the less PC one.
20. **New Attendees share Naval Experiences** – Boot camp discussion started by Steve, for many it was our first airplane ride. We discussed Costco’s Casket; being drafted vs Enlisted; housing off base for enlisted; and
21. **Concerns and Open Discussion** –
 - Conner / Dale out sick
 - Gus’s 95yo father reaching end of life
 - Todd recovery from bad back and knee.
 - Becket recovering.
 - Mark Restricted duty.
22. **Tolling of Boats** - Michael read the tolling of the boats.
23. **Closing Prayer** – Gabe led a closing prayer.
24. **Depth Charge** - Chuck won the Depth Charge drawing and donated his portion back to OKC Base.
25. **Adjourn** – Motion to adjourn was made by Mike, seconded by Jay. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

★ ★ ★ **Czeck Parade –October 3rd, 2026 @ 0800** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ **Next Business Meeting –October 10th, 2026 @ 0900** ★ ★ ★