★ ★ ★USS Oklahoma City Base★ ★ ★
Mailing Address: 3201 Bishop Rock Place
Yukon, OK 73099-3357

Meeting Minutes for Oct 11, 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 / Acting QM*
Ken Box - *Chief of the Boat*
"Gus" Hawkins
Chuck Hladik – *Past Base Cmdr*
Chris Kasper
Gabe Long
Gary Lee
Bob Zahrn

Officers Absent:
Conor Lembeck– *Base Secretary*
W. Becket Bircher– *Base Chaplin*
Donald LeBlanc– *Base Quartermaster*
Michael Skaggs (Incoming Webmaster)

Visitors:
Marty Gregg – *Member at Large*
Joe White – *Member at Large*

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 0902 by Base Commander Holmes. A quorum was present. Due to the excused absence of Conor, Dale was asked to keep minutes.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Gabe led base members in the Pledge of Allegiance.
   a. Introductions – Visitors Marty and Joe introduced themselves. Both expressed a desire to join our base (this was completed after the meeting).
3. Previous Minutes – Dale read the minutes from Sept. Ken motioned to approve the minutes as read, Jim seconded, minutes approved.
4. Treasurers Report –Jim provided a report of a balance of $3,135.^{06} on deposit, and petty cash again of $95.^{00}. Primary action was deposit of funds from Sept meeting. Detailed records are available upon request.
   a. Status of 2026 Dues – Jim reported that all members who continued have paid.
   b. Dues are $50 year, unless you are a National Life member (still own $10 local dues). Make checks to OKC Subvets.
5. USS OKC Base life membership option (Dale) – Still working on this.
6. OKC Subvets Website and Facebook page (Todd Holmes)
   a. Need to post Czech Parade photo.
   b. OKC Subvets minor issues with delegates signing in, 2 factor authentication issues.
   c. Officers are still learning how to use the new national website.
7. Facebook Advertising Status (Michael) – No report
8. Storekeeper Items (Don LaBlanc/Dale Sanders) – Items are available for purchase after the meeting
9. USS Oklahoma City SSN 723 Memorial Park updates (Steve Damlo and Todd Holmes) –
   a. Letter to Senator Armstrong (Dale Sanders) – Aug meeting decided to send to OKC City Council members instead. Action still needs completed.
   b. Groundbreaking went well. Gabe was interviewed as part of it. **ACTION**: Todd & Gabe *(Post interview link on website)*.
   c. Debi Martin (OKC City Council Chief of Staff) has agreed to speak to our group at the Nov meeting.
   d. Funds are still needed for the transport of the sail to OKC.

10. USS Oklahoma commissioning (Don LaBlanc) – No report
11. Float Speakers (Gus Hawkins) – Speakers cost $215.00 in the end (**ACTION** Jim/Gus (*reimbursement*)). Speakers work well, but still figuring out how to connect to both speakers with blue tooth.
12. Czech Festival Parade (Gus Hawkins) – Parade was good. Float requires some work. Specifically:
    a. Ship's screw is loose again.
    b. Trailer lights need ground traced and repaired.
13. Midwest City Parade (Todd Holmes) – Parade scheduled for Nov 11th.
14. USSVI Elections (Todd Holmes) – Low turnout both on a local and national level was disappointing.
15. Presentation/PowerPoint for Children/Youth (Becket Bircher) – No report
16. Membership Chairperson Turnover (Todd Holmes, Becket Bircher, Jim Owen) – No report
17. Navy League/Navv Ball (Chuck Hladik) – Went well. Chuck was able to make some contacts so that next year we can hopefully have more heads up.
18. USS Oklahoma Commissioning Pins (Gus Hawkins) – Gus shared designs and noted he is still looking for better prices.
19. New Business –
    a. USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN601) Association 2028 Reunion. – Joe White is the chair for this reunion, which will be in OKC. He asked for general support, including putting together a campaign to promote OKC as a reunion location for other boats.
    b. Metal pier sign – There is interest by Debi Martin in possibly having this for the USS OKC Memorial.
    c. Jim shared a poster he had obtained. He had hoped to put it in the American Legion room under the Navy flag, but it is too large.
20. New Attendees share Naval Experiences – Sea stories were shared by everyone.
21. Concerns and Open Discussion –
    a. Conor's mother passed away last night.
22. Tolling of Boats – Dale lead the tolling for the October boats.
23. Closing Prayer – Chris led a closing prayer.
24. Depth Charge – Joe won the Depth Charge drawing and donated his *portion back.*
25. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Dale, seconded by Ken. Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 am.

Next Business Meeting – Nov 7, 2026 @ 0900

Midwest City Parade – Nov 11, 2026; time TBD