



☆☆☆USS Oklahoma City Base☆☆☆

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



Meeting Minutes for April 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/ Base Secretary*
Ken Box - *Chief of the Boat*
Gary Hayes
"Gus" Hawkins

Chuck Hladik – *Past Base Cmdr*
Danny Hill
Chris Kasper
Conor Lembeck
Michael Skaggs
Jay Van Duzer
Bob Zahn

Officers Absent:

W. Becket Bircher– *Base Chaplin*
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 – Michael led base members in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Previous Minutes – Dale read the minutes from March. Ken motioned to approve the minutes as read, Gus seconded, minutes approved.
4. Treasurers Report – Jim provided a report of a balance of \$2,878.⁰⁶ on deposit, and petty cash again of \$95.⁰⁰. Primary change was payment for printing of more business cards. Detailed records are available upon request. Dale motioned to approve the report, Chris seconded, report approved.
5. Status of 2026 Dues – Jim reported that three members have not yet paid dues. These members will be contacted.
 - a. Dues are \$50 year, unless you are a National Life member (still own \$10 local dues). Make checks to OKC Subvets.
6. OKC Subvets Website and Facebook page (Todd/ Michael) –
 - a. Turnover to Michael has not occurred due to travels.
 - b. National website has switched to the new website (<https://ussvi.org/>).
 - i. The first time in you need to login using your email and the "forgot password" button.
 - ii. There has been some troubles, including hacked, phishing emails appearing to be from various members, including local members.
 - c. WhatsApp Group Messaging setup. Still being worked on. (**ACTION:** Chris – create group)
7. Storekeeper Items (Don) – No report
8. Base Positions to be filled (Todd Holmes) – There is still one position which need to be filled.
 - a. Secretary – Connor volunteered to do this. Todd appointed him. Dale will provide a turnover to Connor.
9. USS Oklahoma City SSN 723 Memorial Park (Steve) – No new information.
10. USS Oklahoma commissioning (Don) – No new information.
11. Letter to Senator Mullin (Gabe & Dale) – Letter was sent. Need to see if Senator Armstrong is on the Memorial Park Board. **ACTION:** Dale.

12. Del City Parade, Saturday May 16th (Todd Holmes) – We are registered, but Todd doesn't have the line up yet.
 - a. This is the one parade that allows throwing candy still. Members are encouraged to bring candy but be careful of what you bring. Light items such as gummies are difficult to throw far enough. Chocolate melts on the pavement.
 - b. "Rust" Insurance (Todd) – Todd asked if this would change needing to use personal insurance for parades. He has not received an answer yet.
13. Memorial Day (*Todd for Becket*) – Becket's work veteran group is working with Commandant Matt Moore of the Sooner Base of the Marine Corps League for the annual reading of Oklahoma veterans at the OKC Veteran Memorial site on Capital grounds. Members are encouraged to attend at least a portion of the event. If you are interested in being one of the readers, let Becket know.
14. Base Patches with Errors (Jim) – Jim shared these. They are available for a donation. When asked, Jim reported they cost \$239, but as it was his error he personally absorbed the cost. Chuck motioned to toss any left over, Gus seconded. MOTION CARRIED. **Action:** *Jim*
15. New Business –
 - a. Liberty Fest Parade, July 4th (Todd) – Dale motioned to participate in the parade, Ken seconded. MOTION CARRIED. **Action:** *Todd*
 - b. PAVA – Steak Dinner (Dale) – Piedmont Area Veterans Association (PAVA) has a fundraiser occurring at Chester's Party Barn on April 25 The barn is hosting Oklahoma's steak grilling championship, which will provide meat for the meal. Members are encouraged to buy tickets.
 - c. Kaps-4-Kids (Chuck) – Chuck has been storing these hats and needs to get them out. After discussion Todd told Chuck to bring them to the next meeting.
 - d. Facebook Advertising (Michael) – Michael is going to investigate cost and availability of this. In other groups, it has been a cheap but effective method.
 - e. Funeral – Todd, Dale, Becket, and Bob were able to attend the funeral of Ron Milledge ET2(SS) on April 10 in Pauls Valley, OK. We presented his widow with an Eternal Patrol certificate and a base coin.
16. New Attendees share Naval Experiences – With no new attendees, Todd kicked us off with the question: "Where was your ship's bell?" This led to a good round of sea stories.
17. Concerns and Open Discussion –
 - a. Becket is traveling with family to say goodbye to his father-in-law, who is in hospice care.
 - b. Joyce continues to recover from her shoulder surgery.
 - c. Todd has upcoming sinus surgery.
 - d. Jay lost his granddaughter in a school bus accident in Tennessee.
18. Tolling of Boats – Michael and Dale led us in the tolling of the boats for April.
19. Closing Prayer – Chris led a closing prayer.
20. Depth Charge – Bob won the Depth Charge drawing and donated his portion.
21. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Dale, seconded by Gus. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

★ ★ ★ **Next Business Meeting – May 2, 2026 @ 0900** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ **Del City Parade – May 16, 2026; time TBD** ★ ★ ★