
USSVCF Quarterly Board meeting April 24, 2026

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The USSVCF board meeting focused on updates from various committee chairs and operational matters. Ken reported on the Western Region Roundup's success with 160 attendees and announced the creation of a general fund for the American Submariner magazine, which is expected to generate potentially \$50,000-\$80,000 annually in advertising revenue. Randy discussed recent website security issues caused by fraudulent credit card transactions that led to the loss of their QuickBooks payments account. The issue has since been resolved by implementing country-based restrictions. George provided updates on the library shipment to Florida, fleet outreach activities including plaques for Idaho, and the Brotherhood fund's assistance with house fires and medical cases. The meeting also covered scholarship applications, monument projects, and ongoing legal issues with a former website provider, with George noting that the lawsuit claim has been increased by \$7,000 to cover additional costs.

Next steps

Bob

- Schedule and send out Zoom Meeting invite for fund managers and executive committee for early to mid-May.

George

- Send Ken the import/file on institutionalizing ambassadors again.
- Work on a plan for delivering plaques/awards to already commissioned submarines and share with Bob.
- Put together a sketch/plan for charitable foundation activities at the upcoming convention and run by group for feedback.
- Continue to encourage participation of plaque/award handout volunteers and attempt to recruit one as a fund manager.
- Review and follow up on quotes for insulation and new windows for the New London building (with Sid).

Ken

- Insert edited FOF section and revised controller/consultant section into PPM, update index and page numbers, and add institutionalized ambassadors' section by Sunday or Monday.

- Form a turnaround team for the American Submariner (Ken, Chuck Senior, Barry Wyatt, Tim Carlisle, Sid Sidlovski, and perhaps one more selected by Chuck) and invite relevant members; keep the team small and focused.

Randy

- Send Matthew Bellas (from Shawn Smith & Associates) contact info to Ken for a possible meeting with the executive committee.
- Coordinate with Sean Smith & Associates/CPA to incorporate the 20-year-old Excel spreadsheet into QuickBooks.
- Contact Barry to ask if he has calendars to sell and coordinate selling excess calendars, as in previous years.
- Share information about website fraud prevention (blocking non-US traffic) with Barry to help prevent similar issues.

Tim

- Contact Test Depth Customs (or similar vendor) to purchase dolphins for auction/fundraising and coordinate with George/Randy for delivery/use.
- Continue website fixes and ongoing consulting with the website developer as needed to resolve remaining issues.

Summary

Website Development and Technical Issues

The meeting focused on technical issues with accessing email and joining the call, particularly for Kenneth, who was experiencing Outlook login problems. Tim provided an update on website development, noting that while membership functionality works well, there are ongoing issues with the national office section that need to be addressed. Tim explained that he is working to redirect charitable foundation processes to the group's site to simplify management, particularly regarding changes to fund managers.

PPM Document Updates and Roundup

Ken reported on updates to the PPM document, including edits to the controller section and preparation of FOF content, which he planned to complete by Monday. He also mentioned the Western Region Roundup meeting had 161 registered attendees and was well-run. Ken noted that he would add information about institutionalizing ambassadors to the PPM after receiving it from George.

American Submariner Magazine Fund Initiative

Ken announced the creation of a general fund for the American Submariner magazine, which Randy set up within 5 minutes of being contacted. Ken outlined plans to form a small team of leaders to turn around the magazine's approach, noting that while it's

currently aimed at the wrong audience, they aim to target prime contractors and subcontractors. The team will be invited to join this initiative, though George declined involvement, and the fund will receive advertising revenue from USSVCF.

Financial Opportunity and Fundraising Initiatives

Ken discussed a potential financial opportunity involving multi-page ads that could positively impact the USSVI budget by \$50,000 to \$80,000. He shared feedback from various bases who are currently investing savings in higher-interest savings accounts and CDs and encouraged them to invest through the charitable foundation, which offers typically better returns as well as faster access to funds than locked CDs. Tim expressed support for the initiative and suggested involving Sid on the team, as Sid had previously attempted similar base-funding efforts. Ken also mentioned auctioning a custom Madrone wood cane with coins and a thermometer, which sold for \$120 at the Western Region Roundup, with the funds going to the WRR committee.

Scholarship Fund and Business Updates

Ken reported that the Wayne and Jo-Lynn Standerfer Scholarship Fund raised \$300. He discussed Shawn Smith & Associates hiring a business development assistant, Matthew, from South Africa, who will help with the firm's business development. They have agreed to assist with more accounting tasks for the CF, including incorporating an Excel spreadsheet into QuickBooks. The team learned that a Florida CPA firm expressed interest in potentially working with them as a reviewer before transitioning to an auditor once revenue reaches specific thresholds. Tim announced plans to post Eileen's successful presentation on women in submarines on YouTube, which drew a strong audience of about 140 out of 160 registered participants.

Financial Improvements and Security Updates

Randy reported significant financial improvements: March donations reached \$12,551, up from \$7,335 in March 2025, and the organization completed 100 wills. He discussed resolving website security issues caused by fraudulent credit card transactions, which led to the loss of their QuickBooks payments account. Randy implemented a solution blocking access from outside the U.S., which appears to have successfully prevented further fraudulent activity. The team also addressed concerns about base acknowledgment at the Western Roundup, with Randy noting that a \$50 donation from the Scamp base in February may have been missed by the WRR committee, even though the money was posted correctly in the CF financial records.

Charitable Initiatives and Updates Meeting

The meeting covered several key updates and initiatives. George reported that the library shipment to Florida was completed, with 80 boxes sent. The Brotherhood Fund has assisted with multiple cases, including house fires in Texas and Pittsburgh, as well as medical support for children at Boston Children's Hospital. Alan reported 340 scholarship applications in the pipeline, like last year's volume. George discussed ongoing legal proceedings regarding a website claim, which have been updated to reflect additional costs. The team also discussed plans for an upcoming convention, with Rick Mitchell offering reduced rates for booth space and advertising. Tim proposed acquiring additional dolphin-themed items from a Texas company for fundraising. The conversation ended with discussions about expanding outreach to submarine bases and scheduling a future Zoom meeting for fund managers in May.

Meeting Minutes approved



4/25/2026

Bob Bachman

Date