

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen.

- Attending were Board of Directors members Ralph Rohrssen, Rick Sparger, Mike Knaub, Bill Kennedy, Joe Lunn, Nick Nichols, Ken Curtis, Ken Hutchison, Bill Freligh, Rick Wise, George Scharf, Gordon Williams, Butch Bryar, Mike Ciesielko and Gordon Long.
- Attending base members were: Tom Lawson and Ed Stank.

Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen:

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Welcomed Gordon Long as the new Base Secretary.
- Reported that Don Ort has volunteered to become the National Awards Coordinator for the Charleston Base. Nick Nichols filled in the details. This is a new appointed position.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick discussed the proposed Thresher Memorial at Arlington presented by National and the subject of donations. The subject will be presented to the Base membership. The Base will not contribute any funds to this. There is no other “lost boats” memorial but as individuals, any member can contribute if they wish. National has set up a website for this purpose.
- Rick reported that the FRA is having a 20 year celebration dinner on June 16. The meal is for FRA members and one guest.

Kaps 4 Kids - Bill Kennedy:

- Bill reported that on the last trip to Florence, he was unable to go. He appreciated the effort of the guys that made the trip although there was a hiccup with the crayons. He is looking forward to the trip to Greenville. The number of children visited and their parents has increased as the hospitals do appreciate what the group is doing. Bill has hats and do-rags for the kids. The base should be more active in the community. We do the Little David and Ed going the Victory House.
- Ralph suggested that we should go to closer locations such as visiting the vets at the VA Hospital or going to the nursing homes and that we need a good PR effort. Our last WWII vet is scheduled to be interviewed by the newspaper. Nick pointed out that there is a lot of unsung activity by individual members taking other to doctor visits and such. Mike C. suggested that some of the visits could be scheduled on days that the non-retired members could participate without having to take off work.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- The archived copies of the All-Hands magazine are now available online for free.
- The Undersea Museum in Washington (state) is really good.

WEBMASTER – Nick Nichols:

- Explained a problem the Base had regarding removing names from email distribution lists.
- Explained F5 key for refreshing the browser.

CHAPLAIN

- Ed Simokat is at the Villages Rehab Unit Rm 3R. He expects to be able to go home very soon.

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- Don Meadows is now home. He is on daily antibiotic IVs and can't work for 5 weeks. His meds were messed up and he has to get that worked out between VA and MUSC.
- Luke Murphy is at home. Judy reports that Luke is improving a little each day but continues to have a lot of doctor appointments. The lift is working great. He would appreciate visits from anyone who can come by. Before visiting please call Judy's cell (843.560.0431) to make sure they are home and not at the doctor's office.
- Steve Everett has been having a rough time with his chemo. He has to take two different types and is wearing braces.
- Thom Beach is doing well. Thom and Linda appreciate all of our prayers.
- Larry Cox returned from his trip and is now taking chemo treatments again.
- Ed Stank will go to the Mayo clinic on 26 June for more tests on his back.

VA – Ken Curtis:

- Board of Veterans Appeals has resolved a number of claims.
- Talked about CRSC – Combat Related Special Compensation related to disability.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to Report

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill asked about the Comptroller position and the function of such position since this office is not among the Base positions currently elected or appointed. Rick Wise has been functioning in this capacity. This was discussed and Nick Nichols presented a motion with Ken Curtis seconding that the position should be appointed. Motion carried to officially designate Rick Wise as Base Comptroller. A job description will be forthcoming. Audits of the financial records will still be handled by Base members who have no ties to the Base finances.
- Rick Wise discussed an event from the last Base meeting and Robert's Rules of Order with Bill Kennedy explaining "Call the Question"

WWII – George Scharf:

- The next WWII meeting will held in August as requested by Stacy.

Scholarship – George Sharf:

- He will make one final scholarship presentation at the next Base meeting and then introduce the new committee. Discussion involved suggestions for fund raising methods. Raffles were the agreed on preferred method.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Presented Treasurer's report

Event Calendar – Nick Nichols:

- Upcoming 4th of July Parade in Monck Corner.

General Comments

- Chicago Illinois Base wants information about construction of submarine float.
- Ed Stank said that an inventory of the storage facility is being performed. When complete, the Subvets are supposed to get a key to the building.

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- A motion was made by Ed, with Rick Wise seconding, to hold the next Base Christmas party on December 14 at the Air Force Base NCO Club. This so that we have more space. The cost is expected to be \$15 per person. A non-refundable check of \$500 will be required to reserve the facility. Much discussion. Motion adopted.
- Ralph has been approached by the Hunley group asking for volunteer weekend tour guides. Secretary will contact them about having them come to our meeting in for 15 minutes at the July meeting. The June meeting is booked already with another presentation from the author of the book “Poopy Suits & Cowboy Boots”.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Letters have gone out to NAVSEA, Whitehouse and are being drafted for Department of Interior and SC Governor.

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Fund raising is extremely important. Legacy Items – Scholarship etc....
- Shirts – “Your Salt Life Amuses Me” with Dolphins
- Ideas to promote the Base.

Meeting was adjourned at 1931.