

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko in absence of Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen. Attending were Board of Directors members Joe Lunn, Larry Knutson, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Nick Nichols, Bill Freligh, Harry Nettles, Ken Hutchison, Tom Lawson, Rick Wise, George Scharf, Gordon Long, and Gordon Williams. USSVI Charleston Base member Ronald Lamon attended to discuss the proposed Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast with the Board.

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special, first time greeting to Harry Nettles as Hunley/Housatonic Coordinator.
- Mike asked Ron Lamon to present the update to his proposal at the outset of the meeting.
- Ralph Rohrssen has contacted him and he possibly needs to step down as Base Commander since he is working and traveling. Mike, noting that he, himself, is working full-time as well; suggested that he cannot, at this time, assume the position as BC. He proposes that Ralph retain the position as BC, being the POC for Charleston Base at National USSVI. Ralph can still fulfil the BC function in this capacity. Mike will remain as VC, filling in as required at the meetings.
- In discussion, it was noted that the Base membership must be informed about Ralph's current status and when it would be required to have a resignation. Nick Nichols proposed that Ralph remain in the position until after January 1 to see how things continue to operate and see if any changes need to be made prior to the General Election. (IAW Charleston Base By-Laws, elections for the BC and Treasurer positions will be May 2019)
- Mike Ciesielko shall inform the Base at the September Meeting.

Ron Lamon

- The planned date for the proposed Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast is October 27. Ron provided a menu along with the expected cost. The Fleet Reserve Association and Marine Corp Association have approved the event. Any unused groceries will be given to the FRA since the event is being held at this location for no charge.
- The guest register will include a column for listing the officer's military service. He is asking for two SubVets to be available to introduce the USSVI Charleston Base to the guest police officers. He has already asked the FRA to have someone available to provide information also.
- Ron has some young, inexperienced volunteers to cook but is asking for someone to supervise the cooking.
- From the information that he has received from the various Berkeley County police departments, he is expecting a maximum of 100 meals to be needed, but may only need 60.
- Ron also is requesting assistance from someone with experience in graphic design.
- The cost to Charleston Base will be limited to \$150 and must be approved by the membership. Ron will keep records of all expenses.
- Rick Sparger offered advice regarding the menu, stating that the quantities listed are greatly underestimated and outlined just a few of the items which needed adjustments. Rick also suggested that, rather than going out into town and purchasing the needed items, Ron should meet with the FRA cook staff, Justin or Debbie, and find out about what is normally ordered

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for the FRA quarterly breakfasts and delivered directly by the U.S. Foods truck to the FRA. The cost will not be cheap but will be significantly less by using this method. Rick emphasized that an entire day prior to the day of the FRA breakfasts is spent in preparation of food for serving the next morning where there are at least 10-12 people working to cook and serve the food. Rick also suggested contacting the American Legion, who have had experience in events such as this.

- Mike Ciesielko noted that this really is a worthy cause and that we should give Ron the help that he needs to accomplish this task.
- Rick will provide to Ron, at the Charleston Base meeting, a list of food items with the associated costs which were needed to put on the FRA quarterly breakfast.
- Ron will have time on the September Base Meeting under Old Business to present his updated plan.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- He went to the CPO Selectee Breakfast this morning. He spoke with some active duty members about joining SubVets.
- Carl stated that we must make sure that we must have good ideas. Mike noted the average age of the membership and suggested that we do things to expose the Base in order to draw some younger members. He started the Gun Club for this reason. Rick Sparger pointed out that other military associations are having the same membership issues. The FRA had just such an experience where an active duty member had to drop out because of command policy.
- Nick Nichols pointed out that active duty guys are extremely busy, have young families etc. We need to give them a card when we see them but we must promote the Base to thousands of retirees in this area; giving cards to those we run into just because they see us wearing a hat. We need to offer things other than going to a meeting each month. Some of the meetings have not been pleasant. Nick retains an email list and sends an invitation each month to folks about the Base meeting. If the individual will provide their email address, Nick will send them an invitation. The email list is not provided to anyone, so they do not have to be concerned about getting junk email because the individual provided Charleston Base their email address.
- Harry Nettles mentioned the use of social media and that the younger people are using Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram and others. Younger people are not using Facebook much. We will address the use of social media in New Business at the September Meeting.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Reported that Charleston Base currently has 289 members. Dues start in October. Of these, only about 75 are not Life Members.
- The Treasurer will collect dues in Larry's absence. Larry will update the National database once he returns.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick would like to have a barbeque catered by Kelly's Barbeque in November with a catering cost of \$10 each or \$11 each if we want chicken available. We, Base members, all could bring sides and/or desserts. We can discuss further, what the cost should be to the membership as an offset.

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Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl provided \$454 to the Treasurer for deposit from the scholarship fund.
- Carl talked about a submarine history book which was signed by Admiral Osborne. He will have raffle tickets at the September Base meeting. The tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held at the end of the November meeting.
- A Char-Broil Cooker/Smoker which is available to view in the FRA building will be raffled at the FRA November meeting. The tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You do not have to be present to win.
- Carl requested that, in the future, the Scholarship Committee Chair be notified of donations immediately, rather than finding out in the newsletter. The Treasurer and Secretary will work together to see that he is notified.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Discussed the Call List:** 9 callers have signed up calling a total of 13 shipmates. Several callers have commented they felt the calls were very appreciated. Rick Sparger and Ken Hutchison told of the gratitude that they experienced when making some of these calls.
- **Margie Deal:** fell and broke her hip. After some time in Compass Health she is now home. She will be in the wheelchair for a few more weeks.
- **Elmer “Moon” Mullins:** having a procedure on the 12th of Sep at MUSC to have the mass in front of his skull checked via the nasal cavity.
- **Mike Welch:** currently scheduled for artery replacement of my left leg with a bypass at Roper on September 11. Doesn't know how long or extensive the rehab will be at this time. He has very little circulation in his left leg and it hurts constantly. Mike will provide an update when his doctor gives him one.
- **Rick Wise:** will have surgery soon for aortic valve replacement. Schedule is not yet set.
- **A member's** granddaughter passed away after a lengthy illness. No services were held.
- Chaplain will not be at the October meeting due to attending a boat reunion in Oklahoma.
- Reminded the board members of the rules for sending email, i.e., number of emails per hour.
- The TRICARE Retiree Program ending Dec. 31, 2018. Information is on the website. Warned everyone that of the options that are available, his dentist office pointed out those which they would recommend and several that they do not accept.
- Nick discussed earmarking a fund for small donations by boat associations for minor Cold War Memorial maintenance of benches and monuments. Nick made a motion with Carl Chinn seconding that, provided Rusty Pickett (Charleston Base/Patriot's Point POC) can obtain authorization from the administration of Patriot's Point to allow working parties for minor maintenance, that Charleston Base set up an earmarked fund as a depository for boat associations to provide small donations for this effort. The fund shall be called the Cold War Maintenance Fund and the donated funds will be managed by Charleston Base for the expressed purpose of providing material and supplies to perform maintenance such as cleaning and brush trimming at the CWM. The motion passed unanimously. The Treasurer will plan to add an administrative subaccount similar to the Scholarship Fund once Patriot's Point gives approval for this work. The actual work to be performed shall be approved by Patriot's Point and relayed to Charleston Base via Rusty Pickett.

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WEBMASTER – Nick Nichols:

- Nothing to report

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- There will be no Holland Club in October.
- There was a Clamagore Summit meeting at the Yorktown. They had asked Butch to be there at 1100 but the meeting was held at 0900 that day. He saw a few who had attended the meeting. These folks are planning to send the Clamagore to Florida by December or January. The funds for this transfer are not available and the group does not have permission from NAVSEA. An article in the newspaper recommended placing the Hunley at Patriots Point while also referencing the Laffey and the Yorktown. The Clamagore was not mentioned in the article.

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Nothing to report.

Storekeeper/FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- The FRA will be using the float on the Saturday before Veterans Day. Ken will pull the float with Larry Cox's truck. He will meet with Charlie Hudson and inspect the float. If he needs assistance with something, he will let everyone know.
- Shirley Houck donated the book for the Scholarship Committee. He recommended that the Base send her a note of appreciation for this and previous donations. The Scholarship Committee has it under control.
- Karen, wife of George Tarkenson, who came to the After Battery, has been diagnosed with leukemia.
- Ken will be on vacation during the Base meeting.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report.

Public Affairs/Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be October 19. Rick is unsure of whether he will be able to attend. Rick Wise presented a motion that Charleston Base purchase six challenge coins for presentation at the remaining graduations of 2018. The motion was seconded by Rick Sparger. The motion carried with no objections.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Requested clarification regarding Base meeting notices and what is required to be sent to the membership in advance of a meeting regarding agendas.
- Gordon requested that a quartet from the Charleston Barbershop Chorus to be allowed to open the next meeting by singing the Star Spangled Banner and remain following the opening ceremonies to sing a few songs during the time slot we have for a guest speaker. Authorization was granted for the opening anthem and to place invitations on the tables.

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Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The balance in the checking account is \$7,026.47. Of this, \$5,644.39 is the General Fund which is for the Christmas Party or whatever else is needed. The Scholarship Fund makes up the difference remaining with a balance of \$1,382.08. The current balance in the Investment Fund is \$32,320.62. The balance in PayPal is zero. Total, overall net value is \$39,347.09. \$237 was received at the last 50/50, \$40 in dues were collected and \$200 – 2 different donations – was made to the Scholarship Fund. We had \$17.97 in expenses for the Chaplain’s software renewal and a \$3 fee for an electronic check sent to National USSVI,

Meeting was adjourned at 1930.