

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 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 Bill Freligh, Joe Lunn, Larry Knutson, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Harry Nettles, Nick Nichols, Ken Hutchison, Tom Lawson, Rick Wise, George Scharf, Gordon Long, and Gordon Williams.

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike Discussed American Submariner boat sponsorship program which is promoted by national USSVI. These are subscriptions to be sent to submarines. The subscriptions can also be sent to the ROTCs. Ken Hutchison made a motion to sponsor the local Navy ROTCs and JROTCs but after some discussion, the motion was seconded by Nick and modified for Charleston Base to sponsor the USS Greenville SSN-772, USS Columbia SSN-771 and the Citadel NROTC. Most board members showed hands in favor. There was, however, no dissenting vote expressed.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- There will be no Holland Club in October. The next Holland Club induction will be in April.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- Renewed discussion of increasing membership. He wears his hat to get attention. Suggestions offered by others were billboards, meeting notices in the paper, actual advertisements with pictures of submarine dolphins etc... Ken Hutchison suggested that we take the float to more parades as was previously done. Bill Kennedy suggested every third Thursday to take the float to Summerville. He found out that his truck can pull the float. He also mentioned that we should check with the Chamber of Commerce about other event happenings in the local area where the float could be taken and parked with a few Base members to give out cards. Rick Sparger mentioned the possibility of someone going to the commissary, setting up a table to provide invitations to Charleston Base as this had been done before for the FRA. Mike suggested making a pamphlet for information about SubVets. Nick Nichols asked if anyone has kids who know how to build an APP to provide basic information about USSVI Charleston Base. This was mentioned at the September BOD meeting and had been added to New Business to query the membership at the September Base meeting. Since the meeting was cancelled due to the hurricane, it has been added to the October New Business. Nick noted that an Instagram account must be managed and that we will need someone to do that. Harry Nettles will bring this up at the meeting.
- COB expressed having an oyster roast soon. Rather than have a catered event, members of Charleston Base could go to Bowens Island Seafood and have oysters. He sent them an email asking for a quote for 50 people. He has not yet heard back.
- Harry Nettles asked about having the Base photographer taking pictures of events to be placed onto Facebook. The younger folks will share the pictures. Nick Nichols stated that Fred Woodley's current shoulder problems do not allow him to hold his camera for very long and that he needs a relief from duty as photographer. If anyone has been taking pictures with their phones, the pictures were not provided to Nick for the Base website. A request for a volunteer to function as Base Photographer will be added to the October Base Meeting New Business section.
- Harry Nettles also suggested video recording of the meeting especially that of the Nuclear Historian or any guest speaker. The video, however would require editing for GOOD SEA STORIES.
- The use of social media schedule for September will be added to New Business for the October Meeting.

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Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Reported that Charleston Base currently has 289 members. Most of the Base members are Life Members.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- The float will be used by the FRA on November 10. Ken Hutchison will pull the float in the Charleston Parade. Ken will tow the float home with him on Saturday November 10 and drop the float off at Coffee Roasters in the morning so that the float can be at that location for Veteran's Day.
- Rick has received a request for the float to appear in the Andrews parade on November 3. Due to the distance, he will send a note declining the offer.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The Scholarship Committee currently has \$1966. The drawing for the one-of-kind Submarine book, signed by Admiral Osborne, will be at the end of the Charleston Base meeting on November 8. The drawing for the Char-Broil Cooker/Smoker will be at the end of that same meeting. Most members of Charleston Base have not yet had an opportunity to purchase tickets for the cooker – the proceeds, of which, support the Base Scholarship Fund.

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Reached out to the Sons of Confederate Veterans but has heard nothing back.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Discussed the Call List:** Has everyone here made their calls? Ken Hutchison reported on those he called.
- **Mike Welch:** Was in Roper Downtown ICU. He had his surgery on his leg, went home, and then a day later had to go back to the hospital due to heart issues. He was scheduled to have a heart cath but that has been upgraded to a quadruple bypass. He had the bypass on Tuesday and it went well; however it was a 6-way bypass. While in ICU to recover he developed pneumonia. Soupy Campbell notified us that he has been moved to a regular room. He is on the mend but very weak, so no visitors yet.
- **Elmer 'Moon' Mullins:** Was in MUSC recovering from surgery on the inside of his skull. Fred Woodley informed me that Moon will have the procedure to remove the mass on his skull at MUSC on Wed Oct 3rd at 2:30pm. Fred reported on Thursday that Elmer's procedure went very well to biopsy the area in his skull. They did not keep him overnight and allowed him to go home. He sounded very upbeat and is glad to have that behind him. Fred will visit this week.
- **Ken Curtis:** Is home. On Sept. 27th, he had 2 stints put in and they (the VA) opened two OLD blockages. One of them was the one that caused my heart attack in December 1997. They could not open them at the time but they did yesterday. PRAYER WORKS!!!! I'm home and doing great.
- **Becky Roberts:** Had knee surgery this past Monday. She is now home with lots of pain and doing home health for now. She will have to follow up with physical therapist.
- **Wanda Nelms:** Was transported to Summerville Medical Center and was in ICU until this past Tuesday. She is now home.
- **Rick Wise:** Will be going in for a cardiac cath on Thursday 11th. If this goes well he will have an aortic valve replacement in November.
- **Rick Sparger:** Will have his left knee replaced on October 26th.
- **Chaplain:** Will not be at the October meeting due to attending a reunion in Oklahoma. Harry Nettles will give the Chaplain's report.
- **TRICARE Retiree Dental Program:** Ending Dec. 31, 2018. Info link is on the website. The 2019 rates are on their website. Open enrollment begins Nov. 12. Be sure to talk to your dentist about the coverage providers. Your dentist may not accept certain ones.

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- **Cold War Maintenance Fund (CWMF):** Discussed earmarking a fund for donations by boat associations for minor CWM maintenance of benches and monuments. Base member Rusty Pickett will be working on this with Patriot's Point administration. Nick presented a motion made, seconded by Rick Sparger and passed that will allow the Base treasurer to establish a fund within the Base account for the CWMF. This fund shall be administered by Rusty Pickett, the Base CWM Contact. Funds donated from the various groups which have a monument or bench at the CWM will be deposited into this fund. The CWMF funds will not be given to Patriot's Point but used by volunteers, as directed by Rusty Pickett, to conduct maintenance and cleaning at the CWM.
- **Undersea Warfare newsletter:** There is no longer a daily newsletter. It is now put out weekly on Friday.

WEBMASTER – Nick Nichols:

- Nothing to report

VA – Tom Lawson:

- If you don't sign up right away for dental coverage after open enrollment begins, you will still be able to.
- The VA website has a lot of good information.
- The VA really needs volunteers. Tom mentioned several Base members who are currently volunteers at the VA.

Public Affairs/Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Nothing to Report.

Kaps 4 Kids – Bill Kennedy

- Three Base members went to McLeod Hospital and visited 14 children – 5 were going home that afternoon.
- After informing the hospital staff that this would probably be the last visit for the year, Bill was told that that was unacceptable because they get a lot of kids during November and December. The hospital is asking for the group to return, so he is scheduling another visit to Florence on Tuesday, December 4 at 1000. The muster time will be at 0745 at Ken Hutchison's house for a 0800 departure to McLeod. Those who would like to go on this visit with Kaps 4 Kids, please contact Bill or Ken by phone or email.
- Bill is missing a folder labeled McLeod Hospital. If anyone has found such, please advise.

Storekeeper/FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken described the results from his 80+ Calls.
- Ken will not be at the October Base meeting. He and his wife will be on vacation. Ron Chambers will be at meeting with Ken's order book. If anyone needs anything, please let Ken know. In addition, Ken has ordered calendars and will have them at the November Base meeting.
- Ken did bring two coats for Victory House. Please give them to Ed Stank at the Base meeting.
- Perry Randall – known mostly as Bear Tracks has passed away. He was a Masterchief Torpedoman.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Will be asking a quartet from the Charleston Barbershop Chorus to sing the National Anthem in January.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Nothing to Report.

Meeting was adjourned at 1908