

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**July 2, 2020**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1700 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Nick Nichols, Harry Nettles, Ken Hutchison, Gordon Williams, Larry Knutson, Rick Sparger, Gordon Long, Rick Wise, Glenn Little and Butch Bryar.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- Rick Wise is preparing for nuclear medicine in lieu of prostate surgery. It will involve some hormone pretreatment for a while beforehand.
- If you use VA medical, and go to a civilian doctor's office, you are required to report to VA of your treatment.

### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick has received several emails requesting to know how Charleston Base is going to handle the USSVI National election.
- Out of state travel is being a problem due to regulations put into place because of COVID. Nick cited an example.
- USSVI National is stressing – as Nick has for years – that when sending emails to a group to put the list of addresses in the BCC box as either the TO or CC box will allow everyone to see everyone else's email addresses. The problem really gets worse if an individual forwards that email and then you get exposed for spam and phishing.
- Please also make sure that the Subject line is not blank as it may get screened out as spam.

### **Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:**

- Nothing to report

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:**

- Nothing to report

### **Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:**

- Ken discussed the SubVets election of officers. The office of Vice Commander has two candidates this year – Tom Lawson and Ed Stank. The Secretary position has only one – Gordon Long. Ken will provide paper ballots.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- The FRA will have free pool tables on Sundays.
- Rick announced food and beer specials for July 4.
- Harry Nettles is the FRA president. Ken Hutchison is the vice-president. Rick Sparger is on the Home committee along with John Lookabill. Robert Gay is the new Master-at-Arms and is also on the Home committee. Submariners are well represented at the FRA.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing to report

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### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- Willy stated that he had nothing to report.
- Rick Sparger had some questions regarding the format and readability of the Treasurer's Report. There was some discussion among the members about how to improve the format.

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise:**

- Nothing to report

### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:**

- NPS awards are currently being presented from Charleston Base by the NPS staff. At this time, the school is having graduation ceremonies online so that parents can attend virtually.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Rick discussed the budget and outlined some recent, but expect, expenditures. As long as we start having meetings again soon, we will be able to support our current budget.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Larry had received an email from Roger Starnes, who is a USSVI National Life Member (Member-At-Large). He had been sponsored by Jack Harden and simply needs a new sponsor. Charleston Base does not have Associate Members any longer, but he can be listed as an Honorary Member for the Base and can retain his current status at National. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko agreed to be the new sponsor. Larry will contact him.
- Charleston Base currently has 278 members.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- The judge has given Patriots Point 20 days to reply to the motion by CRAMA.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Nothing to report

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Gordon presented the Stratford High School yearbook to the Base and showed the advertisement that was put in the yearbook. It is essentially a Navy recruitment featuring a Virginia class submarine with rating symbols and the webpage info for Charleston Base. Brian Davy's daughter, who was on the yearbook committee, signed the yearbook which had been entitled, "Beneath the Surface". It was given to Rick Wise to provide to George Sharf, our Base Historian for retention.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike outlined his concern for the safety of the Base members regarding having Base meetings at this time due to COVID. Ken Hutchison made the case for returning to meetings; presenting the low probability of having any issues. After some discussion, Rick Wise asked the elected Base members about their willingness to attend the Base Meeting. The Base Secretary and the Base Commander agreed to be at the meeting. This is important so that a quorum is set. With that in place, a vote was taken by show of hands and the decision was made to hold the July Base meeting.

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- The Base Secretary will send information about the meeting to be held next week along with the safety restrictions which will include masks. It will be left to each Base member to decide whether to come or remain at home.
- We will be presenting the Distinguished Submariner Award and holding the election for the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary. Holland Club presentations will be held at the October Base meeting.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Not present.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not present.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Not present

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- Not present

### **PAO – Jerry Stout:**

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1758.