

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Gordon Williams, Larry Knutson, Ken Hutchison, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Rick Wise, Glenn Little, Lou Leal, Tom Lawson, Nick Nichols, and Ed Stank. Base Secretary Gordon Long was not in attendance.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Reported that not many members have renewed via PayPal this year. In fact, several members have yet to renew.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 277 members.
- Those members attending the meeting are aware that Annual National and Base Dues are due but many have not attended any recent meetings. Approximately 70 members are dink.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Called the National storekeeper concerning the order for 2021 calendars and was informed that the binding machine is broken. Hopefully, we will get them soon.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- A group of medals, including a Purple Heart, was found at a store, recovered and turned in to the American Legion. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded to a U.S. Coast Guard LTJG who lost his life when his cutter sunk during WWII. The American Legion will present them to the relatives and the FRA will perform a Two-Bell Ceremony.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The shotgun raffle to benefit the Scholarship Fund is underway. The drawing will be at the Base Meeting in February.
- The Rummage Sale is on schedule for November 14 and are expecting good weather. Carl, Rick and Glenn will be bringing a total of about a dozen tables.
- There is a need for lots of help with setup, sales and even traffic control due to the location on the corner of Old Trolley Road and Travelers Blvd. Extra eyes are needed to make sure that items do not get stolen.
- The committee has already sold over \$600 of items on either Craig's List or Facebook Marketplace.
- Lewis Leal will update the social media information about the Rummage Sale.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- We have used many shadow boxes recently and need to purchase more. Rick has a quote from someone who will make them for \$17 plus shipping. Rick recommended that we purchase at least ten (10) units. Rick Wise noted that we are budgeted for 10 each. Mike Emerson has made the boxes for us previously. Nick Nichols suggested that we give Mike the first chance. Ed Stank will query him about the shadow boxes.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick has received entry application for the Harleyville Christmas Parade. It will be held in the evening, Thursday, December 3. He will get the form submitted. The event will be at night and is usually cold.
- We usually enter the float in the Summerville Christmas Parade but Rick has not heard from Summerville as yet. We also could pull the float in the Ridgeville Parade. Rick will contact both Summerville and Ridgeville for info.
- All BOD members were in agreement about skip Ellore this year. It is too far to pull the float.
- Those who attended the Base picnic can attest to the fact that we had an enjoyable time. There was plenty of room for more people and the weather was perfect. Ken Hutchison listed several that really put a lot of work into the event.
- There was much discussion regarding holding Base events and when they should occur. No details were noted, but all were encouraged to note suggestions and bring them to the next meeting in December for further review.

Newsletter – Rick Wise:

- Rick has been limited, but plans to get the Base Newsletter sent out tomorrow.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Rick must rebuild the Budget Template for the Base after a hard drive failure.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glen will be unable to attend the Veteran's Day Ceremony in Summerville. Nick will take pictures.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lewis will be updating the Rummage Sale info on the social media sites. Nothing else to report.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- The VA is back open. The primary care clinics have been relocated to the building near Trident Medical.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Jim Loveday's wife, Charlotte** sent an email thanking everyone at the Sub Vets for all their help for Jim's funeral and asked that it be passed along to everyone.
- **Sonny Rash** has cancer in his left big toe and it may have to be amputated.
- **Rick Wise** is having some intestinal and bladder problems associated with the radiation exposure from the seeding. May last a few weeks up to a few months.
- **Ken Lux** was in the hospital at the end of October and was tested for flu, bronchitis, COVID and pneumonia. He was clear of all but the pneumonia and is being treated for that.
- **James Graham** is recovering well from his September knee surgery.
- **Gary Williams** had lengthy back surgery on 10 September. Have not heard how he's doing.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans shows great improvement.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the EP this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Website is constantly updated.
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.
- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Not present

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Not present

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- Nothing to report.

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Nothing reported

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits

CRAMA – Rick Wise for Butch Bryar:

- Not present

PAO – Jerry Stout:

- Not present

Miscellaneous:

- If purchasing items from Amazon, money can be donated automatically to USSVI. Tom Lawson has done this several times. Doing so does not increase your price but it has to be done a certain way to make sure that the money goes to the right place. See Tom for more info. Nick Nichols noted that donations from his purchases get credited to the Submarine Museum in Kings Bay.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- It is time for Distinguished Submariner Award nominees to be submitted. Mike asked that we gather a good selection from which to choose like we did last year.
- Mike is asking everyone who is holding a position in Charleston Base to review the duties and responsibilities for that job and acknowledge such by sending him an email.

Meeting was adjourned at 1847.