

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Gordon Williams, Ken Hutchison, Rick Wise, Larry Knutson, Glenn Little, Gordon Long, Bill Hayes, Nick Nichols, Ed Stank, Harry Nettles, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger and Tom Lawson. Lindsay Nelson was also in attendance to present the Friends of the Hunley.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting. Mike introduced Ed Stank as the new PAO.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Reported that since it is the first day of the month, he is still waiting on the bank statement to complete his November report. He did say that our monthly income has finally been more than expenses; partly because of some anonymous donations and dues are coming in.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken has received calendars and will have them available at the Base meeting next week.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- The budget will be available on each table for review at the Base meeting next week. Rick has rebuilt the Budget Template due to a hard drive failure and has accounted for most items. He will get the remaining \$100 or so from the Treasurer's reports.

Newsletter – Rick Wise:

- Nothing reported.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 277 members.
- Larry thanked Rick Sparger for his assistance with the Dink List. Approximately 60 members are still dink.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glen will attend the Christmas Parade in Harleyville to take pictures.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The BOD Minutes from last month have incorrect information in the attendance record. The BOD members will get a correction via email by morning.
- The Base Meeting Minutes from November are pending as of tonight.

Friends of the Hunley – Lindsay Nelson:

- Lindsay presented information and requested renewal of the Friends of the Hunley sponsorship for this year. Ken Hutchison presented a motion that we sponsor the Hunley exhibit by providing \$250 each January. The motion was seconded by Glenn Little. There was some discussion from a budgetary view, regarding how many other entities to which we are providing money each year. Rick Wise noted that since the Hunley was recovered, Charleston Base has led and performed the annual Hunley/Housatonic memorial ceremony;

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

making us, as a Base, have a special relationship to the Hunley. Charleston Base also is noted at the Hunley exhibit as a sponsor. The motion to renew perpetually passed. Charleston Base will provide a \$250 sponsorship each January.

- The hats, pins and other items received from last year's and ongoing Hunley sponsorship – after much discussion – will be provided to the Storekeeper. The money from these items will go back to the General Fund to help offset the cost of the sponsorship.

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- Bill patiently, with many interruptions, presented some thoughts about holding a quarterly Base recreational event. Mike Ciesielko suggested a spaghetti dinner. The kitchen at the FRA is usually too busy for us to hold such an event, but similar events have previously been held at a nearby church. This could be an option. Mike recommended that, since Bill lives such a distance away, that he coordinate with Rick Sparger (Special Events) to do some of the leg work for these activities. Ed Stank also offered his help.

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.
- **EMCM(SS) Richard W. Cleeve, Jr.**, USN Ret, departed on EP on Nov. 28th. He fell in October and broke his hip, had surgery and when to a rehab facility where he contracted COVID. He was taken to the hospital and passed away there without any of his family. Later this week he will have a small service in Pinopolis with family but no visitation.
- James Cleve, **Richard's son**, said the family is asking in lieu of flowers to make donations to the Charleston Base Scholarship Fund.
- **June Reuer**, Jeff's wife, passed away on Oct. 22nd. Her service was held on Oct. 24th.
- Roger Gibson's sister, **Pat Tobasko**, passed away on Nov. 30 at age 93.
- **Wayne Bohon**, Bruce Bohon's brother, passed away on Nov. 30 at his home in FL. He was 68. Bruce's mother passed away Oct. 7 here in Summerville.
- **Don Ort** has a severe heart blockage and a bad heart valve. His doctor wants to do a three-way bypass and heart valve replacement as soon as possible.
- **Dennis "Frenchy" Fuqua** is not doing well. About a month ago he was admitted to Trident with Pneumonia. While he was being treated they discovered he has Lung Cancer. He is home now under Barbara's care (843)797-3230. He has decided not to have treatments. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions.
- **Ken Hutchison** fractured two ribs the day of the Rummage sale.
- **Brian Sparks**, Ray's son had a stroke and was in the hospital.
- **Sonny Rash** is doing well after having his toe 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** had pneumonia and it has cleared up.
- **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.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present

[SECRETARY’S NOTE: The audio recording was truncated. Below this line may require revision.]

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Outlined a few plans for presentation of Charleston Base in various media sources.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl gave report of the Rummage Sale. Of the items contributed, \$740 was made using Craigs List during the sale date delays. At the sale, the committee earned \$1597 and items retained for sale after the sale have brought \$120 so far, for a total of \$2457. The scholarship fund now has more than \$5200 and the effort is ongoing.
- The shotgun raffle to benefit the Scholarship Fund is underway. The drawing will be at the Base Meeting in February.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- The entry has been submitted for the Harleyville Christmas Parade. It will be held in the evening, Thursday, December 3.
- Charleston Base will not enter the float in the Summerville Christmas Parade. Rick provided details. He is making plans to get into other parades instead.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to report.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Nothing to report

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 1923.