

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**January 7, 2021**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Ken Hutchison, Gordon Williams, Bill Freligh, Larry Knutson, Bill Hayes, Rick Wise, Ed Stank, Rick Sparger, Butch Bryar, Gordon Long, Lewis Leal, Nick Nichols, Carl Chinn, Glenn Little and Bill Roup. Vice Commander Tom Lawson attended via speakerphone.

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- Provided a detailed listing of all available funds and designated functions associated with the monies.
- The audit of the Base checking account will be scheduled after March 2021.
- Nick Nichols reminded everyone that the Cold War Memorial maintenance fund is money that was donated by outside groups. Charleston Base is simply a holding point for when Rusty Pickett – our Patriots Point representative – schedules a working party for cleaning benches or other parts of the Cold War Memorial.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- This year, we have five new inductees, plus those from 2020. We are prepared for an April induction ceremony, but there is still concern about bringing in our family members for the event.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 279 members. At this time, we have 36 on the National Dink List and for Base dues there are 58 members listed as Dink.

### **Recreation – Bill Hayes:**

- Bill stated that, for the spaghetti dinner, the church will let us use the facility, but currently will not allow any food to be served. Mike Ciesielko said that we can delay the event if necessary. Rick Sparger mentioned that we could possibly hold the dinner at the FRA, depending on the date/time.

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise:**

- Ed Stank is expected to take over the job of Newsletter Editor. Rick will help him with the January 2021 issue.

### **PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Ed informed us that Charleston Base will be in American Submariner for the Rummage Sale. He has also sent in articles about the Base participation in the Harleyville and Goose Creek parades. He has also sent articles into some of the local papers.

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

- Rick talked about the Base participation in the Goose Creek parade. He especially wanted to thank the extremely helpful lady who worked to get us in, although the entry deadline had past. Rick will write a letter to thank her. Nick also suggested that we give her a SubVets ballcap. All were in agreement.
- Regarding the Goose Creek parade, Tom Lawson relayed a conversation that he had with plumber doing some work at his house. The man mentioned that the highlight of the parade was “the model of the submarine with all of the old guys”. From all accounts, the kids really enjoyed the float. Plans have already been made to attend the Goose Creek parade next year.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing to report.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- Still waiting on the judge.
- A maintenance schedule has been prepared and reviewed by the legal team to be provided to Patriots Point.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Lewis discussed the objections that were presented at the previous Base meeting the last time he spoke about plans to video. Nick Nichols read each one.
  - What if someone does not want to be videoed?
  - Do you care if you are taped?
  - Should we:
    - Make the video public?
    - Make the recordings private and hide the video link except for members? This is the suggested option – Base members only.
  - What if someone shares the video with a non-Base member? There is nothing that keeps a Base member attending a meeting and recording the meeting on their cellphone even right now.
  - What about videoing the Depth Charge? This can be edited out prior to publication.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko suggested that we post notices that the meeting will be videotaped.
- Lewis noted that the AV quality of his test last month was not that good for livestream. He suggested recording the meeting, to be uploaded later. This gives the opportunity to review for content prior to publication. Ken Hutchison suggested that we provide verbal notice that the meeting is being videotaped prior to the meeting start.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko spoke to everyone about the Base officers remaining professional and refraining from vulgarity. Hopefully, this will prompt the other Base members to do likewise.

### **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.

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- **EMCM(SS) William Basil Burnette, 83**, of Goose Creek departed on Eternal Patrol December 28, 2020. He was not a USSVI/CB member. He spent 28 years serving in the Navy as a submariner. After his retirement from the Navy he continued his career as a Nuclear Shift Test Engineer at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. An online condolence message was left on behalf of Charleston Base.
- **CPO(SS) Glenn James Andrews, 93**, of Charleston, departed on Eternal Patrol December 31, 2020. He served in the United States Navy and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. He was a Korean War Veteran serving on many ships during his service and retired off the SSBN624 USS Woodrow Wilson. An online condolence message was left on behalf of Charleston Base.
- **Linda Carver Gay, Bob's wife**, passed away on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Her service was held on January 5<sup>th</sup>. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell's brother, Don**, passed away mid-December 2020.
- **Don Ort** had heart surgery on December 15<sup>th</sup> to correct heart blockages and heart valve. The surgery went well but he has been having a hard time with recovery and healing. Initial discharge just before Christmas, been in the ER a couple of times with atrial fibrillation and irregular heartbeat. He is home now. Donna told me has some fluid on his legs and some problem breathing. It is a slow process and sleeping is still an issue. Doctor is giving us reassurance that Don is on track for recovery.
- **Tom Lawson's daughter, Tracey**, had appendix surgery on Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and is home recovering.
- **Dennis "Frenchy" Fuqua** still not doing well. He is home on palliative care with Hospice. The home health care and hospice nurses are helping Barbara a lot. Frenchy has lost a lot of weight and sleeps a lot. Their holidays were good considering everything. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions. Barbara's care (843)797-3230.
- **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 Eternal Patrol 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.

### **WWII Recognition – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick read an article regarding a WWII award presentation which was made by the Daughters of the American Revolution. There was a suggestion to submit Stacy Power for recognition as well.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- We will recognize Stacy Power for his 65 years of continuous membership in the FRA at the next Base meeting. Harry Nettles will make the presentation.

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### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- Carl gave the Treasurer \$178 for the Scholarship Fund.
- The drawing for the shotgun raffle to benefit the Scholarship Fund will be at the Base Meeting in February.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Nothing to report

### **VA – Tom Lawson:**

- The VA will start to provide COVID shots to veterans soon.

### **National Awards – Don Ort:**

- Not present

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits

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

- Not present

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

- Nothing to report

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

- Mike noted that time is running out for submittals of Distinguished Submariner Award nominees and that participation is currently non-existent. The award is to be presented in March. Please get some DSA nominations to the secretary. Secretary will provide nomination forms for the tables at the Base meeting next week. Chaplain will also send out an “All Hands” email. Nick read the list of past DSA recipients.
- Due to Don Ort’s health, we need to have another National Awards Coordinator. If you have any suggestions, please let Mike know.
- Mike noted that we just had some younger members recently joined the Base. We need more of them.

### **Swearing in of Officers – Base Chaplain Nick Nichols:**

- Although normally done at a Base meeting, swearing in of both Vice Commander and Secretary was performed at the Board Meeting since Tom Lawson has been unable to attend in person for several months. Tom as VC (via phone) and Gordon Long as Secretary were confirmed to retain their current positions.

Meeting was adjourned at 1908.