

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2021

Called to order 1804

Present were: Nick Nichols, Ed Stank, Rick Wise, Bill Freligh, Gordon Williams, Ken Hutchison, Glenn Little, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Harry Nettles and Tom Lawson. Base Commander has Covid and joined us by phone as he is in quarantine. He will also miss the base meeting but should be at the Lost Boats Memorial.

REPORTS

Nick Nichols

- Chaplain / webmaster reports. (At the end of this report)
- I had 79 responses to the over 200 emails I sent out asking for a SITREP from our members. All board members present agreed to make phone calls to those who did not respond. I will have the lists out to everyone by the end of the weekend.

Ed Stank

- The newsletter is just waiting on the March base meeting minutes. Stacy Power was recognized by the FRA in the recent edition of their magazine.
- I have submitted an article to the American Submariner for the Distinguished Submariner award.

Wise

- The Lost Boats ceremony will be Saturday, 10 April at 1000 with muster at 9.30am. It will be at the CWM.
- Rick volunteered to become the bell toller for our Eternal Patrol services.

Freligh

- The Holland Club induction will be at the base meeting on April 8. 14 Holland Club Inductees are planning on attending with a family member. I need to get with Mike and have him sign the Certificates for the 1971 Holland Club Inductees.

Williams

- Treasurer report has been emailed and posted on the web. I will not be running for treasurer this time.

Hutchison

- We will be loading up the trailer with chairs for the Amberjack service and looking for help. Contact me if you can.
- I'm looking for someone to take over as storekeeper.
- Election coordinator – the current Base Commander will run for reelection but current treasurer does not want to. Nominated someone you think would be a good fit for the position,

Little

- I am planning on being at the meeting next week to take pictures of the Holland Club induction.
- I also plan on being at the Lost Boats Memorial to take pictures.

Sparger

- I have not been able to find anyplace to host the spaghetti dinner. As recommended by the Base Commander, the dinner is tabled and we will try again later.
- I'm making plans for a base picnic in mid-May time frame.
- We received the new shadow boxes and they are not what we expected. After some discussion the final decision is to keep the boxes and use them.

Chinn

- Total in Scholarship Fund is \$9,543.
- Next big raffle is a framed, limited edition print of H.L. Hunley; "The Final Mission" by artist Mort Kuntzler. Generously donated by Marty Sessler. Tickets will be \$10 each, drawing at July meeting.
- Will have some other smaller raffles, etc.

Nettles

- Nothing to report for the board.
- I volunteered with Bill Freligh to conduct the by-laws review.

Lawson

- VA is now giving shots at the Rivers Ave clinic. Just call them to get an appointment. How many of the board members present have received their shots. Two people have not but one has just recovered from the virus and is not eligible for the vaccine for 90 days.
- Bill Freligh and Harry Nettles will review the bylaws per our schedule and report to the board.

Meeting adjourned 1844.

APR BOD Report – Chaplain/Webmaster

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **ETC(SS) Theron Irving** departed on Eternal Patrol on March 16, 2021. Date of death is as listed in his death notice. His family has not made any plans for a service at this time.
- **Herb Anderson's** son, H. Ryan Anderson Jr., passed away in his sleep from a heart attack on March 19. He was only 50.
- **Mike Ciesielko** has COVID and must quarantine. He will miss this and the base meeting.
- **Gary Williams** is still recovering from back surgery from Sept 2020. He can now walk with both feet in braces and a cane. Total healing could take another 6 mos.
- **Jim Higgins** had back surgery to relieve sciatica pain. He now has trouble in his legs and feet. His doctor here has done all he knows how to do and sent him to see a doctor in North Carolina. Jim, Mildred and his son went to NC where he had a procedure and returned last Thursday. Says he feels really good now.
- **Jim McDonald** had a stroke a month ago. He is doing OK. It affected only one side. Carolyn (wife) said he has to relearn some things. It did not affect his speech or memory. He can send email but is only using one hand to type. Jim lives in Norfolk VA but remains a member of CB.
- **Ray Bryant** has had years of lumbar spine injections and his pain management doctor cannot do anything more for his back. I've been in constant pain since January. Bulging L2, 3, 4, and S1 discs. My L5 disc is herniated and plucking on my sciatic nerve like a banjo string. I saw the neurologist on the 16th. Bad news: I need surgery. The central canal of L4, L5/S1 is showing serious narrowing. He didn't say anything about the disk herniation. He mentioned arthritis.

Good news: It should be outpatient surgery, about a two inch incision. I should hear from his scheduler next week. Please mention me when you say your prayers...

- **J.J. Fortier** is going in for another lower back surgery on April 6 at Trident Hospital. Otherwise alive and doing OK
- **Glenn Little** is home from the hospital where he was treated for COVID Pneumonia which is different than regular pneumonia. Before his hospital stay he had been wait-listed for the COVID vaccine which he missed. When he called to reschedule hw was told he cannot be scheduled for the vaccine until 90 days after my last positive COVID test. I had COVID pneumonia. He says the one good thing is he lost 20 lbs but wouldn't recommend that diet to anyone.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments. He started Chemo and pills in September 2020 and has treatments every four weeks. Don't know how many more he has to do. Things are going well with very little side effects from the Chemo. He thanks everybody for their prayers. They do work. Don't know when he will be able to attend a meeting.
- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. He had to change his cancer meds due to very high sugar readings.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care. He is very appreciative of Ed Stank's offer to bring him to the March meeting but he was not feeling well. Ed will continue to contact him each month for the meeting.
- 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.
- Mike Emerson, Ronnie Kerstetter, Charlie Hudson and a friend of Charlies built a very nice handicap ramp at for Linda and Tom Beach this past weekend.

Webmaster

- 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.
- I had decent response on the email I sent to over 200 of our members. I will be making lists and getting them out to all of you so you can make some phone calls before the next meeting.