

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2021

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, Bill Freligh, Rick Wise, Nick Nichols, Larry Knutson, Glenn Little, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Bill Hayes and Gordon Long. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was not in attendance. Base member Ron Lamon attended the meeting today.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Reported that mismatch concerning National dues has been reconciled.
- We purchased a new battery for the inverter.
- The majority of the funds residing in the account belongs to the Scholarship Fund. That will be decreased shortly with the Scholarships for graduating high school seniors.
- There was a question regarding the total in the Treasurer's Report. This was a typographical error. Shifting the decimal point two places to the left will correct the total.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken reminded everyone of the upcoming elections for Base Commander and Treasurer. Mike Ciesielko is the only candidate for the office of Base Commander.
- Gordon Williams will be stepping down from the office of Treasurer. We have two candidates for Treasurer: Ricky Collins and Tom Lawson Jr.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to report.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- We had a successful Holland Club induction at the last Base Meeting.

Little David – Rick Wise:

- Rick and Larry Knutson performed some maintenance on the Little David the other day. This work was only a two-man job.
- Rick is expecting to have a working party at the end of May. There are some boards that still need replacement. Once this work is completed, it should be good for about two years.
- When this next work is complete, Rick is finished with this work. His health will not allow him to continue. Someone else in Charleston Base will need to take over this work or it will return to responsibility of the Berkeley Museum.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Nothing to report.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Rick is looking forward to being able to attend graduations again.

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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.

- **Indonesian Submarine KRI NANGGALA 402** sank on April 21, 2021 with the loss of 53 crew members. The wreckage was found on the floor of the Bali Sea at 2800 feet. Her collapse depth was on 655 feet.
- **ET1(SS) John C. Houston** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 9, 2021. We did not learn of his passing until after the funeral service was conducted. He was a 2005 LM of USSVI & Charleston Base and a member of the HC. He qualified on ROCK SS-274 in 1961 and served on HENRY CLAY SSBN-625.
- **YNC(SS) Gene Gil Simpo** departed on Eternal Patrol on July 7, 2020, 2 days before his 94th birthday. He was on our binnacle list in May of 2020 for being in the hospital with chest pains. No one from the family notified us of Gene's death. He was a LM of USSVI & Charleston Base, a member of the HC and FRA Branch 269. He qualified on GUAVINA SS-362 in 1954 and served on BASHAW SS-241, BUGARA SS-331 and L. Mendel Rivers SSN-686.
- **CAPT Harold E. Marshall** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 26, 2021 due to cancer. He was not a USSVI/CB member. He qualified on SPADEFISH SSN-668 in 1970 and served on BLUEFISH SSN-675, JAMES MADISON SSBN-627, and as CO on BALTIMORE SSN-704 and MARYLAND SSBN-738.
- **Dale & Kim Hostetter's** two dogs were killed by 4 pit bulls on Saturday, May 1st. This was a huge loss to them as the dogs traveled everywhere they went.
- **Mike Ciesielko** was in the hospital with COVID from 9 April until 18 April. It was a serious case and very scary.
- **Sandra Woodley** had eye surgery on her left eye May 5th to drain and refill the intra ocular fluid that had scar tissue in it from cataract surgery. She has had the right done and her vision has greatly improved in it from like looking through Saran Wrap to clear vision at 20/20. Anyone with floaters and this after cataract surgery problem should consider this Dr Lowery King of the Roper Eye center has done this for 7 years and has had 100% success rate.
- **J.J. Fortier** had his back surgery on 6 April and did well. However he had to go back into Trident for some tests.
- **Bill Roberts** will be having a stent placed to correct an aortic aneurysm on 18 May at the VA.
- **Ronnie Vandiver** was in the hospital from 9-11 April. He is home recovering.
- **Al Stoll** was in the hospital in mid-April due to an issue from a procedure.
- **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...
- **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

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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. His recent scans show the chemo has slowed the rate of growth but is still growing about a pencil point size each scan. Doctor says this could continue for a long time at that slow rate of growth. George will have to tell him when he wants to stop chemo. His schedule is each Wed. for 2 weeks, a week off, repeat this 3 week cycle for 9 weeks, then a new scan. All in all he is feeling good.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care. Ed will continue to contact him each month for the meeting.
- 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.
- We hope everyone is watching and enjoying the video/audio recordings put on base social media by Lou Leal. The Distinguished Submariner Award and Holland Club Induction links are on the website homepage.

Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:

- Nick discussed the Base Meeting video being recorded by Lou.
- Mike Ciesielko noted his appreciation for this work, that he could “attend” the meeting while he was hospitalized.
- The video of the Base Meeting is made available for Base members through a special (non-listed) YouTube channel.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 266 members.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl reported that, with the latest money provided to the Treasurer, the current balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$9,674. The money from the Hunley print raffle will be added after the drawing is completed.
- We will have a small raffle at the Base Meeting next week.
- We have a rummage sale scheduled.
- We had six scholarship applications this year.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report.

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Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- The Memorial Day Ceremony in Summerville is scheduled. Charleston Base is to provide the sound system and music.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report.

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- The date for the picnic is May 15 – two days after the Base Meeting. If we wait until June, it will likely be too hot.
- Rick Sparger stated that this time, the Base will provide hamburgers/hotdogs and associated condiments along with soft drinks and water. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Thanked Nick and Lou for the recording of the meetings while away. Without this being done, there would have been no Minutes for either the April BOD or Base meetings.

By-Laws Review – Bill Freligh:

- Harry Nettles is the lead on this effort.
- Secretary Gordon Long noted to the group that he had not yet incorporated the two previous amendments into the By-Laws. He shall get this done immediately and send to Harry.

Base Creed – Carl Chinn:

- Carl made a motion that for purposes of Charleston Base, the Creed to be read at the beginning of the Base Meeting is to be what it was before the latest change. There were several seconds shouted out on this and was passed without objection.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Is glad to be out of the hospital and back to the group.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Not present.

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Not present.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present.

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Not present.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits.

Meeting was adjourned at 1840.