

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Rick Sparger, Bill Hayes, Carl Chinn, Ricky Collins, Nick Nichols, Butch Bryar, Ed Stank, Larry Knutson, Lewis Leal, Glenn Little, Harry Nettles, Ken Hutchison, Rick Wise, Bill Freligh, Tom Lawson and Gordon Long.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- With the exception of the items that we use at the Base Meetings, all of the SubVet items which were stored at the FRA have been removed and placed in other storage. This was due to an OSHA inspection.
- Rick recommends that we hold a Base Event before the January 1. Rick has tentatively scheduled the FRA meeting room for December 4. He has also spoken with the folks at the Catholic church.
- Nick and others discussed the need to allow someone who has been designated to plan an event to be allowed to do so without interference.
- Rick inquired about the vendors mentioned at the last meeting. Mike Ciesielko explained that he certainly needs permission from the FRA leadership to allow firearm vendors such as Palmetto State Armory, Allied Arms, AMCHAR etc. to attend the Base Meeting to do presentations and advertise their wares.

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- Bill would like to have a barbeque in late September/early October at Bushy Park.
- Mike Ciesielko suggested hamburgers/hotdogs like we did earlier this year, but Bill noted that for the amount of folks that we can expect, it would only take a couple of Boston butts. The other items, such as salad, hash etc. could be provided by those attending. Mike suggested that we have the BBQ in October as recommended.
- Mike also asked Bill to work with Rick and to focus on a plan for having a Christmas party, since we did not have one last year. Rick suggested that, even with the event being held at the FRA, we should have the party catered from outside. Bill and Rick can organize whatever committee that they deem necessary to have the Christmas party on December 4 at the FRA. Rick will check with Dick Koehler about the Catholic church being a possible location.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The raffle for the Hunley print will be held at the September Base meeting.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- The Rummage Sale will be held on November 13 at the same location as last year. They have a 10x10 space for storage of donated items. It is not as close as the one which the Scholarship Committee was able to get last year.
- Carl reported that his granddaughter also won a scholarship from USSVI National.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- With the exception of one that was delivered out of town, all of the checks written for scholarship awards have cleared the bank.
- The Treasurer's report is not completed at this time, but we have approximately \$6,600 with about \$2,300 belonging to Scholarship. The Treasurer's report should be available by this weekend.
- Ricky received one last bit of information that is needed for him to get access the Investment Fund. He will revisit that tomorrow.

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.
- **Judy Hutchison** passed away on July 28th. Her Celebration of Life will be at Cypress Gardens on August 12th at 1200. This is the day of our base meeting. Please try to attend and wear your vest if you do.
- **Ronnie Vandiver** was in the hospital again on July 18th and was home on the 20th. Same issue, internal bleeding.
- **Tom Skorepa** had shoulder replacement surgery on 6 July. The surgery went well and he is recovering at home.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136. Rick Wise visited him on 2 July and says Don is looking well and is more alert than he was before the lock down. Cypress Place does require visitors to wear masks.
- **J.J. Fortier** is still on the feeding tube and doesn't know how long that will be needed. Until the tube is gone he has to stay pretty close to home.
- **Ray Bryant** is still home recovering from his spine surgery.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. 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 Eternal Patrol this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.
- Nick has been receiving calls regarding when we are going to have a memorial service for Theron. The former TDS employees are making the request. Nick stated that we need to coordinate with the family, but he has no way to contact them. Gordon offered to take over making contacts as he previously worked for TDS and knows the people making the request.

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.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- 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.
- Vets in the Woods collection box is set up to receive donations thanks to FRA President Harry Nettles. The box has only been up a few days and is over half full. I made one error about the DAV meetings. It is on the 2nd Saturday of each month, but they are not meeting in August. Next meeting is September. The list of suggested articles is not comprehensive, so if you think of a survival type item, feel free to provide.
- George Gallagher called me on Tuesday to say how much he appreciated the video/audio of our base meetings and special presentations. This is another of our members who has difficulties getting to the meetings but can still feel like he's a part of the group.
- If you send something out to the base members try to remember to put it in PDF format. Not everyone has the same programs to open files. Most everyone can view a PDF.
- There are currently 6 Charleston Base members attending the National Convention: Ciesielko, Nichols, Harvey, Bailey, Sparks and McCord.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Butch requested that Rick Wise provide an updated CRAMA membership list.
- Butch has been talking with the law firm extensively this last month over the SC Supreme Court and its pending decision with the Heritage Act litigation. He expects that the judge is waiting for this decision before he does anything regarding the Clamagore.
- Patriot's Point has a new director. Due to the lawsuit in progress, CRAMA members are not allowed to contact him or anyone else at Patriot's Point regarding the Clamagore. If you are not a CRAMA member, you may.
- The Clamagore is open for tours.
- Glenn Little visited the Submarine Museum in Kings Bay. He was wearing his vest when he donated some items. The lady at the museum inquired about the status of the Clamagore.

PAO – Ed Stank:

- The article about the Scholarship Awards has been submitted to American Submariner.
- Two articles were printed in this last edition.
- We received notice of Stacy Power receiving a Quilt of Valor from a shop in Mt. Pleasant. As it turns out, the editorial was from the Post & Courier. Ed has attempted to contact P&C with no response.
- Tom Cyrek's grandson – who received a Scholarship award from Charleston Base – scored a perfect score on the ACT.
- Ed received a letter from Maureen Curtiss (widow of WWII SubVet Walter Curtiss) letting him know that she listens to the meetings online. She wants to make sure that she stays on the contact list.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Nothing to report.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 270 members.
- In a couple of months, it will be time to start collecting annual dues.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- The 9-11 Heroes Run will be held on Daniel Island in the vicinity of the fire station near the tennis stadium. The race starts at 0900, so we need to be set up prior to this time. This is a recruitment opportunity for Charleston Base, but we need people to run the table as Lou cannot. He will be running in the race. We can sell things as well – think scholarship. Lou has not yet heard back as to whether he can get a table at no cost due to veteran status.
- This is the same race that was cancelled last year. Part of the funds raised at this event is provided to Gold Star Families.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Noted that he carries cards with him everywhere and gives out a bunch each week.

Hunley Ceremony – Harry Nettles:

- Harry reminded everyone to plan now to attend the Hunley Memorial Service on February 17. Sign up now.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken Hutchison reminded everyone that his job as Storekeeper is not to make money but to provide a service. If any Base member needs something, Ken will present the catalog and get the items. He is not running the store for profit.
- With Judy's passing, Ken has a rollator which is nearly new and two chairs which are brand new. They are available to any Base member who may need them.
- One member has yet to pick up his vest which was ordered last year. COB requested his contact info so that he could follow up.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Nuclear Power School graduation is August 13. Rick was told that we would be able to attend, but now that is questionable.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- The next Charleston Base Budget will include an amount for Recreation. After averaging the information from the last five years, Rick has determined that, for three events at \$300 each and a Christmas party at \$3800, tickets must be sold in advance, otherwise people will not show up; leaving a rather large expense to the Base.
- The budget will give the Base permission to withdraw money from the investment fund if absolutely necessary.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- April will be the next Holland Club induction.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike will miss the next Board Meeting as he and others mentioned will be at the USSVI National Convention.

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Not present.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits.

Meeting was adjourned at 1856.