

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1808 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Ricky Collins, Harry Nettles, Ken Hutchison, Butch Bryar, Ed Stank, Rick Wise, Bill Freligh, Larry Knutson, Lewis Leal, Nick Nichols, Bill Hayes, Gordon Long, Tom Lawson, Glenn Little and Rick Sparger. Base member James Graham was also in attendance.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- At the last Board meeting, Ricky was asked to determine the number of members who renewed using PayPal. That number was 23 for last year (2020). Each time that a member paid \$40, PayPal took a fee of \$2.37, leaving \$37.63 to pay USSVI National and Base dues. Ricky is required to pay the full amount for dues to National, leaving Charleston Base to absorb the fee charged by PayPal.
- Motion was made by Ken Hutchison and seconded by Rick Sparger to have dues – if using PayPal to be \$45 to cover the convenience fee. After much discussion, the vote was called and the motion was passed to add \$5 if using PayPal.
- During this Board meeting, Nick and Lewis determined that more work will be needed to update the payment section of the Base website in order to make this change. At this point, Nick cannot change the PayPal section for the dues. Until we can get this changed on the Base website, we will make no changes to procedure. At the Base meeting next week, Base Commander will recommend that all renewals be made with either cash or check.
- Ricky provided copies of the Treasurer's Report. Although he included it in the report, the check written to DAV for the Vets In the Woods, still has not yet cleared the bank.
- Ken Hutchison reminded everyone that we authorized \$250 annually to the Shriner's Hospital. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko noted that this is written in the Annual Budget.

Hunley Ceremony – Harry Nettles:

- Nothing to report.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken Hutchison made notation about the 2022 calendars.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- The Supreme Court has ruled that the Heritage Act stands.
- Tom Lufkin had attended a meeting regarding historical ships. He is working to find out what the cost was to have the USS Cod recently towed after an overhaul.
- We are still waiting on the decision from the judge in our case.
- At the USSVI National Convention, Base Commander Mike Ciesielko discussed the situation regarding the Clamagore. National leaders have sent emails to all bases recommending support for the Clamagore.
- Harry Nettles had talked to his state representative, who stated that everyone needs to call both local and state representatives. Many of them are totally unaware of the Clamagore.

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PAO – Ed Stank:

- The article regarding our Scholarship awards will be in the next American Submariner.
- The article regarding Stacy Power will be resubmitted.
- Mike Ciesielko recommended that Ed submit articles to Post & Courier to get some local coverage. Lewis Leal suggested Moultrie News as well.
- The entire Board acknowledged the fantastic work that Ed has done so far as PAO.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Nothing reported.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- The NPS graduation is tomorrow and is supposed to be outside – possibly with guests.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- The proposed Charleston Base budget was provided via email to all Board members for review. Motion to accept by Tom Lawson and seconded by Larry Knutson. The Board voted to accept the budget. It will be presented to the entire membership at the October Base Meeting next week and via email. The Base will vote at the November Base meeting.
- Ed Stank requested that the budget be provided for addition to the Base Newsletter.
- Ken Hutchison suggested that we may be required to raise dues.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- This year we will have 15 eligible for induction into the Holland Club in April 2022.
- The After Battery will no longer provide Holland Club hats.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 274 members.
- It is time to start collecting annual dues.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lou has not yet completed the video of the September Base Meeting.
- We did not have a table at the 9-11 Heroes Run for various reasons, including lack of support and material to provide. Lou requested that someone with graphic arts skills to make pamphlets for next year.
- Lou has posted a video of the USS Cod in the water to the Base Facebook page.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- The Chaplain will not be available to the base 11-18 October.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **MMCS(SS) John Kevin Taylor, 49**, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 13, 2021 in Goose Creek. He was not a member of USSVI. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.

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- **TM3(SS) Michael J. Nosis** departed on Eternal Patrol on September 28, 2021 in Michigan. He served on USS Albany SSN 753 with base member Ken Lux 1993-1996. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **CAPT John Peters**, past USSVI National Commander, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 19, 2021 in HI. He served as National Commander from 2002 to 2004 also many other positions within USSVI. John joined USSVI in 1993 and was a member of Bowfin Base. John qualified on Ronquil SS-396 and served on several SSN's and SSBN's. He was Commanding Officer of the John Adams SSBN-620.
- **MMC(SS) Carsten Stigers**, USSVI National Chaplain, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 24, 2021 in PA. His death was unexpected. He qualified on George C. Marshall SSBN654 in 1977 and served on Sam Rayburn SSBN 635, Tinoso SSN 606 and Simon Lake AS33.
- **Margie 'Ma' Bell**, wife of USSVI National Junior Vice Commander Steve Bell, passed away very suddenly on September 9th. She had just been at the National Convention in Orlando the week before.
- **Wanda Nelms**, wife of Charleston Base member Steve 'Buddha' Nelms, passed away on Sunday, September 19th at 1310. Per her wishes there will not be a memorial service.
- **Darlene Graham**, wife of Charleston Base member James Graham Sr., passed away on Sunday, September 19th at Trident Hospital. Her service was held on Monday, October 4th.
- **Jerry Stout** had a PET scan on 9/23/2021. Results indicated a growth of cancer in the Iliac Lymph Node in the Pelvis area, however there has been no spreading to other areas. Plan is to start Radiation Treatment to groin and pelvis starting on 10/11 for 5 weeks and continued Bi-weekly infusion of Immune Therapy drug. Christine and I appreciate your prayers during these times.
- **Steve Curry** was in the ER on 16 Sept with chest pains. He was discharged after a lot of tests. Doing well now.
- **George Burton's** cancer is growing. He has change treatment methods and meds. He is not in pain but has discomfort on his right side around the lung. He appreciates all your prayers.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136. Rick Wise visited him and found out he no longer has his phone.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **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.
- Nick provided his report for the Base Meeting to Ricky Collins to read in his absence next week.

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.

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- Vets in the Woods collection box is suspended until further notice. The donations overwhelmed the DAV.
- There is a problem with accessing the USSVI National website.
- 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.

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- Bill recommended that we do not have a Christmas party due to cost of catering and limited attendance. Rick Sparger amplified some info.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko reminded that about forty people at a recent Base meeting showed interest in attendance. There was a motion and second to cancel the Christmas party. Harry Nettles recommended that we have a party without a dinner. After much discussion, the decision was made to keep the party on December 4 at the FRA. Bill stated that the Base will provide finger foods instead of a dinner. We will focus on just having some good fellowship. It is not required, but if anyone wants to bring a side dish, then that is okay as well. Cookies were recommended.
- Ed Stank checked on the cost of sandwich trays – which are minimal. We can wait until just before the date to order after attendance is determined.
- COB will get a flyer out with the details about the Christmas Party.
- There will be a bartender fee at the party.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon will not be at the meeting next week. Lou will pull the audio of the meeting.
- Gordon requested to borrow the float for a church event (static display).

Veteran’s Administration (VA) – Tom Lawson:

- VA is in need of volunteers.
- Booster shots are currently only available to those with immunity issues.
- Nick Nichols noted that you can go to any Walgreens and get shot.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn:

- Carl is away attending his son’s graduation at Fort Benning Advanced Infantry Training.
- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$4,463.
- Several donations were made in honor of Bob Turner and acknowledgments have been sent.
- \$800 was made from the Hunley print raffle. Winner was Doc Lee Wilson.
- Raffle starting at the next Base meeting for a set of WWII bookends. Tickets will be \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets.
- The Rummage Sale will be held on November 13 at the same location as last year. The rain date is November 20.

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Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- We will not be attending the Summerville parade.
- The Chief Selectee Breakfast will be held on November 10 at the Ashley Phosphate Cracker Barrel. More info as available.
- The Moncks Corner parade will be held December 4. This is in the daytime on the same day as our Christmas party.
- The Goose Creek parade will be held on December 11. The paperwork will be sent to us soon.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report

COB – Rick Sparger:

- The Nathaniel Greene Association will be having a dedication ceremony for their bench at the Cold War Memorial on 9 OCT.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike attended USSVI National Convention. He wants to provide institute the Longevity Pins.
- This would be a good thing to do at the Christmas Party.
- Although we have a Distinguished Submariner Award, there is nothing stopping us from having other awards.
- Regarding National awards, we are the second largest base and we will be submitting more awards. The vast majority of the awards can be recommended by a single Base member. Mike asked everyone to work on this. Some awards, no one even applied for.
- Mike will be providing a list of awards that are available. He does not want to walk away empty handed next year.
- National has a Memorial Fund for installation of benches, etc.
- We need to institute a phone tree to keep members informed.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits.

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Not present.

Meeting was adjourned at 2000.