

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Bill Freligh, Rick Wise, Woody Woodsmall, Harry Nettles, Larry Knutson, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Lewis Leal, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mike is getting lots of emails requesting to speak to our Base members. Many of them don't know that the Base Commander has changed.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

Veteran's Administration (VA) – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill will be calling out at least 10 names.
- Bill wants to acknowledge our older Holland Club members.
- Bill will discuss and distribute rockers for the patches. These will be in 5-year increments.

Amberjack Ceremony – Rick Wise:

- Rick Wise reviewed the plans for the Amberjack ceremony and the preparation for the event.
- Rick Wise suggested that we permanently move the Amberjack observance to the third Saturday in April. There was considerable discussion regarding the conflicting schedules with some attending The After Battery events. The date for the Amberjack ceremony remains unchanged at this time.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Rick Wise had forgotten to budget for Challenge Coins for the NPS graduation awards. He will include them in the administrative budget for this year.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody reported that he has all of the rockers that will be needed for the Holland Club induction.
- Woody has seventeen Holland Club hats. Any remaining hats after the ceremony can be purchased by a Base member, but then will be replaced since the hats were purchased by Charleston Base.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$9,070.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Hunley Coordinator – Harry Nettles:

- Harry reported that it has been a pleasure, but tonight is his last BOD meeting since he is moving.
- He will attend the Base meetings and continue to be involved including as Hunley/Housatonic Coordinator.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 265 members.
- Chaplain Nick Nichols reported the membership rankings:
 - 1) Groton 1156 - 2) Hampton Roads 268 - 3) Charleston 265 – 4) Requin 191 - 5) San Diego 180 – 6) Long Island 154
- Both Nick and Larry discussed the problems with logging on to the USSVI National website.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- The lady who is coordinating the Armed Forces Day at the AFB has requested permission to address our Base meeting in May. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko granted her request.
- Rick stated that if we are to have the picnic, then we need someone to take charge of it. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko will ask at the Base meeting next week.
- There was considerable discussion regarding participation issues by Base members. Lewis Leal will put together a list of questions to survey the Base members in an effort to improve involvement in Base activities.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lewis reported on the numbers of views for the Charleston Base Meetings.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report

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.
- **FTCS(SS) Frank C. Capaci**, USN Ret., departed on EP on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at Trident Hospital. Frank joined the Navy in 1973 and retired in 1993. He was a Life Member of USSVI [2016] & Charleston Base [2016]. Frank qualified on USS KAMEHAMEHA SSBN/SSN-642 in 1975 and also served on HUNLEY AS-31, PROTEUS AS-19, SIMON LAKE AS-33 and ALABAMA SSBN-731. His shore duties included Naval Guided Missile School Dam Neck VA, Trident Training Facility Pearl Harbor HI and Strategic Systems Programs Arlington VA. Frank's wife, Mona, called me today to inform me of Frank's

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

passing. A memorial service will be held at a future date and Charleston Base will be notified when the date is decided.

- **Jerri Stoll [Al's wife]** passed away on Friday, March 18th. Her service was held on March 22nd.
- **Stephanie Peters**, daughter of Sue and Clyde [EP Aug. 24, 2014] has liver cancer, is in intensive care and has been placed on palliative care. Prayers are requested.
- **Don Ort** has tested positive for COVID. He is on meds. Scans of his lungs are clear. No improvements but not any worse.
- **Jerry Stout** had a PET Scan on March 11 and there is a reoccurrence of his cancer. Treatment is being determined. Thanks to all shipmates for concern and prayers.
- **Robert Gay** has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun the process of determining what treatment he will have.
- **Jay Pierce** had his left knee replaced is home and doing well.
- **Tom Skorepa** let me know the specialist lung surgeon did not like the readings from the one who did the basic biopsy, so she wants to redo the testing while she has me out. She reviewed all prior scans from the chest area, and sees that whatever it is, it's growing. If it's cancer she will know for sure, and remove the lower lobe and lymph nodes in area. If not cancer, she will discuss situation with wife and remove the problem items as they will only come back and could be cancer then. She feels it could be cancer but we caught it very early. Wish me luck.
- **Jim Williams** is in Hospice care at home. They come by twice a week, a Nurse and an aide. Looking to get some help from the VA also. Sorry for not being better at keeping you up to date. Done with Real Estate, New email soon.
- **Stacy Power** fell in early March, went to the ER and was kept overnight for observation. He is at home recovering but has been taken off his blood thinners.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **Bob Snyder** is still with palliative care.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

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.
- **Widows and email info.** When a CB SUBVET departs on EP his widow/family are asked if they wish to continue receiving emails and info from the Base. If they agree they will receive info until 1) they request it to stop or 2) they discontinue the email in use.

Submarine Birthday Ball – Nick Nichols:

- The 2022 Submarine Birthday Ball is still scheduled for 7 May at the Charleston Marriott across from the Riverdogs stadium. Due to some issues the committee is having it is possible the Ball will be moved until later but the decisions have not been made on that at this time.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike addressed the issue regarding Charleston Base not having Associate members listed on the Charleston Base By-Laws. The initial discussion was started about Roger Starnes (USSVI National Life Associate member). Mike had taken over after Jack Harden (his original sponsor) died. Secretary Gordon Long read the section of the BOD Minutes from July 2020 about changing Starnes' status with Charleston Base from Associate to Honorary.
- Mike talked about the ability of any National Associate member being able to attend our Base meetings. Carl Chinn pointed out that the By-Laws get approved by National.
- Rick Wise and Carl noted reasons for removal of Associate membership had been:
 - 1) At some of the smaller bases, The Associates had begun to control the base.
 - 2) Too many Associates (even at National) were risking organizational tax-exempt status.
- It is time for the annual review the Charleston Base By-Laws. Mike shall request two members at the Base Meeting.
- After much discussion, the issue about both National and Charleston Base Associate members was tabled until the next BOD meeting.

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Not present

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Not present

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Not present

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1924