

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1806 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Woody Woodsmall, Bill Freligh, Lewis Leal, Ed Stank, Glenn Little, Ricky Collins, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Larry Knutson, Gordon Long, and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill listed the eleven names of those who are eligible for Holland Club Induction.
- Current Holland Club members will be recognized. Rockers for the patches in 5 year intervals are available from the Storekeeper.
- The presentation will be held at the Base Meeting on April 13.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lou is still working on editing of the video from the January Base Meeting.
- Lou asked about the possibility of putting information about Clamagore on our webpage. There was a little discussion about the purpose with a decision leave it alone for now.

Hunley Ceremony – Lewis Leal:

- Lou inquired about what we are doing for the Hunley/Housatonic ceremony this year.
- Ed Stank said that he found a site that still shows plans incomplete even as of today.
- Mike Ciesielko said that a march is being planned starting at Fort Moultrie and ending at Breach Inlet. Nick read the email asking SubVet participation to throw two wreaths into the water.
- Harry Nettles must give up the position of Hunley Coordinator since he has moved out of the area.

Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:

- Nothing reported

CRAMA – Glenn Little for Butch Bryar:

- The remaining funds from CRAMA, after all the final debts are paid, will be sent to support the USS Drum in Mobile, AL.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glenn will attend the Hunley/Housatonic ceremony for pictures.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- With USSVI National raising dues, we need to change the PayPal link. Membership chairman Larry Knutson suggested we also raise Base dues. Carl Chinn made a motion that

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we increase Base dues by \$5 which will offset the charges from PayPal. The date of April 1, 2023 for the increase will correspond with National. The new total for Annual dues will be \$50 (\$30 National / \$20 Charleston Base). The motion was seconded by Treasurer Ricky Collins and passed without objection.

- National is also increasing the dues for Life Membership.
- The check written to Friends of the Hunley has not yet cleared the bank.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report.
- Ed reported that his grandson won a patriotic award from the FRA.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick inquired about Joe Lunn and his health since he has not heard from him in a while. Some reported seeing entries on Facebook.
- Rick asked Mike Ciesielko about the Gun Shoot. It was chilly but went well.
- Rick, Glenn Little and Johnny Brown covered the float with available tarps, but we need to get a new proper cover.
- All four white corner posts will be replaced, since one broke off.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- As of this evening, we have \$12,234 in the Scholarship fund.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 260 members.
- Annual Base Members with unpaid dues (Dinks) will be removed from our Sailing List consistent with National.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1231 - 2) Hampton Roads 279 - 3) Charleston 260 – 4) Bremerton 231 - 5) Requin 192

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- As of this time, Secretary Gordon Long has received no Distinguished Submariner Nomination submittals. The nominee is supposed to be selected at the February BOD meeting and the award presented at the March Base meeting.
- One form was handed to Gordon, however the recommended individual (member of BOD) has previously received the award and refused to accept.
- We will delay the selection until March BOD Meeting with the presentation in April along with the Holland Club. This was done before.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- I will not be at the March Base Meeting. I will have one of those on the podium read my report, probably Tom Lawson.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

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- **FTCS(SS) Leroy Paul Werley, USN Ret., 79**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan. 27, 2023. Leroy joined the Navy in 1962 and retired in 1983. He was a life member of the USSVI & Charleston Base, a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 58 years, and a Member of FRA Branch 269. Leroy qualified on USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 in 1965. He also served on USS BANG SS-385, USS ATULE SS-403, JAMES MADISON SSBN-627 and TECUMSEH SSBN-628. His viewing was on Feb 2nd 1400-1600 and his funeral was Feb. 3rd at Beaufort National Cemetery.
- **Don Petersen** is not doing well. He can't take phone calls however he does text. If you want to text him the number for text only is 843.532.6464.
- **Tom Clark** had surgery on Jan 23rd for a mass on his intestines. Not cancerous. He remains in ICU but is doing a little better. He was supposed to be sitting up and walking Feb 2nd.
- **Howard 'Andy' Anderson** has been in Trident hospital since Jan. 10. He had 4 heart attacks & 3 procedures during this time. Now on 6th floor for rehab. Says he is still kicking.
- **Bob McNeish** had outpatient gall bladder surgery on Feb. 1 at Trident. He texted mid-afternoon to tell me surgery went well; he was home but groggy and wobbly. On Feb 2nd he woke up shaking and went to Summerville Medical ER. He was seen immediately and done in a little over two hours. He is now home for recovery.
- **Rick Wise** has had his first infusion and did well. His second infusion is scheduled for Feb. 9 and Jerry Starr will be taking him. He has had the complication of a cold and his great grandson has a mild case of COVID so he must be careful around everyone. He has a referral into the palliative care team to come up with a pain plan for my broken arm. He has enjoyed talking all my brothers who have called. Keep the prayers coming.
- **James Graham** was in the hospital mid-January for a pulmonary edema. He is home with lots of Doctors appointments for follow-up.
- **Chris LaForce** went to the hospital mid-January after he woke up shaking. He had low blood sugar, was treated and sent home to continue his recovery.
- **Gene Rutter, Tarheel Base Chaplain**, lost his 24-year-old granddaughter on Jan. 27. She contacted sepsis and before it could be controlled it attacked her liver, kidneys and lungs.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Charleston Base Website is constantly updated. I have been able to put 175 member pictures into the National database. That's 67% of our members. Please take a look and update your profile on National.
- Activity pictures links on the home page have been updated with all 2021 and 2022 pictures. All pictures 2020 and before have been archived but can be requested from the webmaster if needed.
- 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. Contact the webmaster with any updates to this page.
- OLD VS NEW NATIONAL WEBSITES:
 - Even though the new website is now online however it still has kinks that need corrected. Until officially notified, the only time the new (Blackbaud) website is to be used is for matters concerning the 2023 National Convention in Tucson. The site is www.ussvi.org.
 - Until further notice the rebuilt old website is the current active system that should be used for all of your normal research and data entries (Tools). The site is <https://ussubvets.org>.

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Submarine Birthday Ball – Nick Nichols:

- Nick read information about the Birthday Ball.
- They requested to use our Claxon. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko will attend and take charge of it.
- The group has also requested that our float be placed in front of the hotel as static display for pictures. Everyone agreed that this is a great thing to do.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Please submit nominations for Distinguished Submariner Awards.
- Mike Read a letter from the Hyman G. Rickover SSN-795 commissioning organization. The boat will be homeported in Groton. Ed Stank will put the information into the Newsletter.
- There is a Southeast Regional Conference being planned for April in Gulfport, MS. Mike read the letter.
- The National Convention will be held in Tucson in August.
- Mike wants to meet for the purpose of writing National Award nominations for Charleston Base members. He listed several awards that need to be considered. He talked extensively, listing several names for various categories. Our integrity at stake if we do not submit them. The deadline date is April 30.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Not present
- There was discussion of an Oyster Roast and the recent trip to the hockey game.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Not present.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Not present.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1926