

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the October 2014 meeting was 101.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1906. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Don Mook. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting and called on Charleston Base Holland Club Chairman Bill Freligh to officiate the Holland Club Inductions.

Holland Club Induction: Bill Freligh gave introductory remarks on the origin and importance of the Holland Club. He then read the USSVI Holland Club and Charleston Base certificates and with the assistance of Base Commander Ed Stank presented the certificates to Billy Buntin, Elmer Fesser, Robert McNeigh and John Sharer.

After those members returned to their seats, he turned and presented the Holland Club Certificates to the daughter and son-in-law of Dennis Keane. He then turned the podium over to base chaplain Nick Nichols.

Dennis Keane Memorial Service: Base Chaplain Nick Nichols performed our standard Memorial Service for SKCS(SS) Dennis Patrick Keane who departed on Eternal Patrol on August 31, 2014.

Following the service the family and guest left the room so that the Business Meeting could continue.

Introductions: The following guest introduced themselves at the meeting: ETCM(SS) Pete LaPierre, Qual Boat: USS Gato SSN 615; FTB1(SS) John H. Lauac, Qual Boat: USS Casmir Pulaski SSBN 633; ETCS(SS) Len Schuncmeyer, Qual Boat: USS Casmir Pulaski SSBN 633; TMCM(SS) Bill Pindell, Qual Boat: USS Casmir Pulaski SSBN 633; ET2(SS) William Barlow, Qual Boat: USS Casmir Pulaski SSBN 633; MMCM(SS) Buz Boyce, Qual Boat: USS Casmir Pulaski SSBN 633; MM1(SS) Joe Morales, Qual Boat: USS Casmir Pulaski SSBN 633; MS2(SS) Dean Barnhart Qual Boat: USS Casmir Pulaski SSBN 633; MMCS(SS) Paul Derrick, Qual Boat: USS John C. Calhoun SSBN 630; LT(SS) Chuck Jensen, Qual Boat: USS Entemedor SS 340 and Charleston Base member Richard Pasnak LT (SS), Qual Boat: USS Diodon SS 349.

Secretary: Base Secretary Rick Wise called for a motion on the August Meeting minutes. Ron Snyder made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. Rick then asked for a motion on the September minutes. Steve Everett made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer/Newsletter: Base Treasures gave a report on the base finances. The report is available on the Charleston Base website www.ussvicb.org .

He reported that the newsletter should be available soon.

Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman: Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are 339 members of Charleston Base. He reminded members that 2015 dues are now due. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. He will be available to take dues for 30 minutes after the meeting.

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

October Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

Seawolf was sunk at the beginning of her 15th war patrol with the loss of 82 officers and men, and 17 US Army troops. She was sunk just north of Moritai by USS Rowell, a destroyer Escort. In this tragic error, Rowell mistook Seawolf for a Japanese submarine that had just sunk another destroyer. Seawolf ranks 7th for enemy ships sunk.

- **QMCS(SS) Tom Van Patten** departed on Eternal Patrol this past Sunday from a sudden heart attack. Tom was not a member of USSVI or Charleston Base. He will be buried at Fort Jackson National Cemetery.
- **Glenn Fleming** had his 3rd series of chemo this week. He has been real tired and is prepared for feeling lousy for the next 2-2 1/2 weeks. He can't talk very well so phone calls are out for now but visitors are welcome as long as the person doesn't have a cold or flu symptoms. Give my best to all my shipmates at this month's meeting. May GOD bless all.
- **Art Hance** had a heart procedure mid-September and is doing well.
- **Frieda Miller, Marvin Miller's wife**, was admitted this morning to MUSC for lung biopsy to check dark spot. Both tissue samples were negative for cancer. She will be there two more days for observation.
- **Steve Morawiec** continues to have some weakness from his heart surgery and it will take time for everything to heal.

- **Doc Hill** had emergency surgery for bladder cancer last week. He was released yesterday and is home. Visitors are welcome but please call first to ensure he's not at a doctor appointment.
- **Doc Hill's** granddaughter's husband, James Poston, died unexpectedly on Sunday. He just turned 50. Her name is Stephanie Poston. They live close to Beetle Bailey. Doc was not told about the death until he was getting ready to leave the hospital yesterday.
- **"Frenchy" Fuqua** is doing better. Barbara told me he is learning to be able to take care of himself. There is a possibility that they will need some assistance when he comes out of rehab and goes home. She'll let us know if help is needed.
- **Joe Hayes** is home recovering from his heart surgery.
- **Gary Semler's** burial at sea has been completed. Pictures are posted on our website.

Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

WEBMASTER NOTES:

Website is updated constantly.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis reported the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for next year has been passed by congress but not yet signed by the President. The increase is set at 1.8%.

Storekeeper: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison stated that he still had 2015 calendars for sale for \$9 each and that he had some bolo ties which will hold a standard challenge coin for \$22.50 each (the cost to the base is \$22.30 each).

FRA: Larry Cox told the base that the FRA was holding a Halloween Party on Saturday October 25.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: Swamp Fox Treasurer Mike Emerson reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, October 16 at 1200 at Ryan's in Summerville. Arrive by 1130 for choice seating.

Mike reminded the Associate Members dues have been reduced to \$10/year and are now due.

Recreation Committee: Charlie Hudson reminded the base that the Butt Roast is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at the Cooper Rivers Partners facility at Bushy Park. The charge is \$5/person. Charleston Base Christmas Party tickets are now on sale for \$25 each. The Christmas party will be held at the Red Bank Club on December 13. Charlie Hudson asked that the WWII submarine veterans and their wives who wish to attend to please let him know. There will be no charge for their tickets.

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms reminded the base of the After Battery in Dorchester, SC. The website with a map and information is www.theafterbattery.com . The annual Hog Roast will be Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Chief of the Boat: Rick Sparger reported that the float is at Terry Trump's house in Summerville. He will send out a call for a working party to get the float parade ready for the next parade which is on Tuesday, October 21. This is the Summerville Homecoming parade.

He reported that Al Stoll had noted that the work to refurbish the Cold War Submarine Memorial has started.

Base Commander: Ed Stank reminded the base of the WWII Memorial Service in Kings Bay Submarine Base, St. Mary's, GA November 5 – 9, Information is on the Charleston Base website, www.ussvicb.org.

At the September Base meeting \$250 was allocated to be health and welfare of the residents of the Victory House in Walterboro, SC. Earlier this week, Charlie Hudson, Don Mook and Ed visited the Victory House to determine how to make the donation. The only way they could determine to use the money so it went to the residents was to use it to purchase items from a list they received of things the residents needed and that is how they will use the donation. The wish list they received is posted on the Charleston Base website www.ussvicb.org. We will collect items from base members at the November Base meeting and at the Charleston Base Christmas Party. Ed mentioned that he thought it would be nice if the donations at the Christmas Party be gift wrapped or in a gift bag.

He also stated that the one thing the residents need most was not on the list and that was company. He wants to set up a visit to the Victory House monthly and he is willing to drive. He will put out the dates of the visits later.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Walt Deal talked about the Fisher House to be built in association with the VA Hospital in Charleston, SC. The Fisher House provides a place for the families of patients to stay who live more than 50 miles from the hospital. There will be a 5K run and one mile walk on November 8 to help support the effort to build the Fisher House and organizations who donate \$1000 will have their emblems on the race t-shirts.

A motion was made to collect the \$1000 by passing the hat. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. After the motion passed, Marvin Smith made a motion that if \$1000 was not collected that the base makes up the difference. The motion was not

seconded. The motion was put on hold until after the collection was made. \$1000 was collected.

(Base Commander's Comment: Although Walt Deal's motion was well intentioned, a further review by the Base Commander of the subject walk/race indicated that the funds would be provided for training and administrative purposes. He directed that the funds be put on hold until the next base meeting so the membership could determine the use of the funds.)

Good of the Order:

Base Member Richard Pasnak told the base of the WWII museum in New Orleans, LA. One section is devoted to the USS Tang.

Base Member Jeff Reuer reminded the base of the election on Tuesday, November 4.

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by Art Hance. He donated \$60 to the General Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2039.