

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the March 2015 meeting was 98.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1902. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in March 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.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: FT1(SS) Bill Romlin, Qual Boat: USS Gato SSN 615; YN(SS) Ernest Culbreath Qual Boat USS Simon Bolivar SSBN 641; ET(SS) Richard Cox, Qual Boat USS Carbonero SS 337; ETC(SS) Bobby Soto, Qual Boat USS Rhode Island SSBN 740; TM(SS) Tom McGuire, Qual Boat: USS ; EM(SS) Wayne Neufield, Qual Boat USS New Mexico SSN 779; Brian Perry, Qual Boat USS Jefferson City SSN 759

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko called for a motion on the February Base Meeting minutes. Stacy Powers made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer: Base Commander Ed Stank gave the financial report for base Treasurer Steve Morawiec who was unable to attend. The report is available on the Charleston Base website www.ussvicb.org .

Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman: Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are now 324 members of Charleston Base. He will be available to take dues for 30 minutes after the meeting. Dues can also be paid on-line at the base website, www.ussvicb.org .

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

March Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS H-1 (SS-28) was lost on March 12, 1920, 95 years ago today, with the loss of 4 men as they tried to swim to shore after grounding on a shoal off Santa Margarita Island, off the coast of Baja California, Mexico. USS Vestal (AR-4), pulled H-1 off the rocks in the morning of 24 March, only to have her sink 45 minutes later in some 50 feet of water. She was originally named the USS Seawolf before becoming H-1.

- **Jack Harden's** sister passed away in mid-February.
- **Julian Villegas'** mother passed away at the end of February.
- **Bill Freligh's** father passed away the first of this month.
- **Bill Allen** has been diagnosed with kidney failure.
- **Gene Weir** is being treated for lymphoma and reports that his blood work has been very good and everything is going well
- **Jim Yates** is recovering from his surgery. He is home and is ready for visitors and phone calls. 873.0246. He thanks everyone for their prayers and thoughts.
- **Joe LaRose** had a defibrillator installed in late February to help with his afib. I talked to him yesterday and he is doing well.
- **Bob Turner** has a bad shoulder and will be having surgery sometime this month.
- **Steve Everett** has been in and out of hospital with heart issues. They are trying to get his meds right.
- **Bill Roberts** had a stent inserted and is doing well just limited in his activity for a while.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** has been in the hospital with some fluid buildup but is doing better. He has a heart procedure scheduled for next week.
- **Glenn Fleming** is has lung cancer and is at home with hospice. He would really like some phone calls and visits if possible. He is a little hard to understand on the phone but if you listen close you can make out most of it.
- **Ray Bryant** has been diagnosed with water around his lungs and treated with antibiotics. He is having problems with his feet and legs and has trouble walking.
- **Bob Hubert** has been diagnosed with mesothelioma. No surgery will be done but he has had radiation and the chemo begins in two weeks. He has joined the class action suit against a group who manufactured asbestos materials that were used in submarines and would be willing to talk to anyone who wants to know more about the class action.
- **Mike Knaub's** leg is not healing properly.
- **David Knaub, Mike's** son, is still fighting infections from 2x lung transplant. He now has his feeding tube.
- **Sonny Rash** is doing well in his recovery and may not have to have anything done to his legs since the aneurism surgery might had opened his arteries enough to provide blood flow.
- **Art Hance** will be having a heart procedure on Monday, March 16th.
- **Marvin Miller** is still recovering from breaking his ankle in mid-January.
- **Anne Snyder**, Ron's wife, had knee surgery mid-February. The surgery went great and Anne is at home and doing very well.

The SCP (Shipmate Contact Program) seems to be going well with about a half dozen of you letting me know you made contacts this past month. All voluntary and very simple program guidelines:

- Loosely structured – no reports to make unless you want to let me know about the contact. Be sure to get the members permission to share whatever they tell you with me.
- I'm asking each member here to take a look at the Sailing List and contact at least 4 shipmates during this coming month (1 per week).
- Contact can be by email but phone is preferred.
- Contact someone outside your table of friends; someone you don't see at the meeting.

Several 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.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

WEBMASTER NOTES: Website is updated constantly. The Charleston Base website is www.ussvicb.org.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had nothing to report.

Newsletter: Newsletter Editor George Fuchs had nothing to report.

Public Affairs: Tom Clark had nothing to report.

Storekeeper/Election Coordinator: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison stated that if you need anything from the ships store, email him or call him and he will have to you next week. As Election Coordinator he reported that the election this May is for Base Commander and Base Treasurer. Both incumbents are not running. So far the only candidate is Rick Wise running for Base Commander and Mike Walsh for Base Treasurer.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that the FRA will have Corned Beef and Cabbage for Saint Patrick's Day.

The FRA Brach meeting will be 3/19/15 @1900.

Holland Club: Bill Freligh Holland Club Chairman reported that the Holland club Indoctrination is next Month.

Ed Stank pointed out that the USSVICB will be providing a free buffet before the Holland Club indoctrination.

Submarine Veterans of World War II/Scholarship Committee: Swamp Fox President George Scharf reported that this month nothing was going on with WWII

The next Swamp Fox meeting will be on the 16th April at the Golden Corral near Tanger Outlets at 2468 Centre Pointe Drive, North Charleston.

George ensured that all WWII veterans received their Polaris Magazines

A skimmer from Boston came down to get into better weather and ended up being here when we had the coldest temperatures.

The Scholarship Chairman is looking into holding a Car Show to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. Update will probably be in May or June maybe July.

Scholarship applications due 15 April. As of right now we don't have any.

Ed Stank pointed out that he has not seen any Lamborghini's in the parking lot we need members to get kids to enter for the Scholarship Fund.

Kap's for Kids: Walt Deal had nothing to Report. Ed Stank commented that it never really got off the ground. GW corrected him and stated that MUSC stated that they didn't want us to come anymore and they went down every quarter. The Base Commander will defer this to the New Base Commander.

CRAMA: Director of Restoration and Maintenance Butch Bryar was not in attendance. Rick Wise reported that this is a new year and that we need members. The membership fee is \$20.

Little David: Base Member Rick Wise, reported that he would go out to Little David, Inspect it, and see what needs to be done. He will then send an email to the COB asking for a working party if need be.

Rick also informed all the new members that the Little David project is a Replica of the CSS David which was a low profile submerged torpedo boat used in defense of Charleston during the Civil War. It sits in front of the Berkley County Museum. In 2004 USSVICB restored the replica and we have been maintaining it.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson made the following report:

1. A Nautical Public Service Announcement :
The NUC's have always been known to be on watch (or kept in the dark).
Port and Starboard or worse, so I wanted to let them know on March 8th
Last Sunday was the start of Daylight Savings Time. So turn your clocks ahead
.....if you desire to remain in the darkTurn your clocks back, one hour or more.
Just as a separate note this applies to wrist watches also.
2. DOD BUZZ of Military.com reports that China now has more attack submarines than the U.S. China's are Diesel and Nuclear and not of the same quality as the U.S. Submarines. It also is reported that China still has Torpedoman, Quartermasters, Radioman, IC Men and Engineman. Some things just never change.
3. The Commanding Officer of the Virginia class Submarine, USS Mississippi was relieved of Command. Initially I could not find the cause, but it is believed he was carrying on with an Auxilliarymen. Do they have women yet ????? More details when the presumed truth is known.

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms was unable to attend and give a report. Tom Clark reminded the base that the Annual After Battery Hog Roast will be on Saturday April 11. People will start arriving on Sunday April 5. This is also the birthday of the US Submarine Force so the theme is "Going Down for 115 years." The After Battery has a website, www.theafterbattery.com .

Chief of the Boat: COB Rick Sparger reported about local Oyster roasts since we were not having one this year.

14th March 2015 Santee Canal State Park. You can bring coolers but no pets.

21st March Ladson VFW.

Holiday Inn reception. Mr. Mack Burdette was the speaker Ed and Rick gave him a piece of their minds. There are wanted posters around the Holiday inn barring them from further receptions.

Rick commented on a great job of the SCP program, Bravo Zulu.

Float repair Charlie Hudson said the repairs shouldn't be too long.

The combined Charleston Base – FRA Picnic will be Saturday, May 16 at the Cooper River Partners Picnic Area at Bushy Park. More information will be put out later. We will have Hamburgers, Hot dogs and Chicken quarters. Cost and Profits will be 50/50.

Rick informed us the Submariners ball will be on April 10th. We have ten free tickets. He wanted to find out who from WWII subvets were going and what they were eating to get their orders in.

Rick also Introduced Steve Kellar. He is willing to auction off His Stingrays Hockey tickets for the scholarship fund. They are to be auctioned off before the depth charge drawing.

Base Commander:

Ed Stank pointed out that he has not seen any Lamborghini's in the parking lot we need members to get kids to enter for the Scholarship Fund.

Ed Stank told the base that he will be making a trip to the Veteran's Victory House in Walterboro on Tuesday, March 17. He will leave from the VFW on Bellwright Road in Ladson at 1000. If you would like to go give Ed your name so he can let the Victory House know since they want the group to have lunch with the veterans. Ed plans to keep doing this on the Tuesday following base meetings.

The Victory House veterans requested DVD's instead of VCR tapes and Large print books.

The Submarine Birthday Ball will be on April 10 at the Charleston Marriot Hotel. The tentative cost is \$35 a ticket with WWII SubVets and their spouses free. ETC Soto donated 10 tickets for auction. Five were donated to the WWII Subvets. The money will go to the Scholarship committee.

On Tuesday 24th of March at 4 PM the Parkinson's disease support group is gathering at the VA Hospital downtown.

The Southeast Regional Convention is scheduled 20th to the 24th of April in Cape Canaveral Fla. If you have anything you like addressed send Ed Stank an email.

The National Convention is in Pittsburgh PA from September 7th to the 10th.

Ed reported that you may see in the news that the Chaplain was relieved of his duties at Nuclear power school.

National reward submissions are due this month. Last year the Base won the newsletter award.

The massing of the colors was impressive. Seven Subvets attended.

Old Business: Ed asked Charlie Hudson to report on the float. Charlie reported that the float was dropped off to Dickie Fields and is being worked on.

Charlie also reported that there is a fish Fry at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on St James. \$8 on the 20th and 27th of March.

New Business: By Law Changes.

Ken Hutchinson made a motion that all the changes are accepted as written and the motion was seconded.

John Lookabill: said that the Subvet commander can go to A subvet meeting anywhere for two nights. He suggested

After a lengthy discussion, a point of order was called and Ken Hutchinson recalled His Motion

A yeah or neigh vote was called on the motion. The motion failed.

The base commander called for the Amendments to be voted on individually.

- a. Article III – Policy Section 2 to add the word external so that the paragraph will read:

No member shall initiate any project that obligates the Charleston Base or any of its members without proposing said **external** undertaking or project to the Board of Directors for approval and receiving a majority vote at a regular or special base meeting attended by the membership.

This is an editorial change to clarify the meaning of the paragraph. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a motion to accept this Amendment as written by Rick Wise. The motion was passed.

b. Article V Membership Section 1 General C from

Dues are due and payable effective on the first day of October. After October 1st a non-renewed member is considered delinquent in arrears. Members Whose national dues and/or Charleston Base dues are in arrears on January 1st of the current year will be dropped from the rolls of the organization. Members are considered to be in good standing, if National and Local dues have been paid for the current year. As of January 1 of the current year, members not paid shall be considered terminated from USSVI and/or Charleston Base.

To

Dues for the upcoming year are due and payable **prior to December 31 of the current year.**

Members whose national dues and/or Charleston Base dues are in arrears on the following

January 1st will be dropped from the rolls of the organization. Members are considered

to be in good standing, if National and Local dues have been paid for the current year. As of

January 1 members not paid shall be considered terminated from USSVI and/or Charleston

Base. A terminated member will be restored without penalty once dues are paid.

The motion was not passed.

c. Article VII – Officers Section 1 – Elected Part B from

The term of office for all base officers shall be two (2) years or until a successor has been elected.

To:

The term of office for all base officers shall be two (2) years.

The way it is written now is unmanageable. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a motion to accept this Amendment as written by Rick Wise. The motion was passed.

d. Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 1 Base Commander Part D change from

When possible, represent the base at South East (SE) Regional. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund.

to

When possible, represent the base at **official USSVI functions.** Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund.

There was a motion by Rick Sparger to table this Amendment. The motion was passed.

- e. Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 1 Base Commander add new Part H. Review and approve the Annual Base Financial Report to the national office.

There was a motion by Rick Wise to accept as written. The motion was passed.

- f. Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 2 Base Vice-Commander Part C from When possible, and in the event the Base Commander is unavailable, represent the Base at SE Regional conventions. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund.

to

When possible, in the event the Base Commander is unavailable, represent the Base at official USSVI functions. Two nights lodging will be authorized from the general fund.

There will be financial repercussions from this change.

This Amendment was tabled until the next Meeting.

- g. Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 3 Base Secretary Part E from Maintain a Description of Duties binder for all elected and appointed officers.

to

Maintain a Description of Duties binder for all elected and appointed officers and posted on the USSVICB website.

This gives base members a place to find who is responsible for the various functions of the base. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a Motion by Rick Wise to accept the Amendment as written. The Motion passed.

- h. Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 4 Base Treasurer Part A. from Accepts and records all income and base assets.

to

Accepts and records all base income and expenditures.

This is an administrative change to reflect the Treasurers actual duties. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

This Amendment was tabled until the next meeting.

- i. Article VIII – Duties of Officers Section 4 Base Treasurer Part D from Renders at each meeting, and as required by the Base Commander, the financial standing of Charleston Base.

to

Provides a report at each meeting.

This is an administrative change to reflect the Treasurers actual duties. There are no financial repercussions of this change.

There was a motion by Rick Wise to accept the amendment as written. The motion was passed.

Good of the Order:

The last Honor flight will be September 12th. They are taking Korean and WWII Veterans.

Nick Nichols reported the Henry L Stimson reunion 2016 meeting will be right after this meeting.

American Legion Goose Creek is having a flag burning ceremony on Saturday 14th of March.

Auction for Hockey Tickets:

Bill Roberts won 2 for \$22.00

GW won 2 for \$25.00

Tom Beach won 2 for \$20.00

The Sub Ball Tickets were auctioned off:

Rick Wise won 2 for \$50.00

Don Mook won 2 for \$50.00

Ed Stank won 2 for \$50.00

Rodney McKanna won 2 for \$40.00

Charlie Hudson won 2 for \$35.00

Depth Charge: The depth charge was won by Dave Hanson. Dave made a donation of \$100 to the Scholarship Fund.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2050.

