

## USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

11 January 2018

The attendance for the January 2018 meeting was 77 members.

**Opening Ceremonies:** The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ralph Rhorssen. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900 .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 Secretary Mike Ciesielko. Ralph welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions:** The following introduced themselves at the meeting: EMCS (SS) Kevin E. Jones Qual Boat: USS Key West SSN 722. ETN1 (SS) Bleys M Prescott. Qual Boat: USS San Juan SSN 751. MM1 (SS) Matt Mathis Qual Boat: USS Darter SS 576.

**Chief of the Boat:** Joe Lunn reported the next Victory House visit will be 16th January. The next NMPTC Graduation is 19<sup>th</sup> January. The Oyster roast is possibly slated for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Secretary:** The Minutes have been published and promulgated, are there any additions or deletions. If not the Minutes are Approved

**Treasurer:** The treasurers report is published and promulgated, are there any additions or deletions. If not the report is Approved.

**Chaplain:**

### Submarines Lost During the Month of January

USS SCORPION (SS-278)	Jan. 5, 1944 – 4 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)	Jan. 10, 1943 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 102 souls
USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)	Jan. 12, 1945 – 13 <sup>th</sup> War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls
USS S-36 (SS-141)	Jan. 20, 1942 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> War Patrol	No loss of life
USS S-26 (SS-131)	Jan. 24, 1942 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> War Patrol	Lost with 46 souls– 3 men rescued

**Five Boats and 314 Men Lost**

**Chief Quartermaster, Submarines, William T. Owens  
United States Navy Retired  
Shipmate Departed on Patrol – December 2, 2017**

**Steward's Mate SN First Class, Submarines, William Lee Jones,  
US Navy World War II Submarine Veteran  
Departed on Eternal Patrol – December 30, 2017**

### January Report

#### Highlighted boat of the month:

USS S-26 SS-131 sunk with the loss of 46 officers and men in the Gulf of Panama, on her 2nd war patrol. She was rammed by the USS PC-460 and sunk within seconds. The CO, XO and one lookout on the bridge, were the only survivors.

- **Buck Owens** started feeling bad on Nov 19. I visited but Buck didn't know I was there. He passed away on Dec. 2nd. Still waiting on the family to tell us of any services they would like.

- **Willie Jones** passed away at the VA on Dec 30. His service was held this past Monday. Between Swamp Fox Chapter, Charleston Base, and FRA 269, there were 24 present for the church service with a large number going to the graveside. The family appreciated our presence. As one of our members stated: Willie deserved all the respect he received. Submariners like him are why our organization exists. Sometimes we tend to forget that.
- **I would like to thank all of you who have made the effort and attended our shipmate's funeral services in the past several years. In the time I've been Chaplain 89 of our shipmates have departed on Eternal Patrol. Charleston Base has participated in 70 funeral services.**
- **Larmarr Seader NCCM(SS) USN Ret** departed on Eternal Patrol on 7 Dec 2017 in FL. His funeral was held on 15 Dec and he was buried at the VA Cemetery NAS Pensacola. He was a 31 year veteran of the Navy starting as surface the transferred to subs after 4 years. He qualified on HALFBEAK SS-352 in 1960. He served his last 12 years as a Career Recruiter. Lamarr was a Life Member of Drum Base and USSVI.
- **Rick Sparger** came through his hip replacement surgery on Friday with no problems and is now in rehab. He is doing well and is at the Elms Rm 14P. His goal is to be home either the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Ken Curtis** has been diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver due to fatty liver tissue. He will be taking some experimental treatments to deal with it. He gets tired very easily.
- **Rich Alkire** was in Trident with a COPD issue. He's also been diagnosed with congestive heart failure.
- **Walt Curtis** was in the hospital over Thanksgiving and has informed us at the Christmas party that he has a malignant tumor on his liver.
- **Terry Trump** fell from a ladder on Nov 16 and broke both ankles. Right had a hairline fracture, left was shattered. He had surgery to install plates and pins on Nov 25...surgery was successful. Between Nov 25 and 28 several shipmates came together to build a ramp for him. He came home on Nov 28 and is doing well while healing. He had a doctor's visit on Monday and Xrays show he is healing very well. Right ankle cleared to walk on and left now has an inflatable boot. Allowed to put weight on the left foot but no walking on it. Next doctor visit is February 7<sup>th</sup> at which time he will be free to walk again.
- **Lee Agnew** HTCM USN Retired, Rick Collins' father-in-law, passed away on Nov 24. His viewing was on Nov 29 and funeral on Nov 30.
- **Bryan Sparks**, Ray Sparks' son, has had a relapse and spent some time in Trident ICU. He is home and is recovering. He has appointments at the VA this week, to hopefully determine cause of relapse. Thanks Ray
- **Edwin Swanson**, Linda Nichols' brother passed away on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> in GA.

I still need page 2s from many people. I have them for 29% of our members...90 out of 303.

If you have a change of mailing address, phone number, email address please let the base leadership know about it. We need to make sure all of our records are updated so we can make contact with you if we need to.

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 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.
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**Membership:** Larry Knutson informed us we have 304 members.

**District Commander:** No Report.

**Kaps for Kids:** No Report.

**Veterans Affairs:** Ken Curtis had no report. Check the website.

**FRA:** Larry Cox announced the Valentines Dance is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$20.00 until February 11<sup>th</sup> then they are \$25.00. February 4<sup>th</sup> is the Superbowl Party Tickets are \$60.00 each and all inclusive. FRA ballcaps are for sale. The FRA has a program to sponsor a bar stool. The cost is \$50.00 they will put your name on the back of the barstool.

**Submarine Veterans of World War II:** We had two members present. We celebrated Walt Curtis' 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday

**Scholarship:** No Report

**NPS Awards:** 19 January

**CRAMA:** Butch Bryar is talking to a lawyer. CRAMA membership dues are due. CRAMA donated a plaque and some pictures to the FRA.

**Public Affairs:** No Report

**Storekeeper:** No Report

**Special Events:** No Report.

**Base Commander:** Ralph has gone to the High Schools to get more visibility. He intends to speak to Teachers and Vocational Tech Counselors first Visit is Summerville High School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of February. Ralph commended Ed Stank on an awesome Christmas Party. Southeast Regional is up for us for next year. Get with Ed Stank if you want to help. Ed is also looking for a smaller float to involve us in more parades.

**Old Business:** Rick Wise made a motion to accept the 2018 Base budget as written. Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by voice vote

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Order:**

- Ralph Rhorssen announced that we are going to try to have a Dinner at the FRA for the Chiefs.
- Paul Vierung encouraged everyone to come out for the Hunley Memorial Service Saturday 17 February. Aiken Base will be participating as well.
- Bill Roberts informed us that there are a few programs on the History channel on Monday concerning submarines and the USS Hunley.
- Tom Clark Announced that there will be a "Armed Citizens Rules of engagement course January 27-28<sup>th</sup> The class is \$400.00 it is an informative class going over everything you need to know if you have to use your concealed weapon.
- Ed Stank recognized the back table for donating \$400.00 to the Christmas Party that was at the Victory House.
- Ed is also asking for anyone with information for the smaller float to contact him.

**The After Battery:** Hog Roast in April. The After Battery is open every Wednesday.

**Nuclear Historian: DEAD PENGUINS**

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they go? Wonder no more!!! It is a fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird which lives an extremely ordered and complex life. The penguin is very committed to its family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead of the ice's surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly good fellow"

"Freeze a jolly good fellow"

Then, they kick him in the ice hole.

The spot of the grave is then marked so that Polar Bears can find fresh meat (blubber) when they wake from their winter slumber.

You really didn't believe that I know anything about penguins, did you?"

It's so easy to fool older people.

I am sorry the "Buddha Made me do it"

**Gun Club:** Mike Ciesielko had no report.

**The Red FRA ticket** was won by Mike Collins

**The depth charge** was won by Ralph Rhorssen. Ralph Donated 50 Dollars to the Victory House.

**Benediction:** Chaplain Nick Nichols gave the benediction.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Following the benediction by Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 1950.