

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

10 October 2019

Opening Ceremonies:

- The October 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 64 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Mike Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines lost during the month of October:
 - **USS SEAWOLF (SS 197)** **Oct 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)**
 - **USS S-44 (SS 155)** **Oct 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS WAHOO (SS 238)** **Oct 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 80 souls**
 - **USS DORADO (SS 248)** **Oct 12, 1944 – New - Training** **Lost with all hands – 77 souls**
 - **USS ESCOLAR (SS 294)** **Oct 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 82 souls**
 - **USS DARTER (SS 227)** **Oct 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol** **No loss of life**
 - **USS SHARK II (SS 314)** **Oct 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol** **Lost with all hands – 87 souls**
 - **USS TANG (SS 306)** **Oct 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol** **Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war**
 - **USS O-5 (SS 66)** **Oct 29, 1923 – Near Panama Canal** **Lost with 3 souls**
 - **Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost**
- **Chief Warrant Officer 3, Submarines, Lee Roland Young, United States Navy Retired, Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – September 25, 2019**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Sue Kerver – Voluntary Service Manager – VA Hospital

- Spoke about the contributions of time by the volunteers.
- Spoke of the current and planned facilities around the Low Country. One clinic will be in North Charleston to relieve some of the requirement to go downtown.
- Informed the base membership of the current needs for volunteers – especially drivers but other tasks include golf cart shuttle driver and escorts to accompany patients to the appointment locations within the facilities.
- Volunteers are asked to give minimum of four hours each week for a minimum of six months.
- Spoke about the benefit that the Fisher House provides and the need for volunteers there.
- Fielded questions from the members.
- Left Base members some brochures about VA volunteer service.
- More information can be found the VA Hospital website – <https://www.charleston.va.gov/>

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - Daniel Hutto – MMN3 – Student at Nuclear Power School – Has volunteered for Submarine Service
 - Greg Landry – MM1 – Qualified on USS Greenling SSN615 – 1987 – Also served aboard USS Canopus AS34, NSSF Groton, USS Billfish SSN676, USS Maine SSBN741, NRD Atlanta, NRS Charleston, USS Harry S. Truman CVN75. Also SW/AW.

Old Business:

- **None**

New Business:

- **None**

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the September Base meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There were no other additions or deletions to the September Base meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer's Report for September has been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
 - Shark II was lost on Oct 24, 1944 with the loss of 87 men when she was sunk near Hainan. The second boat to carry this name during World War II, she was on her 3rd war patrol. Shark was sunk by escorts after attacking and sinking a lone freighter. Compounding the tragedy, it turned out that the freighter had 1,800 U.S. POW's on board.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given Nick information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **CWO3(SS) Lee Roland Young, USN Ret., 75**, departed on Eternal Patrol September 25, 2019 at Summerville Community Hospice Home. Lee joined the Navy in 1961 and retired in 1988, beginning as a TM and then commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer 3. He was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston Base, Holland Club member, and a member of the FRA Branch 269, American Legion Post 166 and VFW Post 3433. He qualified in 1963 on GEORGE WASHINGTON SSBN/SSN 598 and served on STONEWALL JACKSON SSBN 634, HENRY CLAY SSBN 625 and FRANK CABLE AS40. A note of condolence has been placed in the online Funeral Home memorial website. Lee's memorial service was held Saturday, October 5 at Whispering Pines Memorial Gardens. Rick Wise stood in as Chaplain for the Bell Tolling Service.
- **Rick Wise** had MOHS surgery yesterday on his nose and face. He is home recovering and is not able to drive. The Little David maintenance has been moved to November. More info will be provided later.
- **Judy Hutchison**, Ken's wife, had her biopsy and the results are that there is no cancer.
- **Becky Roberts** broke her leg on Friday, September 27. She is now home in a leg brace and is scheduled for a full leg cast Thursday (today). Bill is the nurse, chief cook and bottle washer while she is recovering.
- **Don Ort** had successful surgery on August 20, to improve circulation on the left side of his body and open the arteries that were blocked. Surgery was 9 hours and there were some difficulties with bleeding. He is fine but has trouble getting around and the healing is slow.
- **Richard Walsh** went to Trident ER on Sunday, September 22, had foot surgery on Tuesday [9/24] and was released to home on Thursday [9/26]. He is doing well on his crutches and should be back at full speed in a month.
- **Ed Stank** had his back surgery on September 23, and is now home and doing well. He was at the meeting tonight.
- **Joann Rohrsen** was in the hospital from September 5 until today as a result from complications of Gall Bladder removal and an infection that was septic. She has been moved to a long-term facility in Mt. Pleasant.
- **Don Londergan** is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938.
- **Bob Snyder** was with us tonight. He is still receiving palliative care.
- **Ken Curtis** is still having his infusions. He has retired from his DAV work at the VA Clinic due to many doctors' appointments he could not continue to be there on a regular basis.
- **Tom Skorepa** had TAVR surgery for aortic valve replacement. He is home and doing well.
- **Walt Deal** went to the hospital earlier this week with shortness of breath. He is home now but will be needing several tests in the next few days.
- **Jim Loveday** is not doing well.
- **Tom Cyrek** has been admitted to the VA.

- Please complete 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.
- VA Info from the speaker tonight will be linked to our CB Website.
- If you are in the VA Health System be sure to make use of the My HealthEVet website:
<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Sharf:

- Stacy Power is not here tonight.
- George has nothing to report.

Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:

- Lou Leal was not able to make it to the meeting but sent the following info:
 - Please “Like” the Base Facebook pages if you haven't done so, get your friends and family to “Like” the page too. “Like” and “Share” our posts on Facebook and Instagram (If you don't know how to do this, have your grandchildren show you). If you have a photo to share, or event to promote, email details to **social@ussvicb.org**.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

- Thanked the Base members for providing crayons and coloring books; some of which were already given away at the visit to the Shriner's Hospital in Greenville just a couple of days ago – October 7. The group from Charleston Base included five men and were joined by two members from the Greenville Base and two Shriners.
- Thanked Mike Emerson and George Sharf for the work that they have done with Kaps for Kids – even leading several events by themselves.
- The next Kaps for Kids visit will be December 3 at McLeod Children's Hospital in Florence. Meet there at 1000.
- Contact Bill or Mike Emerson more information if needed.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- The Base currently has 281 members.
- Annual Dues are due NOW. National dues are \$25 – Charleston Base dues are \$15.
- For some reason, a few LIFE MEMBERS still are continuing to pay dues each year. We will have to decide what to do with the money.
- National USSVI website states that dues can be paid online, but at this point, there is no provision on the National site to process the payment.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to Report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The Middleton Gardens raffle will be held tonight at the end of the meeting.
- The Scholarship committee has Base Challenge Coins available.
- There will be something new next month.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Requests for pulling the float in various Christmas parades are now being received. The Harleyville parade is Thursday, December 5. Summerville is Sunday, December 8. Elloree is Saturday, December 14. Do not have the date for Ridgeville yet.

CRAMA – George Sharf for Butch Bryar

- Patriots Point is planning on reefing the Clamagore within two years, however the court case expected to be reviewed by the SC Supreme Court may take longer than that. The fight continues.
- The 2.7M dollars, which was provided to Patriots Point to scuttle the boat, was taken from the SC Education fund.

NPS – Ray Sparks

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be held on November 22 with Class 1905.

Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton

- The FRA will have a cake cutting tomorrow to honor the 244th Navy birthday.
- There will be a Halloween party on October 26.
- On Veteran's Day, the FRA will hold an "Indoor Picnic".
- There will be a drawing for a free dinner or a year of membership.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

- Jerry is soliciting ideas from Base members for public affairs. He is wanting to submit articles to American Submariner about Charleston Base events. Please contact Jerry with information about activities that should be published.

Newsletter – Rick Wise

- Not Present

Recreation – Ed Stank

- 2019 Charleston Base Christmas party will be held at the FRA on Saturday, December 7 beginning at 1800 and ending at 2200. Menu selection will be: prime rib, stuffed pork chops and flounder. Two drinks will be provided. Other beverages will be provided. The FRA has waived the charge for the room cost. Volunteers will be needed to set up the room for the party. The tickets are \$20.00 per person [Secretary's Note: The ticket price in the September minutes was \$25 each. Clarification is recommended.]
- Ed informed the Base that the Recreation Chair will be open on January 1. It is time for someone else to take over this position. We thanked Ed for his work as the committee and Base Commander Mike Ciesielko requested at least two members to take on the task of Recreation for the Base.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- We need to remember Veterans Day, which is just around the corner.
- 2020 Calendars are now available.

COB – Joe Lunn

- We do have Veterans Day coming up. Ken Hutchison provided details: Muster time is 1000 at intersection of Hwy 78 and 17A in Summerville. Nick Nichols reminded everyone that this event is on the Base website, listing what organization is responsible for each part of the event for the next several years.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Reminded everyone to clean up the tables following the meeting.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

- Mike asked the Base members to participate in events and plan ahead for what is being done. When he first joined Charleston Base, there was a lot of things going on: e.g. cookouts, oyster roasts etc. totaling about 4 or 5 events each year. We need to do more than have a business meeting each month.

- **Good of the Order**

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The Hog Roast in the Swamp will be April 19 – 25, 2020. Mark your calendars and don't plan any other events for that week.
- The After Battery is open every Wednesday.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Meet at the FRA next Saturday, October 19. Bring your rifles, pistols, ammo and paper targets. The group will leave at 0820 to go to Twin Ponds range.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not Present

Hunley Info – Lindsey Nelson

- The Hunley Newsletter has a couple of events listed:
 - Membership tours: November 1-2 from 1000-1700. Admission is free for Hunley Society members. Guest admission is \$5 each.
 - Oysters and Barbeque: Friday November 1, 1700-2200 at the visitor bus shed downtown. There will be a silent auction for a vacation certificate. Member tickets for are \$40. Guest tickets are \$45. These can be purchased on the Hunley website.

Other - There is a Mini Seahorse reunion this week

Drawings & Auctions

- SCHOLARSHIP Drawing – Gordon Williams
- FRA Drawing – Mike Emerson
- Depth Charge – Hermy Maula

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm.
- The meeting was closed at 2018