

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
14 November 2019

Opening Ceremonies:

- The November 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 58 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 November:
 - **USS ALBACORE (SS-218) November 7, 1944 - 11th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 85 souls**
 - **USS GROWLER (SS-215) November 8, 1944 - 12th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 86 souls**
 - **USS SCAMP (SS-277) November 16, 1944 - 8th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 83 souls**
 - **USS CORVINA (SS-226) November 16, 1943 - 1st War Patrol Lost with all hands - 82 souls**
 - **USS SCULPIN (SS-191) November 19, 1943 - 9th War Patrol Lost with 43 souls - 41 became POWs - 21 survived the war**
- **5 Boats and 399 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.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - Randy Haas – ETC – Qualified on USS L. Mendel Rivers SSN637 – Also served aboard several other boats not named.
 - Clint Ferrell – MM2 – Qualified on USS Batfish SSN681 – 1986 – Also served aboard USS Seahorse SSN669, various shore commands and law enforcement

Old Business:

- **None**

New Business:

- **None**

Secretary – Base Commander Mike Ciesielko for Gordon Long:

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

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer's Report for October 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:**
 - ALBACORE was lost on November 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh war patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given Nick information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

- **Marvin White** departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, November 1. He served Sennet (SS-408). Funeral services were held November 5 in Hendersonville NC. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **David Fulmer Hottenstein II**, of Ravenel departed on Eternal Patrol on Monday, October 21. He served aboard the Grenadier (SS-525) and the Haddo (SSN-604) from 1960-1970 and then spent several years in the reserves. He worked at MUSC and Charleston Naval Shipyard. Funeral services were held on November 1. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **JoAnn Rohrsen** passed away on Thursday morning, November 7 at Agape Hospice of Summerville. Her funeral is tomorrow at Simplicity at 281 Treeland Dr, Ladson SC 29456
- **Tom Lufkin** is in FL and began feeling pressure in his chest. Went to the hospital to be checked out, stress test and sonogram were negative. The Dr. insisted they do a cath and found the main artery in his heart was 90% blocked. They put in a stent and he was released on Veterans Day. He is feel much better.
- **Ruth Ann Carlson** was in the hospital from October 28 until yesterday. She was taken in due to a fall and is weak from not eating, drinking and taking her meds. She is at home with hospice care.
- **Stacy Power** was taken to the hospital after falling at home. He injured his leg and after some tests the doctors had to put a stent in his leg to open up blood flow to his foot. He was released on October 24. He is still having leg/foot problems due to the fall. He is having more doctor visits and tests to try to determine the exact issue.
- **JJ Fortier** is still in pain 24/7. He had surgery on today at Trident for the right hip replacement. He was doing very well following the replacement of his left hip in February and after the end of physical therapy had a month of painless days. Then the right hip started. Right now there isn't a painless hour in his day. Been that way since July. Still hoping to make some meetings after recovery.
- **Rick Wise** is recovering from his MOHS surgery last month.
- **Becky Roberts** is still recovering from her broken leg.
- **Don Londergan** is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- **Ken Curtis** is still having his infusions. He was at the meeting tonight and says he is now a continuous 2 quarts low all the time.
- Please complete your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- If you have a laptop with a camera it can be hacked. The hackers can see what you're doing anytime the laptop is powered up and open. To defeat this hack simply tape a piece of paper over the camera lens and the remove it when you are needing the camera (exp: Skype)
- 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.
- Nick apologized for the confusion at the Veterans Day ceremony regarding timing. The woman that was in charge of the event single handedly decided to change the start time to 1000 over several objections.
- Nick encouraged the Base members to greet young sailors in uniform to thank them and told about a recent occurrence where the young man, instead thanked Nick after seeing his Master Chief pin.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson for George Sharf:

- Stacy Power is not here tonight.
- Nothing to report.

Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:

- We have social media – Instagram, Facebook. Lou Leal is putting all of the Lost Boats on both sites as the months arrive.
- You can share your pictures on both Facebook and Instagram. If you have a photo to share, or event to promote, email details to social@ussvicb.org.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

- The next Kaps for Kids visit will be Tuesday, December 3 at McLeod Children's Hospital in Florence. Meet there at 1000. This will be the last visit for 2019.
- Contact Bill if you need more information.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- The Base currently has 287 members. We did pick up a couple more tonight.
- We want to retain all of our members, so if you know of a Base member that is not attending, please check on them.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to Report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The committee will be having a raffle tonight. Rick Sparger had won the raffle at the August Base Meeting but donated it back for the Scholarship Fund. It is a package of items containing:
 - A one-year gun range membership from ATP Gunshop
 - An ATP polo style shirt.
 - An ATP baseball cap.
 - An 8 LED flashlight.
 - A container of tannerite explosive target powder.
- Tickets for the raffle are \$1 or six for \$5.
- The committee has a book that will be auctioned tonight: *"Ice Station Nautilus"* by Rick Campbell.
- A brand new Thomas Jefferson hat and a Submarine Training Center coffee mug are available.
- Challenge coins are available.
- The committee is planning a rummage sale to benefit our Admiral Osborn Scholarship fund. The sale will be Saturday, May 2nd, 2020. Donations are requested from all members to assist in this endeavor. Any and all household goods, sporting goods, tools, etc. are appreciated. NO DONATIONS of clothing, shoes, linens, draperies will be accepted. More information will be available soon.
- The committee has some other items, such as Career Counselor badges available for free to who may want them for their vest.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Rick requested a show of hands who could be available to attend the Harleyville Christmas Parade on December 5.
- He also asked the members who could attend the Summerville Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 8.
- Stump Hole Landing and the Christmas Parade in Elloree is December 14. Rick explained the festivities surrounding these events and asked the Base members to attend, as they are always appreciative of veterans. Contact Rick if more information is needed.
- Charlie Hudson has a couple of men to help clean up and do some other maintenance on the float in preparation for the parades.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- Not present

NPS – Ray Sparks

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be held on November 22 with Class 1905. Meet at the NEX parking lot 0800 to carpool due to limited parking at the ceremony location.
- Most of the students will be going to carriers, but some are submarine volunteers.

Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton

- The FRA will have a Children's Christmas Party on December 14 at 1300.
- The adult Christmas Party will be December 20 at 1900. Tickets are available at the counter.
- Rick Sparger added that the FRA will be having a Good Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast on November 23 to support Toys For Tots. All the proceeds will be given to support this charity. The AYCE breakfast is only

\$6 and you also have the option to bring a new unwrapped toy that is worth at least \$6 and get a free breakfast.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

- Nothing to Report

Newsletter – Rick Wise

- If you have something that you would like to put into the Base Newsletter, please contact Rick.

Little David – Rick Wise

- At this time, the only thing that can be done is replace boards. Rick is organizing a working party each Monday until the work is completed. He asked for and received some volunteers from those in attendance. In the spring, the memorial will be washed and painted.

Recreation – Ed Stank

- The manager of Bad Daddy's Burgers (a former A-Ganger) provided some vouchers for the location at Nexton in Summerville. Some in attendance recommended the restaurant.
- The food at East Bay Deli at Carnes Crossroads has been reported to be very good as it is managed by a former submarine cook.
- The 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 or baked flounder. The tickets are \$20.00 per person. As of this date, 71 tickets have been sold. Two drinks will be available. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided also. Red Fraley will be the DJ. Ed will remain after the meeting for those who need tickets. Since the party is being held on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, it would be appropriate to wear something appropriate to honor those lost that day.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- 2020 Calendars are now available.

COB – Joe Lunn

- COB inquired whether everyone had received his email about the Distinguished Submariner Award requests. The form is available on the Base website in both MSWord and PDF formats. COB also has blank forms that one can take from him tonight and fill out manually. The BOD will make the determination in February with the award to be presented at the March Base Meeting.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko noted that the Base membership knows who is doing good things to represent Charleston Base and to submit names for nomination.
- COB informed the membership that Mike Emerson has a "Get Well" card for Stacy Power for everyone to sign. Mike will take it to him soon.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

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

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

- Mike thanked everyone for attending the Veterans Day ceremony and the Tolling of the Boats at Coastal Coffee Roasters.
- Next year, the Base may attend a Veterans Day parade in lieu of the Bell Tolling at the coffee shop. More about this in 2020.

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The After Battery is open every Wednesday and has a new cook who is doing a great job.
- 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.

Hunley/Housatonic Service – Harry Nettles

- At this time, we are three months away from the Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service. We need pallbearers, but you have plenty of time to get your suits cleaned so that they will look good for the ceremony. We need other support personnel also.
- Harry stated that he has his speech ready and is preparing others as well. He has learned a lot about the Hunley from a book that he has been reading.
- Make sure to mark your calendar for the February 17 observance. Meet at Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Sullivan's Island. Bring a heavy coat since it gets cold out there.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- We had a scheduled a shoot on Saturday, October 19. Mike was waiting at the FRA and no one else showed up. It was cold and wet, so he went home. He would like to have a shoot in December and January even though it gets cold. Mike will call COB or Rick to get the word out when the event will be.
- Rick Sparger pointed out that whoever wins the ATP Raffle, the stuff can be used there.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not Present

Hunley Info – Lindsay Nelson

- Lindsey has information regarding becoming a member of *“Friends of the Hunley”*.

General Submariner Info – GW

- A former A-Gang submariner is now the Chief of Police in Harleyville.

Constitution Article 5 – Bill Yeager

- Bill is active in an organization attempting to get a Convention of States. He has forms to complete and send to the State Representatives regarding use of Article 5 to reign in the Washington politicians.
- The scope is to be limited to only a few things but two of the proposed amendments are:
 - Term limits for House of Representatives and Senators
 - Term limits for federal judges

Special Invitation – Theron Irving

- Jack Harden – Eternal Patrol – had a large workshop, full of woodworking tools. Joyce wants to sell these tools as they are of no use to her. Please contact Theron if you would like to make a fair offer on any of these items. There was a suggestion to take it to the Scholarship Committee rummage sale.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Ray Sparks
- SCHOLARSHIP ATP Raffle – Chuck Gravley
- SCHOLARSHIP Consolation Drawing (1 Day Range Pass) – Chuck Gravley (Also)
- SCHOLARSHIP Book Auction – Rodney McKanna
- Depth Charge – Al Stoll

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 1957