

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

## Minutes of Business Meeting

### 12 November 2020

#### Opening Ceremonies:

- The November 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 31 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was not present.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of November was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of November:
  - **USS ALBACORE (SS-218) November 7, 1944 – 11<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 85 souls**
  - **USS GROWLER (SS-215) November 8, 1944 – 12<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 86 souls**
  - **USS SCAMP (SS-277) November 16, 1944 – 8<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with all hands – 83 souls**
  - **USS CORVINA (SS-226) November 16, 1943 – 1<sup>st</sup> War patrol Lost with all hands – 82 souls**
  - **USS SCULPIN (SS-191) November 19, 1943 – 9<sup>th</sup> War Patrol Lost with 43 souls – 41 became POWs – 21 survived the war**
- **Five Boats and 399 Men Lost**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

#### Introductions of New Attendees:

- None present.

#### Old Business:

- NONE

#### New Business:

- NONE

#### Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the October Base meeting had been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. No additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved.

#### Treasurer – Base Commander for 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 as provided.

#### Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
  - USS GROWLER was lost on Nov 8, 1944 with the loss of 86 men when she was sunk in the South China Sea. Winner of two Navy Unit Commendations, Growler was on her 12th war patrol, and was lost while attacking a convoy, probably as a result of a depth charge attack or victim of a circular run by one of her own torpedoes.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Jim Loveday's wife, Charlotte** sent an email thanking everyone at the Sub Vets for all their help for Jim's funeral and asked that it be passed along to everyone.

- **SCPO(SS) Robert J. McIntyre**, 68, departed on Eternal Patrol on Oct 25, 2020 in Goose Creek, SC. Bobby honorably retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy after 22 years of service in the submarine service. His final resting place will be a Navy burial at sea. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **Wayne Bohon, Bruce Bohon's** brother, is suffering from acute liver failure and is in hospice care.
- **Sonny Rash** was diagnosed with cancer in his left big toe and it was amputated on Monday. He is recovering at home and very bored. If you would like to give him a call to talk his number is 843.345.1430.
- **Rick Wise** is having some intestinal and bladder problems associated with the radiation exposure from the seeding. May last a few weeks up to a few months.
- **Ken Lux** was in the hospital at the end of October and was tested for flu, bronchitis, COVID and pneumonia. He was clear of all but the pneumonia and is being treated for that. It's great that he is here tonight.
- **Dennis "Frenchy" Fuqua** is not doing well. About a month ago he was admitted to Trident with pneumonia. While he was being treated they discovered he has Lung Cancer. He is home now under Barbara's care (843)797-3230. His treatment plan has not been completed as yet. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions
- **James Graham** is recovering well from his September knee surgery. His wife, Darlene, has had some health issues.
- **Gary Williams** had lengthy back surgery on 10 September. Charlie Hudson reported that he is doing well.
- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans shows great improvement.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the EP this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.

#### **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.
- Member pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- DAV Monthly Meeting Nov 14th @1000. At this month's meeting we will be having a guest speaking about Tricare and Tricare for Life, how it works, who qualifies and how it interacts with Medicare.

#### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko for George Scharf:**

- Stacy Power is not present tonight
- Nothing to report

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- We want to make the Base Meeting available via the internet.
- There were some privacy concerns expressed about video of the meeting. These will be discussed at the Board meeting in December.

#### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**

- Not present.
- [Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits.]

#### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- 277 Charleston Base Members – There are about 60 members who owe dues at this time.

#### **Public Affairs – Jerry Stout**

- Not present

#### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- Not present

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- Challenge Coins are available.
- The committee has a few submarine lighters that were donated – Bancroft, Polk and CSS-16. These are for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.
- The previous raffle for Top Dawg Tavern raised \$209 for the Scholarship Fund.
- The Committee has a shotgun raffle. Carl had won this from the FRA and donated it to Charleston Base as a fund raiser for the Scholarship fund. Tickets are \$10.
- The Rummage Sale will be held on November 14 from 0800 – 1300 at Halloween Express on Old Trolley Road near Dorchester Rd. Please bring all of your items early that morning. Carl will be there at 0500 to set up. Some items which would sell for more than they would at a rummage sale were sold on Craig's List and Facebook Marketplace thanks to Carl's wife setting that up. Those items have already garnered \$740. Help with traffic and security (making sure that items do not sprout legs and walk) is needed. As it turns out, the Kidney Foundation truck will not be picking up the unsold items, but the Thrift Store is only a block away.
- Carl asked if someone could bring the float to the Rummage Sale for static display.
- The Scholarship Committee received an anonymous donation of \$250. If the donor reads these minutes, THANK YOU!

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- The Harleyville parade is December 3. It is the only one scheduled so far but we are planning for Summerville or Ridgeville.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

- Not present

### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks**

- The next NPS graduation is mid-December. Charleston Base is still not attending because of COVID restrictions.

### **Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger**

- The General Assembly meeting is coming up if anyone would like to attend.

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise**

- If anyone has anything that you would like to put in the Base Newsletter, please send it to Rick.

### **LITTLE DAVID – Rick Wise**

- Work on the Little David will wait until spring. Berkeley Museum has been informed.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise**

- Rick will have the budget for next year submitted soon. It will be provided to the Board via email for vote and then to the Base in advance of the meeting in December.

### **Recreation – Bill Hayes**

- Not present

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

- Nothing to report

### **COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)**

- We had a great picnic. The weather was just perfect. Those who were not present missed an excellent day together. We had some fabulous help. Mike cooked on the grill for us. Leo was in charge of the kitchen. Carl took care of the music using our new sound system. Ed collected the admission fees and money for the drawing. Rick apologized for anyone that he may have missed. Again – thank you for the help.
- We have ordered more shadow boxes.

- The Board meeting for December will be Tuesday 12/1 at 1800 instead of Thursday. The FRA has an activity on the evening of 12/3. **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko**
- It is time for members to submit nominations for Distinguished Submariner Awards. Forms are available. Please fill one out for your recommendation.
- Mike reminded everyone to clean up the tables before departure.

### **Good of the Order**

#### **Friends of the Hunley – Lindsay Nelson**

- Last year the Base voted to support Friends of the Hunley. There is a time capsule display at the Hunley with plaque stating that the Hunley is supported by Charleston Base SubVets. Lindsay will be at the next Board meeting to discuss continuing support.

#### **Living Christmas Story – Rodney McKanna**

- On December 10-12, the Living Christmas Story will be on display a Bethany UMC in Summerville. Drive through “Bethlehem” this year from 1830 - 2030 on Thursday/Friday and three hours on Saturday.

#### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- Open every Wednesday
- The Hog Roast is scheduled for April 11-17. Mark your calendars.

#### **Gun Club**

- Lewis was the only one join Mike Ciesielko at the Gun Shoot, but both of them had a great time. While ammunition is currently hard to get, Mike informed the group of a location where you can obtain one box of each caliber you want each week. See Mike for more info.

#### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

- Not present

#### **Drawings & Auctions**

- There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize based upon the sign-in sheet. The Base Treasurer would have won if he had had a Challenge Coin. He did not, so the prize will be held until next month.
- Depth Charge – Ed Stank [The Treasurer pulled the ticket from the container and made the announcement. This is the COB’s responsibility. We will make sure that the COB is allowed to do his job next time.]

#### **Closing Ceremony**

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1947.