

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2025

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Glenn Little, Johnny Brown, Rick Wise, Phil Nunnally, Ed Stank, Woody Woodsmall, Larry Knutson, Bill Freligh, Ricky Collins, Greg Landry, Gordon Long, Art Sattler, Tom Holcombe, David Harvey, Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal, Bob McPherson and Nick Nichols. Rodney McKanna, Gerald Starr and Don Ort were also in attendance.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Attending the SER and will take pictures.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Noted that Recreation exceeded the budget for last year.
- We will cancel the March activities. Nick removed it from the Charleston Base website calendar.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Presented and discussed budget report.
- The float repair expenses exceeded the budget, but money was moved from other categories to compensate for the extra amount.
- Recreation expenses exceeded the budget for last year.
- We still have \$1,100.
- The budget report will be presented at the Base Meeting next week.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Has boards cut for repair of the Little David.
- Will schedule a working party soon.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- The next NPS graduation is the week of the SER Conference.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.
- Ed Stank congratulated Phil for the quality of the Newsletter.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Ed reported that funds for the effort are now at \$5,000 of the \$6,800 required.
- He will soon be able to drive again to visit the other bases but that will wait until after the SER.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody has a few new items to sell at the SER Conference.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- We have 254 Charleston Base members.
- Larry talked about the membership incentives that National is working on.
- Larry reported a possible issue with secondary base memberships.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1181 - 2) Hampton Roads 286 - 3) Charleston 254 - 4) Bremerton 238

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- We will have eight inductees for the Holland Club at the April Base Meeting.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Has waited on sending the check to Friends of the Hunley due to low balance.
- Rick Wise noted that funds can be withdrawn from the Investment Fund for Base operational expenses. Ricky stated that he will not withdraw any money unless the Board instructs him to do so.
- Fifteen working days and a wake-up. Ricky will be retired.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Nothing reported.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report

Kaps for Kids – Art Sattler:

- Art has made some contacts at MUSC.
- Real K4K efforts will wait until after the SER Conference.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom has not heard anything from the Hunley groups and therefore is not planning any participation from Charleston Base.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Plans to contact those folks who visited the float during the Coastal Carolina Fair.

SE Regional Conference – Dave Harvey:

- RADM Ishe will be the speaker at the SER.
- Help will be needed to push the float into place in front of the hotel.
- The SER will be from THU-SAT (2/13-2/15).
- Money left over from the SER may go to the Scholarship Fund, but final decision has not been made.
- Registration will be held in the large room and vests are recommended for the SER.
- SER Patches will be included in the registration package, but also available for sale at the Storekeeper table. Dave has a lady to sew the patches.
- Ken Nichols (National) would like to have a SER each year. It must be held at other locations. Dave has looked into Tampa and New Orleans so far.
- We will have ladies at the Base Meeting next week.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home. He welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers.
- **Roger Rader** was at the hospital in late Jan. He slipped on ice and the fall caused a fractured wrist, a broken hip and an issue with his stomach. He underwent 4 hours of surgery which went well. He is now on the 6th floor in the rehab section for another week and then hopefully home.
- **Al Stoll** is in Room 3 at the skilled Nursing section at the villages at Summerville rehab center at the end of West 9th North Street. He has a very hard time hearing so phone calls are not easy for him. If visiting before or after lunch is best time.
- **Jerry Stout's** PIC line and wound vac have been removed. He is having some issues with his health and as his shipmates for their prayers.
- **Rick Wise** had chest and abdomen CT scans done 20 Jan and saw his Oncologist 22 Jan. The scans showed no sign of cancer!
- **John Lookabill** is still getting his strength back but feeling much better.
- **Pat Davis** saw his doctor on Jan 17. His left lung is almost clear, but the right one that was almost 100% bad is clearing. He also noticed that he doesn't have any stamina. He will go back to see him in February for more follow up.
- **Dave Harvey** will be having neck surgery on February 26th.
- **James Graham** has been in a lot of pain with his knee because of the cold. Good news is he will be a grand-dad again. His grand-son says it's going to be a girl so he can have a baby sister.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. He is answering his cell 843.873.0564. This is behind Trident.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** are living in the Villages, him in Cottage 606 with Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville SC 29483-6715.
- **Al & Connie Dempster** are in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. Mailing address is: Alan Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. Apartment phone – (843) 793-1187.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- If you change your number or drop your home line, please contact either Larry, Nick or the COB so that we can make the necessary changes locally and with National.
- Until told differently, continue to use the website of **<https://ussubvets.org>**

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike thanked everyone for being here tonight then introduced Bob McPherson as the Ambassador for the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Fund.

USSVCF – Bob McPherson:

- Bob explained and cited examples of the good work of the USSVCF.
- There are ten different funds within USSVCF.
- Bob will be doing some education about USSVCF in the future.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- Not present

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Not present

PAO – Rafael Guzman:

- Not present

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1911.