

## **USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**March 6, 2025**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1805 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Tom Lawson III, Anthony Mazza, Ed Stank, Woody Woodsmall, Johnny Brown, Bill Freligh, David Harvey, Ricky Collins, Larry Knutson, Lewis Leal, Greg Landry, Gordon Long, Art Sattler, Tom Holcombe, and Nick Nichols

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mike will not be a candidate for Base Commander in May.
- Mike missed the SER due to being sick with the flu.
- We joined Mike in recognizing Dave Harvey on the fantastic work done for the SER.

### **VA – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report

### **Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:**

- Tom suggested setting up a GO FUND ME account which would benefit the Scholarship Fund. This may be a good idea, but it needs some research. Tom will look into it some more.
- Tom expressed the need for at least one Scholarship Committee member to assist him with the effort.
- Someone asked about the Rummage Sale. Tom noted that it is normally held in November, but he has no place to store things. At this time the Rummage Sale is TBD. We have to make contact

### **NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:**

- Anthony reminded everyone of the Sub Ball. You can search Google – or – Nick noted that the link is on the Charleston Base website.

### **Little David – Nick Nichols for Phil Nunnally:**

- Phil has a new tarp on order and has six boards to replace.
- Is planning a working party for Saturday, April 26.

### **NPS Awards – Anthony Mazza for Phil Nunnally:**

- The next NPS graduation is April 11.

### **Newsletter – Nick Nichols for Phil Nunnally:**

- Nothing to report.
- Phil will be out of town during the Base Meeting next week.

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### **Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:**

- Golden Corner Base provided \$740 for the license plates. Ed reported some other donations. Treasurer Ricky Collins reported a total donation balance of \$2855. Adding the \$3500 that Ed expects to come from Charleston Base brings the total to \$6855. \$6,800 is required.
- Ed expects to have an answer on the availability of handicap versions of the tag.
- Ed stated that money that was spent on this effort should be returned to us as plates are sold.
- Ed recommends that money should be given to Bob MacPherson as USSVCF Ambassador to be used for charity in SC. He has talked to Golden Corner Base about this and will talk to the other bases.
- Ed said that hopefully by summer we will have the authority to get the tags done. He currently has two designs. The director at DMV explained to Ed that there are currently more than 400 specialty plates. It is difficult for the police to determine whether it is a SC or other state plate.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:**

- Woody reported good sales at the SER Conference. At this time, he has not totaled the credit card purchases, but had over \$600 in cash sales. It was worth taking the store to the SER.
- Woody reported a contact that hopefully will become a member.

### **Recreation – Johnny Brown:**

- Activity at The After Battery starts on March 30
- Johnny is planning a recreational event at the Riverdogs game on June 13. He sent a list of questions to them and is awaiting a response.
- We may have a cookout at Marrington Plantation in September as the weather gets cooler.
- The date for the 2025 Charleston Base Christmas Party is Friday, December 12 at the FRA. Johnny is beginning to work on the menu. The format will be similar to last year. We will have the DJ until 2000 when he moves over to the other side for karaoke where everyone is invited to participate.

### **Holland Club – Bill Frelich:**

- We will have six or seven inductees for the Holland Club at the April Base Meeting.
- Bill has been unable to contact LCDR John McLochlin.
- Arrangements are being made to provide others transportation or deferred presentations being scheduled due to their situations.

### **SE Regional Conference – Dave Harvey:**

- Dave has been designated SER Conference Coordinator for the next three years.
- There was discussion about funding future SER Conferences. Dave explained the new funding plans for National USSVI as 501C3 organization to allow Bases to obtain tax deductible donations from outside entities. More information will be provided at a later date. [SECRETARY'S NOTE: Recording of the meeting was paused during a period as Dave Harvey requested to restrict information he provided only to the Board at this time until full procedures are determined by USSVI. Dave and everyone was advised that we keep both the Base and BOD Meeting Minutes in the open, posted on the Base website for transparency.]

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### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Ricky talked about the Cold War Memorial Maintenance Fund that the Base holds. Nick Nichols explained that Rusty Pickett is fully in charge of that maintenance fund. Several times, Base members have gone out there using their own supplies to do work without using any of the maintenance funds
- The Treasurer's report is done. The check to Friends of the Hunley still has not yet cleared the bank.
- Ricky mentioned that the End-Of-Year report will be coming out soon.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- We have 256 Charleston Base members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings:
  - Groton 1187 - 2) Hampton Roads 286 - 3) Charleston 256 - 4) Bremerton 240

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- We have Holland Club next month.
- Nothing else to report.

### **COB – Greg Landry:**

- Nothing reported.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Distinguished Submariner Award is normally voted on in February and presented in March.
- Nick Nichols suggested that we get nominations in, vote in April and present in May. All are in agreement, but we will go back to normal schedule for DSA next year.

### **Kaps for Kids – Art Sattler:**

- Art is attempting to make contacts at Summerville Medical Center.

### **HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Special Events – Tom Holcombe:**

- 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.
- **LCDR Roy Morrow US Navy Retired, 81**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 9 June 2024 in Summerville. His wife, Brenda, reported this to me on 27 Feb. Roy attended our meetings prior to COVID but moved to TN after being diagnosed with dementia. I was not aware they moved back to Summerville. Roy joined the Navy in 1962 and retired in 1987. He began his career as enlisted and after NESEP he was commissioned in 1968. He was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston Base [2008], and the Holland Club having qualified in 1964 on USS ALBACORE AGSS-569. He also served on PATRICK HENRY SSBN-599, ETHAN ALLEN SSBN-608, JAMES MADISON SSBN-627, NATHAN HALE SSBN-623,

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HENRY CLAY SSBN-625 AND MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658. His services were held in Dresden TN.

- **Jerry Stout** recently gave us a report on his battle with cancer which was transmitted on a binnacle list. To summarize: PET scan shows no additional Merkel cell carcinoma skin cancer; spots on kidney is gone; surgery to remove cancerous lymph nodes in neck was successful but a nerve was nicked causing severe shoulder pain; the infection from the first surgery was cleared up with a second surgery and IF for 5 weeks; blood work noted an elevated PSA; exam showed enlarged prostate; biopsy and PET scan showing a high risk cancer but it is not spread from the gland; next step is deciding what treatment. He thanks everyone for their concerns and prayers.
- **Mike Ciesielko** recovered from the flu he had in mid-Feb and recently had an MRI which showed a shredded meniscus. He will eventually need a knee replacement. Mike also announced he will not run for Base Commander again.
- **Rick Carlson** has been diagnosed with low level prostate cancer. He will be meeting with his doctor to determine treatment.
- **Dave Harvey** had successful neck surgery on 26 Feb and is still recovering from that.
- **Pat Davis** saw his doctor on 31 Feb. Xrays/CT scans show the pneumonia is clear. It will be three more months before he is back to normal so he's been taking it easy before going back to work on 5 Mar. He appreciates all thoughts and prayers.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. He welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers. Rick Carlson visited Ken and said he is doing well.
- **Roger Rader** is home with home health and recovering from a fall at the hospital in late Jan. He is able to stand on both feet with the aid of a walker.
- **John Lookabill** had a heart catheterization on 13 Feb. Everything was clear and now he has a valve repair scheduled for 24 Mar.
- **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.
- **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.

### 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 Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership.
    - Groton 1187 - 2) Hampton Roads 286 - 3) Charleston 256 - 4) Bremerton 240

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### **A Special Thank You – Nick Nichols:**

- **Cindy Huratiak, NNPTC CMC**, will be retiring on 5 May. Motion was made and passed to present NNTPC CMC with one of our engraved plaques we give to the Distinguished Submariner but with different wording.

### **Navy Band – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick notified everyone of an upcoming Navy Band concert at CSU Lightsey Chapel.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike thanked the Board for all the work that has been done while he has been Base Commander.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Not present.

### **USSVCF – Bob McPherson:**

- Not present

### **PAO – Rafael Guzman:**

- Not present

### **FRA – Ken Hutchison:**

- Not present

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1908.