

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

**October 2, 2025**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1759 by Base Commander Dave Harvey. Attending were Board of Directors members Bob MacPherson, Rick Wise, Woody Woodsmall, Ed Stank, Glenn Little, Greg Landry, Tom Holcombe, Phil Nunnally, Tom Lawson III, Ricky Collins, Art Sattler, Bill Freligh, Anthony Mazza, Nick Nichols and Lewis Leal.

### **USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:**

- The Charitable Fund was able to raise some money at the USSVI National Conference in Orlando but there is still plenty of opportunity to get more into the CF.
- We are looking to sponsor the Navy Ball. Individual ticket donations can be made to sponsor enlisted personnel at \$125 each.
- Bob talked about assistance that one man he knows received and possible support for those who had been to Guam during a certain time period due to the use of Agent Orange. Contact Bob for more info.

### **PAO – Bob MacPherson:**

- Nothing reported.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Rick provided copies of the preliminary 2026 Charleston Base Annual Budget. This will be his final budget. He is turning over the task to Tom Holcombe who has been working with Rick for some time now.
- Rick spoke about the background of the Investment Fund. After seeing how National handled Life Membership dues, Charleston Base established the Investment Fund, in which money from Life Membership dues were deposited to protect them from being easily spent. Knowing that when there was a decline in Annual Members and funds would be needed to operate the Base, the Investment Fund would provide. The problem we ran into was that the only way the funds could be accessed was by a vote of those attending a Base Meeting. When Rick was Base Commander in 2015, he could not get Base approval for use of the Investment Fund.
- When the Base Annual Budget is approved, the money is then authorized even if it must come from the Investment Fund.
- Rick has received input from the Membership Chair and others and uses a formula based on previous years to calculate the various amounts in the budget.
- This year is the first time that there is no carryover from one year to the next. We spent a lot of money in 2025 but it needed to be expended. It was not spent frivolously.
- Rick Wise made a motion with Greg Landry seconding to accept the 2026 Budget proposal as provided. Motion carried. The 2026 Budget will be presented to the Base members at the Base Meeting next for approval.

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

- Woody was able to acquire five more 250/125 year coins. He has four left.
- Woody has the 2026 calendars. These are \$10 each and are titled “Silent Hunters”. They are all about the 688 class submarines.
- We are soon going to have the first submarine license plate SV 001. This first plate will be auctioned off.

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

### **SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:**

- SC License Plate Coordinator Ed Stank stated that of the six SC bases, only Charleston Base and one other provided significant funds. Only members from these two bases will be allowed to bid in the auction for the SV 001 plate.
- Ed will be submitting the package to SCDMV tomorrow via Registered Mail.
- Ed asked for eligibility clarification for issuance of a plate. His example was a spouse whose husband died. Again, the Board members are in agreement that the plate can only be issued to an individual who has a DD214 stating “Qualified in Submarines” or “Designated SS”. There is no problem with one man having more than one SV plate.
- Due to fact that we are using the 501(c)(3) organization to obtain the plate, SC has required us to use the USSVI logo, but since this is copyrighted, we were required, and have obtained permission from USSVI to use the graphic. The resolution (quality) of the logo is in question and is being worked out.
- The cost of the plate will be \$20 above that of a regular registration. The plates may be available by February 2026.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Glenn’s 1TB partition on his hard drive is getting full. Glenn proposed purchasing a 4TB NAS that he can get from New Egg for \$150. Nick Nichols presented a motion with Art Sattler seconding to purchase the storage device. The equipment, although in use by Glenn, will be designated as property of Charleston Base. Motion carried with no objections.

### **COB – Greg Landry:**

- Greg reminded everyone to sign up to work at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- Greg also mentioned the air show to be held in May 2026.

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

- Tom will be put together a list of the upcoming Christmas parades.
- Tom will not be available for the Mount Pleasant parade, but he will let those who are prepping the float to use his driveway.
- Tom will have a sign-up sheet for the last few shifts at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- Tom will check with Coastal Coffee Roasters about Veterans Day.

### **HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:**

- Nothing reported.

### **NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:**

- The next scheduled graduation is November 21th.

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally:**

- Did a recent inspection. No maintenance needed at this time. Will check back in the spring.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:**

- Nothing to report.

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

### **Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:**

- The Scholarship Fund has a current balance of \$7,667.
- Tom is looking for a third team member for the Scholarship Committee.
- The Rummage Sale will be held at Rodney's Rockets / Halloween Express at 1825 Old Trolley Rd. (The same location as before) on November 15. Tom was able to contact the business owner, who is willing to let us use the property. Their business will be closed that day.
- Tom will request members to come by in the early morning to donate items. In previous years, the setup started at about 0500.
- The Ellore event – Trash to Treasures – is October 11. There are five 10x15 spots all together. For those who are coming, wear your vest.

### **Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey:**

- There will be a working party at The After Battery to prepare the float for the Coastal Carolina Fair and upcoming Christmas parades.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The Treasurer's report has been sent.
- Three checks have not yet cleared. They will be on the next month's report.

### **Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:**

- Still waiting on dates for hospital visits.
- Art will be at the Coastal Carolina Fair representing KAPS 4 KIDS.

### **Vice Commander – Art Sattler:**

- Nothing reported.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Nothing reported.

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

- Nothing reported.

### **Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 247 members.
- It is time to pay annual dues – both for National and Base. We have started to take dues for 3 and 5 year intervals to help reduce the Membership collection effort each year.
- **Base Standings** [those with more than 200 members]: **Charleston dropped to #4 in USSVI** membership. [AM = Associate Member]
  - Groton 1134 w/63 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 290 w/11 AM – 3) Bremerton 251 w/15 AM - 4) Charleston 247 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 207 w/20 AM

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- **Bob Browning** is having serious back surgery on 7 October. There is a possibility the surgery may affect his spine. He seems to have all rides and all needs at home met by friends

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

and neighbors. He will let me know if there's anything we can do for him and I'll get the word out if there is.

- **Tom Lawson** has stepped down from the VC due to his health issues, mainly the effort required to breathe and talk using the O2 generator. He is taking one day at a time.
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, had a stroke in February 2024 during a heart bypass procedure. They also had to replace her aorta during all of that. She is still recovering.
- Don Meadows is confined to his bed much of the time. Even though he can't attend the meetings he does watch them on YouTube. His seizures are getting worse and more frequent.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers. Call before visiting. His number is 843-501-7368
- **Mike Knaub and wife Deborah** have moved to Daniel Island to an assisted living location. Their address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email [mlk91444@yahoo.com](mailto:mlk91444@yahoo.com) or cell 843-795-6665.
- **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** has changed his location in the Villages. He is now in D409 in the main building. Becky is still in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, D409, Summerville SC 29483-6715. Bill's email is [cbussvicob@yahoo.com](mailto:cbussvicob@yahoo.com) and his cell phone is 843-509-3962
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.
- The clock given to the SUBVETS in memory of Marty Sessler from his family has been hung along with a plaque. This is a special clock that receives its time signals from satellites. If it's ever noticed the time is off do not try to set it yourself. Contact the chaplain at [chaplain@ussvicb.org](mailto:chaplain@ussvicb.org).
- The base received a check from Marty's friends and family in Ohio. The check goes to the Scholarship Fund.

### Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- I'm planning on reworking our website next year. There are many things on there that using the host analytics I don't see anyone ever checking the pages and information. I hope to streamline it and to give it a cleaner look.
- Please report any change in your personal info to either Larry, Nick or the COB so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.

### FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- The FRA Ladies Auxiliary has decided to take on a project this year to help feed Veterans. It is called [Curbside Veterans Delivery](#). They have a box in the bar area at the FRA that you can bring items to that can be used in this program. It would be good if SUBVETS can support this worthy cause. We had previously brought items for support of homeless veterans and this can easily surpass that effort. Most likely, due to access and distance issues, the new VA building on Rivers Avenue is where most of the support will be provided. There is information in the Charleston Base Newsletter about the FRA effort.

### Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing Reported.

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

### **Committee Reports – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick informed the Board that he writes and reads his report at the meeting, then sends an updated copy to the Base Secretary on email. This helps immensely when the Minutes are written. Every committee chair needs to do this. While what you say at the meeting may change a little, at least you have notes to go by. To put the Minutes together right now the Secretary spends a lot of time listening to the meeting audio again and again to record accurate Minutes.

### **SE Conference Committee – David Harvey:**

- Dave, since we hosted the last SE Region Conference here in Charleston, has been designated the SER Conference Chairman for the next three years. There have been efforts from others to follow the route of the western states and hold the Conference at casinos.
- Plans are being made for the next SER with the Tullibee Base hosting the Conference. Dave outlined some of the plans, but more details are pending. Dave would like to have forty people from Charleston and a minimum of 150 from the SE region in attendance.
- Tickets will be available soon.

### **Base Commander – David Harvey:**

- Dave spoke about Charleston Base and the work that other bases see us do.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Not present. Attending USS Henry L Stimson reunion in CT.

### **FRA – Ken Hutchison:**

- Not present.

### **Recreation – Johnny Brown**

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1806.

Much appreciation from Base Secretary to Nick Nichols for the recording while I was attending the USS Henry L Stimson reunion. Without the recording, this document would not be possible.