

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2025

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1804 by Base Commander David Harvey, Woody Woodsmall, Tom Lawson III, Tom Holcombe, Bill Freligh, Glenn Little, Johnny Brown, Larry Knutson, Ed Stank, Ricky Collins, Gordon Long, Nick Nichols, Greg Landry and Art Sattler. Base Members Jerry Stout and Tom Thompson also attended the Board Meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody has most of the National Award patches distributed that have been ordered. For those eligible who did not get one, he will put their name on a list and submit a group order to avoid shipping charges that would occur with a small order.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- At the Ellore event, we made just over \$1,000. At the Rummage Sale, we made about \$825.
- The Scholarship Award form is being updated and will be provided to Nick for posting on the Base website. The minimum amount of all future awards will be \$1,000 as an incentive to apply. The deadline date to submit scholarship applications will be May 1.
- The bottle of bourbon labeled for the 250th Anniversary of the Navy will be raffled at the January 8th Base Meeting.

Comptroller – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom put together the fourth quarter budget, and sent it over to Rick Wise for review.
- Tom talked about a group called Battery Gadsden who will be having an event at Sullivans Island. Tom plans to attend.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Still taking pictures.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- Johnny talked about the success of the Goose Creek and Mt. Pleasant parades and the work that Tom Holcombe did to get us registered for the events.
- The Stingrays will be holding a Military Appreciation night on January 17. Johnny will make an announcement at the Base Meeting this coming Thursday. Johnny will be going out of town, so Art Sattler will handle collection of the money and distribution of the tickets.

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Membership – Larry Knutson:

- As of this date, we have about 50 members who have not paid Base Dues and 25 who have not paid USSVI National dues. National could drop members at any time.
- Nick has sent individual emails in the middle of December.

SC License Plate Coordinator – Ed Stank:

- The SC Submariner License Plates are expected to be available for purchase in February.
- Ed plans to raffle the first plate (SV 00001).
- Only Charleston Base and one other participated in getting the plates through DMV. Only members of these bases will be eligible for the raffle.
- The raffle tickets will be \$1, 6/\$5, etc...

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- While at the USSVI National Convention, Ricky asked the National Treasurer about record retention. The response was three (3) years. There are some things that Ricky believes should be kept for a longer period. Ricky will soon be going through the two large containers to reduce the volume of paper. There were no objections to these plans, but Ricky will wait until after the upcoming audit is completed.
- Technically, our operating funds are IN THE RED. While we have a good bit of money in the bank, it is all designated funds for Scholarship, Cold War Memorial Maintenance etc... If something emergent comes up, we can borrow from these and then pull the money from the Investment Fund to replace it.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

Jerry Stout:

- Jerry attended BOD Meeting tonight to let everyone know that he is interested in taking on the position of Public Affairs Officer (PAO). With the job still open, Base Commander Dave Harvey appointed Jerry to the task. Jerry outline some plans for the PAO to perform in the short term especially placement of info onto various Facebook pages.
- Jerry has also submitted his name for the office of Southeast Regional Director. The voting for this position will occur in July. He has already started his political campaign and will be attending the SER Conference in Mississippi.
- Base Secretary noted that Jerry has previously held the PAO position.

Banners – Tom Thomson:

- Tom purchased some USSVI Flags at the request of Base Commander Dave Harvey. He bought three (3) each single-sided and double-sided flags. The total cost was \$950. Tom will keep one of the double-sided ones for himself at \$150. One of the double sided flags is already on the float. Tom asked for and received a reimbursement of \$800. Dave Harvey did not get this purchase approved before he asked Tom to buy these flags. Currently, still available are one two-sided flag and three single sided flags. These may be provided to Storekeeper Woody for the Ship's Store. The two-sided flags actually have a center layer to keep the opposite side from showing through.

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Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:

- Hospitals are still in stand down.

Vice Commander – Art Sattler:

- Art currently has fourteen people signed up for the CPR class.
- Art talked about setting up a closed Facebook group that requires the viewer to be a member of Charleston Base. Art recommended two admins and two moderators. To be part of the group, one must have a Facebook account. Dave Harvey talked about having a set of rules that people must agree to before being allowed be part of the group or having items posted to the group. Nick stated that the Stimson Association has a closed Facebook group which has worked well for many years, the he made a motion, with several unidentified seconds to set up a Charleston Base Facebook group. Motion carried.

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.

ETERNAL PATROL

- **HMCM(SS) William T. “Doc” McCance** departed on Eternal Patrol on 5 December 2025. Doc joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1980. He was a life member of National and Groton Base [1998]. He was also a member of the Holland Club having qualified in 1971 on USS THOMAS A. EDISON SSBN-610. Doc also served on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN-602 AND USS GEORGE MARSHALL SSBN-654. He completed 26 years of service, serving at 17 commands, including 3 submarines and 2 surface ships. He completed 11 strategic deterrent patrols. Doc was the first Hospital Corpsman to be a Chief of the Boat on a nuclear submarine (USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN) and he was also the first Hospital Corpsman to be the Command, Master Chief for Commander Submarine Group TWO.
- **CDR Thomas S. Czulewicz** departed on Eternal Patrol recently at his Texas home. He was the founding Base Commander for Grand Strand Base. He joined the Navy in 1961 and retired in 1995. He began his career as a FTGSN and was commissioned in 1975. He was a member of USSVI and GRAND STRAND Base along with the Holland Club qualifying in 1965 on USS SAM RAYBURN SSBN-635. He also served on USS TUSK SS-426, USS DANIEL WEBSTER SSBN-626, USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SSBN-657 and USS HUNLEY AS-31. Tom was the Commanding Officer of POMFLANT during the base closing. There was an accident at his home from which he didn't recover. Tom was a member of Charleston Base for a couple of years about 12 years ago.
- **CAPT Gerald ‘Corky’ Corcoran** departed on Eternal Patrol on 17 December 2025. He served on several submarines and commanded the USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630. He was a regular at the After Battery. He was not a member of USSVI. There will be a service with full military honors sometime in January at the Beaufort National Cemetery.
- **Debbie Knaub**, Mike’s wife, passed away November 20th.
- **Lucy Trump**, Terry’s wife, passed away December 3rd.

BINNACLE LIST

- **Dave Harvey** was in the hospital after Christmas due to an AFIB issue. It turned out to be arrhythmia. He was released on Monday 30 Dec.

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- **Rick Wise** had a bone biopsy and bronchoscope that was unable to determine the type of cancer he has. He started chemo on Wed 7 Jan. He also said that on Fri 2 Jan he had a CT and this found a brain but no evidence of any problems.
- **Tom Ishee** is recovering well after a serious fall on his bicycle in November.
- **Jerry Stout** has a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney and will be having treatment for that.
- **Tom Lawson** is home and on 100% oxygen.

LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND

- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, still recovering from a Feb 2024 stroke that happened during a heart bypass procedure.
- **Charles Wood** has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he was able to bring his wife to the Christmas Party which was a blessing for him.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care. 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
- **Ed Simokat** is confined to his home and can't attend meetings. He enjoys calls from his shipmates: 843.810.0382
- **Mike Knaub** is an assisted living on Daniel Island however he is on an extended stay up North at present. His address is 514 Robert Daniel Dr. Rm 310, Daniel Island SC 29492-7375. You can contact Mike on his email mlk91444@yahoo.com or cell 843-795-6665.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. This is behind Trident. He no longer answers his phone.
- **Bill [Becky] Roberts** in D409 in the Villages of Summerville. Becky 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 and his cell phone is 843-509-3962
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- All event pictures for 2025 are now listed on the base website home page.
- I'm beginning an update on our website to remove out of date info and pages. If you find a broken link, please let me know.
- Please continue to report any change in your personal info to either Larry, COB, or me so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
 - Groton 1152 w/65 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 294 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 249 w/13 AM – 4) Bremerton 247 w/14 AM - 5) Requin 204 w/21 AM

Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:

- New base business cards have been ordered and will be here on the 12th. There is no phone number on the card but a new contact email address is SubVetsChareslton@ussvicb.org. I can forward that to anyone who has a need for it but right now it is coming to the webmaster address and I will farm any inquiries out to the right person.

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Submariner's Advocacy Group – Nick Nichols:

- After the Base Commander brought Submariners' Advocacy Group (SAG) to our attention at the November meeting, I sent the info out to the Base via email and added the SAG report, The Unseen Burden, to the home page of the website.

FRA Ladies' Auxiliary – Nick Nichols:

- FRA Auxiliary has a project for this year to help feed Veterans. The VA sponsored program is called **Curbside Veterans Delivery**. There is a box in the bar area for you to bring items to that can be used in this program. The BOD encourages you to support the FRA Auxiliary in this program.

Base/BOD Minutes – Nick Nichols:

- To assist the Secretary with his minutes please bring a printed copy of all reports you make to the BOD or to the Base and give them to him.

USSVCF – Nick Nichols for Bob MacPherson:

- The Charitable Foundation will be sending a letter thanking Charleston Base for the money that was recently collected and provided to the CF. At the Christmas Party, Ray Sparks made a challenge to those in attendance, stating that he would match all contributions up to \$500. Donations from those at the Christmas Party were \$935. Ray matched his \$500 plus he gave an additional \$65, bringing the total to \$1500.
- Nick Nichols stated that Ray needs to be recognized with a letter – First for the thought of doing this – Second for actually accomplishing it. It was also noted that this is something that should be put into American Submariner.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Greg has received only two (2) nominations for Distinguished Submariner. One member stated that there will be another by the end of the week.
- There was discussion of Base elections. Ken Hutchison (not present) has already agreed to be the Election Coordinator. This year, we are scheduled to elect personnel for the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary.

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey:

- Nothing reported.

SE Regional Conference Committee – David Harvey:

- The 2026 SER Conference will be held in Gulfport, MS. At this point Dave has 30 people registered. He has commitments from 30 more.
- The room rate is \$129 including taxes.
- Dave has patches for the event. Same design as last year, but different state and new date.
- Dave will be renting a 15 passenger van. Plans are to leave Charleston on Sunday, 22 FEB and stay overnight at the GA/AL state line. Transportation cost will be about \$125 per person.
- A Fish Fry is planned for January 31 to raise funds for the van and gas for the trip.
- The van will also be used for transportation to the New Orleans WWII Museum and Mobile, AL for the USS Alabama/USS Drum Museum.
- There will be no free alcohol provided. No Hospitality Room. BYOB for your room.

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National Convention – David Harvey:

- Dave stated that he and Tom Holcombe were approached by Tom Jakes at the last USSVI National Convention to ask Charleston Base to host the 2029 National Convention in Charleston. Dave asked everyone to look online to see what that Host Base does and that we would discuss it again at the March BOD Meeting. The Host Base is responsible for a lot of work but the finances come from USSVI National.
- The date for the national convention will be over Labor Day.

Base Commander – David Harvey:

- Dave briefly mentioned the need for new, younger members and older members who are retired that can still do things for the Base.
- Dave received a letter from the Kings Bay Submarine Museum. The town of St. Mary's, GA is donating the old K-Mart building to the Submarine Museum who have hired an architect to design a new museum from this building. It will cost a lot of money to do this, so the museum is asking for donations. Included in the letter was a form listing several levels of financial support, to which one can give. Dave read the suggested levels of recognition and asked to consider at the February Meeting whether we should keep it to individual contributions or whether the Base might make a donation to this cause.
- Nick Nichols queried those in attendance this evening if you shop at Amazon. The company has program called Amazon Smile where the shopper can designate a percentage of his purchase price to go to a charitable cause. The museum could be your choice; making this donation by simply shopping at Amazon. At the end of the year, you will get a statement which notes how much money was provided to your charity.

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Not present.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1922.