

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**May 7, 2025**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander David Harvey and attended by Ed Stank, Ricky Collins, Tom Lawson III, Bill Freligh, Phil Nunnally, Jerry Stout, Tom Holcombe, Larry Knutson, Greg Landry, Glenn Little, Nick Nichols, Gordon Long and Art Sattler. Associate Members Linda Nichols and Dee Dee Harvey were also in attendance this evening.

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

- Ed stated that Charleston Base now has a license number which allows us to sell the SC Submarine Veteran License Plates. It is also set up as Direct Deposit to the Base Checking Account.
- As of this date, there have been 60 plates sold. \$20 of each plate is returned to us for a total of \$1,200 currently. Ed said that we are about one-third the way to getting the initial investment paid back.

### **Recreation – Ed Stank**

- Ed stated that he does not want to take over the job as Recreation Committee Chair but will take the job for a short time. He arranged for a picnic to be held at The After Battery on June 13. The menu will be hotdogs, hamburgers and barbequed chicken.
- Ed had spoken with those in charge of Marrington about setting up a date for a SubVet picnic. He was informed that the limit is 50 people and there would be a fine if the area was not left clean. At our FRA/SubVet picnic last summer with 95 people attending, we had to clean it up from the previous group. Ed asked, without response, if they had been fined.
- Ed mentioned the availability of Sting Rays Hockey game tickets.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey said that we will announce the need of a Recreation Committee Chairman.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The Investment Fund quarterly dividends are now being sent to the Base Checking Account. This keeps us from having to sell shares for the amount of the dividends.

### **Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:**

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$12,667.
- We have two applicants and the deadline has past.
- There was discussion about the minimum and maximum award. We have already changed the minimum from \$500 to \$1,000. Dave Harvey stated that National has a cap of \$2,500 per award and recommended that we do the same.
- Treasurer Ricky Collins noted that at one time, the Scholarship was available to those college-bound students who were not relatives of Charleston Base members. The Scholarship Fund was changed to allow awards only to family members (including nieces/nephews, greats and grands) of Base members. The Base provided seed money for the committee, but Scholarship has been self-sustaining since its inception.
- Nick Nichols made a motion with Tom Holcombe seconding for the Base Commander to appoint a committee with Tom Lawson heading the group to formulate a policy for how the Base handles Scholarship awards in the future. For this year, the Scholarship Committee may handle the awards in whatever way seems fitting.

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- The current Scholarship Committee has two designated members – Tom Lawson and Anthony Mazza. Dave Harvey pointed out that he, as Base Commander is to be a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. Nick Nichols read the section from the Base By-Laws.
- There was no vote on the motion, but the Scholarship Committee will look into the awards.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Nothing to report

### **NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:**

- The next NPS graduation will be May 22. Meet at NEX at 0800 to carpool. Parking at the event is hard to find.
- A recent ceremony had more than 500 graduates. A year, there were 350 in one class.

### **Little David – Phil Nunnally:**

- The Little David is currently in good shape after some painting.
- The museum is getting ready for the USA 250th year celebrations.
- The next expected maintenance will be Spring 2027.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:**

- Phil reported that he has been receiving input from Base members. Thank you.

### **PAO – Jerry Stout:**

- Jerry is working on articles for American Submariner. He will send them to BC for proofing.
- Jerry has received calls about billboards.
- Dave Harvey explained the marketing that was discussed by National for billboards and commercial. It is all designed to find new members for USSVI.
- Glenn Little talked about how the price of commercials varies greatly depending on the time of day and the length.

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

- Tom expects to have a schedule for Freedom Fest by next week.

### **Comptroller – Tom Holcombe:**

- Nothing reported.

### **HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:**

- Nothing reported.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- We currently have 241 members and are still fourth in membership of USSVI.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #4 in USSVI membership. [AM = associate member]
  - Groton 1043 w/38 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 294 w/11 AM – 3) Bremerton 264 w/13 AM – 4) Charleston 239 w/17 AM

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### **COB – Greg Landry:**

- Plans to be at the next NPS graduation.
- Greg will be available for the Memorial Day ceremony.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Will not be at the Base Meeting next week. He will leave the camera for someone to operate.

### **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**

- **ETCS(SS) Joseph Barnes Van Swearingen Jr., USN Ret., 97**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 16 September 2024. He was a Life Member of USSVI National [2004] and Charleston Base [1999]. He was a member of the Holland Club qualifying on USS SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641 in 1966. His death was found by accident while searching the obituaries on the web.
- **MMCS(SS) Marvin D. Miller, USN Ret., 85**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 22 April 2026. He joined the Navy in 1959 and retired in 1979. Marvin was a life member of USSVI National and Charleston Base as of 2004. He was also a member of the Holland Club qualifying in 1962 on USS SKIPJACK SSN-585. Other duty stations were USS PLUNGER SSN-595, USS DANIEL BOONE SSBN-629, USS JOHN ADAMS SSBN-620 and USS JAMES MADISON SSBN-627. Additionally, he served at Navy Recruiting District New Orleans LA, his only shore duty in a 20-year career.
  - Marvin's Memorial Service will be held Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1400 at the FRA Home with a reception to follow.
  - Participants will be Nick, Dave, Art, Bill & Glenn. Vest uniform for participants.
- **SCPO(SS) Bryan Beckes Smith, USN Ret., 78**, departed on Eternal Patrol on 1 May 2026. He was not a member of USSVI. He joined the Navy in 1968 and retired in 1990. He served on USS PARCHE SSN-683 and USS NATHAN HALE SSBN-623 USS Parche (SSN-683) and later the USS Nathan Hale (SSBN-623). His service will be on Friday 8 May at 1500 at J. Henry Stuhr Northwoods Chapel on Greenridge Rd.

### **BINNACLE LIST**

- **Jerry Stout** was at MUSC 21-30 April. After many attempts for the proper medication for his post immune therapy treatment his no on the mend. He thanks his shipmates for thoughts and prayers and appreciates phone calls or texts.
- **Bob MacPherson** fell and fractured 3 ribs. Happened due to carpet runner loose on wood floor and no lights. He is out of commission for the next few weeks. Appreciate all prayers. No calls as it is hard to talk.
- **Rick Wise** has shifted to maintenance chem with only one drug and changed to a 5 week cycle. He hopefully will be at the May meeting. [843.276.0899]

### **LONG TERM / ASSISTED LIVING / HOMEBOUND**

- **Steve Curry** has AFIB and congenital heart failure and is on 24/7 oxygen. Also diagnosed with stage 3 cancer and began chemo on 15 April. Phone calls are welcome [843.270.9905]
- **Dave Woods wife, Fran**, is still recovering from a stroke in 2024 during a heart bypass.

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- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time but he hopes to make some base meetings. Has had foot surgery, with many more to come, to correct his problem. [843.475.7043]
- **Ed Simokat** is confined to his home and can't attend meetings. He is now on hospice care. Between hospice and home health he is covered just about every day. If you want to visit, please call first and talk to Judy. [843.810.0383]
- **Mike Knaub** is in assisted living on Daniel Island. His 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 [843.795.6665].
- **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](mailto: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:**

- The new website has been up for over a month now. Last night I sent you all an email from Tim Carlisle with three videos. The last video is a tutorial for the website. I hope you all went through it.
- If you have any changes to your info on National you can update it yourself or send the info to either Larry or me to get them made on National and local.

### **Contacts – Nick Nichols:**

- Please add names, phone numbers and email addresses of all BOD members to your phone contacts. Or create a link to the officer's page of the website and add it to your home page on your phone. Base members are still calling Nick simply to obtain a phone number or email address. This simply should not happen.

### **Base Business Cards – Nick Nichols:**

- Everyone should be carrying a couple of the new base business cards at all times. On the back of the card are two QR codes, one for the base and one for national.

### **FRA– Nick Nichols:**

- The 'Break the Table Challenge' was very successful last month. We will do this again later in the summer but anyone can still bring food items. The FRA Auxiliary really appreciates all the SUBVETS have done to help this cause.
- Nick reminded everyone about the rules that we must follow at the Fleet when attending a SUBVET meeting. The rules are printed here:
  - If you are an FRA member you can go into the bar area anytime you want to.
  - If you are not an FRA member, use the bartenders in our meeting room to order food and drinks.
  - If you bring a guest and you are an FRA member the guest can enter the bar area as long as you (the FRA member) sign them in the guest log at the bar.
  - If you bring a guest and you are not an FRA member then you and guest must stay in the meeting room unless an FRA member signs you into the guest log at the bar.
- If you are not an FRA member, consider joining. Support the FRA as they support SUBVETS by allowing our use of the meeting room.

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- The FRA needs the support of the SUBVETS to get them through these next few months. When out for lunch stop by and have lunch at the Home. Every little bit helps. Jerry Stout talked about how good the lunches are along with size of the portions.
- Nick presented a motion with Art Sattler seconding that Charleston Base should donate \$200 each month to the FRA. There was some discussion especially saying that the FRA has not charged SubVets anything over the years for the use of the meeting room. Treasurer Ricky Collins stated that we are already providing an annual \$1,000 donation. This would be an additional \$2,400 for a total of \$3,400 each year. The \$200 monthly donation to the FRA is to continue in perpetuity unless altered. The motion passed with no objection to present this to the Base at the meeting next week. The item will be added to Base Meeting Agenda under New Business.

### **Memorial Day Services – Nick Nichols:**

- There are two services you can attend for Memorial Day.
  - May 23 @ 1530 will be the multi-fraternal service at McAllister-Smith Goose Creek
  - May 25 @ 1030 will be the FRA service at the Home. Guest speaker is Tom Ishee. After the service there will an indoor picnic.

### **Base Job Descriptions – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick Nichols noted that the duties of each Base position are either outdated or totally missing. He provided a printed copy of each to those in the room for review and updating. He will also send a DOCX copy on email for editing.
  - Nick asked for everyone to look at this from two aspects:
    - What do I have to do to complete the task as listed?
    - What else is it that I do to make the job to function the way that I want it to work?
  - The homework is to be completed and presented for review at the July Board Meeting.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nick has posted the April BOD Meeting Minutes on the Base Website.
- The April Base Meeting Minutes will be out in the next couple of days.

### **Vice Commander – Art Sattler:**

- We expect that Ken Hutchison will again be the FRA President.
- Several other FRA positions are also likely to be SubVets.

### **Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler:**

- Nothing reported.

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

- Nothing reported.

### **Manitowoc – Dave Harvey/Tom Holcombe:**

- 18 people are currently confirmed for the trip to Manitowoc. There may be as many as 25.
- The parade for the event is July 4. They requested us to return with the float this year.
- Dave plans to tow the float to Manitowoc this year rather than have it transported by truck.

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- Tom Holcombe already has folks booked for the 4BR AIR B/B that he has rented. If anyone cancels, he will let others know. With all of the folks going, others may consider getting together in another location or hotel.

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

- Dave talked about missing the 2025 Charleston Base Christmas Party since it was during the same date as a Panama City, FL event.
- Dave talked about working/communication with committee members and what he expects of them.
- Dave stated that we need to do some fund-raisers using the example of a recent fish fry.
- Dave Harvey and Tom Holcombe briefly talked about submitting nominations for National Awards. Anyone is allowed to submit a recommendation for award.

### **USSVCF – Bob MacPherson:**

- Not present.

### **FRA – Ken Hutchison:**

- Not present.

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

- Not present.

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

- Not present.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not present.

Meeting adjourned at 1908.