



Vol. 16 No. 1

January 2020

Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Base Meeting:

BOD: January 2 1800

Membership: January 9, 1900

Location:

FRA Branch 269

Low Country Home



Base Com- mander	Mike Ciesielko	843.324.0011	Chief of the Boat	Joe Lunn	843.747.5368
Base Vice Com- mander	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282	Veterans Af- fairs	Tom Lawson	843.327.3282
			Membership	Larry Knutson	843.860.1155
Secretary	Gordon Long	843.214.2353	Scholarship	Carl Chinn	843.437.5515
Treasurer	Gordon Wil- liams	843.553.3015	Storekeeper	Ken Hutchison	843.553.0935
			Historian	George Scharf	843.873.3318
			Public Affairs	Jerry Stout	843-568-5923
			Chaplain	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Events Coordi- nator	Rick Sparger	843.553.5594
			Holland Club	Bill Freligh	843.553.1115
			Social Media Coordinator	Lewis Leal	843-270-8870
			Newsletter	Rick Wise	843.875.5559 (H) 843.276.0899 (C)
			Webmaster	Nick Nichols	843.452.3189
			Kaps for Kids	Vacant	



Submarines Lost During the Month of January

USS SCORPION (SS-278)	Jan. 5, 1944 – 4 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
USS ARGONAUT (SS-166)	Jan. 10, 1943 – 3 rd War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 102 souls
USS SWORDFISH (SS-193)	Jan. 12, 1945 – 13 th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 89 souls
USS S-36 (SS-141)	Jan. 20, 1942 – 2 nd War Patrol	No loss of life
USS S-26 (SS-131)	Jan. 24, 1942 – 2 nd War Patrol	Lost with 46 souls–3 men rescued

Five Boats and 314 Men Lost

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Upcoming Charleston Base Events

Base BOD Meeting	Thursday, Feb 6, 1800	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek
Base Meeting	Thursday, Feb 13, 1900	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek
Hunley-Housatonic Memorial Service	Sunday, Feb 17, 1830	Sunrise Presbyterian Church, Sullivans Island, SC
Base Oyster Roast	Saturday, Feb 29, 1200	FRA Branch 269 Goose Creek

Information on all these events are on the base website www.ussvicb.org/events/index.html

From the Editor

WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

I have been putting out the base newsletter since I was Base Commander and couldn't find anyone to take it over when George Fuchs moved to Florida. If anyone is interested in taking over the newsletter please let me know. An e-mail to newsletter@ussvicb.org or to rwise@sc.rr.com or a phone call to 843-276-0899 Or 843-875-5559 will be appreciated. It is not difficult but does take a little time.

From USSVI National

Normal message traffic from USSVI will be published on the Charleston Base Website www.ussvicb.org . If I see anything that should be brought to the notice of our non-computer

members I will post it here.

Nothing Received

Have No Fear!



The Scholarship Committee will have a raffle at our February meeting! We know you missed us coming around at the January meeting, but we're back.

For February we have a raffle for Valentine's Day. Included is a \$25 gift certificate for flowers from Flowertown Florist in Summerville. Along with that is \$30 gift certificate to Top Dawg Tavern so you can take your sweetie out for a meal. Top Dawg is located on Dorchester Road near Lowe's Home Improvement store.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. See Marty, Rick Sparger or Carl.

Rummage Sale

The Scholarship Committee will conduct a rummage sale to benefit our Admiral Osborn Scholarship fund. The sale will be Saturday, May 2nd, 2020. We are requesting donations from all members to assist in this endeavor. Any and all household goods, sporting goods, tools, etc. are appreciated.

NO DONATIONS of clothing, shoes, linens, draperies will be accepted.

Hopefully a storage facility will be available soon. More information to follow.

We are asking members to hang on to the stuff they want to get rid of until we can get it into a storage facility. We also ask that you check with friends, family, and neighbors that want to donate for our cause. Stand by for more information to follow!

Sale will be:

May 2, 2020

1825 Old Trolley Rd

Summerville, SC

(Halloween Express)

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
14 November 2019

Opening Ceremonies:

The November 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 58 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Mike Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.

The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of October was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines lost during the month of November:

USS ALBACORE (SS-218)	November 7, 1944 - 11th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 85 souls
USS GROWLER (SS-215)	November 8, 1944 - 12th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 86 souls
USS SCAMP (SS-277)	November 16, 1944 - 8th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 83 souls
USS CORVINA (SS-226)	November 16, 1943 - 1st War Patrol Lost with all hands - 82 souls
USS SCULPIN (SS-191)	November 19, 1943 - 9th War Patrol Lost with 43 souls - 41 became POWs - 21 survived the war

5 Boats and 399 Men Lost

Chief Warrant Officer 3, Submarines, Lee Roland Young, United States Navy Retired, Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – September 25, 2019

The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Randy Haas – ETC – Qualified on USS L. Mendel Rivers SSN637 – Also served aboard several other boats not named.

Clint Ferrell – MM2 – Qualified on USS Batfish SSN681 – 1986 – Also served aboard USS Seahorse SSN669, various shore commands and law enforcement

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Secretary – Base Commander Mike Ciesielko for Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the October Base meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There were no other additions or deletions to the October Base meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer's Report for October has been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month:

ALBACORE was lost on November 7, 1944 with the loss of 85 men when she was sunk off northern Hokkaido. Winner of two Presidential Unit Citations, Albacore was on her eleventh War Patrol and struck a mine while running submerged near a Japanese patrol craft that had detected her.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given Nick information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

Marvin White departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, November 1. He **served Sennet (SS-408)**. Funeral services were held November 5 in Hendersonville NC. He was not a member of USSVI.

David Fulmer Hottenstein II, of Ravenel departed on Eternal Patrol on Monday, October 21. He **served aboard the Grenadier (SS-525) and the Haddo (SSN-604) from 1960-1970 and then spent several years in the reserves**. He worked at MUSC and Charleston Naval Shipyard. Funeral services were held on November 1. He was not a member of USSVI.

JoAnn Rohrsen passed away on Thursday morning, November 7 at Agape Hospice of Summer-ville. Her funeral is tomorrow at Simplicity at 281 Treeland Dr, Ladson SC 29456

Tom Lufkin is in FL and began feeling pressure in his chest. Went to the hospital to be checked out, stress test and sonogram were negative. The Dr. insisted they do a cath and found the main artery in his heart was 90% blocked. They put in a stent and he was released on Veterans Day. He is feel much better.

Ruth Ann Carlson was in the hospital from October 28 until yesterday. She was taken in due to a fall and is weak from not eating, drinking and taking her meds. She is at home with hospice care.

Stacy Power was taken to the hospital after falling at home. He injured his leg and after some tests the doctors had to put a stent in his leg to open up blood flow to his foot. He was released on October 24. He is still having leg/foot problems due to the fall. He is having more doctor visits and tests to try to determine the exact issue.

JJ Fortier is still in pain 24/7. He had surgery on today at Trident for the right hip replacement. He was doing very well following the replacement of his left hip in February and after the end of physical therapy had a month of painless days. Then the right hip started. Right now there isn't a painless hour in his day. Been that way since July. Still hoping to make some meetings after recovery.

Rick Wise is recovering from his MOHS surgery last month.

Becky Roberts is still recovering from her broken leg.

Don Londergan is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938.

Bob Snyder is home with palliative care.

Ken Curtis is still having his infusions. He was at the meeting tonight and says he is now a continuous 2 quarts low all the time.

Please complete your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

If you have a laptop with a camera it can be hacked. The hackers can see what you're doing anytime the laptop is powered up and open. To defeat this hack simply tape a piece of paper over the camera lens and the remove it when you are needing the camera (exp: Skype)

Website is constantly updated.

Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website.

Nick apologized for the confusion at the Veterans Day ceremony regarding timing. The woman that was in charge of the event single handedly decided to change the start time to 1000 over several objections.

Nick encouraged the Base members to greet young sailors in uniform to thank them and told about a recent occurrence where the young man, instead thanked Nick after seeing his Master Chief pin.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson for George Sharf:

Stacy Power is not here tonight.

Nothing to report..

Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:

We have social media – Instagram, Facebook. Lou Leal is putting all of the Lost Boats on both sites as the months arrive.

You can share your pictures on both Facebook and Instagram. If you have a photo to share, or event to promote, email details to **social@ussvicb.org**.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

The next Kaps for Kids visit will be Tuesday, December 3 at McLeod Children's Hospital in Florence.

Meet there at 1000. This will be the last visit for 2019.

Contact Bill if you need more information.

Membership – Larry Knutson

The Base currently has 287 members. We did pick up a couple more tonight.

We want to retain all of our members, so if you know of a Base member that is not attending, please check on them.

VA – Tom Lawson

Nothing to Report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

The committee will be having a raffle tonight. Rick Sparger had won the raffle at the August Base Meeting but donated it back for the Scholarship Fund. It is a package of items containing:

A one-year gun range membership from ATP Gunshop

An ATP polo style shirt.

An ATP baseball cap.

An 8 LED flashlight.

A container of tannerite explosive target powder.

Tickets for the raffle are \$1 or six for \$5.

The committee has a book that will be auctioned tonight: **"Ice Station Nautilus"** by Rick Campbell.

A brand new Thomas Jefferson hat and a Submarine Training Center coffee mug are available.

Challenge coins are available.

The committee is planning a rummage sale to benefit our Admiral Osborn Scholarship fund. The sale will be Saturday, May 2nd, 2020. Donations are requested from all members to assist in this endeavor. Any and all household goods, sporting goods, tools, etc. are appreciated. NO DONATIONS of clothing, shoes, linens, draperies will be accepted. More information will be available soon.

The committee has some other items, such as Career Counselor badges available for free to who may want them for their vest.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

Rick requested a show of hands who could be available to attend the Harleyville Christmas Parade on December 5.

He also asked the members who could attend the Summerville Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 8.

Stump Hole Landing and the Christmas Parade in Elloree is December 14. Rick explained the festivities surrounding these events and asked the Base members to attend, as they are always appreciative of veterans. Contact Rick if more information is needed.

Charlie Hudson has a couple of men to help clean up and do some other maintenance on the float in preparation for the parades.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

Not present

NPS – Ray Sparks

The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be held on November 22 with Class 1905. Meet at the NEX parking lot 0800 to carpool due to limited parking at the ceremony location.

Most of the students will be going to carriers, but some are submarine volunteers.

Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton

The FRA will have a Children's Christmas Party on December 14 at 1300.

The adult Christmas Party will be December 20 at 1900. Tickets are available at the counter.

Rick Sparger added that the FRA will be having a Good Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast on November 23 to support Toys For Tots. All the proceeds will be given to support this charity.

The AYCE breakfast is only \$6 and you also have the option to bring a new unwrapped toy that is worth at least \$6 and get a free breakfast.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

Nothing to Report

Newsletter – Rick Wise

If you have something that you would like to put into the Base Newsletter, please contact Rick.

Little David – Rick Wise

At this time, the only thing that can be done is replace boards. Rick is organizing a working party each Monday until the work is completed. He asked for and received some volunteers from those in attendance. In the spring, the memorial will be washed and painted.

Recreation – Ed Stank

The manager of Bad Daddy's Burgers (a former A-Ganger) provided some vouchers for the location at Nexton in Summerville. Some in attendance recommended the restaurant.

The food at East Bay Deli at Carnes Crossroads has been reported to be very good as it is managed by a former submarine cook.

The 2019 Charleston Base Christmas party will be held at the FRA on Saturday, December 7 beginning at 1800 and ending at 2200. Menu selection will be: prime rib, stuffed pork chops or baked flounder. The tickets are \$20.00 per person. As of this date, 71 tickets have been sold. Two drinks will be available. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided also. Red Fraley will be the DJ.

Ed will remain after the meeting for those who need tickets. Since the party is being held on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, it would be appropriate to wear something appropriate to honor those lost that day.

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Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

2020 Calendars are now available.

COB – Joe Lunn

COB inquired whether everyone had received his email about the Distinguished Submariner Award requests. The form is available on the Base website in both MSWord and PDF formats. COB also has blank forms that one can take from him tonight and fill out manually. The BOD will make the determination in February with the award to be presented at the March Base Meeting.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko noted that the Base membership knows who is doing good things to represent Charleston Base and to submit names for nomination.

COB informed the membership that Mike Emerson has a "Get Well" card for Stacy Power for everyone to sign. Mike will take it to him soon.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

Reminded everyone to clean up the tables following the meeting.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

Mike thanked everyone for attending the Veterans Day ceremony and the Tolling of the Boats at Coastal Coffee Roasters.

Next year, the Base may attend a Veterans Day parade in lieu of the Bell Tolling at the coffee shop. More about this in 2020.

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ray Sparks

The After Battery is open every Wednesday and has a new cook who is doing a great job.

The Hog Roast in the Swamp will be April 19 – 25, 2020. Mark your calendars and don't plan any other events for that week.

Hunley/Housatonic Service – Harry Nettles

At this time, we are three months away from the Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service. We need pallbearers, but you have plenty of time to get your suits cleaned so that they will look good for the ceremony. We need other support personnel also.

Harry stated that he has his speech ready and is preparing others as well. He has learned a lot about the Hunley from a book that he has been reading.

Make sure to mark your calendar for the February 17 observance. Meet at Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Sullivan's Island. Bring a heavy coat since it gets cold out there.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

We had a scheduled a shoot on Saturday, October 19. Mike was waiting at the FRA and no one else showed up. It was cold and wet, so he went home. He would like to have a shoot in December and January even though it gets cold. Mike will call COB or Rick to get the word out when the event will be. Rick Sparger pointed out that whoever wins the ATP Raffle, the stuff can be used there.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

Not Present

Hunley Info – Lindsey Nelson

Lindsey has information regarding becoming a member of "*Friends of the Hunley*".

General Submariner Info – GW

A former A-Gang submariner is now the Chief of Police in Harleyville.

Constitution Article 5 – Bill Yeager

Bill is active in an organization attempting to get a Convention of States. He has forms to complete and send to the State Representatives regarding use of Article 5 to reign in the Washington politicians.

The scope is to be limited to only a few things but two of the proposed amendments are:

Term limits for House of Representatives and Senators

Term limits for federal judges

Special Invitation – Theron Irving

Jack Harden – Eternal Patrol – had a large workshop, full of woodworking tools. Joyce wants to

these tools as they are of no use to her. Please contact Theron if you would like to make a fair offer on any of these items. There was a suggestion to take it to the Scholarship Committee rummage sale.

Drawings & Auctions

FRA Drawing – Ray Sparks

SCHOLARSHIP ATP Raffle – Chuck Gravley

SCHOLARSHIP Consolation Drawing (1 Day Range Pass) – Chuck Gravley (Also)

SCHOLARSHIP Book Auction – Rodney McKanna

Depth Charge – GW

Closing Ceremony

Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm.

The meeting was closed at 1957

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base Minutes of Business Meeting 09 January 2020

Opening Ceremonies:

The January 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 78 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Mike Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.

The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines lost during the month of January:

USS SCORPION (SS-278)	January 5, 1944 – 4th War Patrol	Lost with all hands – 77 souls
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USS S-36 (SS-141)	January 20, 1942 – 2nd War Patrol	No loss of life
USS S-26 (SS-131)	January 24, 1942 – 2nd War Patrol	Lost with 46 souls – 3 men rescued

5 Boats and 314 Men Lost

The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:

Phillip Nunnally – MMCM – Qualified on USS John Adams SSBN620 – 1981 – Also served aboard USS John C. Calhoun SSBN630, USS Sand Lance SSN660 and USS Holland AS32.

Old Business:

Hunley Ceremony – Harry Nettles

The Hunley/Housatonic ceremony will be held on February 17 at 1900 – Sunrise Presbyterian Church, 3222 Middle St., Sullivans Island. The uniform will be the Charleston Tuxedo (dark blue jacket, light blue shirt, dolphin tie – available from Storekeeper if needed, khaki trousers

and submarine qualification pin – AKA Dolphins)

Yearbook Advertisement – Secretary Gordon Long

Gordon showed and spoke about the half-page advertisement which will be placed in the Stratford High School yearbook. Thanks to Brian Davy, whose daughter is on the yearbook committee, for presenting this idea. Thanks to other Base members who helped contribute to the cost. The design is essentially a recruitment ad with USSVI and Charleston Base logos.

Distinguished Submariner Award – COB

COB reminded everyone that it is time for Distinguished Submariner Award nominations. The form is available on the Base website in both PDF and MSWord. COB also has blank forms available for those who prefer paper.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

Butch read an email from the attorney and informed the Base members about the upcoming court date regarding the Clamagore to be held at Charleston County Court, 100 Broad Street, Room 3E, Charleston, January 30 at 1030. Patriots Point signed a contract with the Navy to maintain the boat and has not done so. Now they have taken money from the state education budget in an effort to have the Clamagore sunk. Be there and wear your vest to show support.

CRAMA dues also are now due.

Guest Speaker: Wayne Phillips – SE District Commander

Some folks reported not getting the bulletins. These are now being placed on the Base Website instead of cluttering up everyone's email.

Invited everyone to go to the USSVI National Website and update your personal profiles.

The 2020 USSVI Awards are fast approaching. Go to the National Website and submit a nomination.

Elections are coming up for USSVI National offices. If you have a nomination, please submit it for consideration.

The National Board of Directors conference is to be held in February for those who have questions or comments. Contact Base Commander and he will pass it on to Wayne.

New Business:

2020 Budget – Rick Wise

Rick is waiting on some additional information and will present the 2020 budget at the next Base meeting.

2020 Base Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison

The offices of Vice Commander and Secretary are to be chosen at the May Base Meeting. Please submit nominations for these two positions. Let's have some good participation in this process. Ken will provide monthly updates until the election in May.

Oyster Roast – COB

The Charleston Base Annual Oyster Roast is scheduled for February 29. It will be held at the FRA from 1200-1600 and is AYCE. The cost is \$25 per person and wrist tags will be required for those eating oysters.

In addition, members are invited to bring Chili for the Cook-Off. An award will be presented for the Chili receiving the most votes.

There was concern from one Base member regarding non-Base members attending and eating oysters. The cost for them will also be \$25. The FRA allows USSVI to hold monthly meetings here and also did not charge for the use of the facility at the 2019 Christmas party. Drinks will be purchased from the FRA bar.

Secretary –Gordon Long:

The Minutes from the November Base meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There is one correction regarding the winner of the Depth Charge should have been Al Stoll vice GW. The corrected copy of the Minutes will be reposted to the website. There were no other additions or deletions to the November Base meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with the correction.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

The Treasurer's Report for November has been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:****HUMOR****

A man and his wife are getting a divorce over in Greece, but the real issue was the custody of the children. The mother jumped to her feet and protested to the judge that since she brought the children into the world, she should retain custody. The man also wanted custody so the judge asked him for his side of the story. He sat there and thought for a moment then rose up from his chair and said to the judge, "Your Honor, if I put a coin into a vending machine and a Coke comes out, does the Coke belong to me or the machine?" He won custody.

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS SCORPION (SS-278) was lost on January 5 1944, with the loss of 77 officers and men in the East China Sea, on her 4th war patrol. It is assumed she was sunk by a mine.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given Nick information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

Andrew 'Andy' Maples departed on Eternal Patrol Friday, Dec. 6 at the Victory House. A service was held on Dec. 9 and I found out about the passing on Dec. 11. Andy was a member-at-large of USSVI and the Holland Club. He retired after 22 years in the Navy and served on Calhoun, Clamagore, Bonefish and Trumpetfish. A condolence message was placed on the FH website.

Patti Oelkuch [pron. El-ko], Tom Lawson's sister, passed away Nov. 26 in Fort Wayne IN. A condolence message was placed on the FH website.

Anna Emerson, Mike's wife, had shoulder reversal surgery on Monday, Dec. 30 and went home for recovery on Tuesday, Dec 31.

Ed Simokat fell on Friday, Dec. 27 and was taken to Trident where it was found he had a broken back. He had surgery Friday afternoon for plates and steel rods. There is NO PARALYSIS. He has since been moved to The Village of Summerville for rehab room 8. He would like to have visitors or calls, he has his cell phone.

Stacy Power had his left big toe amputated on Dec. 5 as a result of problems he had before Elaine passed away. He has been at home recovering and was on IV antibiotics. He has a doctor's appointment on Jan 15 to discuss further treatment. He is here at the Base meeting tonight.

Jim Loveday fell before Thanksgiving and broke his pelvis. After rehab in The Village, he went home on Dec. 8 for recovery and in-home PT.

Ron Chambers was in the hospital early December with a blood clot on his lung. He was due to go home just before Christmas. He is in White Oak Rehab, RM 429 behind Trident Hospital. He would like to have visitors and he has his cell phone with him.

Ron Snyder had a minor heart attack on Dec. 12 and was taken to Trident where he had stents put in two of his arteries. He is home recovering.

Don Londergan is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938. Rick Wise talked to him this afternoon and he is doing much better.

Bob Snyder is home with palliative care.

Please complete your page 2 if you have not done so.

Marvin Miller collapsed just prior to the start of the Base meeting tonight. Berkeley County EMS was called and transported Marvin to the ER.

Please complete your page 2 if you have not done so.

Stacy Power spoke about the recent passing of his wife **Elaine** of 65 years. She had served in the Navy during the Korean War. Stacy thanked the Base members for performing the military honors. Nick said that due to the holidays, the Navy personnel were unavailable. Mike Emerson had arranged for Charleston Base members to do this instead and because of this situation, Mike is also restarting the honor detail. For those who can participate in the honor duty, please see Mike.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

Website is constantly updated.

Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Sharf:

We recognized Stacy Power here tonight. Stacy was not about to let his IV pump keep him away.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

No report

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

Bill thanked the membership for providing the coloring books and crayons.

He also expressed his gratitude for those Base members who made the visits to the hospitals as part of KAPS for KIDS.

Bill sadly stated that he will have to quit as part of the KAPS for KIDS team. Tonight is Bill's last report.

If there is someone in the room who would like to take over the leadership of this work, please see Bill.

Membership – Larry Knutson

The Base currently has 290 members. About 30 of those are DINK. As of the January 31, those not paid up will automatically be removed from the USSVI National Sailing List. If you think that your dues are not current, please see Larry.

Rick Sparger listed two Base members for whom he would like to take up donations and have the Base members pick up the cost of their membership. The original plan to pass the hat was not required after two Base members, Marty Sessler and John Lookabill offered to pay for one man each. Thanks to Marty and John.

VA – Tom Lawson

The VA is still in need of volunteers, especially drivers.

Tom recommended getting a Shingles vaccination if you have not had one.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

Carl thanked the Base members for last year's support of the Scholarship Committee's efforts. The receipts for 2019 was \$3,467.

The 2020 USSVI Charleston Base Scholarship Application is available on the Base Website.

The Base Challenge coins are still for sale.

The Scholarship Committee will be holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 2 to benefit the Scholarship Fund. The location will be on Old Trolley Road in the parking lot of Rodney's .

Rockets. The committee is asking for donations – not consignments – of household items (no clothing). At the end of the day, any remaining items will be picked up by the Kidney Foundation truck and taken to their Thrift Store. An email was previously sent to all Base members with the details.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

We attended three Christmas parades in 2019 – Harleyville, Summerville and Ellore.

We are going to try some parades in the summer. The Grits Festival in St. George was recommended.

Rick thanked Charlie Hudson and crew for the recent maintenance of the float.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

See Old Business.

NPS – Ray Sparks

Have not received a date for the next Nuclear Power School graduation ceremony, but will provide as soon as available.

Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton

The FRA will be having a Super Bowl party which includes a raffle for a 50 inch TV during halftime.

There will be a Happy Valentines Day party on February 15. Elvis is expected to make an appearance and sing a bit during the party. Tickets for the Valentines party are \$28.50 which includes dinner (Prime Rib plus) and the show. Show tickets only are \$15.00.

Public Affairs – Jerry Stout

Nothing to Report

Newsletter – Rick Wise

Rick has been working as Newsletter Editor for four years is asking for a relief as Newsletter Editor.

The task only requires a little skill using a word processor.

Recreation – Ed Stank

Nothing to Report

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

Nothing to report.

COB – Joe Lunn

Tickets for the Oyster Roast are available now - \$25 each.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

Lowes still offers Veteran's Discount except on Sale Items.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

We have received a few inputs from Base members for Distinguished Submariner Award but we need more nomination forms to be submitted. It does not take long to write a small paragraph about someone who is worthy of this award. We should have about 20 to 30 forms. The award will be decided at the February Board meeting and presented at the March Base meeting.

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ray Sparks

The Hog Roast in the Swamp will be April 19-25, 2020. Mark your calendars and don't plan any other events for that week.

The After Battery is open every Wednesday starting at 10AM.

VA Hearing – GW

The Audio Clinic at the VA will be phasing out the walk-ins and will be soon by appointment only.

USS Von Steuben Reunion – Rick Wise

The USS Von Steuben Association will be holding a reunion from March 9-13 at Pigeon Forge, TN. Information is available at the Von Steuben website www.ssb632reunion.org.

Hunley – Lindsay Nelson

Provided information about Friends of the Hunley

Has tickets available for the landscaping expo to be held at the fairgrounds

USS James K Polk Reunion – Lou Leal

The USS James K Polk Association will be holding a reunion from October 8-11 at the hotel on Patriot's Point. More info later.

USS Sand Lance Reunion – Rick Wise

The USS Sand Lance Association will be holding a reunion from November 12-14 at the round Holiday Inn.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

Not Present

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

It is getting warmer and is time to do some more shoots. Mike wants to do one per month and include classes. Scheduling for him is sometimes difficult.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

Thanked Bill Kennedy for his work as KAPS FOR KIDS coordinator. It has been great working with him.

When Mike's six year old grandson suffered a head injury in the school yard in Washington State. Mike contacted the USSVI Seattle base and asked for a KAPS visit but was told that they can't get anyone to go. Mike was given contact information for Bremerton and was told that they would have someone there on Friday. Mike's grandson was discharged on Thursday.

If any Base member has a child or grandchild in the hospital and would like a KAPS visit, please let him know.

Bill's daughter, who is in charge of the children's wing of one hospital, has told the group that when some of the kids who regularly come back due to asthma problems, they want to know where the submarine sailors are.

Drawings & Auctions

FRA Drawing – None Tonight

Depth Charge – Mike Ciesielko – Donated \$50 to Scholarship Fund.

Closing Ceremony

Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.

Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm.

The meeting was closed at 2010.

Charleston Base Presents Submariners' Legacy Awards To Nuclear Power School Class 1906

Rick Wise presented the awards to ENS Joshua Hanna and EMN3 Sean Carey as the Submarine Designated graduates with the highest GPA (3.76 and 3.93 respectively). The speaker at the Graduation on January 31 was VADM Daryl L. Caudle, Commander Naval Submarine Forces/COMSUBLANT/ Commander Allied Submarine Command



FOR SALE

Charleston Base members who have items they wish to sell may send me the information for inclusion in the newsletter. Items will run for three issues or until I'm notified by the person submitting the ad that it is no longer needed.

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