

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1807 by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko in absence of Base Commander Ralph Rohrsen. Attending were Board of Directors members Gordon Williams, Bill Freligh, Larry Knutson, Joe Lunn, Carl Chinn, Nick Nichols, Harry Nettles, Rick Wise, Ed Stank, Tom Lawson, and Gordon Long.

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Reported that he looked into opening a new account at the bank for handling donations received for the Cold War Memorial Maintenance & Preservation. Nick Nichols clarified the reasons and method for handling the money: Rusty Pickett is the CWM Liaison and since he will be directing the expenditure of the donations for maintenance purposes, he does not want to be the actual custodian of the funds. The money is to be maintained by Charleston Base in the existing checking account but with separate accounting similar to the Scholarship Fund. When Rusty needs money for CWM maintenance, he will request a check to be written. For reporting expenses to National USSVI, it will be listed as “memorials”. Bill Freligh made a comment that when another organization makes a donation to the CWM M&P fund, the Base Treasurer will need to send a receipt back to them for their records; noting that the USS Sand Lance group had send \$200 to the fund. Nick pointed out that a simple email can be the method of receipt.
- Reported that he has check to be given to the VFW Auxiliary. This is to be given to Ken Hutchison at the Base meeting next week.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- There will be ten Holland Club inductees at the next ceremony in April 2019.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Reported that Charleston Base currently has 288 members.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- Elaine Simmons (Simmons Seafood) has provided some dates for Charleston Base to have another Oyster Roast. We will poll the Base membership at the meeting next week. Dates available are February 2, February 16 and March 2.
- Asked about recruiting efforts. Gordon Williams reported that Coffee News was not interested in placing ads for non-profit organizations. Ed Stank suggested the base newspaper. Mike asked about getting a committee comprised of younger members. Nick addressed the issue of active duty personnel being discouraged from attending meetings of fraternal organizations. There is a stereotype that we are a bunch of drunks even though there are more soft drinks on the tables today than there is beer. Perhaps we could invite the Commanding Officer of Nuclear Power School to come to a Charleston Base meeting. Previous attempts to present USSVI Charleston Base at NPS have been rebuffed. There are thousands of former submariners in the Charleston area which have never been to a Base meeting. Those on active duty may not stay around here very long or end up living here but

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there are thousands of former submariners in the Charleston area which have never been to a Base meeting. There was discussion about how to reach them (parades, cards, etc...). Harry Nettles suggested getting a radio interview on either Kelly Golden's show on 94.3FM or Charlie James' show on 1250AM. This idea was well received by all in attendance. Harry will check into how this could be done.

- Asked if anyone had seen the movie "Hunter – Killer" and their thoughts about it. Some had seen it and said that it is worth seeing. This movie could possibly be used for recruiting members.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- There will be two drawings at the November 8th Base Meeting which are supporting the Scholarship fund; one for the Submarine book signed by Admiral Osborne and the other for the cooker. The Scholarship fund balance is \$2038.

Special Events – Ed Stank for Rick Sparger:

- The float will be used by the FRA on November 10. Ed Stank stated that the float has been checked out and is ready to go for Ken Hutchison to pull the float in the Charleston Parade.
- Rick Wise stated that Sunday, November 11, will be the tolling of the boats in front of Coffee Roasters in Summerville. The Veteran's Day Ceremony in Summerville is to be held at the County Office Building on Main Street on November 12. There was some confusion on the date.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Call List:** Has everyone here made their calls? Ken Hutchison reported on those he called.
- **Larry Cox** departed on Eternal Patrol on October 21. His service was held on Sunday, October 28th. SUBVETS and FRA were very well represented. Even after his time with the cancer he did not have a page two.
- Since we have been getting some bounces on three of our email addresses I made some calls.
 - **Leroy Werley** has changed his to a gmail address.
 - **Roy Morrow** didn't answer his phone. He lives in TN.
 - **Michael McLuskey** passed away in Sept 2015 and we didn't know about it. Confirmed by his wife and I was able to find an obituary.
- **Mike Welch** is at the Elms Rm 201 working at getting better after his 6-way bypass. He can have and would like to have visitors.
- **CC Cager** has a serious setback with my left ankle wound. He is seen at the VA General Surgery Wound Care Clinic and has made significant progress. Skin graft surgery soon.
- **Rick Wise** will have his aortic valve replacement surgery on Friday November 16 at Trident Hospital. If all goes well he should be out of the hospital for Thanksgiving.
- **Rick Sparger** is at home. His knee replacement went very well and he has great things to say about East Cooper. He's doing home rehab.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** will have a stent put in the left carotid artery on 8 Nov. at 8:00 A.M. Dr. said it should take about 5 min.....it has about 80% blockage.
- **Beetle Bailey** is going to have his left knee replaced on 13 Nov.
- **Luke Murphy** was in the hospital for about a week with pneumonia. He's now home.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

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- The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is ending Dec. 31, 2018. Info link is on the website. The 2019 rates are on their website. Open enrollment dates for new plans Nov 12 - Dec 12.
- I have asked the Treasurer to establish the line item for the Cold War Maintenance and Preservation Fund (CWMMP). Rusty Pickett will be contacting all of the groups that have promised support so Gordon Williams should be getting some checks coming in soon. The funds will not be given to Patriot's Point but used by volunteers, directed by Rusty Pickett, to conduct maintenance and cleaning at the CWM. Rusty has setup a website for the CWM at: <http://coldwarsubmarine.memorial/>
- Nick made a motion with Tom Lawson seconding that USSVI Charleston Base make a one-time donation to the CWM maintenance fund. The motion passed unanimously. This will be presented as New Business at the Charleston Base meeting on November 8.
- Nick used his spare challenge coin at the funeral for Larry Cox and needs a replacement.
- At a previous meeting, there was discussion of having a smaller float. After attending the Stimson Reunion in OKC, he sees the utility of having our existing float that members can ride on and a smaller one that can be pulled by any vehicle. OKC Base has one that could be put in the hotel lobby where it drew lots of attention.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Nothing to report

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Has not heard from anyone regarding plans for the 2019 ceremony. Harry was advised to talk to Rodney to obtain a better point of contact.

Comptroller/Public Affairs – Rick Wise:

- Rick Wise presented the proposed 2019 budget for USSVI Charleston Base along with a motion for approval. Seconded by Harry Nettles. Motion passed. The 2019 Charleston Base budget will be presented to the Base on November 8 under New Business.
- Rick pointed out that we currently have more LIFE MEMBERS of Charleston Base than we have of ANNUAL MEMBERS. When the Investment Fund was set up, it was done so with the intent to be able to fund the normal Base operations when we reached this situation. If we are going to do something else – such as build a new float – then that would require authorization from the Base to use the money from the investment fund.
- Rick will provide Nick Nichols a file about the Little David, Newsletter and other PAO related items before his surgery.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks:

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be on December 21. If Rick cannot be there, he will give everything to Harry Nettles and Ray Sparks will make the presentations.

Recreation/Victory House – Ed Stank

- Ed and Tom Scott have been going to Victory House in Walterboro for five years. Every so often, others will go along. They have not allowed to do any picnics for the residents for a while now.

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- Ed has a nearly complete series of “Victory at Sea” DVDs which he will donate to the Scholarship Committee for a fund raiser. These were given to him by Paul Viering for the Victory House, but they do not need them.
- So far, Ed has sold 75 tickets to the Christmas Party to be held on December 14. We hope to sell 125 to 150. The tickets are \$15 each. He will, however, refund the tickets sold to Larry Cox and offer his wife a ride to the party if she would like to go.
- The menu for the Christmas party has salmon, beef and pork – no chicken. Ed is meeting with the location to finalize the arrangements.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- FED VIP enrollment starts November 12 and goes thru December 10. For those who have Delta Dental, you must enroll or you will lose coverage after December 31. To be eligible for the new dental or vision insurance, you must be enrolled with Tri-Care Health.
- The VA really needs volunteers.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Addressed the issue regarding absence of the Base Commander and the events surrounding the October Base meeting. The group discussed the issue and agreed to keep Mike Ciesielko handling the meetings in the current arrangement. The Base Commander position is due for reelection in May 2019.

Meeting was adjourned at 1909