

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2019

Meeting called to order at 1800 by acting Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Larry Knutson, Ed Stank, Joe Lunn, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Nick Nichols, Ken Hutchison, Bill Freligh, Harry Nettles, Rick Wise, Tom Lawson, Gordon Long and Gordon Williams.

Prior to the start of reports, Dave Taylor addressed the meeting regarding a small newspaper article written by a young boy asking Patriot's Point not to dispose of the Clamagore. Dave asked if Charleston Base could do some sort of recognition for him. There was discussion regarding giving the boy a patch, hat, taking pictures, presenting him an award. It was recommended that the award be given at some other location than the Base Meeting. Mike Ciesielko recommended that we invite the lad and his family to the Amberjack Ceremony in April to present the award since he likes going to Patriot's Point. We would invite the news stations to the event. This will allow plenty of time to set this up. Rick Wise, as PAO, will take this for action.

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Ed Stank for his work arranging the Base Christmas party.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Reported that Charleston Base currently has 288 members. There are currently 54 members on the Dink List. Rick Sparger recommended because of extreme health issues, that the dues for B.J. Tacket and Robert McCollem be paid for by passing a hat or other method deemed necessary. Although National dues has increased to \$25, the database still shows only \$20. National USSVI website is still waiting on an update.

Recreation/Victory House – Ed Stank

- Walt Curtis, who died last year, will be buried at Beaufort National Cemetery on January 18. Ed wants to announce this at the Base Meeting. This will be listed under new business.
- Ed and Tom Scott have been going to Victory House in Walterboro for five years. As of this meeting, Ed reports that due to situations and restrictions put on them by Victory House, he planning no more trips to Walterboro. He has joined Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and will see what can be done there. Harry Nettles suggested consideration of Fisher House. Ken Curtis is also heavily involved with DAV. Ed plans to work with him and will take it over when Ken is not able to continue the DAV work.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- The Oyster Roast is just around the corner with a date of February 2. This event will also include a Chili Cook-Off for those who want to provide chili. COB suggested inviting others to come, but after some discussion, the event will be limited to Charleston Base members & families. The suggestion was made to move the event to March 2 since we only have one Base meeting to announce the event. [COB sent email the next day stating that the date has now been changed to March 2].

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Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Requested update about the Cold War Memorial Maintenance Fund and if Rusty Pickett has any work being planned. Nick reported that some work has been done but no funds were necessary. Work will be scheduled after pollen season arrives in the spring.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Since June 2018, when the new committee has been in place, \$1455 taken in for scholarships.
- There was discussion regarding donations to Charleston Base. If a donation is made, it is requested that it be determined where the donation is to go. If the donor does not know, then it will be provided to the scholarship fund especially if the money was donated in regards to condolences.
- The committee has a set of 76 DVDs which were donated by Paul Viering's wife. These will be raffled in March.
- The committee has a signed Rick Campbell book to be auctioned at the Base meeting.
- The committee has new Charleston Base challenge coins for sale. Carl passed the coin around for everyone to see.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- **Don Ort** has taken on the job of National Awards Coordinator. These are not awards such as Distinguished Submariner but rather awards that National will be granting. Don will pay attention to the submittal times and will do the initial write-ups for the candidate if someone provides the information. Time will likely not be available for input of April awards. Don will provide more information regarding award schedules.
- Nick reminded everyone to look at the Officers' Page on the USSVICB website. He also reminded everyone that if someone has agreed to do a job, to let people do their jobs whether it is an elected or appointed position.
- Nick reminded everyone that even though we now have a Base Photographer (Thanks Glen!), if anyone else has taken pictures, please send them to him.
- The Navy will soon be commissioning USS Charleston LCS18 on March 2. – The Navy League is sending invitations for military organizations. Harry Nettles will head this up to get a block of seats, so that those going can sit together.
- **USSVI National Chaplain, Bill Dixon** is slowly recovering from a recent heart attack. The Carolina Piedmont Base Chaplain, Ray Fritz, is filling in for him until he is able to resume as National Chaplain.
- **Luke Murphy** departed on Eternal Patrol on November 26, 2018.
- **Churchill Campbell** (WWII Vet and Steve Curtis' FIL) departed on Eternal Patrol on Thursday, October 4, 2018.
- **Call List:** Has everyone here made their calls?
- **Gordon Smith's** cancer has returned. Roxanna let me know that nothing can be done at this point.
- **Ken Curtis** is having health issues and was in the hospital the weekend before Christmas.
- **Art Hance** has been diagnosed with stage 2 aggressive prostate cancer. He will have surgery at Roper Downtown on January 8th. This is expected to be a 3 hour operation.
- **Pat Davis** had his cataract surgery and it went far better than ever expected. He is now seeing 20/20 in his right eye. He plans on having the left eye done on 29 January and hopes for the same results.

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- **Mike Welch** is doing well after his 6-way bypass.
- **CC Cager** had a skin graft on his ankle but it doesn't seem to be working. The doctors are going to try some different procedures.
- **Rick Wise** is doing well after his aortic valve replacement. Still limited on what he can lift.
- **Terry Trump** had the plates in his leg removed in late November and is doing well.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** had a stent put in the left carotid artery in mid-Nov and is recovering.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Nothing to report

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken presented a check from the FRA for use of our float – It has been designated for the Scholarship Fund by a vote of the Board. The FRA also gave a check to Charlie Hudson for driving the float. Ken will provide that to him.
- Ken mentioned as a possible schedule conflict concerning the Amberjack memorial on the 2nd Saturday in April. The After Battery will be holding its annual hog roast that week. Ken asked if the Amberjack Ceremony date could be changed, but it has been on the Events Calendar for a while now. The date will remain as scheduled. Rather than consider it a conflict, the recommendation was made to invite those who are at the hog roast to attend the Amberjack Ceremony. Ken will encourage them to come to the ceremony since it is a submarine related event.

Store Keeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to Report

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- There are eleven Holland Club inductees eligible at the next ceremony at the April 11 Base meeting. Some of them though, are not current on their dues. Bill will contact them.
- Bill asked about whether we expect to have the smorgasbord at this ceremony. It was discussed that the \$300 incurred was not worth the cost. Carl Chinn recommended that we delete it. This was seconded by Bill.

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Hunley Memorial on Sunday night 2/17. Harry gave everyone plenty of notice for everyone to get their blue blazer cleaned, dolphin tie out and khaki pants pressed and ready for the ceremony.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- The inside renovations of the VA hospital is nearly complete. The outside still has plenty of work to be done.
- There will be a VA Clinic to open in Hanahan, having its function as Primary Care and lab work.
- Another VA Clinic is expected to open in Moncks Corner possibly by 2022.

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- There was discussion regarding a “means test” on the VA applications. Nick Nichols stated that income is no longer supposed to be a factor. Tom will verify this further with VA.

Comptroller/Public Affairs – Rick Wise:

- Rick Wise reported that he is expecting six months for surgery recovery. He is limited on what he can do and how much he can lift for a while. Rick has been in charge of the Little David memorial maintenance for fifteen years and needs someone to take over.
- Rick provided business cards for everyone to take a few or several to have as invitations to SubVets. He still has more for the asking.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks:

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be on February 15.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Mentioned the possibility of having a barbershop quartet sing the National Anthem to open the next Base meeting.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- A correction to the Treasurer’s report will be made to move the \$25 received as a newsletter advertisement fee which had been incorrectly placed in the Scholarship Fund.
- Rick Sparger asked the Treasurer about the General Fund balance. An additional \$600 did not make it to the statement before the end of 2019. It will show up on the January report.
- Rick also inquired about the Christmas party tickets and expenses. The amounts shown on the December report are correct.
- Nick Nichols asked about the General Fund Health rating and where it came from. This is confusing; thus, Nick made a motion that we remove this from the report. Tom Lawson seconded. Motion carried. Treasurer will no longer include this in future reports.

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- The Base needs someone to be responsible for polling the Base membership for suggestions of the Distinguished Submariner Award. COB agreed to the task. Nick asked that the website DSA page link be sent to the membership. [The link is included here: <http://ussvicb.org/documents/DS%20Award/index.html>]. Inputs are normally due by February BOD meeting. Nick made a motion to move the DSA presentation to the April 11 Base meeting to allow time for inputs from the membership. Tom Lawson seconded the motion. No objections – Motion carried.
- Duty for obtaining inputs for future Distinguished Submariner Awards will remain with the office of COB. Inputs from Base membership for this award will be taken during the two-month period from the November Base meeting until the January Base meeting. The decision for DSA will occur at the February BOD meeting with the presentation to occur at the March Base meeting.
- It time for the annual audit of the Base Treasury. According to the Base By-Laws, the Treasurer is responsible for making sure that an audit is done but assignment of personnel to perform the audit is the responsibility of the Executive Board. Ken Hutchison volunteered to do the audit. The BOD accepted Ken as the auditor.

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- Mike Ciesielko, as acting Base Commander, initially requested Gordon Williams to be the Election Committee Coordinator but he refused the posting. Joe Lunn (COB) will coordinate the election.
 - Mike Ciesielko and the BOD discussed and updated the written schedule of events which was prepared by Nick Nichols. This schedule also includes the member (identified by office or chair position) responsible coordinating the event.
 - The annual report from the Base Secretary is due to the District by the end of March.
- Meeting was adjourned at 1909