

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**April 4, 2019**

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

### **Acting Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- We currently have 276 members.
- Larry received a check from Michael Morris for membership dues in February, but not a membership form. Nick will provide Mike's email address so that Larry can send Mike a form to complete and bring to the Base meeting next week.

### **COB – Joe Lunn:**

- Discussed the upcoming Amberjack Ceremony.
- Rick Wise will bring the sound system.
- Nick Nichols reminded everyone that, in order to be better organized, we need to have a checklist for each event in which we are involved. We need not wait until just before the event to actually do most of the planning.
- A color guard was not arranged for this year and with the Submarine Birthday Ball, it is not feasible to contact NPS about providing a color guard. Charleston Base SubVets will need to bring the flag and the stand. Rick Sparger will bring the bugle.
- Tom Lawson stated that Jerry Stout promised to bring his trailer to carry the chairs in spite of his current health issues.
- Rick Wise said that during even numbered years, the names of the Amberjack crew members are read, but this being 2019, we will read the names of the lost boats.
- Ed stated that he will get the Amberjack bell, which currently is in the possession of The After Battery, but after some discussion regarding to who actually owns the bell, Rick Sparger said he would get the bell. Carl Chinn stated that it was given to Charleston Base. He picked it up himself. Nick said that since the bell was owned by WWII SubVets Swamp Fox Chapter, Stacy Power, being the last standing member, is the only one who can settle the issue of its current ownership.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing to Report

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- Received a check for \$126.50 from Steven Brock for the books sold at the March Charleston Base meeting. The check was provided to the Base Treasurer.
- The next raffle, which will run for two months, will be for a "Charleston Basket". The items include hotel stays, restaurant gift cards, a carriage tours for two, and a few other items.
- Since the current group of members have been involved, the committee has taken in \$2,807. There have been some expenses, such as for challenge coins. The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$2,376. The cost of the coins will be recouped as they are sold.

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- Carl stated that there have been no applications even though every high school counselor in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties has received a copy of the scholarship application. Applicants from the tri-county area only need to have a family member who is a USSVI member. Being affiliated with Charleston Base is not a requirement.

### Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Remember at the meetings, he will not be reading all of the information that has been put out via email; only anything that is new. This should help keep the meeting time shorter. There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- Nick mentioned the article in the American Submariner. He recommended taking the article to your family doctor – not the VA – in order to get a pulmonologist appointment scheduled for a lung scan. This is meant to be a second opinion.
- As reported by Jimmy Kimbrell: **TM1(SS) William ‘Robbie’ Robinson** departed on Eternal Patrol on March 29. He served with Jimmy Kimbrell on USS Ethan Allen SSBN 608 Gold Commissioning Crew. His Funeral Service will be held Sunday, April 7, 2019 in the J. HENRY STUHR, INC., NORTHWOODS CHAPEL with family visitation on Saturday, April 6th 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the Northwoods Chapel. He was not a USSVI or Charleston Base member.
- As reported by Bob McNeish: **MSC(SS) Alfia Mananta Tomayo** departed on Eternal Patrol on March 26. His funeral service was on March 29. He served with Bob McNeish and Bill Freleigh on the James Monroe SSBN 622. He was not a USSVI or Charleston Base member.
- **Jim Williams**, 60 years old, from the Sangaree area of Summerville, He was a FTG on the Polk in 82 and also served on the Ray. Jim broke his hip when he fell in his workshop and has undergone 5 surgeries. These all failed due to an infection in his bones. Nothing can be done. He is now in the VA hospital in the CLC area. This will be where he stays until end of life. Jim went in to the VA on March 3. He has a wife who has in remission cancer and a 42 year old mentally disabled son. If you are at the VA downtown for any reason try to stop by and talk to him for a few minutes. He is very lonely since his family is not able to visit him.
- **Roy Robertson** is in NHC Rehabilitation Center in West Ashley (2230 Ashley Crossing Dr, Charleston, SC 29414). He called me on Tuesday to let me know he’s been there for 3 months. Very hard to understand his speech. I’m going to try to get over to see him in the next couple of days and then get the word out to the members.
- **Ken Curtis** is doing better. He is still working on Monday mornings at the VA clinic at NWS doing his DAV function.
- **Jerry Stout** reports that he is managing pain and recovering from his surgery. There is some numbness in his leg but that was expected. He is in good spirits, appreciate all thoughts and concerns.
- **Rodney McKanna’s** wife said the gas bubble in his eye is going down and he is expecting good results with his vision.
- **Gordon Smith’s** cancer has returned. Nothing can be done at this point.
- **Art Hance** has been diagnosed with stage 2 aggressive prostate cancer. He had surgery on January 8 and is recovering well. He will be going in at a later date for blood work to check if all the cancer was removed.

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### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- The 2019 Submarine Birthday Ball will be held at the Charleston Marriott, 170 Lockwood Blvd., Charleston SC 29403 on Saturday, April 13 – 1830-2230. The Guest Speaker is Admiral John M. Richardson, CNO. SubVet tickets are \$35.00 each. Tickets for WWII Vets and guests are free. So far, there are 22 Charleston Base SubVets and wives attending.
- 25 people helped at the CWM Field Day and Cleanup on 20 March. All benches and monuments were cleaned and everyone was gone in only about one hour. BZs to all who came to help. Nick did make some notes as recommendations for the next time.
- Nick has been sending individual emails containing the Newsletter, the Base Minutes and the Treasurer's Report. His ISP limits the number of outgoing emails. Due to this, Nick will, in the future, send one email to each Base member containing all three of these items as a group. He wants to send the compiled email by the night of the Board meeting. If there are any delays, please make sure to inform him.
- Also regarding emails, Nick encouraged all Board members to review their distribution lists to make sure that each email is being sent only to either the USSVICB.ORG address or the member's personal address, otherwise members are receiving multiple copies of the same email. In the case of an individual wearing multiple hats, this also happens if one has more than one USSVICB.ORG address. Nick also has these addresses forwarding the Base member's personal address. Please let him know if this is not necessary. In that case, please send Nick an email stating "send only to USSVI address" and he will remove the forwarding to your personal email address.

### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- Tom goes to the VA Hospital two days each week and visits not only with those that he knows, but some that he has not met before. He recommends that all who can, please go visit with the veterans that are in the hospital. The visits will be appreciated.

### **Recreation – Ed Stank**

- There are three key holders to the storage facility on base – Ed Stank, Rick Sparger and Ken Hutchison. The master key has been returned to the base. A cleanup of the storage area needs to be done by the end of May before it gets hot.
- Ed contacted the Air Force Base about scheduling the Christmas party. The prices have increased significantly over last year. The quoted rates per person is about \$40. Rick Sparger pointed out that the Base has already voted to have the Christmas party at the AFB location. Ed and others responded that the Base members are likely to change the location if the price is so much higher. Mike Ciesielko suggested that, while we cannot wait too long, that the issue should be brought back to the Base for reconsideration due to the cost.
- Some Base members may suggest that the investment fund be accessed for the party, however the purpose of that account was not to fund such events, but to operate the Base when the majority of the membership are Life Members. At this time, most of the Base are – in fact – Life Members. The Treasurer noted the amount of cash that can be accessed at the current time from the investment fund.
- Ed wants to visit other locations and get real quotes. There are a lot of items on the agenda for the upcoming April Base meeting and enough time to wait until at least May to present a better outline to the Base. The Board agreed to table this discussion to allow the research.

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- With all that was going on at the March Base meeting, Ed held off asking the Base members for the money to the May 10 River Dogs baseball game. At the April Base meeting, however he needs to collect \$16.50 per ticket from members (cash or check written to Ed) so that he can order the tickets. The tickets will be non-refundable and \$7.00 of this price is a voucher for food/drink at the ballpark. Everyone will sit together under roof and we can bring the USSVI banner to hang on the railing. Base members are encouraged to wear your vest. COB will send out a notice to all Base members about having money for tickets at the April Base meeting. All hands muster at 1800 on May 10 for game start time of 1900.

### **Public Affairs – Rick Wise**

- Rick wants to schedule maintenance of the Little David on the last two weeks in April. The workdays for this will be Monday, Friday and Saturday. His doctor schedule prevents him from being there on Thursdays.
- Rick announced to the Board that he will be resigning his position as Public Affairs Officer at the end of May. Rick also said that the PAO and Newsletter editor should be the same person due to similarity of information that is being handled. Mike Ciesielko will request a volunteer to take the PAO position.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise**

- Nothing to Report

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The overall meeting order will remain the unchanged, however the order of the committee reports will be rearranged starting at the next Base meeting to allow better flow of reports.

### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- The details are contained in the Treasurer's Report. \$150 was sent to USSVI for National dues.

### **Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike requested volunteers for the annual review of the Charleston Base By-Laws. The Base is scheduled to vote on any changes at the July Base meeting. In order to allow a proper review by the membership, any changes need to be submitted to the Base no later than the June Base meeting. Nick Nichols, Carl Chinn and Gordon Williams will arrive early on May 2 to the Board meeting to review the By-Laws.
- Some Board members – Mike Ciesielko and Rick Sparger will be out of town attending the Southeast Regional USSVI conference on May 2.
- The Holland Club induction will be at the April Base meeting.
- Mike received a call from a man in Greenville, who has a bunch of submarine memorabilia that was left to him when his father passed away. Mike will make sure that he wants to donate – not sell – the material to the base and then collect and catalog the items when he is able to make the trip upstate. Nick suggested that if there is anything that the man wants to retain at this time, but release at a later date, to consider contacting the Submarine Museum in Kings Bay. Ed Stank mentioned that, as has happened recently, widowed spouses are not really interested in keeping our submarine items that we have kept over the years.

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- Mike requested a volunteer from the Board to receive all of the National USSVI emails for review and to determine what is needed by the Base membership. Ed Stank agreed to this task. Nick asked Ed, when he determines an item is necessary for the entire Base, to send it to him. Nick will then distribute the email to the Base. If an item is membership related, Ed can route it to Larry as Membership chairman. If one of these emails is something that should be included in the Base Newsletter, it should be sent only to Rick Wise, who will then incorporate it into the Newsletter for later distribution to the entire base.

Meeting was adjourned at 1912.