

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2019

Meeting called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Larry Knutson, Joe Lunn, Carl Chinn, Nick Nichols, Rick Sparger, Ken Hutchison, Ed Stank, Rick Wise, Gordon Long and Gordon Williams.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to Report

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 278 members. Last month was reported incorrectly – should have been 277. One new member joined at the last Base meeting in May, bringing the current membership to 278.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- Joe requested information about the status of the Social Media APP. Nick Nichols reported that the APP is currently in Beta Testing.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The Scholarship Committee has received two donations in memory of Jack Harden – one for \$100 and the other for \$25.
- The Scholarship Committee has reviewed the seven applications that were received and will be presenting four \$500 awards at the June 13 Base meeting. The names of the recipients were provided to the Base Treasurer so that the checks can be prepared prior to the Base meeting.

By-Law Review – Carl Chinn:

- There are several administrative changes that were provided to the Base Secretary. These are non-functional as pertaining to Base operations.
- There are two proposed amendments:
 - Article VII – Section 2 – Paragraph A. (Change to list of appointed officers)
 - Article V – Section 1 – Paragraph B. (Remove paragraph)
- After reading the changes and explained the reasons for doing so, Carl Chinn presented the motion to accept with Gordon Long seconding. The first reading of the proposed amendments will be presented as a new business item at the June Base meeting. The Base membership will vote on these amendments at the July Base meeting.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

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

- **LDCR(SS) David Lloyd**, USN Retired, departed on Eternal Patrol June 1. He was not a USSVI Member. Online condolence was sent.

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- **QM3 Warne McClelland**, 93, departed on Eternal Patrol May 16 in Hilton Head. He served on the ODAX SS-484 during WWII but did not qualify SS. He was not a USSVI Member. Online condolence was sent.
- **RM1(SS) Scott Buchheit**, 57, departed on Eternal Patrol May 21. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence was sent.
- **LCDR(SS) Charles Decker**, USN Retired, 79, departed on Eternal Patrol May 20. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence was sent.
- **ETC(SS) Richard Kennedy**, USN Retired, 68, departed on Eternal Patrol May 12. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence was sent.
- **Bob Snyder** was diagnosed with prostate cancer 2 years ago and given 2 years to live. His cancer has spread to several organs and bones. Bob is home with palliative care but is also able to get out; his last sighting was at the After Battery on Wednesday. Bob likes to talk, so give him a call. His cell #: 843.412.2530.
- **Soupy Campbell** was in the hospital for 4 weeks and has been home 2 weeks. He is recovering and taking it easy. Requests no visitors at this point but would enjoy phone calls. Home: 843.871.2524 Cell: 843.810.3805
- **Ken Curtis** is still conducting his DAV sessions at the VA Clinic on Monday mornings.
- **Roy Robertson** is in NHC Rehabilitation Center in West Ashley (2230 Ashley Crossing Dr., Charleston, SC 29414). He's been there for 4 months now. Very hard to understand his speech.
- **Jim Williams**, 60 years old, non-USSVI/CB member, is still in the VA after 2.5 months. He 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 and will be there until end of life. He has a wife who is in remission of 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.
- **Gordon Smith's** cancer has returned. Nothing can be done at this point.
- Nick informed the Board that he maintains a list of email addresses to which he sends invitations on the Tuesday before the Base meeting. If any Base member will send the email address to Nick, he will make sure that the individual gets an email invitation. Nick also places on this list, the email address of those Base members who, for whatever reason, let their dues lapse; thereby making sure that they are aware of the meeting.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Base website is updated regularly
 - Memorial Day, Riverdogs Game, and Submarine Birthday Ball pictures are online.
 - USSVI National Message Traffic is updated with messages from National on a regular basis.
- Nick said that we need to do more to recognize the everyday work done by our Base members and cited several examples.
- Nick discussed CWM Haddo/Pollack plaque which was stolen. Rusty Pickett is asking if Charleston Base is willing to contribute some money for replacement which is expected to cost \$650. The Naval Submarine League could also contribute. Rick Wise made a motion with Rick Sparger seconding for Charleston Base to donate \$200. There was much discussion among the Board members. Some members, who were aboard these two boats

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may want to donate as well. The motion passed but the issue must again be brought before the Base before sending any funds. Nick will address this again at the June Base meeting.

Special Events –Rick Sparger:

- There are no special events currently scheduled.
- The float needs to be inspected and cleaned before the next presentation.
- Rick has received an email about the Moncks Corner Parade
- Rick recommended that the Base pull the float in the Ellore parade.
- Rick recommended that regarding the Memorial Day ceremony, we should just bring enough extension cord to reach the building (about 300 feet). The inverter was not reliable. The battery is suspect and may require replacement.
- Rick mentioned that on some years, Charleston Base is required to do more than set up the sound system. Nick stated that we are responsible every five years to provide the guest speaker for the ceremony. That occurred two years ago.
- Nick Nichols stated that many were very disappointed in the Memorial Day service. If the service is going to be held, it should be something good for those who attend. It is my opinion that there should always be someone from Charleston Base at the meetings to help plan Memorial Day and Veterans Day services and to ensure details are worked out with all involved. Problems noted:
 - Service time change caused confusion but the service should have started at scheduled time.
 - The Emcee was not well prepared.
 - The National Anthem not conducted well.
 - The Pledge of Allegiance was not recited.
 - The Sound system was not loud enough for everyone to hear.
- Rick Wise mentioned that we need to send a \$25 check to the VFW for Memorial Day. Treasurer Gordon Williams stated that he had done that already.

Recreation – Ed Stank

- Ed has visited the Air Force Base and the Red Bank Club in regards to hosting the Christmas Party. He has requested a quote from the Fleet Reserve Association but has not yet followed up. Ed is asking all three locations for a buffet with three meats – beef, pork and fish – the food available at the 2018 Christmas Party. This variety was well-received last year. The quote request for all locations is also to accommodate 120 people. Ed will advise when he has comparable information from all venues.
- The River Dogs baseball game was a success. We even were able to get Stacy Power recognized during the game. He was happy about that since he really enjoys baseball.
- Would the Base membership want to go to another River Dogs baseball game before the season ends in August? Ed should query the Base for interest.
- Ed is working to set up a Charleston Base event at a Citadel football game.
- Someone suggested to Ed that maybe we could go to a Charleston Southern University football game. Ed is willing to check on that as well.
- Ed suggested that the Base have a picnic at Wannamaker County Park on Hwy 78 just down the street from CSU. The Base would only be responsible for rental of the facility which would be about \$350. Base members would bring food to cook or already prepared. The

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park has activities for the kids and grandkids to do such as the waterpark. Ed will visit Wannamaker Park for more information.

- If anyone has other ideas for Base activities, please let Ed know.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report.

Newsletter – Rick Wise

- Rick said that the May Base Newsletter is a little sparse from usual but he is doing his best.

NPS – Rick Wise

- Nuclear Power School – Class 1902 graduation day is tomorrow, May 7. Muster at the Navy Exchange parking lot at 0800. Rear Admiral Charlie Young will be the guest speaker.

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- Nothing to Report

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon has received the administrative changes (minor changes, not changing any intent or operation) to the Charleston Base By-Laws from the review committee. These will be done once the Base has voted on some amendments which do require approval by the Base.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer read some information regarding the investment account stating that in the last quarter, the account has lost \$816 from its previous value due to fluctuations in the market. Since that report was printed, the market value has gone back up some. The account also includes \$5,057.54 cash on-hand which can be accessed as needed.
- The previous Treasurer's Report showed an amount written to USSVI Regional. The check number was 1696.
- The amount in the Base checking account includes two sub-accounts - The Scholarship Fund and the Cold War Memorial Maintenance and Preservation Fund. These are not accessible funds for use by the Base except for the purposes described. Rick Sparger asked that the Treasurer's Report show the funds available to the Base in addition to the sub-accounts and the total of all that is in the account. The Treasurer will include that line item in future reports.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike stated that we need to make it our mission to invite those we meet out in town to our meetings.
- Mike, who had worked for Scott Buchheit for a long time, talked about how much of a good man he was for which to work.
- Mike stated that emails from national USSVI are placed on the Base website for all to read rather than simply forwarding them to everyone via email. Nick keeps the emails up on the site for a while and then removes them.

Meeting was adjourned at 1908.