

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2019

Meeting called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Joe Lunn, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Nick Nichols, Lewis Leal, Harry Nettles, Ken Hutchison, Ed Stank, Bill Freligh, Gordon Long and Gordon Williams.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to Report

Membership – Mike Ciesielko for Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 280 members.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- Nothing to Report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- New Scholarship Raffles are in progress

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- If anyone has anything that you want be published on Facebook/Instagram, send it to Lou.
- Lou only wants to do things using the social media platforms that the Base is aware of since these are open to the public.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- USS TUNNY is having a reunion here in Charleston October 27-31 per Steve Curry.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **EMC(SS) Frederick 'Fred' Pennell Sr., USN Ret, WWII SUBVET**, age 95, departed on Eternal Patrol on July 16th. His service was held on July 22nd with 15 Charleston Base members present. He was not a USSVI member. He qualified on USS CERO SS-225 in 1943 and served on TORO SS-422, CREVALLE SS-291 and AMBERJACK II SS-522. I was asked by the family to speak on behalf of submariners and I asked that those base members who could, please attend. He was a WWII Submariner with 4 war patrols and 7 enemy ships sunk on those patrols. We gave him the standard bell tolling service.
- **John Johnson**, age 77, departed on Eternal Patrol June 29th at home. He was known as "Jack", "Jackmo", "Big Jack", or "Mr. J". Not a USSVI member. Online condolence sent. He served in USS Torsk (SS-423) and as UDT.
- **TMC(SS) William Wilcox, US Navy Retired**, age 75, departed on eternal patrol July 15th. He served on the RAY SSN 653. Not a USSVI member. Online condolence sent.
- **George Gallagher** had his MRI. He has the results of the MRI but can't read it. Its five pages and it may as well be Greek. He is waiting for them to give me an appointment so we can plan my next move. More as it develops.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care. He would like to talk to you so give him a call. His cell #: 843.412.2530. He has been able to show up at the After Battery. If there is anyone living in his area he would like to have a ride to the base meeting if possible.
- **Don Londergan** is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938.
- **Bob & Kathleen Ingrebretson** have moved to Cumming GA, northeast of Atlanta. He said it was not easy to move but they are now settled. I sent him the info for the Atlanta Base and his comment was: As for the base here they meet in Lawrenceville and with traffic here it could be a pain. At any rate with all we are doing right now I have been too busy to check them out, they will never measure up to the Charleston Base though I am sure. I will definitely stop in when back in the area.
- Nick reminded 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
- Ingrebretson move updated in National and CB database
- Hardy accidentally paid National dues to CB but is not joining us. Will work this out with Membership Chair.
- Website Pictures – Webmaster will begin putting our members' pictures on the National website this week.
- Rodney McKanna informed us that Undy 500 will be in September
- Page 2's will be sent to everyone in the base next week. There are several shipmates and family members who have given Nick information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

Special Events –Rick Sparger:

- It is time to start thinking about what parades where we participate and pull the float. That means making sure that it is ready to go. We normally pull the float in Elloree, Ridgeville, Harleyville and Summerville, but we need the dates of each location.
- Ken Hutchison stated that he is willing to pull the float anytime.
- Nick Nichols talked about another base that uses their float, which is smaller, for static displays. They were able to get several new members from this. Several possibilities of locations and events were mentioned where we could park the float and have a few members there to provide info and membership applications: Short Stay, Navy Exchange, Little David, Riverdogs Stadium, Citadel football game, Patriot's Point was even suggested.
- Rick Sparger will look into Short Stay for Labor Day Weekend and Ed Stank will check on the Riverdogs, but arranging these type events should be a function of the Public Affairs Officer.

Recreation – Ed Stank

- Ed provided a detailed report for the cost of holding the Christmas party at the Air Force Base facility. His report is based on 125 attendees.
- Ed has requested a quote from the Fleet Reserve Association but has not yet followed up.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- A decision regarding the location must be made before September.
- Ed is still looking into attending a Citadel football game September 21 vs Charleston Southern.
- Ed suggested that we arrange a picnic at Wannamaker Park in the fall. Base members can bring whatever that they want to cook for them and their families. It is likely that members would bring extras to share with each other and just simply have a good time. The location has things for kids to do like the waterpark. The facility would be provided by the Base. The members would only need to pay the park entry fee of two dollars.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The two ratified amendments to the Charleston Base By-Laws still require entry as well as the administrative changes provided by the By-Laws Review committee.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- As attendance of the Base meeting declines, the 50/50 drawings are also decreasing.
- The Base had written a check to the Naval Submarine League for the Haddo/Pollack plaque replacement. This included monies donated by Base members as well as the amount previously approved by the Base.
- Ken Hutchison suggested that we invite members of the Naval Submarine League to attend our Base meeting. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko will take this for action.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Nothing to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 1858.