

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**October 3, 2019**

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

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 280 members. This is dues month for 2020.

### **COB – Joe Lunn:**

- Nothing to Report
- Ken Hutchison reminded everyone about Veterans Day in November. The October Base meeting is the last reminder for the Base membership. Nick Nichols reminded everyone to check the Events Calendar on the Base website.

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

- Ed Stank and Rick cleaned out and straightened the storage shed.
- The Charleston Base float needs to be cleaned before it can be used. Other than parking in front of Coffee Roasters for Veterans Day, Rick does not expect to use the float until the Christmas parades.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- The Middleton Gardens raffle will be held at the next Base Meeting.
- Carl has money to be given to the Base Treasurer tonight for deposit as part of the Scholarship fund.

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- CWO3(SS) Lee Roland Young, USN Ret., 75, departed on Eternal Patrol September 25th at Summerville Community Hospice Home. Lee joined the Navy in 61 and retired in 88, beginning as a TM and then commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer 3. He was a Life Member USSVI National and Charleston Base, Holland Club member, and a member of the FRA Branch 269, American Legion Post 166 and VFW Post 3433. He qualified in 1963 on GEORGE WASHINGTON SSBN/SSN 598 and served on STONEWALL JACKSON SSBN 634, HENRY CLAY SSBN 625 and FRANK CABLE AS40. A note of condolence has been placed in the online Funeral Home memorial website.
- Lee's memorial service will be on Saturday, October 5 at Whispering Pines Memorial Gardens. The service will be conducted by a minister and Rick Wise will stand in for Nick for the Bell Tolling Service.
- Judy Hutchison, Ken's wife, had her biopsy and the results are that there is no cancer.

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- Becky Roberts broke her leg on Friday, September 27th. She is now home in a leg brace and is scheduled for a full leg cast Thursday (today). Bill is the nurse, chief cook and bottle washer while she is recovering.
- Don Ort had successful surgery on August 20th to improve circulation on the left side of his body and open the arteries that were blocked. Surgery was 9 hours and there were some difficulties with bleeding. He is fine but has trouble getting around and the healing is slow.
- Richard Walsh went to Trident ER on Sunday [22nd], had foot surgery on Tuesday [24th] and was released to home on Thursday [26th]. He is doing well on his crutches and should be back at full speed in a month.  
Ed Stank had his back surgery on Sept 23rd and is now home and doing well.
- Joann Rohrssen has been in the hospital since the 5th of September as a result from complications of gall bladder removal and an infection that was septic. She almost died due to a cut intestine. She is in Trident room 508; visitors welcome.
- Don Londergan is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938.
- Bob Snyder is home with palliative care. He would like to talk to you so give him a call. His cell#: 843.412.2530. If there is anyone living in his area, he would like to have a ride to the base meeting, if possible.
- 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.
- USS TUNNY is having a reunion here in Charleston October 27-31 per Steve Curry.

### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- All BOD members and Committee Chairs need to regularly review the Events Page on the Base website to verify accuracy of the information. When COB puts out information to the entire Base membership – obtained from the Events Page – it must be right. Recently, Nick was informed that the date for the Kaps for Kids trip to Greenville was not correct. Nick also was informed that there is no longer any WWII Swamp Fox meetings unless Stacy Power asks for the meeting. Therefore, if Stacy calls a meeting, someone needs to inform Nick, otherwise it will not get posted on the Events Page.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Lou has started listing the Lost Boats on Facebook as of September. He is also putting them on Instagram.
- If anyone has anything that you want be published on Facebook/Instagram, send it to Lou. His email address is SOCIAL (at) USSVICB.ORG
- If the Base has anything published, LIKE and SHARE it. If you do not know what those two words mean, then have your grandkids show you.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh**

- Nothing to report.

### **PAO – JERRY STOUT**

- Jerry's first story will be the Kaps for Kids event in Greenville.

## **USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

- He is looking for other ideas to promote the Base.
- The USS TUNNY is having a mini reunion. Jerry will be there and write about it. The Commissioning CO will also be there.
- There may also be an upcoming reunion of the USS CLAMAGORE.

### **NEWSLETTER – RICK WISE**

- The big cost of the Base Newsletter is the mailing to those members who do not have email addresses. Rick will be sending a postcard to these members to be returned asking that the Base Newsletter be sent each month. For those members who do not reply, they will receive another letter informing them that the Newsletter will no longer be sent unless they respond.
- Maintenance on the Little David is tentatively scheduled for October 17-19. Rick will send an email to remind everyone.
- Rick reported having a phone call this week from a LT about donations for the Navy Birthday Ball to be held at the North Charleston Coliseum October 12. It is simply too late to even consider but Base Commander Mike Ciesielko polled the BOD anyway, finding no support. Carl Chinn noted that tickets are sold for the event and that it should support itself. Mike Ciesielko pointed out that the donations are intended as sponsorship for advertising, but the fact remains that she contacted us too late.

### **COMPTROLLER – RICK WISE**

- Rick reviewed the plans for the money placed into the Investment Fund from the Base Life Membership dues. The purpose of the Investment Fund was to cover Charleston Base Operations when the number of Life Members exceeded the Annual Members. Charleston Base is currently at that point, having approximately 60 percent Life Members vs. 40 percent Annual Members.
- Rick proposed that usage of the monies from the Investment fund be used, if necessary, for the Christmas party as Base Operations. There was a significant number in disagreement among the BOD members about what Base activities should be included as “operations”.
- The Treasurer noted the amount of money in the checking account that is not assigned to other uses e.g. Scholarship and is available for usage. After much discussion, which included even the option of changing dues or the event ticket prices.
- The big question is constitutes base operations. Nick made a motion to table the issue and have a Financial Committee appointed to determine how the investment fund is to be used. The motion was seconded by Rick Sparger and passed by show of hands. The committee members are Gordon Williams, Rick Wise and Carl Chinn.

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

- Calendars are here.

### **Hunley Coordinator – Harry Nettles**

- Nothing to report.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- There will be a guest speaker at the October Base meeting – the VA Hospital Voluntary Services Manager.

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Gordon presented a motion with Tom Lawson seconding to place a half-page advertisement in the Stratford High School Yearbook for the price of \$160. The information regarding ad sizes and prices had been sent to each BOD member prior to the meeting for consideration. In discussion it was recommended to place the quarter-page ad for \$90 instead. Nick Nichols presented concern about how many yearbook ads that the base could support if other high schools made the same request. Rick Sparger noted that we are not receiving the request from the high school, but rather the daughter of one of our Base members who happens to be on the yearbook committee. Carl Chinn expressed concern about what other activities of children/grandchildren are we willing to support if it was requested. Gordon amended the motion to be the quarter-page ad at \$90 and passed by a 6 to 5 vote. Following the meeting, Brian Davy – whose daughter is on the yearbook committee – offered to split the cost with the Base if we would be willing to place the half-page ad. This means that the Base would only pay \$80 vice the \$90 which was just approved. Gordon presented this option to the BOD members via email asking for a response. The result was that the half-page ad was chosen. The email from the Base Secretary detailing the results is printed here:
  - “I received eight responses from the BOD members who attended the meeting last Thursday. Most replies were to me only, but each one was YES to accepting Brian’s offer. For tallying of the votes, I only counted those names who were present at the meeting. Counting myself as one YES vote the total was 9 YES / 0 NO. We had 6 YES / 5 NO at the meeting. I did also receive positive responses from Ed Stank (I hope you are healing up), Butch and Rodney. Two Base members offered to share Brian’s part of the price at \$25 each – I will reply to you separately. I am certain that Brian will want to thank you. He is copied on this email.”

### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 1855.