

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2019

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

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

VC – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to Report

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 286 members.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- Asked about which parades we are attending this year.
- COB will send email to start the Distinguished Submariner Award.

Hunley Coordinator – Harry Nettles

- Everyone needs to read the book “*Sea of Darkness*” which provides more insight about the H.L. Hunley.
- Be at the next Hunley Ceremony as it is going to be “dynamic”.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Not present.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- There are several shipmates and family members who have provided information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- Marvin White departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, November 1, 2019. He spent four years as a submariner on the USS Sennet (SS-408). Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon, November 5, 2019 at the Salem United Methodist Church in Hendersonville, with burial following in the Jonesville Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant. He was not a member of USSVI.
- David Fulmer Hottenstein II, of Ravenel departed on Eternal Patrol on Monday, October 21, 2019. He joined the US Navy and attended Nuclear Power School in Groton. Then served aboard the Diesel Submarine USS Grenadier (SS-525) and the Nuclear Submarine USS Haddo (SSN-604) from 1960-1970 and then spent several years in the reserves. He worked at the Medical University of South Carolina and then went to work at the Charleston Naval Shipyard as a System Analyst until his retirement. His funeral service was on Friday, November 1. He was not a member of USSVI.
- JoAnn Rohrssen has been placed under Hospice Care at Agape Hospice in Room 9 on Myers Rd. This is the same location where Lee Young was. Ralph has been told she is in her last days. Joann had been in the hospital since the 5th of September as a result from

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

complications of gall bladder removal and an infection that was septic. She almost died due to a cut intestine.

- Ruth Ann Carlson was in the hospital from October 28 until yesterday. She was taken in due to a fall and is weak from not eating, drinking and taking her meds. She is at home with hospice care.
- Stacy Power was taken to the hospital after falling at home. He injured his leg and after some tests the doctors had to put a stent in his leg to open up blood flow to his foot. He was released on October 24. He is still having leg/foot problems due to the fall. He is having more doctor visits and tests to try to determine the exact issue.
- Received email from J.J. Fortier: I paid my annual dues in September. Still a member, still in pain 24/7. I am going in to surgery on November 14 for the right hip replacement. I was doing very well following the replacement of my left hip in February 2019. Just after the end of physical therapy I had a month of painless days. Then the right hip started. Right now there isn't a painless hour in my days. Been that way since July. I am finally getting it replaced at Trident Hospital on Thursday, November 14. Still hoping to make some meetings after recovery.
- Rick Wise is recovering from his MOHS surgery last month. He is here tonight.
- Ed Stank is recovering and is also here tonight.
- Becky Roberts is still recovering from her broken leg.
- Don Londergan is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938.
- Bob Snyder is home with palliative care.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- The Base Website is updated regularly. All BOD members and Committee Chairs need to regularly review the Events Page on the Base website to verify accuracy of the information.
- The website Events listing also has identifies who is responsible for each yearly event.
- Website Pictures - Webmaster is putting our member's pictures on the National website.
- All Charleston Base members should update their profiles on the USSVI National website. Please list any other associations that you are a member of: e.g. Boat Assocs., FRA, motorcycle groups etc... If you don't think that you can do it yourself, then send the information to Nick and he will make the changes for you.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Recreation – Ed Stank:

- Ed signed the contract with the FRA for the Charleston Base Christmas Party on December 7. The meal selection will be Prime Rib, Stuffed Pork Chops, Baked Flounder and Peach Cobbler as dessert. The music for the Christmas Party will be provided by Ed Freligh.
- Ed will provide a cake and wants it to be themed toward Pearl Harbor. A few design suggestions were presented.
- Ed and Rick Sparger have arranged for someone to come decorate on the afternoon prior to the party.
- Ticket sales for the Christmas Party this year will be limited to 120 due to available space.
- Ed requested receipts to be written for Christmas Party money he has received. He will get these after the meeting tonight.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Not present

PAO – Jerry Stout:

- Not present

Special Events – Rick Wise for Rick Sparger:

- The Veterans Day ceremony is scheduled to start at 1030 at the Dorchester County office building in Summerville. Muster time is 1000.
- Terry Trump will be bringing the float at 0900 to Coastal Coffee Roasters in Summerville for the Tolling of Lost Boats which will be at 1300 following the Veterans Day ceremony.
- Charlie Hudson and Ed Stank will pick up chairs, a table and the small podium from the storage shed.
- We do need a few men to help set up the float prior to the Tolling of Lost Boats.

Newsletter – Rick Wise:

- The newsletter will be out shortly. A few changes are still being incorporated.
- The Little David maintenance will possibly be in November – weather dependent.

CRAMA – Nick Nichols for Butch Bryar:

- Nick read an email from Butch to be placed on the Base website regarding exit polls taken at the last election in both Charleston and Mount Pleasant. The results of the polls overwhelmingly support keeping the Clamagore here as a museum instead of becoming an artificial reef.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to report

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon will not be present at the November Base meeting next week and asked BC to record the meeting for the Minutes.
- The Stratford High School Yearbook committee sent the Base the invoice for the entire advertisement price of \$160. The Base Treasurer, using money donated specifically by three additional Base members for the ad and the approved \$80, paid the entire amount. This leaves only \$10 owed to the Base by Brian Davy for his part of the advert.
- The dimensions will be 5 1/8H x 8W. We still need to get the ad designed and ready for transmittal to the yearbook committee.
- Gordon questioned the change in the price of the Christmas party from \$25 to \$20 from one Base meeting to the next. Ed discussed this with others and, based on location, had decided that this amount was sufficient. The price for this year's party will be \$20.

Hunley Association – Leslie for Larry Guthrie:

- Presented information to the Board about Hunley Association memberships and sponsorship at various amounts. Requested consideration by Charleston Base of providing a \$250 sponsorship. At the "Sponsor" level, the Base would receive four each of hats, car decals

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

and lapel pins. The items could then be auctioned or raffled at the Base meeting to recoup some of the funds. Ed Stank noted that this is a yearly – not a one time – donation. Rick Wise, as Comptroller, noted that funds for this do not exist in the General Fund and, if approved, would require pulling money from the Investment Fund. The Board will discuss this again at the January BOD meeting.

- For the Good of the Base: It is good to wear hats etc... to get attention for the Base but some people that had attended meetings in years past had talked about the grumpy old sailors at the meetings. Things have improved in this area but there is still plenty of room for improvement.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Dues paid on PayPal have cost the Base \$35 because of the fees associated with these online payments.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- We need to make an effort to get Base members' input for the Distinguished Submariner Award. BC noted that we seem to get nominations for the same people but there are others who are doing great things for the Base and should be recognized for the work that they are doing. COB will get the information sent to the Base members.

Meeting was adjourned at 1843.