

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**January 2, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Joe Lunn, Larry Knutson, Bill Freligh, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Nick Nichols, Butch Bryar, Ken Hutchison, Harry Nettles, Rick Wise, Glenn Little, Gordon Long and Gordon Williams.

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mike encouraged the Board to look at the entire Base membership for Distinguished Submariner Award (DSA) nominations. A few members have already had nomination forms submitted. Nick Nichols had been asked about individuals being presented a posthumous DSA with a family member accepting the award and presented the idea to the Board. There was full agreement that our By-Laws do not preclude this action, therefore the nomination and award shall be permitted if selected among the other candidates.

### **VC – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to Report

### **COB – Joe Lunn:**

- The Base will hold an Oyster Roast on Saturday, February 29 at the FRA. The tickets will cost \$25 each. There will also be a chili cookoff. Some concern was voiced about those who are not SubVets attending the event. Wrist bands will be required for those eating oysters. Treasurer and others acknowledged that we must make sure that our recreational activities pay for themselves. With the event being held at the FRA, everyone will purchase their own drinks from the bar rather than SubVets providing.
- COB is taking submittals for the Distinguished Submariner Award.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 290 members, however 37 of those are dink.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh**

- There are eleven (11) SubVets eligible as Holland Club Inductees. Ceremony is scheduled for the April Base meeting.
- The Board decided against having the buffet prior to the ceremony.

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

- Several canopies are at the SubVet storage facility and are not being used. Rick recommends selling them at the rummage sale supporting the Scholarship fund. Nick Nichols suggested setting a price and allowing the Base members a chance to purchase them before the rummage sale. Rick Wise advised that they must be inspected beforehand. Nick made the motion with Gordon Williams seconding that the Scholarship committee members will inspect each unit and allow Base members to have first dibs at a predetermined price prior to the rummage sale. The motion passed without objection.
- Rick wanted to discuss the cost of the hats for Kaps for Kids with Bill Kennedy, but he is not here tonight.

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- Rick thanked Ed Stank for his work of organizing the Base Christmas Party.
- Due to the low turnout of people at the Elloree Christmas Parade and the distance involved, Rick recommends that we no longer participate in that event.
- Rick suggested that we consider Moncks Corner, Goose Creek and possibly North Charleston in addition to Harleyville and Summerville.
- Rick expressed his thanks to Charlie Hudson and those who cleaned, painted and prepared the float for presentation in the recent parades.
- Rick stated that the Base has approached Habitat for Humanity near the FRA concerning possibly storing the float on their property. They will need a “Release of Liability” statement on Charleston Base letterhead. Secretary Gordon Long will write the request and provide for signature at the Base meeting next week.
- Rick would like to participate in parades throughout the year, rather than only a few at Christmas. The Moncks Corner parade on July 4 is not viable due to the summer heat.
- The Amberjack Memorial will be held on April 11 – We need to arrange a guest speaker. We also need to get this, along with the Hunley/Housatonic Ceremony published in the paper. BC will contact Jerry Stout (PAO) about these. Any time that we can get some SubVet community event publicized, it will be to our benefit.
- **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**
- In 2019, the committee received \$3,467. The current balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$2,492.
- The Scholarship application for 2020 is available on the Base website.
- The Rummage Sale in support of the Scholarship Fund will be held at Rodney’s Rockets parking lot (intersection of Old Trolley Road and Travelers Blvd) on Saturday, May 2 from 0700 to 1300. The committee is working to get a nearby storage unit for the household donations. For now, please hold on to items which are to be donated. The Rummage Sale will be donated – not consigned – items. After the day is over, if Base members want their non-sold donated items back, you will need to be there to pick it up. Otherwise, the Kidney Foundation truck will collect all remaining items by 1500 and deliver to their Thrift Store just a short distance away.

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- There are several shipmates and family members who have provided information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Andrew ‘Andy’ Maples** departed on Eternal Patrol Friday, Dec. 6 at the Victory House. A service was held on Dec. 9 and I found out about the passing on Dec. 11. Andy was a member-at-large of USSVI and the Holland Club. He retired after 22 years in the Navy and served on Calhoun, Clamagore, Bonefish and Trumpetfish. A condolence message was placed on the FH website.
- **Patti Oelkuch [proun. El-ko], Tom Lawson’s sister**, passed away Nov. 26 in Fort Wayne IN. A condolence message was placed on the FH website.
- **Anna Emerson, Mike’s wife**, had shoulder reversal surgery on Monday, Nov. 30 and went home for recovery on Tuesday.
- **Ed Simokat** fell on Friday, Dec. 27 and was taken to Trident where it was found he had a broken back. He had surgery Friday afternoon for plates and steel rods. There is NO

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PARALYSIS. He has since been moved to The Village of Summerville for rehab room 8. He would like to have visitors or calls, he has his cell phone.

- **Stacy Power** had his left big toe amputated on Dec. 5 as a result of problems he had before Elaine passed away. He is home recovering and was on IV antibiotics. He has a doctor's appointment on Jan 15 to discuss further treatment. He plans on being at the base meeting next week also.
- **Jim Loveday** fell before Thanksgiving and broke his pelvis. After rehab in The Village he went home on Dec. 8 for recovery and in-home PT.
- **Ron Chambers** was in the hospital early Dec with a blood clot on his lung. He was due to go home just before Christmas. Not sure which rehab he went to or is in.
- **Ron Snyder** had a minor heart attack on Dec. 12 and was taken to Trident where he had stents put in two of his arteries. He is home recovering.
- **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:**

- Website is updated regularly
- Website Pictures – Webmaster is putting our member's pictures on the National website.
- All Charleston Base members should update their profiles on the National website.
- Make sure to check the Events Calendar
- Nick Nichols presented the idea that, as submarine veterans, we should be involved in organizing the Submarine Ball. He wants to get more information to present to the Board by the February BOD meeting.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not present.

### **Recreation – Vacant:**

- Not present.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- It is now January and CRAMA Dues are due.
- CRAMA has a court date set for January 30. There are two motions before the judge. The location is 100 Broad Street – Charleston County Judicial Center. Only the lawyers are allowed to speak, but a show of support – especially wearing your vest – is good.

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:**

- Nothing to report

### **Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:**

- The Hunley/Housatonic Memorial Service will be held on FEB 17, 1900 at Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivan's Island. Uniform is Charleston Tuxedo.

### **PAO – Jerry Stout:**

- Not present

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### **COMPTROLLER – Rick Wise:**

- Rick provided the proposed Charleston Base Budget – One item that Rick believed need addressing is the request for \$1300 to purchase 100 hats (\$13 each) for KAPS FOR KIDS. The vendor who provided this quote is local. Ed Stank received a quote of about \$7.95 each. Rick stated that most children are going to lose the hats in short order and had asked KAPS FOR KIDS Chairman to get the lower priced hats. Ken Hutchison will check with the National Storekeeper about cost of hats. There was a question of whether the cheaper hats were screen-printed or embroidered.
- Nick Nichols made a motion with Rick Sparger seconding to purchase the lower cost hats. The motion carried without objection. Rick Wise will adjust the Base Budget accordingly after receiving the estimated cost (including shipping) for 100 hats from the Base Storekeeper.
- Rick Wise stated that we need to generate guidance about using money from the Investment Fund to supplement the General Fund. A budgetary limit must be set to the amount that can be drawn by the Board before it requires authorization from the Base. There was a short discussion about the diversification of the money contained in the Investment Fund. More debate about limits must be done before any action is taken.

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise:**

- Rick has been doing the Charleston Base Newsletter for four years and would like a relief.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Nothing to Report

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Gordon discussed plans for the advertisement in the Stratford High School yearbook. It has already been paid for, but must be assembled. It, essentially, will be a U.S. Navy recruitment ad specifically for submarines with USSVI and Charleston Base logos. The proposed ad will be sent to the Board for review upon completion.

### **Friends of the Hunley – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick Nichols read portion of the minutes from the last meeting regarding the previously tabled item about Friends of the Hunley. Whatever is done is only good for one year. Nick stated that what we as Charleston Base get from this is the recognition of support. When the Hunley people post the list of supporters, Charleston Base will be among them, potentially visible to the estimated 4000 or so submarine sailors that are in the Charleston area. Nick made a motion with Glenn Little seconding that we make a one-time \$250 donation to Friends of the Hunley for the year 2020. As long as we get sufficient exposure, then we will consider this again the following year. Rick Wise noted that this money will come from the Base administrative budget. Motion carried. The check will be ready for Larry Guthrie at the Base meeting next week.

### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- The Investment Fund has grown this last year by more than \$4000.

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

- Mike noted that it is time for the annual treasury audit. Harry Nettles and Ken Hutchison will perform this duty in January. It must be completed prior to the March Board meeting.
- Ken Hutchison agreed to assume the duties of Election Coordinator. This year, 2020, the offices of Vice-Commander and Secretary are up for nomination.

Meeting was adjourned at 1922.