

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2020

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

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

VC – Tom Lawson:

- Received information back from Habitat for Humanity which essentially states that we must get a lawyer to write up an agreement that Habitat/Restore will not be liable for anything if they allow the Charleston Base float to be stored there. We had had done that already, but apparently they are asking for more legalese in the agreement.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 276 members. Some have been reinstated. There are about 30 such cases each year. Nick made the comment that he does immediately remove members from the Base online sailing list for this exact reason, else he would be just putting them right back on the list.

COB – Joe Lunn:

- Enjoyed the Oyster Roast and was impressed by use of the cement mixer to clean the oysters.
- The Treasurer estimates that the cost to the Base above the ticket revenues was about \$400.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The Rummage Sale is scheduled for May 2. A storage area is available for donation of small items to be kept until the date. Offers to help set up are gratefully accepted.
- A \$50 grocery raffle from Harris Teeter and a \$30 dinner raffle for Top Dawg Tavern will be held at the March Base meeting.

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.
- **Don Ort** has been diagnosed with pneumonia.
- **Darlene Graham, James' wife**, is recovering from the early February stent procedure.
- **John Furst** is recovering from his bronchitis.
- **Ed Stank** is recovering from his neck surgery early last month.
- **Ed Simokat** is recovering from his broken back.
- **Stacy Power** is recovering from his toe amputation.
- **Jim Loveday** is recovering from his fall around Thanksgiving last year.
- **Don Londergan** is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938. Don was at the Feb. meeting.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.

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Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Website is updated regularly
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.
- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- Lowe's recently sent a message saying that if you use MyLowe's to claim a military discount, then you must update and verify your registration with them. Do this by signing onto the Lowe's website and logging in.
- Nick discussed the upcoming (April 11) Submarine Birthday Ball and the procedure for requesting numbered challenge coins.
- The theme of the Sub Ball is going to be USS CLAMAGORE SS343.
- Nick made a motion to donate \$250 to the Sub Ball with Rick Wise seconding. After some discussion, the motion carried without objection.
- Nick made a motion for the purchase of 5 plaques that we use for Distinguished Submariner and other awards. The approximate cost is \$30 each. Rick Wise stated that these items are already budgeted and required no motion.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lewis discussed the 9-11 Heroes Run to be held on September 12. It is an opportunity to get the Base some exposure. Complementary non-profit table space is limited/first come basis. Table space can be purchased for \$250. Last year, the FRA and the Marine Corp were represented. Mike Ciesielko asked Lewis to keep us updated as the event planners put details in place.
- Lewis asked everyone to share the Base social media sites. If you don't know how to do this, ask your grandchildren.

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Harry provided a report of the Memorial Ceremony and there was some discussion about ways to improve for next year.

Holland Club – Bill Frelich

- The Holland Club Induction is scheduled for the April Base meeting. We have fourteen eligible recipients. Some members live in other states and likely will not attend.
- No food will be provided by the Base. Those attending are encouraged to purchase food from the FRA.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- CAPT Gerald J Corcoran is the scheduled speaker at the Amberjack Memorial Ceremony.

Newsletter – Rick Wise:

- Secretary just sent Rick the Base meeting minutes last night. The Newsletter will be sent tomorrow.

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COMPTROLLER – Rick Wise:

- Rick will not be at the Base meeting next week.
- We need to update our sound system. Rick showed information about the proposed equipment. We will need to get two of the units at about \$100 each. Some additional cost for protection of the gear will be involved. Carl Chinn will store the equipment. The cost is about \$100 each. We will need to purchase some things to transport and protect the equipment, but this should not a significant expense.
- Rick made a motion with Glenn seconding that we do not lend out the new sound system. All are in agreement.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Not present

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present

PAO – Jerry Stout:

- Not present

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Asked about taking pictures at the Sub Ball. A resounding YES because the pictures normally take about six months to get distributed.
- Ken Hutchison noted that in years past, the Base photographer would take pictures at the meetings. Glenn has started doing that.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The Investment Fund has lost \$2,073 in the last month due to coronavirus fears, but it is starting to recover.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Make sure that the required annual reports are provided to Wayne at National.

Meeting was adjourned at 1832.