

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**August 6, 2020**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Vice Commander Tom Lawson. Attending were Board of Directors members Larry Knutson, Gordon Williams, Gordon Long, Nick Nichols, Rick Sparger, Rick Wise, Ken Hutchison, Mike Emerson, Harry Nettles and Glenn Little. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko is currently in quarantine but attended the meeting via speakerphone thanks to Nick Nichols.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Tom welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 277 members since the departure on Eternal Patrol of Billy Buntin and Chuck Spence.

### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- Willy stated that he had nearly nothing to report. The balance in the investment fund has changed a little bit. The money received at the July Base meeting will be included in the August report. Rick Sparger clarified that his \$20 donation back to the Base was for the Scholarship Fund.
- Rick Sparger renewed his concern about the format and readability of the Treasurer's Report and that it should be improved.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report

### **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.
- **ENC(SS) Billy Harold Buntin** departed on Eternal Patrol on July 20. He joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1975. Bill was a Life Member of USSVI National [2014], Life Member of Charleston Base [2014], a Holland Club member and a member of FRA Branch 269. He qualified on USS SEA POACHER SS-406, and served on GRENADIER SS-525, TIRANTE SS-420, BARRACUDA SS-550, ORION AS-18 and TIRU SS-416. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website
- **ICC(SS) Charles F. 'Chuck' Spence, Jr.** departed on Eternal Patrol on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>. He joined the Navy in 1954 and retired in 1974. Chuck was a Life Member of USSVI National [2019] and Life Member of Charleston Base [2019] and the Holland Club member. He qualified on USS BARBERO SS-317 in 1956 and served on GEORGE WASHINGTON SSBN/SSN-598, NATHAN HALE SSBN-623, NATHANAEL GREENE SSBN-636 and TECUMSEH SSBN-628. When there is an obituary, a note of condolence from Charleston Base will be placed on the funeral home website.
- **Dorothy Pothier**, sister of George Scharf, passed away on July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Kathy Smith**, wife of P.M. 'Smitty' Smith, passed away on July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Harry Nettles had successful retina repair on his left eye.
- **Gene Weir** has had his cancer return for the third time. He is working with the doctors to decide a treatment plan.

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans shows great improvement.
- **Rick Wise** will be having radioactive seed implants to treat prostate cancer in mid-to-late October. Rick advised everyone about
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- **Harry Nettles** advised the group about his recent eye surgery.
- Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the Eternal Patrol this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.

### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- Website is constantly updated.
- 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.
- Charleston Base now has a YouTube channel compliments of our Social Media guru, Lou Lewis. The Memorial Day service was filmed and put on there.
- The WWII week at Kings Bay has been cancelled for 2020.
- Nick advised the Board about a request from Ken Nichols at SE Regional USSVI for each Base to have a point of contact for a USSVI National charity board for the purpose of providing laptops for children in school if there is a need. A request for a Base member to be the POC will be presented at the Base meeting next week.

### **Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn:**

- The rummage sale for the Scholarship fund will likely be held in late September or early November after the weather gets cooler. October will be out since the store will be busy with Halloween. The Top Dawg raffle tickets are currently on sale. Contact Rick for tickets.
- At the rummage sale, Rick recommends having several Base members to cook hotdogs and hamburgers and have soft drinks available as well.

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

- Rick recommends that, since the Base has not done anything all year and that there has been no discussion of a Christmas party, we should hold a hamburger/hotdog picnic at Bushy Park and ask folks to bring sides. Rick recommended that the Base should provide some of the beer/wine along with the soft drinks. We will have to have some volunteers to help with the work.
- One of our members, Lee Rackley, has a really nice charcoal hog cooker along with pots and pans that he wants to donate. He only needs someone to come pick it up. Ken Hutchison has access to a trailer which will haul the cooker. Rick will give Ken's contact info to Lee so that action can be taken soon.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- The FRA has new mandates associated with use of the facility. Everyone must heed these rules in order to protect ability of the FRA to continue to operate.

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

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:**

- Ken is only going to order half as many 2021 Submarine Calendars as is normally ordered.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Nothing to report
- Ken Hutchison recommended that the photographer take pictures at the Base Meeting as had been done in the past. Glenn has been taking pictures and providing them to Nick, but posting them on the website had been curtailed for two reasons – limited storage and the fact that folks had made comments about all of the meetings looking the same. Glenn provide some new photos.

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise:**

- Nothing to report

### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:**

- Nothing to report

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Nothing to report

### **CRAMA – Rick Wise for Butch Bryar:**

- Patriots Point has not responded to CRAMA's motion even though the 20 day period given by the judge has past.

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- There will be no Kaps for Kids trips until further notice.
- Mike has four containers of supplies for when the trips will resume but due to the COVID shutdown, he is emphasizing NO TRIPS RIGHT NOW. Until he gets a call from the hospital saying otherwise and informs us accordingly, no one needs to ask.
- Rick Sparger inquired about Kaps pictures from other bases in American Submariner. Mike stated that they have submitted pictures to the magazine but has no other information.
- The work of submitting these pictures and write-ups and other Base events should be handled by our Base Public Affairs Officer.
- Ken Hutchison suggested making a donation to the Shriners for their work with the children. This will be proposed at the Base meeting next week.

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

- Nothing to report

### **National USSVI Elections – Mike Ciesielko:**

- The National USSVI election was discussed. While the candidates are running unopposed, there are other resolutions on the ballot. Mike had logged into USSVI earlier today and cast his vote. He stated that the items for debate are self-explanatory and that every Base member should logon and cast his vote. At this point, paper ballots will not make it in time.

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

- We have some Base members who are holding positions, but for health or other reasons are not fulfilling the duties of that respective office. It may be time to get someone else to take over the watch. Encourage those Base members to consider various offices when you think that they are able to do the work.

### **VA – Tom Lawson:**

- All of the VA Primary Care offices have moved to the facility next to Trident Hospital. The specialty clinics will be in the new building near Trident Technical College.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not present.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Not present

### **PAO – Jerry Stout:**

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1844.