

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Gordon Williams, Rick Wise, Ken Hutchison, Tom Lawson, Butch Bryar, Nick Nichols, Bill Frelich, Marty Sessler, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Larry Knutson, Gordon Long, Lou Leal and Glenn Little.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The money from the July Base meeting is recorded as part of the August Financial Report.
- Willy said that he had sent the check to the Shriners in Greenville explaining its purpose. He received a letter of appreciation as a receipt and a flyer about one of the children at the hospital.
- The Base voted approved an annual donation of \$250 to the Shriners at the August Base meeting. It is scheduled for each October until changed by vote of the Base members.

CRAMA – Rick Wise for Butch Bryar:

- CRAMA is still waiting on decision from the judge. Patriots Point had asked for an extension.
- Butch provided update on efforts to save the Clamagore. He had been contacted by the Post & Courier.
- Butch talked about the requirements that are required for making a vessel environmentally safe prior to making it into an artificial reef. The cost of doing this to any ship is high, but a submarine is even more.

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.
- **MM1(SS) David Robert Saari** departed on Eternal Patrol on August 13. He joined the Navy in 1953 and retired in 1977. Dave was Life Member of USSVI National [2010], Life Member of Charleston Base [2010], a Holland Club member, the FRA Branch 269, VFW, American Legion. He qualified on USS TRUMPETFISH SS-425 in 1960, and served on LAFAYETTE SSBN-616, JAMES MONROE SSBN-622, and SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website
- **Tim France** was in the hospital ICU with pneumonia mid-August. He is now on an antibiotic protocol and is home. Tim is a recent addition to the base but lives in Bluffton SC and will only attend a couple of meetings each year.
- **Linn Rogers Sr.** was in Trident ICU due to a fall in mid-August. After some issues with meds, he is doing much better.
- **Roger Gibson** received the results from a heart valve test. The valves that were operating at 30% are now normal.
- **Harry Nettles** had successful retina repair on his left eye.
- **Gene Weir** has low-grade lymphoma which is very treatable. He is taking pills daily and an injection every four weeks.

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- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans shows great improvement.
- **Rick Wise** will be nuclear medicine mid-to-late October in lieu of prostate surgery; he will be having some hormone pretreatment leading up to the procedure..
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- 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.
- New ID cards, which are similar to the CAC that is issued to active duty members will be provided to retirees if you need to replace your ID card. The ID that you currently hold will continue to be valid for your lifetime unless you replace it.

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.
- 2021 National Convention is scheduled for August in Orlando. The room rate is \$105. More info later.
- Windows 7 is not secure for online usage. Microsoft is no longer supporting – that is providing security updates for Windows 7. You may continue to use it offline but DO NOT connect it to the internet – wired or wireless – as it is a security risk.
- Microsoft is killing off Internet Explorer. Many websites are no longer supporting Internet Explorer and require a different browser. Windows 10 brought one called Edge. There are also Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and others.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- We had discussed having a formal ceremony in October. There are a few of our Holland Club inductees who don't want to be there in October due to COVID concerns, however the largest issue is that of our attending family members. The new plan is to read the names of those eligible in 2020 at the October Base Meeting, but hold off on the formal ceremony for these men until April 2021 Holland Club induction.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The Rummage Sale to benefit the Scholarship Fund is likely going to be scheduled for November. The location is getting ready for Halloween activity, so October is not possible.
- The new Scholarship application is on the Base website.
- There was a question about whether the Base would front the money for the Scholarship Fund. Although that has been done before, it is better for everyone that the monies are raised beforehand. Carl stated that the Scholarship Fund can be handled without pulling money from the Base.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 277 members.
- Annual National and Base Dues are due in October.

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- National USSVI was supposed to be take dues payments directly about five years ago but it has not happened. We can expect dues payments to be the same method as last year.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick asked about holding a Base picnic during the month of October. After a short discussion, the date of October 17 was chosen.
- The price will be \$5 per Base member, \$5 for first guest and \$10 for each additional guest.
- We do not expect to hold a Christmas Party this year but we will have a December Base Meeting, since the Christmas Party is normally held in lieu of a Base Meeting.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon will be unable to attend the Base Meeting next week and asked for someone to record the meeting.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- The 9-11 race has been cancelled, so we will not be setting up a table.
- He will put it on the calendar for next year.

Newsletter – Rick Wise:

- The Base Newsletter will be sent within the next couple of days.

Little David – Rick Wise:

- Painting to be done late September or sometime in October (not 17th). The date of this work is weather dependent.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- NPS graduation is tomorrow 4 SEP, but the school has not provided Charleston Base any information about the graduates.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Nothing reported

VA – Tom Lawson:

- VA is attempting to reopen and return to normal operation. One of the big obstacles is getting the volunteer drivers back.
- The VA is planning to provide produce baskets. Details are in an email from Tom.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to report.

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Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No current activity until

PAO – Jerry Stout:

- Not present

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Not present

Miscellaneous Events:

- Marty Sessler noted an upcoming “Back the Blue” event in Summerville. He will mention this at the Base meeting next week.
- Need to check with Rodney about the Undie 500.

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. He will be contacting at least two members about their willingness to retain these positions and performance of the associated work.
- Mike will be randomly questioning current officers about their duties.

Meeting was adjourned at 1908.