

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1804 by Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Bill Freligh, Gordon Williams, Rick Wise, Don Ort, Nick Nichols, Ed Stank, Glenn Little, Gordon Long, Larry Knutson, Harry Nettles, Carl Chinn and Rick Sparger. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was not present.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- We are planning to induct approximately 18 new inductees to the Holland Club in April.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- There was confusion at USSVI National regarding membership and PAYPAL payments resulting in an overpayment of National dues to the amount of \$350. This amount is already being whittled away and should soon be down to zero from further reinstatements which occur as dink members renew.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Rick provided the Base 2020 final budget report. Even though we had lower income last year, we also had less expenses. We actually finished the year with more money available to start 2021. Rick bases the budget on annual membership renewals and is waiting on the 2021 information. In addition, dues received from new Life Members are now being put into the General Fund, since we have a sufficient amount of money in the Investment Fund to run Charleston Base operations.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Nothing to report

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Don stated that it is good to be back after his long illness. Don outlined a couple of awards that he would like to see presented from National. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko asked to meet with Don within the next week or so regarding a National award that he would also like a member to receive. No details discussed at this time.

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.
- **QMC(SS) Gerald 'Jerry' L. Farr, USN Retired**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan. 24. His funeral service was on Jan. 31 with a good number of Charleston Base members attending. He joined the Navy in 1952 and retired in 1975, was a Life Member of USSVI National, Life Member of Charleston Base, the Holland Club and Life Member of FRA Branch 269. He qualified on SEA OWL SS-405 in 1963 and served on DANIEL WEBSTER SSBN-626 and MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658. He also served at COMNAVFOR MARIANAS GUAM, NAVAL TRAINING COMMAND GREAT LAKES IL and NTC SAN DIEGO CA. A note of condolence from Charleston Base has been placed on the funeral home website.

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- **FTB2(SS) Richard H. Stevenson, USN Retired**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan. 24. His services will be held in Colorado. Dick joined the Navy in 1961 and left in 1968. He was a Member of USSVI National [2007], Member of Charleston Base [2014], and a Holland Club member. He qualified on USS SAM HOUSTON SSBN/SSN-609 in 1964.
- **LT Bernard C. Krafzig, USN Retired**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan. 8 in Mount Pleasant. He served on the Benjamin Franklin SSBN as the Supply Officer. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **CAPT John F. Jordan, USN Retired**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Jan. 28 in Aiken. He qualified on LEWIS AND CLARK SSBN644 in 1966, served for 27 years in a number of submarines and was the CO of USS Mendel L. Rivers. He also served at many shore stations and was COMSUBRON 4 Commodore 1987-1988. He was a member of USSVI and Naval Submarine League.
- **Don Ort** had heart surgery on December 15th to correct heart blockages and heart valve. Don drove his truck for the first time on Tuesday. He starts cardiac rehab on Monday. Things are moving along.
- **Joseph Kosater** is in the hospital from a stroke. His left arm and leg lost feeling. I have talked with him and he plans on being back in the meetings in April.
- **Dennis “Frenchy” Fuqua** is home on palliative care with Hospice. He is sleeping all the time and is being kept comfortable. Barbara indicated she doesn’t expect it to be much longer. When the time comes, in accordance with Frenchy’s wishes, there will not be a service.
- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His most recent scans show great improvement.
- **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.

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.

Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:

- The section of video from the last Base meeting with the presentation of the 65-year award to Stacy Power was given to Harry Nettles. It should have been uploaded to the Facebook page already. The full video from the last Base meeting has not been provided to Nick.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Nothing reported.

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Ed has provided the information about Stacy Power’s FRA 65 year award to American Submariner. He has also sent his article to the FRA magazine.

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- Rick Sparger thanked Ed for the quality of the American Submarine article about the recent Rummage Sale, but could not avoid noticing the picture of everyone holding a beer.
- Ed noted that the USSVI Southeast Regional Convention has been cancelled.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glenn will be unable to attend the next Base meeting, but he provided a video camera to Nick for taping the meeting if it is needed.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The January Board meeting Minutes have been uploaded to the Base website.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 279 members. There are several which are on the Dink List and will soon be dropped if not renewed.

Hunley/Housatonic – Harry Nettles:

- Has fourteen names for making presentations at the ceremony.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl gave the Treasurer \$609 for the Scholarship Fund. \$400 of that amount were checks written in memory of Jerry Farr.
- The drawing for the shotgun raffle to benefit the Scholarship Fund will be at the Base Meeting next week.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- There was some discussion regarding SubVet members who are also FRA members. Nick Nichols presented a motion with Glenn Little seconding that we should present the FRA pins to Charleston Base members at the Base meeting if they are unable to attend the FRA award presentation meeting. There was no disagreement among the Board. Nick asked for this to be cleared through the FRA for the future when the president is not also a SubVet. The motion was tabled to allow Harry Nettles to discuss this with the FRA. We will revisit this at the next Board meeting.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick noted that he was late getting the letter of appreciation written to the lady for her help in getting the Charleston Base float into the Goose Creek parade. After some discussion, the decision was made to also give her a ballcap and a challenge coin. There were no objections. Mike Ciesielko relayed some of the encouraging comments told to him regarding the float and the Goose Creek.

Recreation – Rick Sparger for Bill Hayes:

- Rick has reserved the FRA meeting room on March 6 for the spaghetti dinner. He is not yet sure about the availability of the kitchen. There is a lot of planning that has yet to be done to make this happen.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Rick acknowledged Nick's handling of Jerry Farr's funeral, being very well done.
- Rick noted that he is out of shadow boxes.

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Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike Ciesielko read each nomination form for this year's Distinguished Submariner Award including the reasons for the recommendation. In alphabetical order, the list of names presented were Mike Ciesielko, Mike Emerson, Bill Freligh and Terry Trump. Mike and Bill were dismissed. Secretary Gordon Long conducted the vote, asking for a show of hands for each submittal. After the polling was completed, Mike and Bill returned to the meeting. The DSA recipient's name will be made public at the March Base meeting.
- Mike inquired about any upcoming events. Nick Nichols reminded everyone of the Amberjack Ceremony which is normally held in April. Since it is an outside event, there is no reason that we cannot have the ceremony. We discussed the need for a guest speaker. We will revisit this subject at the February Board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1859.