

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1802 by Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Vice Commander Tom Lawson, Gordon Williams, Ken Hutchison, Gordon Long, Nick Nichols, Larry Knutson, Bill Hayes, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Ed Stank and Butch Bryar.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- Reported that the bank account had a significant amount of funds; a sizeable amount is comprised of the Scholarship Fund balance which will be expended upon award of the Scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken reminded everyone of the upcoming elections for Base Commander and Treasurer. Mike Ciesielko will seek to retain the office of Base Commander. Gordon Williams turned down the offer to run for the office of Treasurer stating that he has held the office long enough. We will need a new candidate for Treasurer. We will be asking for volunteers as candidates for both positions.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Nothing to report.

Audit of Treasurer – Ken Hutchison:

- The audit was completed about two weeks ago. The report has been submitted to and accepted by National USSVI.

Veteran's Affairs – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Distinguished Submariner Awards will be available for the Base Commander's signature at the start of the Base Meeting next week.

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.
- **ETC(SS) Joseph Kosater** departed on Eternal Patrol on Feb. 3, 2021. His Memorial Service was today March 4th in the military section of Carolina Memorial Park,
- **John Lookabill** was put in Trident hospital on Mar. 2nd due to AFIB. He will be placed on some new medications. He is now home and hoping the new meds work.
- **Ronny Vandiver** is at home as of Feb. 18th and is doing a little better. Kim has home health to assist her. They were able to stop by the Fleet on one of their times out of the house. Phone calls are welcome and so are texts. If he's tired Kim can read them to him.

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- **Ray Bryant** has been down with his back since 20 January. He went in on 3 Feb for lumbar injection. MRI shows L2, 3, 4, and S1 bulging discs. L5 herniated and mashing on sciatic nerve. He had another injection on Feb. 17th but it only provided relief for a couple of weeks. He is in a lot of pain.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments. He started Chemo and pills in September 2020 and has treatments every four weeks. Don't know how many more he has to do. Things are going well with very little side effects from the Chemo. He thanks everybody for their prayers. They do work. Don't know when he will be able to attend a meeting.
- **Tom Lawson's** daughter, Tracey, had a very mild case of COVID.
- **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 EP 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:

- Lou sent the video from the February Base meeting. The audio can be heard but the video is of the front table. It is an extremely large file.
- We could possibly put out just the audio to make the file smaller, but for presentations such as Distinguished Submariner or Scholarship awards, we need to keep the video.
- Lou can make the video of the meeting available for Base members to listen on a special (non-listed) YouTube channel.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 269 members. We are, at this time, tied for second.

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- We are still working on a location for the dinner. Rick Sparger is taking the lead for Bill on this.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick discussed the letter of appreciation written to the lady who assisted with getting the Charleston Base float into the Goose Creek parade. She is unable to come to the Base meeting, so Rick will arrange a presentation at her office.
- Rick discussed the Amberjack ceremony to be held at the Cold War Memorial. Rick Wise is making arrangements for the guest speaker. We need to get the tables and chairs from the storage building. Carl has the PA system. Gordon Long has the inverter, but the battery requires replacement. The ceremony will be at 1000 on 10 April. The working party will assemble at 0900 and muster at 0930.

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- Rick discussed the rates quoted from the VFW for the dinner. We expect the dinner to be on a Saturday. Date, at this point, is unknown.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report

COB – Rick Sparger:

- We are out of assembled shadow boxes. He will pick up the material that Joe Lunn currently has on hand.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl reported that the Shotgun Raffle resulted in a \$2,010 to the Scholarship Fund.
- The current balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$9,339.
- We will have a raffle at the Base Meeting next week.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- The Newsletter will be published tomorrow.

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.
- The information about the Christmas parade was presented to the American Submariner for publishing.
- Ed noted that the USSVI Southeast Regional Convention has been cancelled.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Still waiting on the governor's office to reschedule the meeting.

Submarine Ball – Nick Nichols:

- Have attempted to make contact for info.
- The Base Treasurer pointed out that Charleston Base sent \$250 to the SubBall last year prior to the event being cancelled. Nick stated that they are holding those funds for this year.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Not present.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Not present.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present.

National Awards – Don Ort:

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- Not present.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- We will have the Distinguished Submariner Award at the Base Meeting next week.
- If we are able to locate a venue for the spaghetti dinner, then Mike plans to cook.
- Discussed USSVI Regional and National Conventions.

Meeting was adjourned at 1856.