

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**June 3, 2021**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Ricky Collins (newly elected Treasurer), Larry Knutson, Tom Lawson, Gordon Long, Rick Wise, Ed Stank, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Glenn Little, Ken Hutchison and Nick Nichols. Outgoing Base Treasurer Gordon Williams also attended the meeting today.

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Provided written copy of Treasurer’s report to BOD members.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 269 members.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Little David – Rick Wise:**

- Maintenance has been completed. Rick expects that we should be able to go two years before having to paint it again.
- Rick has a relief as Little David maintenance coordinator.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Nothing reported.

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

- Nothing reported.

### **PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Submitted articles to American Submariner about the Distinguished Submariner and Holland Club presentation.
- Ed is working on articles about the Amberjack Ceremony and Memorial Day.
- Ed is also writing an entry concerning the Little David maintenance.

### **Newsletter – Ed Stank:**

- Nothing reported.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Base Commander made announcement that Rick Sparger has officially relieved Joe Lunn as COB and is no longer listed as “Acting COB”. Rick has picked up all the COB material from Joe.

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### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing to report.
- Ken Hutchison noted that SubVets are well represented in the FRA leadership.

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

- Nothing to report.

### **Recreation – Rick Sparger for Bill Hayes:**

- For those who attended the picnic on May 15, we all found it quite enjoyable.
- Thanks to Bill Hayes for bringing his cooker and cooking the burgers and hotdogs.
- There were a bunch of side dishes and desserts available – Thanks to the ladies for that.
- Carl Chinn brought the sound system and played music.
- For those who did not attend, they truly missed a good time.
- Ed Stank noted that we need to start planning ahead for events. The plans for this picnic were all last minute.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- Carl reported that we will be providing four scholarships at the Base Meeting next week. Only two will be receiving in person. Ed Stank will be receiving the award for his grandson.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Took pictures during the Memorial Day Ceremony and the Amberjack Ceremony for the Newsletter, Base website and PAO use.

### **Treasurer (Outgoing) – Gordon Williams:**

- Turnover is completed except for changing personnel on the investment fund. The company is sending information to complete and return.

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:**

- Nothing to report.

### **By-Laws Review – Harry Nettles:**

- Not present - Secretary will contact Harry to check on progress.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Not present.

### **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.
- **STS3(SS) Gerald Karl Weckhorst** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 21, 2021 due to cancer. He was not a USSVI member. He joined the Navy in 1967 and left in 1974. He qualified on TUSK SS-426 in 1971 and served on MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

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- **Bill Roberts** had a stent placed to correct an aortic aneurysm on 18 May at the VA. He is doing well in his recovery.
  - **J.J. Fortier** had his back surgery on 6 April and did well. He has a feeding tube and doesn't know how long that will be needed. He is recovering well from lower back surgery but am still on the feeding tube. I am waiting right now for the hospital to call about an appointment for another Barium swallow test. If the results for the test turn out normal I may be able to lose the feeding tube. Until the tube is gone I have to stay pretty close to home.
  - **Ray Bryant** has had years of lumbar spine injections and his pain management doctor cannot do anything more for his back. The central canal of L4, L5/S1 is showing serious narrowing. He didn't say anything about the disk herniation. He will be going in tomorrow for a COVID test and pre-op meeting with possible back surgery on Monday.
  - **Ronnie VanDiver** spent some time in hospital but is now recovering at home. He'll be getting a PET scan soon to determine if there is something else is needed to be done to fix his problem.
  - **Ken Curtis** is still getting his infusions. He and Barbara don't get out except to the store.
  - **Marty Sessler** had shoulder replacement surgery some months back. He is going to have surgery redone.
  - **Judy Hutchison** had pneumonia a couple of weeks ago. She is slowly recovering.
  - **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.
  - **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. His recent scans show the chemo has slowed the rate of growth but is still growing about a pencil point size each scan. Doctor says this could continue for a long time at that slow rate of growth. George will have to tell him when he wants to stop chemo. His schedule is each Wed. for 2 weeks, a week off, repeat this 3 week cycle for 9 weeks, then a new scan. All in all he is feeling good.
  - **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care. Ed will continue to contact him each month for the meeting.
- 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.
- Discussed Vets In The Woods program supported by DAV and asked if can help. Will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- Discussed USSVI National Convention in Orlando.
- Fourth of July Celebration at First Baptist of Columbia on 27 June
- Need correction on the program for the Memorial Day / Veterans Day services.

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

- Nothing to report.

### **Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:**

- Not present

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- Not present.

### **National Awards – Don Ort:**

- Not present.

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits.

Meeting was adjourned at 1903.