

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**September 2, 2021**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1808 by Vice Commander Tom Lawson. Attending were Board of Directors members Ricky Collins, Lewis Leal, Larry Knutson, Bill Freligh, Ken Hutchison, Butch Bryar, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Harry Nettles, and Gordon Long. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and Base Chaplain Nick Nichols were attending the USSVI National Convention.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Tom welcomed members to the meeting. Tom reminded everyone that Base Commander Mike Ciesielko, Chaplain Nick Nichols and several other Base members were at the USSVI National Convention.
- The Homeless Veterans Liaison will be at our Base Meeting next week to address the membership.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Money (cash) had been donated to Charleston Base for the Vets in the Woods. Ricky put the money in the bank and wrote checks to DAV. As of today, the checks have yet to clear the bank. Harry Nettles will contact them about this and also when they would like to receive additional donations since the amount of items provided exceeded their expectations.
- Ricky pointed out that we are losing a little bit of money on each PayPal transaction. He received notice that the fees are expected to increase. Raising the cost of dues to offset this fee was discussed along with notification of an extra fee payment when using PayPal. Use of PayPal along with its pros and cons had been discussed a couple of years ago. Ricky (Treasurer) and Larry (Membership) will research how many members renew using PayPal to determine its actual effect.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- The 9-11 Heroes Run will be held on Daniel Island in the vicinity of the fire station near the tennis stadium. Registration will start at 0645. Those having spaces need to be there at 0530 to set up. We need to bring tables/chairs etc. and have vehicles removed from the area. Lou can help set up but he will be running in the race. This is a recruitment opportunity for Charleston Base. Harry Nettles reported that FRA would be sharing the location for this same purpose.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 273 members.
- Next month will be time start collecting annual dues.
- Larry plans to turn over the Membership Chair duties next year. He has held the job for several years and is willing to train his replacement at any time.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Nothing to report

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### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:**

- Ken Hutchison expressed his gratitude to Charleston Base for the number of members who attended his wife's funeral service; reporting that there more than 50 men in vests at the ceremony. His family members from far-flung parts of the country noted the respect shown to Ken in honor of Judy.
- Ken also asked that someone pass along his thanks to the Base members at the meeting next week. He will be attending a submarine reunion out of town. If any Base member needs something, please call him.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- We are still waiting on the decision from the judge.
- Members should contact their State Representatives regarding the litigation to keep the Heritage Act in place.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- The raffle for the Hunley print will be held at the Base Meeting next week.
- Carl reminded everyone to get a challenge coin to be eligible for the door prize drawing.
- The balance in the Scholarship Fund is \$2,701. Carl gave the treasurer some money tonight to be placed in the bank account.
- The Rummage Sale will be held on November 13 at the same location as last year.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- He is working with Larry (membership) to get his sailing list updated.
- The Nathaniel Greene Association will be having a dedication ceremony for their bench at the Cold War Memorial on 9 OCT. They are requesting use of our sound system, a table, small podium and chairs. Our old sound system is available to loan as required. Rick will need some help to provide these items. Rather than take all of our chairs, he needs to know how many will be present. He will mention this material and assistance request at the Base Meeting next week.
- The items which were moved out of the FRA storeroom have been temporarily taken to the Scholarship (Rummage Sale) storage facility. Rick reminded all that the items which we use at the Base Meetings are still at the FRA.
- Rick spoke with Mike (Base Commander) about the vendors which he wants to bring to the meetings.

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

- Bill would like to have a barbeque in late September/early October at Bushy Park.
- Rick has the FRA tentatively scheduled for December 4 to hold a Christmas Party. Rick will check with Dick Koehler about the Catholic church being a possible location. Ken Hutchison noted that while the FRA is holding the meeting room for the Charleston Base Christmas Party, if we plan to have it at another location, we need to let the FRA, as they can rent it to another group.

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

- Nothing to report.

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### FRA – Rick Sparger:

- The FRA will hold an Indoor Picnic on Labor Day. Donations only.

### Chaplain – Gordon Long for 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) Kenneth Robert Turner** departed on Eternal Patrol on August 8, 2021. Bob's memorial service will be next Thursday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> at the Simplicity Lowcountry Cremation Chapel in Ladson on Treeland Dr. Family visitation will be at 1000 and the service will begin at 1045. This is the day of our base meeting. As requested by the family, this will be a military funeral with CB Chaplain officiating, CB conducting the bell tolling and FRA conducting the two bell.
- **CDR Harry L. Huggins** departed on Eternal Patrol on July 15, 2021 in NC. He was not a member of USSVI. He was CO on USS SEA POACHER SS-406 during 1968-1969. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Rick Wise** received his test results and is COVID-19 Positive. His symptoms are mild. Jean is also showing the same symptoms. They are most concerned about their daughter and great-granddaughter who were both exposed to him over the last week. He has no problem in releasing this. All prayers are welcome.
- **Joseph N. O'Saben**, Joe's 48 year old son, was in SMC with COVID and was on O2 but is now home. He would like to thank all of the SUBVETS for your prayers to help with his Covid virus. He is fully recovered now and will be back to work full time on Monday Aug. 30.
- **George Burton's** most recent CAT scan shows his cancer is growing through the rib cage. This means he will be changing treatment methods and going on Gemzar. He is not in pain but has discomfort on my right side around the lung. He appreciates all your prayers.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** was in the hospital recently. He tested negative for COVID but was kept for several days due to pain in his chest. He is home now taking the pills he's supposed to, along with the pills they gave him, prednisone for the next four days. He is able to lie down and get a little sleep before the coughing starts again. He thanks everyone for hanging in there with him and keep the prayers coming.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136. Rick Wise visited him on 2 July and says Don is looking well and is more alert than he was before the lock down. Cypress Place does require visitors to wear masks.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **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 Eternal Patrol this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.

### Webmaster – Gordon Long for 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.

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- Vets in the Woods collection box is suspended until further notice. The donations overwhelmed the DAV.
- If you send something out to the base members try to remember to put it in PDF format. Not everyone has the same programs to open files. Most everyone can view a PDF.

### **Veteran’s Administration (VA) – Tom Lawson:**

- Tom advised all that this is mental health and suicide prevention month.

### **Hunley Ceremony – Harry Nettles:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report.

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

- Not present. Attending the USSVI National Convention

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- Not present – No activity until hospitals request visits.

### **PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Not present.

### **Newsletter – Ed Stank:**

- Not present.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Not present.

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

- Not present.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Not present.

### **National Awards – Don Ort:**

- Not present.

Meeting was adjourned at 1848.