

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**November 4, 2021**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1802 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal, Harry Nettles, Glenn Little, Ken Hutchison, Rick Wise, Butch Bryar, Ricky Collins, Carl Chinn, Larry Knutson, Rick Sparger, Bill Hayes, Gordon Long Don Ort, Bill Freligh and Nick Nichols.

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report

### **Veteran’s Day Ceremony – Harry Nettles:**

- Will be speaking at the Veteran’s Day Ceremony in Summerville.
- Rick Wise also noted that he needs two readers for the Tolling of the Lost Boats to be held at Carolina Coffee Roasters. Both Base Commander and Vice Commander volunteered for the task.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Is unable to attend the Veteran’s Day Ceremony.

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:**

- Nothing to report

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- We will voting on the Charleston Base budget at the Base Meeting next week.
- A copy will be provided to each table.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- Tom Lufkin is working with the Executive Director for the USS Cod concerning the cost of its overhaul.
- Butch is reviewing an updated list of metal sent to him by Tom Bowser from the USS Drum.
- The judge in our case still has not made a decision. Why, we don’t know.
- CRAMA dues for 2022 are due.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Ricky provided the report from October for review.
- He has received some dues from Membership (Larry Knutson).

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

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- The Rummage Sale will be held on November 13 at the same location as last year. The rain date is November 20.
- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$4,590.
- Raffle for a set of WWII bookends is continuing. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 276 members.
- Still collecting annual dues.
- Nick discussed the problem with the way that dues payment when using PayPal was set up on the Base website. We currently have no control or even the ability to change the amounts that are being charged for Base or National dues when PayPal is used on the Base website. Nick noted that he has seen others have the same problem when using such a link is they also have no control of the data unless they delete it and start all over. The only options we have are to leave it alone until we absolutely have to or delete the button altogether and require checks/cash/money order for dues.
- Ken Hutchison made a motion with Tom Lawson seconding that we keep PayPal in place. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko noted that eventually we will be required to get rid of PayPal. Motion passed to leave it in place for now.

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

- We are scheduled to pull the float in the Harleyville parade on December 2 and the Goose Creek parade on December 11. Rick is still waiting on information from the Moncks Corner parade on December 4.
- The Chief Selectee Breakfast will be held on November 10 at the Ashley Phosphate Cracker Barrel. The event is supposed to begin at 0800.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- The FRA will be holding a Christmas party on Friday, December 10. The cost is \$6 for dinner.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Rick wants to order a new flag and stand to have for Charleston Base events rather than having to borrow the FRA equipment. A few locations were suggested.

### **Recreation – Bill Hayes:**

- The Christmas party will be held at the FRA on December 4. 1800 – Meet and Greet / 1900 – Finger Foods and Music / 2100 Depth Charge Drawing.
- Bill noted that we will have music and thanked Rick for setting it up.
- Bill will arrange for getting food but will need someone local to actually pick it up. BC Mike Ciesielko volunteered but he will also need some help to set up the room.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Requested assistance with the insurance forms for events.

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- Gordon spoke briefly about his trip to the Henry L Stimson reunion. If anyone goes to the Cincinnati area, two locations that are “must visit”. – Ark Encounter about 35 miles south and the Air Force Museum in Dayton.

### **National Awards – Don Ort:**

- Mike Ciesielko provided Don with assurance of Base assistance about submitting candidates for the National Awards. Mike discovered during his trip to the National Convention, that it is a larger task than one man can handle.
- Don is willing to write the award submittals, but he needs facts and details. We need information provided by February to Don.

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

- Walmart/Sam’s will no longer to be part of the Tri-Care Pharmacy Network as of December 15. CVS will handle Tri-Care. [Reported by Chaplain]

### **PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Not present

### **Newsletter – Ed Stank:**

- Not present

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

- Nothing reported.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Nothing reported.

### **Tri-Care Pharmacy – Nick Nichols for Tom Lawson:**

- Walmart/Sam’s will no longer to be part of the Tri-Care Pharmacy Network as of December 15. CVS will again handle Tri-Care.

### **Kaps for Kids – Nick Nichols for Mike Emerson:**

- Mike Emerson reports he has contacted the hospital to see when we can go back for the K4K program. They informed him they would love to have us back however restrictions are still in place. We will be contacted when we can go again.

### **USSVI WWII – Nick Nichols for Mike Emerson:**

- At the Base Meeting, we will have a cake cutting as we celebrate Stacy Power’s 95th birthday.

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- Nick thanked Ricky Collins for filling in for him with Chaplain duties at the Base meeting while he was away.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

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- **EMC(SS) George Robert Burton**, US Navy Ret, departed on Eternal Patrol on Oct 22, 2021 at SMC. He passed peacefully in his sleep. He passed peacefully in his sleep with his family by his bed. George joined the Navy in 1956 and retired in 1976. He was a Life Member of both USSVI [2005] & Charleston Base [2005] and a member of the Holland Club. George qualified on CAVALLA SS/SSK/AGSS-244 in 1958 and served on ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN-602, ULYSSES S GRANT SSBN-611, KITTIWAKE ASR-13 and ORION AS-18. A Private family service will be held on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> and I have been asked to conduct the service. A message of condolence to the family was placed on the funeral home website on behalf of the Charleston Base and Swamp Fox Chapter WWII SUBVETS.
- **MMC(SS) Carsten Stigers**, 63, departed on Eternal Patrol on Sep 24, 2021. He was the USSVI National Chaplain and his passing was very sudden and unexpected. He joined the Navy in 1975 and left in 1993. He qualified on GEORGE C. MARSHALL SSBN654 in 1977 and served on TINOSA SSN606 and SIMON LAKE AS33. A message of condolence to the family was placed on the funeral home website on behalf of the Charleston Base and Swamp Fox Chapter WWII SUBVETS.
- The new USSVI National Chaplain is Jim Sandman from the Volunteer Base in TN.
- **TMC(SS) Robert L. ‘Bob’ DeVore**, US Navy Ret and a WWII Submarine Veteran, departed on EP on Oct 13, 2021. In KY. Bob joined the Navy in 1943 and retired in 1966. He qualified in 1944 on POGY SS266 and then served on BILLFISH, FLOUNDER, TORO, GROUPER, SARDA, GREENFISH, BUGARA, CAIMAN, PICKEREL, GAR, SABLEFISH, BECUNA and as COB on HARDHEAD. A message of condolence to the family was placed on the funeral home website on behalf of the Charleston Base and Swamp Fox Chapter WWII SUBVETS.
- **CWO3(SS) John Stanford**, a Past National Awards Chairman, departed on EP on Oct 15, 2021. His service will be in Jacksonville Beach on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. John joined the Navy in 1955 and retired in 1976. He qualified on SEA LEOPARD SS-483 in 1955 and served on SEAWOLF SSN575, THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN618, JAMES MONROE SSBN622, CNSTELLATION CV64 and YOSEMITE AD19. A message of condolence to the family was placed on the funeral home website on behalf of the Charleston Base and Swamp Fox Chapter WWII SUBVETS.
- **Ed Stank** had some minor surgery on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and will not be here tonight.
- **Julian Villegas** recently had eye surgery and is recovering.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** was in the hospital again recently but is now home.
- **Walt Deal** had gall bladder surgery on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. He is home doing well. In fact he saw the doctor on the Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and all staples and drain tub has been removed. Doc said to call me if you need me. Walt says that now life can get back to almost normal.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136 and he’s now got his phone back.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **Bob Snyder** is still with palliative care.
- 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.

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- 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.
- Vets in the Woods collection box is suspended until further notice. The donations overwhelmed the DAV.

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

- Nothing else to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 1848.