

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Bill Freligh, Rick Wise, Rick Sparger, Larry Knutson, Carl Chinn, Glenn Little, Harry Nettles, Gordon Long, Ed Stank and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- We will have 15 eligible for Holland Club induction at the April Base Meeting. No food at this ceremony. We will not have hats to present.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- The end of the year 2021 will likely not be available for presentation until February or March. Some items from December still need to be reconciled.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- We purchased a new flag, two six-foot tables and will be purchasing two coolers. These are or will be put into the storage facility. Rick summarized the items which we have stored there.
- Rick recommended that we get a working party to set up the 10x10 canopies for inspection and then to sell them, since they are not being used any longer. The money would be donated to the Scholarship Fund.
- Ed Stank reminded everyone about the Amberjack Memorial in April. We need to locate a speaker for this ceremony. Harry Nettles offered and Nick Nichols noted that we have several people in the area who were in command positions that we should be able to contact.
- Nick Nichols has left a message regarding the Submarine Birthday Ball, but has not yet heard back from them.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 276 members.
- National will likely be dropping about 40 of those for non-payment of dues.
- Mike Ciesielko noted that we plan to start providing Longevity Pins, but anyone who allows their dues to lapse will start back at Year 1, because it is based on USSVI National membership.
- There was discussion regarding Honorary Membership. There was a consensus among the BOD but will be talked about further in a future meeting.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$6,016. Carl outlined the details of the before, during and after Rummage Sale. (Some items, which did not sell on that day had been taken to the flea market.)
- The Nathaniel Greene Association provided \$350 for use of our sound equipment.

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- The raffle for a set of WWII bookends will be held at the Base Meeting next week. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six tickets.
- There will be a new raffle beginning, which will be for five different models of submarines. There will be five winners. The first winner gets first choice, second next and so on...

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report

Hunley Ceremony – Harry Nettles:

- Thursday, February 17, is the Hunley Ceremony.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Board Meeting Minutes for November have been posted on the Base website.
- Base Meeting Minutes for November are completed, but not yet sent.
- We did not have a December BOD or Base Meeting.

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Took a month off. Nothing to report.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Has been sent to Nick for the Base website. It will be posted soon.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- My computer crashed hard on Dec. 16th and I didn't get it back until Dec. 30th. Fortunately, the hard drive was not injured in the crash but I did lose my email program. Which meant I lost all the profiles which I thought were backed up on the hard drive and external backup drive...key word thought. Of course, I lost all 400+ SUBVETS and personal email addresses and over 900 Stimson email addresses. I have been able to reenter all the SUBVETS from the sailing list and have most of my really personal addresses also entered. Now working on the Stimson addresses. Very time consuming. All this is to let you know I may not be as quick to get info to you for a while.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Walt & Margie Deal** are dealing with COVID. GW let me know on Tuesday evening. Margie was so sick Sherry (EMT daughter) called EMS. EMS took Margie to Summerville Hospital where she was admitted. Walt is not feeling too bad but can't stop coughing. He will be scheduled for the antibody infusion at MUSC as soon as it's available. Margie is supposed to be released soon but not sure if going home or to rehab. They both had shots and boosters.
- **Ken Hutchison** is staying home tonight as he was exposed to COVID and is quarantined until Saturday.
- **Jerry Stout** sent an email on Dec 27th about his cancer. PET SCAN RESULTS - please put out that test results showed no evidence of disease. The 28 treatments of radiation completely took out the Merkle Cell Carcinoma Skin Cancer from my pelvic lymph nodes. I praise God and all of the prayers from my fellow Sub Vets. This is such a relief for me and

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family in time for Christmas. Christine and I appreciate the phone calls and notes and prayers.

- **Larry Rooselot** is recovering well from the surgery on his spine in the neck area. Mary, his wife, had a double reverse shoulder surgery and is recovering well from it.
- **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.
- 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.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report

COB – Rick Sparger:

- We had a successful Christmas party here at the FRA. The music was soundly received and the bar well-tended. All who attended (49) enjoyed a fantastic evening.
- The suggestion to have finger food in lieu of a catered buffet dinner was a grand idea. Our expenses were considerably less than previous years' parties. Rick recommends that we do the same type meal next year.
- Some members brought a couple of items to add to the table.
- The work that Bill Hayes put into this party is greatly appreciated.
- Ed Stank suggested that recreational events get planned further in advance. Please provide all ideas to Bill for future events.
- Rick Sparger suggested an oyster roast.

Veteran's Administration (VA) – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Nothing reported.

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Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike addressed the upcoming Base elections for the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary. Mike will contact Ken Hutchison to see if he needs assistance as Election Coordinator this year.
- Tom Lawson – Vice Commander and Gordon Long – Secretary, agreed to be on ballot for the next election.
- Nothing else to report.

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- Not present

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1839.