

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Lawson, Ricky Collins, Butch Bryar, Bill Freligh, Rick Wise, Rick Sparger, Larry Knutson, Carl Chinn, Glenn Little, Harry Nettles, Gordon Long, Woody Woodsmall, Lewis Leal, Ken Hutchison, Ed Stank and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- The CRAMA legal team is to meet with the newspaper reporter since there was no mention of the lawsuit. Butch will let us know the results of that meeting.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Fourth Quarter report should be available next week.

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- NPS Graduation is February 3. Rick will be there to make presentations. Guests are allowed.

Hunley Ceremony – Harry Nettles:

- The Hunley Ceremony on February 17 will be abbreviated. Nick read a letter from the organizer stating details. The service must be held on the beach instead of inside the church at Breach Inlet.
- We will need people to present wreaths.
- Harry will contact Gene Patrick for more info.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Sent articles to American Submariner about Stacy Power and the CPO Breakfast.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Nothing to report

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 275 members. 19 members have not yet renewed. National will soon be dropping those for non-payment of dues.
- There was discussion about regarding what it is that National USSVI provides Charleston Base and others

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- We will have 17 eligible for Holland Club induction at the April Base Meeting.
- The After Battery will no longer provide Holland Club hats. Ed Stank offered to buy the hats if the Base Storekeeper does not have them on hand – e.g. 5 on hand, Ed will buy 12.
- Bill suggested that with May 2 being Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day, it would be a good opportunity to take the float to the event.
- Ken Hutchison suggested that we recognize those members who are more than 50 years qualified. This would be done in five-year increments. Rockers would be available from the Storekeeper

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison:

- Woody Woodsmall will be taking over at the Base Meeting next week. Ken will be close by if needed.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken announced nominations for Vice Commander and Secretary.
- Ed Stank withdrew his name for Vice Commander leaving Incumbent Tom Lawson as the sole nominee for that office.
- Gordon Long (current Secretary) is the only nominee for that position.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The January report has been published. The end of year report is complete and will be sent to National soon.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Certificate of Honorary Membership for Casey Power will be available for signatures (BC and Membership) at the Base Meeting next week. The date on the certificate will be that of the January Board Meeting, since that is when the decision was made.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$7,321. Received a \$300 memorial donation.
- John Lookabill had won the raffle for the bookends but donated them back. Instead of a raffle again, the committee will hold a silent auction.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick wants to arrange an oyster roast. He would like to hold it at Bushy Park.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Rick informed the Board he had received a demand to not provide information about Warren Kratz. This request was made not by the member or his family. Chaplain Nick Nichols noted that he publishes or withholds information based solely on the wishes of either the

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

member or the family as appropriate. The opinion of any other individual or group is not relevant.

- There was more discussion regarding hats for both Kaps for Kids and Holland Club. Ed Stank will bring present a motion for Charleston Base to purchase the Holland Club hats.
- Rick Sparger asked about the Battle of Midway Ceremony. Harry Nettles provided more information and also noted that he will be attending a meeting shortly oon about the

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report

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.
- **TMC(MSS) Warren S. Kratz, USN Ret.**, departed on EP on Thursday January 13, 2022 in Summerville. I have been informed by the son the family is not having a service. He joined the Navy in 1959 and retired in 1983. He was a Life Member of both USSVI [2005] & Charleston Base [2005] and a member of the Holland Club. Warren qualified on USS SABALO SS-302 in 1960 and also served on GRENADIER SS-525, ROCK SS/SSR/AGSS-274, TUNNY SSN-682 and SAND LANCE SSN-660. His shore duties included FLTASWSCOL San Diego, Enlisted Sub School Groton, FLTASWSCOL Key West, NAVSTA Subic Bay PI, FLTASWSCOL Orlando and COMSUBGRUSIX Charleston where he retired.
- **EN2(SS) William Fred Bevis, Jr.**, 89, of Summerville, SC, passed away January 20, 2022, at the SC Veterans Victory House in Walterboro, SC. William was born in Union, SC, in 1932. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1952; qualified and served aboard several US Navy submarines including USS ODAX SS484 and surface ships; and retired from the Navy in 1982. He was not a member of USSVI. A condolence message was placed on the funeral home webpage.
- **Margie Deal** was in SMC in mid-January with blood pressure problems. She was there about 5 hours, treated and released.
- **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.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

Veteran’s Administration (VA) – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

Distinguished Submariner – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike requested inputs for the Distinguished Submariner Award. Several names were submitted for nomination. Each name was read. A winner was chosen from the list of names. The DSA will be presented at the Charleston Base Meeting on March 10.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike thanked each member in attendance for the work that they do.
- Mike also reminded everyone that any Base member who wishes can attend the Board of Directors meeting and will be given opportunity to address any issue of which they find concern. The Board will then take that request for action as necessary.
- Mike stated that he has total respect for anyone who is wearing dolphins.

Recreation – Bill Hayes:

- Not present

National Awards – Don Ort:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1908.