

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**March 3, 2022**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1805 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Ed Stank, Butch Bryar, Bill Freligh, Rick Wise, Woody Woodsmall, Don Ort, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Harry Nettles, Larry Knutson, Tom Lawson, Glenn Little, Ricky Collins, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Ed had received a call from someone regarding assistance with a dedication ceremony for a USS Bonfish. During the BOD meeting, Ed contacted him via phone and determined that their group had not finalized plans for their ceremony.

### **Newsletter – Ed Stank:**

- Nothing to report

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- Butch had several meetings scheduled, but with the current world events, (Russia attacking Ukraine) all meetings have been cancelled.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- We will have seventeen eligible for Holland Club induction at the April Base Meeting. Bill has talked to eleven. He will be mailing two of them their certificates. Three of them did not get their dues paid in time, so their paperwork will likely not arrive in time.
- At this point, Bill has six responded as YES, they will be at the Base Meeting for the Holland Club Ceremony.
- Bill listed several names that he was unable to contact. Most of those listed live close to other Base members who will contact the candidate regarding the Holland Club and have them call Bill.

### **Amberjack Ceremony – Rick Wise:**

- Rusty Pickett will be the speaker at the Amberjack Ceremony.
- Rick will have the programs ready.
- Rick will work with the COB about getting the flags and equipment on location.
- Rick needs readers for the ceremony. He will ask for readers at the Base Meeting next week.
- This year will be the tolling of the Lost Boats.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:**

- Nothing to report.

### **National Awards – Don Ort:**

- Receive input from Rick Wise for submittals. Don is getting it put into the proper format to comply with USSVI. He does request some help.

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### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$8,423.
- The Boat Model raffle will be held next week at the Base Meeting.

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

- Nothing to report.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko was contacted by an individual from the Air Force Base (Joint Base) about bringing the float for display on Armed Forces Day on May 21. Mike requested that we have business cards available. Rick Wise stated that we have plenty of cards.
- Rick Sparger noted that we need to know where we are going, since we do not have a float master.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Rick Sparger needs a few men to help set up the canopies at the storage facility and inspect them prior to selling them.
- Ed Stank noted that proceeds from the proposed sale of the old canopies should go back to the Base General Fund, since the Base purchased them and not the Scholarship Fund. The Base members will be given first opportunity.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing reported.

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

- We had four men show up for the Hunley Ceremony on February 17. The service was required to be held on the beach instead of in the church. Thankfully, the temperature was not really cold this year.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 261 members.
- National has dropped for non-payment of dues.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report

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

- Nothing reported.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Photographs were taken at the Hunley Ceremony.
- Glen asked about whether a video camera is needed at the Amberjack Ceremony, but Lewis Leal is expecting to record video at the ceremony. Glenn currently has the camera and will contact Lewis.

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### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The end of year report has been sent to National. Receipt was acknowledged.
- The February report has some errors. It contains information from a previous month, but shall be revised and resubmitted for Base members' review.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Distinguished Submariner Award certificate will be available to sign before the Base Meeting next week.

### **Webmaster – Nick Nichols:**

- A little change-up for tonight. With war between Ukraine and Russia there has been an increase in ransomware and phishing. If you are using a VPN and you receive any warning or message about your VPN do not respond, enable or install anything. As always be very careful with any email you receive and only open links from trusted sources. If you receive a link or attachment you were not expecting DO NOT OPEN IT! DELETE IT! If someone sends you something that you were supposed to have, that individual will contact you and send it again if necessary. Nick is also going to put this out at the Base Meeting next week.
- 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.

### **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.
- **TMCS{SS) Marvin Odell Smith Jr., USN Ret.**, departed on EP on Thursday February 17, 2022 in Jacksonville. There will be a Celebration of Life scheduled for a future date and the base will be informed. He joined the Navy in 1950 and retired in 1970. He was a Life Member of both USSVI & Charleston Base and a member of the Holland Club. MO qualified on USS CAIMAN SS-323 in 1951 and also served on SEA FOX SS-402, GRAMPUS SS-523, JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 and as COB on SAM HOUSTON SSBN-609, retiring from COMSUBRON 4. A note of condolence was placed on the funeral home website from the base.
- **TMC(SS) Lloyd William Wilson, USN Ret.**, departed on EP on Friday February 18, 2022 in Anderson SC. Willy joined the Navy in 1959 and retired in 2001. He was a Life Member of USSVI & a member of Golden Corner Base, Charleston Base, and USS GROWLER Internet Base. He was also a member of the Holland Club. Willy qualified on USS HALIBUT SSN/SSGN-587 in 1962 and also served on GROWLER SSG-577. His shore duties included TM Shop Pearl Harbor and Navy Reserve Greenville SC. I was unable to place a note of condolence from Charleston Base on the funeral home website due to errors with their system
- **Jim Williams** is not doing well. The test trial failed after 13 months. His liver was bleeding and he ended up in the hospital on Christmas day for four days. Found a local oncologist that had a new trial Chemo so I tried it, did not last two weeks. Now just sitting at home using

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walker. Kids convinced me to call in Hospice. They come by twice a week, a Nurse and an aide. Looking to get some help from the VA also. Sorry for not being better at keeping you up to date. Done with Real Estate, New email soon.

- **Stacy Power** fell at Walmart on March 2 and went to the ER at MUSC. He was kept overnight for observation. He has a small bleed between skull and brain. Stacy went home the next day. He still has an active brain bleed, (4mm), inside the skull. Not out of the woods yet. Time will tell.
- **Mike Knaub** had a biopsy on his bladder the 28th of Jan and while on table heart rate dropped to 36 bpm. The biopsy came back positive for cancer and also, they put a chip in the chest to monitor heart rate. On Tues 15 Feb, he went to urology at VA to find out how bad and treatment. Update is that they say they got it all since it was on the lining not in the muscle and now next five yrs I get a scope every three months.
- **Joe O’Saben** had a colonoscopy 6 Dec and was found to have lymphatic cancer. He had surgery on 9 Feb at Roper downtown. Laparoscopic went well.
- **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.

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

- All of Mike’s items to discuss have been addressed in earlier entries.
- Nothing further. Dismissed.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not present

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1843