

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022

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

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lewis talked about the video recordings of the Distinguished Submariner Award, Holland Club Induction, Amberjack Ceremony. He asked that we give the videos a “Thumbs Up” when watching the public videos. This will cause YouTube to offer the videos to other people and get the Base more exposure.
- Mike Ciesielko noted that District 2 Commander will be presenting an award to Charleston Base. The social media work is a big part of it.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Ricky clarified a couple of entries on the Treasurer’s Report.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Base Meeting Agenda for next week will include Donna Basnett as guest speaker for the Armed Forces Day event at the AFB.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glenn will be at that Submarine Ball to photograph the event.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 266 members.
- Chaplain Nick Nichols reported the membership rankings:
 - 1) Groton 1158 – 2) Hampton Roads 272 – 3) Charleston 266 – 4) Requin 191 – 5) San Diego 173 – 6) Long Island 154
- Both Nick and Larry discussed the problems with the USSVI National website.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Rick inquired about Charleston Base providing American Submariner subscriptions to the Nuclear Power School. Nick Nichols explained that we had done this several years ago, but we had not continued it. COB would like to send the NPS CMC a subscription for their participation at the Amberjack Ceremony. Nick will get the information to the Treasurer to get this set up.

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Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- The coordinators for the Armed Forces Day at the AFB have requested that we bring the float to the event. We will need some help to clean it up a bit, someone to tow it to the location, and some guys to stay with it from 1300 to 1700.
- Rick stated that have not yet had someone to take charge of the picnic.
- Rick reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Ceremony in Summerville.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported on schedule.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- One application to be awarded at the June Base Meeting.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- The Amberjack Memorial went really well this year. Many thanks to NPS being present.

Veteran’s Administration (VA) – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:

- Newsletter out late last week.
- Ed is finishing articles for the Amberjack Memorial to be sent to American Submariner. He requested pictures. Nick Nichols will provide.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- USSVI National SK has raised prices including the Holland Club hats. We will need to take note of this for budgetary purposes.
- Ed Stank noted that The Vest Lady has hats available at a better price.

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.
- **EMCM(SS) Jim Williams** departed on EP on Friday, April 15 at home in Goose Creek. Jim joined the Navy in 1960 and retired in 1992. He was a Life Member of both USSVI [1998] & Charleston Base [1998], a member of the Holland Club, a member the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269 and a member of the American Legion Post 0166. Jim qualified on USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SSBN602 in 1964 and served on GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SSBN656, L. MENDEL RIVERS SSN686 as COB, THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN/SSN628 as COB and STURGEON SSN637 as COB. He served on shore duty at NMCRSta New Orleans LA, Recruit Training Command Orlando FL and Commander Squadron Four Squadron Master Chief. His service was held on April 21st with a large number of SUBVETS, FRA members, family and friends present with standing room only.
- **Trish Stanley, Mike Emerson’s daughter**, passed away on April 9th. Her service was held on April 22nd.

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- **Joyce Harden, widow of Jack Harden EP Feb. 2019**, passed away on April 15th. Her service was held on April 23rd.
- **Congratulations to new Grandpa James Graham Sr.** Louis Dewey Amay Graham was born at MUSC on May 2nd at 0218. 9 lb, 12 oz, 23.2 inches. He is the son of James Graham Jr. and Richelle Amay Graham. Son, parents and granddad are all doing well.
- **Tom Skorepa** had his lung biopsy. Don Ort stopped in to see Tom Skorepa on Tuesday at Trident Medical Center. He looked really good. His wife and daughter were there. He had a surgical biopsy on his lung and a lymph node removed. He had a drain tube in and they planned to watch him overnight and release him some time Wednesday. They are waiting for the pathology report to be sure of the diagnosis.
- **Bill Kennedy** reported he has cancer in his right lung but don't know what kind. A sample was sent off to University of Michigan and they don't know either. He is taking radiation to reduce the size of the cancer and to help with the pain. The mass is 5in x 3in. Does have some pills to help with the pain.
- **Ed Stank** was in an accident on April 26 and his truck was totaled. They had to cut the roof off to get him out. After being checked out in the ER he was sent home the next day. A little stiff and sore but he is still with us.
- **Herb Anderson** was in the hospital (Georgetown) with polymorphic ventricular tachycardia [unstable heart rhythm in early-April. He was moved to MUSC the middle of April. He is now home recovering and feeling better each day.
- **Rodney McKanna** got home from the hospital on April 21st with a PICC line for antibiotics. He will be on them until May 11th. Full leg brace until the 27th.
- **Bob Gay** has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun his chemo.
- **Beetle Bailey** had hand surgery on April 14th due to tingling in his hands.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- **Gene Weir** continues his cancer treatments.
- **Bob Snyder** is still with palliative care.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

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.
- **Widows and email info.** When a CB SUBVET departs on EP his widow/family are asked if they wish to continue receiving emails and info from the base. If they agree they will receive info until 1) they request it to stop or 2) they discontinue the email in use.
- **'NEW' USSVI National Website.** It appears progress is being made for the new website. At least things are moving in that direction.

Submarine Birthday Ball – Nick Nichols:

- The 2022 Submarine Birthday Ball is scheduled for 7 May at the Charleston Marriott across from the Riverdogs stadium. They have cut off ticket sales and sold only 14 to SubVets.

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Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike reported that Mike Knaubb will be taking over the position of National Award Coordinator.
- We will be having elections at the Base Meeting next week for Vice Commander and Secretary.
- The issue regarding both National and Charleston Base Associate members was briefly addressed and, again, tabled until the next BOD meeting.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1857