

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**June 2, 2022**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1802 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Butch Bryar, Woody Woodsmall, Ed Stank, Larry Knutson, Glenn Little, Rick Sparger, Gordon Long, Tom Lawson, and Nick Nichols.

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- No decision from the judge yet.
- According to the Coast Guard, any vessel under litigation cannot be salvaged.
- There have been reports of items being cannibalized from Clamagore. Butch shall address these reports with some in Congress when he goes to D.C. next week.

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

- Nothing to report for Storekeeper.
- Woody spoke about the 5678 flags that were set up by NPS students – in the middle of a thunderstorm – which represent those military members from South Carolina who died since the start of WWII.

### **Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Ed has submitted two articles to American Submariner – Holland Club and Amberjack Ceremony. The pictures that he took were not good enough for publication, so he is hopeful that the articles will be published without photos anyhow.
- We had a great turnout for the Memorial Day Ceremony. Ed needs some photos from this event.

### **Recreation – Ed Stank:**

- Ed received a letter from the River Dogs stating that they would like to have us back to the baseball park for another visit. He will contact them.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 267 members.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Nothing to report.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Rick inquired about the American Submariner subscription for the NPS CMC. Nick Nichols will get this to him soon.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing reported.

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

### **Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn:**

- The present balance in the Scholarship fund is \$9,545. One award is to be presented at the June Base Meeting next week.

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

- There were five Base members that helped to clean the float in preparation for Armed Forces Day at the AFB. Thanks to each one.
- There were some pictures taken with the float at the Armed Forces Day event including Charlie the River Dog. Rick is going to contact the River Dogs about obtaining these pictures.
- Although we appreciated the tent to keep the sun off us, it became interesting as we had to have someone on each corner hold onto the tent to keep it from blowing away.
- Thanks to those who came out for the day. The folks who set up the event at the AFB made sure that we had plenty of water and even gave us a golf cart to use.
- The cover for the float is quite tattered and really is not worth putting back on.
- Mike Ciesielko showed the flyers that were given out during the Armed Forces Day event. It was the same graphics as what was put in the high school yearbook with different text.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- We had a great turnout at the Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day events.

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

- Nothing reported.

### **Social Media – Nick Nichols for Lewis Leal:**

- Lou was unable to be here but sends the following:
  - The May Meeting Video is online and able to be viewed by those with access.
  - The Memorial Day Ceremony video is online on the Charleston Base YouTube Channel.

### **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.
- **Tom Skorepa** sent me an up-date. It's been a while since I last text or talked to you but I've been on a Hades type roller coaster. I've been told there was no cancer, and before I could get excited, I would be called by another one and told I needed to come back in because there was another test they wanted to do. It was up and then down like that for two more cycles, with the last one being surgery to retrieve a piece of lung in that area along with lymph node for detailed pathology testing and then one more after that. I was then sent to the lung specialist today “the last doctor left”. As he felt earlier, it “was not cancer”. All testing confirmed that, but more like a low-grade bacterial infection. Wants to see me in November for a follow up CT scan to see how things were going. PTL.

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **Bill Kennedy** has lung cancer.
- **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.
- **Lee Rackley** is not doing well. He enjoys talking to anyone who might want to call.
- **Shirley Gnable, wife of John Gnable**, passed away on May 26<sup>th</sup>. John was a previous member of Charleston Base. Services are private.
- **Bob Gay** has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun his chemo.
- **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.
- **‘NEW’ USSVI National Website.** It appears progress is being made for the new website. At least things are moving in that direction.
  - The old tools section (membership and updates of members and base info) will be going down soon. We have been conducting backups for the current info in the system.
  - National is planning on having an alternate site we can use to input new members and conduct updates for our database.
  - Larry and I will work together to ensure our info are kept as up to date as possible.
  - The old site should go down sometime in late June or July with the new one available in the Aug-Dec timeframe.

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

- This has been a busy month. Keep up the good work inviting people to join SubVets.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Not present

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

- Not present

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1839