

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 4, 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, Glenn Little, Tom Lawson, Ed Stank, Larry Knutson, Rick Sparger, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Received \$100 donation from Henry L Stimson Association for CWM Maintenance Fund sometime back. The benches need cleaning, but we need to have a working party in the fall when it is a little cooler. There was discussion of having someone use a pressure washer to lightly, but thoroughly rinse the cleaning solution off after we manually clean the benches. Using high pressure on the benches will damage them.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Be careful about possible hacking and scams.

Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:

- Two of the articles sent to American Submariner were declined because the accompanying photo was not of sufficient quality.
- The Memorial Day article should however be approved.
- There is a new type ID card coming out in the next few years, so you will need to renew your ID.
- There was discussion about when to publish the Base Minutes in the Newsletter.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 264 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1197 - 2) Hampton Roads 273 - 3) Charleston 264 - 4) Bremerton 252 - 5) Requin 190 - 6) San Diego 173 - 7) Long Island 152

COB – Rick Sparger:

- The Chief Selectee Breakfast will be September 24. The location has not yet been determined, but was previously held at Cracker Barrel.

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FRA – Rick Sparger:

- The FRA picnic for July was canceled, however it is being rescheduled for September. The location has not yet been decided.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon will not be at the Base Meeting next week due to his church holding VBS. Lewis Leal agreed to provide him the audio track from the Base Meeting.

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.
- **MSC(SS) Emmett Leroy 'Lee' Rackley, USN Ret., 83**, departed on Eternal Patrol on July 14. Lee joined the Navy in 1958 and retired in 1989. He was a USSVI & Charleston Base member, a member of the Holland Club, a member the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269 and the Dorchester Shrine Club. Lee qualified on USS BLUEBACK SS-581 in 1962, and served on USS STONEWALL JACKSON SSBN-634, USS THOMAS A. EDISON SSBN/SSN-610 and USS LAFAYETTE SSBN-616. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website. As noted, a memorial service will be held at a later date. It's not known if SUBVET participation will be requested.
- **MMCM(SS) Newell T. 'Soupy' Campbell, USN Ret., 81**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 3 in Cherokee NC. Soupy joined the Navy in 1958 and retired in 1987. He was a life member of USSVI & Charleston Base [2006], and a member of the Holland Club. Soupy served on the USS CONSTITUTION IX-21 early in his Navy career. He qualified on USS TRUMPETFISH SS-425 in 1960, and served on USS CLAMAGORE SS-343, USS THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN/SSN-618, USS VON STEUBEN SSBN-632, USS LAFAYETTE SSBN-616, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT SSBN-600, USS TECUMSEH SSBN-628, USS HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN-655 COB, USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 COB, USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO SSBN-658 COB, USS HENRY CLAY SSBN-625 and also on USS FRANK CABLE AS-40. A note of condolence from Charleston Base will be placed on the funeral home website when published. Soupy left a personal request that the CB Chaplain conduct his service. CB will participate in a bell tolling service when the date is determined.
- **TMC(SS) Simon Peter Przyborowski, USN Ret., 100**, departed on Eternal Patrol on August 6, 2021. Simon joined the Navy in 1942 and retired in 1963, making him a WWII Submarine Veteran. He was a life member of SVWWII, USSVI & Charleston Base and a member of the Holland Club. Simon qualified on USS BALAO IN 1943 and rode her through 9 patrols. He also served on USS REMORA SS-487 as well as a member of a Sub Relief Crew in 1945. No one in CB was made aware of his passing and I cannot find an obituary in the paper. Bill Roberts happened to come across Simson's headstone picture and notified me on Aug 4th.
- **Stacy Power, 95**, is in Roper Hospital being treated for one of several issues that is causing his body to retain water and causing him heart and kidney issues. His condition is very serious and has complications. They drained over 2 gallons of water from his abdomen 18 hours ago and this morning he was just as bad or worse. He is going to be in the hospital for

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a few more days while the doctor tries to resolve his issues. Update from Kitty this am: He will be in for at least the weekend. Drained another gallon of water off. Needs to have PT and then be able to walk before coming home.

- **Bill Roberts, 83**, has a health issue with an aortic aneurism. A stent had been put in but it is now leaking. He will be going in for a consult but the VA has moved his case over to MUSC because of the better equipment there. The stent will either be repaired or replaced.
- **Woody Woodsmall, 70**, has COVID and will not be here. He expects to be at the meeting next week.
- **Marvin Miller, 81**, has many health issues. Frieda said she is having a hard time getting him out to go anywhere. Give him a call if you have time.
- **Thom Beach, 75**, has been at the Victory House in Walterboro since June 28. He would like everyone's prayers while he is there. You can call at 843.925.3045 or send cards to him for his large blank wall. Some have had problems contacting Thom. He has dialysis M-W-F 9:30 until around 2:30. His room changed to 129. I am doing well, actually little better. Keep cards coming. Long way to go on my big wall...
 - Thomas Beach, Veterans Victory House Nursing Home 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro. SC, 29488. Room 129.
- **Margie Deal [wife of Walt Deal]** Margie had a stroke and fell at Harris Teeters almost two months ago. She is in rehab at the Village in S'ville.
- **Gene Weir, 75**, is in Roper Hospital DT since June 18th. He has COVID19 pneumonia. His phone is off and he needs our prayers. He also has cancer. He is now waiting on an offsite rehabilitation unit. He is improving and just needs a little rehabilitation to get strength back.
- **Bob Snyder, 89**, is now in the Hospice Unit at the VA Hospital on the 4th floor. I have talked to Claire and she let me know any service will be held in Manning SC and does not expect the SUBVETS to be involved due to the distance. Harry Nettles has volunteered to attend the service and make presentations to Claire when something does happen.
- **Bill Kennedy, 75**, has lung cancer.
- **Don Londergan, 83**, is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- **Larry Turner, 79, Vietnam Era Marine Veteran & Nick's BIL** had a seizure followed by a cardiac arrest at the beginning of July. He is now in full hospice care with a DNR. Nick & Linda have made 2 trips to Atlanta to help his wife, Linda's sister. It is now just waiting. Prayers and thoughts very much appreciated.
- 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.
- There is now a New [OLD] website you can use by going to the URL of www.ussubvets.org to gain access to most all of the features of the site we were using. You can make changes to your profile on this website or you can ask either Larry Knutson or Nick Nichols to make them for you.

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- **2022 USSVI NATIONAL ELECTION** Voting has started and will end 2359, August 15, 2022. As of today, out of our 245 eligible base voters only 23 have voted online. We have no idea how many have votes by mail.
 - Use the newly reconstituted USSVI website (www.ussubvets.org). Cast your ballot accordingly. There is also space to write in a candidate of your choice.
 - Vote from your primary Base. The Regional Director vote reflects the location of your primary Base. This may be different from the location of your residence. You can only vote for the Regional Director who represents the location of your primary Base.
 - There is one (1) Proposed Bylaws change. Vote "YES" or "NO" on the proposed change.
 - Candidate's Statements and the text of the Proposed Amendment are in the current issue of *The American Submariner*.
 - You may vote by paper ballot. Paper ballots no later than August 10, 2022.
 - Mail-in Ballot Mail to: **Tom Conlon, USSVI Election Master, 8 Davis Ave., Harrison, NJ 07029**
 - You must complete your own ballot. We do not allow "proxy voting."
 - You may also bring a suitable computer to a Base meeting and members may vote using that computer. Again, each member must cast their own online ballot.

Scholarship – Rick Sparger for Carl Chinn:

- Rummage sale will be held in November.
- The large set of dolphins will be raffled at the Base Meeting.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- There are only a handful of Charleston Base Members that are below the age of 70.
- Getting a Will prepared is important. It will help when your estate is probated.
- Nick noted that preplanning a funeral is helpful – especially to the family members that are left behind. Preplan, but not prepay for funeral arrangements.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

Recreation – OPEN:

- Nothing reported.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Not present.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Not present.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- Not present.

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Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present. [Secretary's Note: The last reported status is that the hospitals are still denying entry because of COVID cases.]

Meeting was adjourned at 1852