

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**October 6, 2022**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Ricky Collins, Rick Wise, Ed Stank, Glenn Little, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Larry Knutson, Woody Woodsmall, Tom Lawson, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols and new Recreation Chairman Johnny Brown.

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- The 2023 Charleston Base had been previously sent to the Board members for review. Nick Nichols offered a motion to accept with Carl Chinn seconding. There was a short discussion about maintenance of the float, after which the vote was taken to accept the 2023 budget. The budget will be sent to the Base members for review. The Base membership will vote on this matter at the November Base Meeting.
- Rick has also provided the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report.

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

- Nothing reported.

### **Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:**

- Ed advised the Board that his Memorial Day article is being published. He has already seen the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter electronic version of American Submariner.
- Ed suggested that, for next year, we get the float set up at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- There are other annual events around the area that we could set up the float for visibility.
- NNPTC has invited Charleston Base SubVets to a picnic. Nick had sent out the invite as a head count for planning purposes. It would be good if everyone would check their email regularly for short notice situations. This one is short notice and he only got seven responses from Base members.

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Glenn plans to attend the picnic to take pictures.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Rick talked about the on-base storage shed and that he needs someone else to be a key holder. Ed Stank offered.
- The Kaps for Kids material has been placed in the storage area.
- Now that it is a little cooler, we need to have a working party to clean out the storage area. There are several items there that we do not use anymore.
- Rick introduced Johnny Brown as new Recreation Committee chairman.

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- COB asked about cleaning benches at the Cold War Memorial. Ed Stank said to pick a date. Nick questioned whether it could be any day besides Saturday. Many agreed that any day of the week would be fine. BC recommended 11/3. Many in agreement. No objections heard. BC said that he would put it out at the Base Meeting. BC suggested 1100. Gordon offered use of large plastic container, but was told it is not needed. Ed suggested a little earlier with lunch together afterward. BC said 1000, then COB said 0900, but Nick reminded everyone of the 0900 bridge traffic. There was a short discussion followed by agreement on 1000. With a show of hands, Ed agreed to find (but not pay for) a lunch location. Summary = November 3 at 1000.

### **Recreation – Johnny Brown:**

- Looks forward to planning some good events. Will be getting together with others to make some improvements to our Base recreation.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed Johnny to the task.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing Reported.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- We have several raffles ongoing.
- Rummage sale will be held on November 12. Carl will be there at 0530 to start setup.
- The Scholarship Committee has received a donation in memory of Stacy Power. Carl will send out a Thank You acknowledgement.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- It is time for payment of annual dues.
- Charleston Base currently has 263 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1213 - 2) Hampton Roads 281 - 3) Charleston 263 – 4) Bremerton 253 - 5) Requin 190 - 6) San Diego 173 – 7) Long Island 159

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- We will soon have Christmas parades. We expect to pull the float in Harleyville and Goose Creek but we do not have dates as yet.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- Nothing to report.

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### Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Nothing reported.

### Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Nick recommended that we acknowledge the fourteen active duty NNPTC sailors that attended Stacy Power's Eternal Patrol ceremony. Charleston Base Secretary will write a letter to the CMC for this.
- Nick discussed the flooding that occurred at the St. Mary's Submarine Museum. Rick Sparger made motion that we donate \$250 to the Submarine Museum. Nick seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection. Nick will provide the address for the Treasurer to send the check.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **CSCM(SS) Stacy B. Power, USN Retired, 95**, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 23 at home. Stacy joined the Navy in 1943 and retired in 1969. He was a life member of the US Submarine Veterans WWII, USSVI & Charleston Base joining both in 1999. He was a Plank Owner of Charleston Base and the first Chaplain for the Base. He was also a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 71 years, a Life Member of FRA Branch 269, a Life Member of the VFW, and a member of the American Legion. Prior to his submarine service, during and after WWII Stacy served on USS LSM-1, USS VALLEY FORGE CV-45 and the Presidential Yacht, USS WILLILAMSBURG AGC-369. Stacy qualified on USS GRENADIER SS-525 in 1951 and then served on USS SABALO SS-302 as COB, USS GREENFISH SS-351 as COB and USS SAM RAYBURN SSBN-635. He also served at the Louisville KY Recruiting District, US Amphib Base Ft. Pierce FL and Navy Recreation Station Washington DC. Stacy's funeral was held on Wednesday Sept. 28. There were 37 CB members and wives and 14 Active Duty Sailors from NNPTC at the service. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
- **MMCS(SS) John W. 'Bill' Kennedy, USN Retired, 75**, departed on Eternal Patrol on September 19 at home. John was known by different names, either Bill or Friar Tuck being the most common. Bill joined the Navy in 1965 and retired in 1985. He was a life member of USSVI & Charleston Base [2002], and a member of the Holland Club. Bill qualified on USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN in 1969, and served on USS PINTADO SSN-672, USS VON STEUBEN SSBN-632, USS NATHAN HALE SSBN-623, USS STURGEON SSN-637. There were 14 CB members and wives at the service. A note of condolence from Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.
  - **Bill's daughter sent the following email:** Hello. My name is Sarah Roland and I am John/Bill/Friar Tuck's daughter. I really appreciated the portion of his services that which you and the other Sub Vets honored him. My brother and I learned about the several things and especially about the Holland Club. Please express my sincere thanks to your group. Please also express to all of the members that I appreciate all of them who routinely came to the hospital with the Caps for Kids program.
- **RMC(SS) Bobby E. Boley, US Navy Retired**, departed on EP on October 5, 2022 at home. Bobby joined the Navy in 1957 and retired in 1978. He was a life member of the USSVI & Charleston Base [1997], and a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 55

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years. Prior to his submarine service, Bobby served on USS BLAIR DER-147, USS KING DL-610 Precom, USS HANSON DDR-837, AND USS BUSHNELL AS-15. Bobby qualified on USS LAPON SSN-661 in 1967. His shore duties included NAVCOMSTA Washington DC, NAVCOMSTA Iceland, NAVCOMSTA Puerto Rico and COMSUBLANT. A note of condolence from Charleston Base will be placed on the funeral home website when posted.

- **EN3(SS) Robert J. Snyder, US Navy Veteran**, departed on EP on August 24. Eight CB members and wives attended his service in Manning SC.
  - **Bob's wife sent the following letter:** Dear Nick, I thank you all so very much for making the trip to Manning for Bob's service. I hope you will relay my thank you to the sub=vets who made the trip to take part in the service. I know it was what Bob wanted and that made it especially meaningful to me. He suffered so long with cancer however the last three months of his life were almost unbearable for him. I am thankful for the prayers of all those who were praying for him and for his family. Our home seems so empty without him; I miss him more each day it seems. Please let me know if I can ever do anything for the members of the Sub-Vets. Fondly, Claire Snyder
- **Sabrina Peters** passed away Monday afternoon (heart attack). Sabrina was the last of three children of Clyde & Sue Peters. All three children have now passed away. Sue is the widow of CB member Clyde Peters who departed on Eternal Patrol on August 22, 2014.
- **Bill Roberts, 83**, had surgery to repair his aneurism stent. The surgery went well and he is recovering at home.
- **David Wood, 80**, had 4-way bypass surgery which went well and he was up and walking the next day. He is recovering at home but has a terrible back pain.
- **James Graham Sr., 70**, had foot surgery in August. He was able to make it to Stacy's funeral.
- **Thom Beach, 75**, was able to come home for the last week in September. According to Linda he is really enjoying his time at home. He had a neuro test while here. Not being able to drive and the storm (IAN) curtailed a lot but it has been good for him to be home.
  - **Ray Bryant left this note:** I visited Thom this afternoon (6 Apr) for a while. I wanted to take him out to Dukes' for lunch but he wasn't up to it. He's looking well, smiling and enjoyed a visit from Beetle and another Shipmate before I got there. He asked me to have you let the guys at the next week's meeting know he sure misses them and wishes he could be there.
- **Margie Deal [Walt's wife]** was in Trident due to low blood pressure and both her and Walt contacted COVID. They are out of quarantine now.
- **Lee Nettles [Harry's wife]** had ankle surgery. She's home and recovering.
- **Gene Weir, 75**, is still fighting his cancer.
- **Don Londergan, 83**, is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- 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.

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- 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.
- The new website is now online and National is wanting everyone to sign in and make sure they can make it work for them. The site is [www.ussvi.org](http://www.ussvi.org) (same as the old one) and everyone should have received an email telling them what to do to reset their password so they can login. If you have an issue let me know. Tools and Membership Training will be taking place soon.
  - The National Commander sent all USSVI members with an email notice on how to log in on the new USSVI website at <http://www.USSVI.org> The login is the email address you have listed with the USSVI, The password that you use is a lengthy one (at least 10 characters) but is a very important security feature of our website. After you do log in, send your Base Commander an email that you have.
    - Base Commanders, I ask that you check with each of your members over the next week to verify that all your members (with email accounts) have visited the new site. And then send me an email of how many have completed their log-in. Should any have questions about the site after logging in, send it to the Questions email address listed in the forwarded email.

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

- Nothing to report.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar:**

- Not present.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not present.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- 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 1909