

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Larry Knutson, Lewis Leal, Johnny Brown, Carl Chinn, Ed Stank, Rick Sparger, Ricky Collins, Glenn Little, Tom Lawson, Gordon Long, Nick Nichols and Base member Hermie Maula.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 262 members. We have many still on the dink list.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1218 – 2) Hampton Roads 280 – 3) Charleston 262 – 4) Bremerton 252 – 5) Requin 195 – 6) San Diego 173 – 7) Long Island 159

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Johnny has been making some phone calls to plan some future recreational activities:
 - The next event coming up is Stingrays hockey. On December 9, they are having a Veteran's Appreciation Night. We can get group tickets with at least 10 or more.
 - On January 14, the Stingrays will be having a Military Appreciation Night.
 - Also, they will have a Military Appreciation Night on March 4.
 - We may have an oyster roast in February/March timeframe.
 - We could also plan a trip to the River Dogs Baseball game in May/June before it gets too hot.
 - We could plan a barbeque in September/October.
 - Some years ago, Johnny organized a trip to a Citadel football game. This is also an option.
- The Christmas party is just around the corner. Johnny has been working with Rick and Ed in the planning of this event.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The drawing for the Dolphin Clock will be held at the Base Meeting next week.
- The drawing for the Dolphin Ring will be held at the Base Meeting in January.
- Rummage sale will be held on November 12. Carl will be there at 0530 to start setup. If anyone has tables that we can use, please bring them. Remind people that we cannot take clothes or bedding. Anything not sold will be taken to the Thrift Store nearby.

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Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:

- The Base Newsletter will be out this weekend.
- Ed has submitted an article to American Submariner regarding the CPO Breakfast. It is possible that it could be published in January.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Rick reminded everyone to consider bringing a side dish or dessert for the Christmas party.
- Rick inquired about the National Awards. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko is asking for updates from all committee members including this area.
- COB talked about cleaning of the benches at the Cold War Memorial. Most of the work will be to clean bird residue from the benches – especially those located under the trees. It will only take a couple of buckets of water and some rags. We need to bring a weed eater and a blower as well. The more intense cleaning can wait until spring.
- Two of the CWM benches have been knocked off their foundations.
- Rick asked, since the Clamagore is now towed away, is CRAMA now dissolved? BC will contact Butch for status.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- The parade dates are December 1 for Harleyville and December 10 for Goose Creek. Thanks to Fred Woodley for pulling the float. We will not be taking the float to Coastal Coffee Roasters this year.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing Reported.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The check to St. Mary's Submarine Museum was sent and has cleared the bank account.
- Treasurer needs a list of annual donations so that he can write the checks.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing reported

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- At the last Base Meeting Tom had asked who was the longest qualified submariner. Terry Trump was longest present that night, but Tom has found out that Donald Shoesmith is actually our current record holder, having qualified in 1951.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

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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.
- **Margie Deal** passed away on Oct. 24th. Her service was held on Oct. 27th. I was out of town but he told me there were many SUBVETS who attended the viewing and funeral and he really appreciates the support.
- **Rick Wise** fell on the 25th and went to the ER. Right arm is broken and he will have surgery on it next week.
- **Tom Cyrek** fell a few weeks ago. He is doing better.
- **Chris LaForce** is believed to be in Acute Rehab on Johns Island. Reason unknown. Received this info from FRA Chaplain Bobbi Sutton on Oct. 29th. I have attempted to contact his phone but no answer. Now trying to get info from the facility.
- **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 and is still recovering at home. He is doing better although his spinal arthritis makes it hard to sit.
- **Thom Beach, 75**, is at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.
- **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:

- How many here are aware that Charleston Base was chartered on July 24, 1997? This is our 25th Anniversary Year.
- 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.
- The new website is now online. The site is www.ussvi.org Everyone should have received an email telling them how to reset their password so they can login. If you have an issue let me know.
 - 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.
- **Membership Ranking:** 1) Groton 1218 - 2) Hampton Roads 280 - 3) Charleston 262 – 4) Bremerton 252 - 5) Requin 195 - 6) San Diego 173 – 7) Long Island 159

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Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike asked COB to send out a notification regarding Distinguished Submariner Award nominations. The award is finalized at the February BOD Meeting and presented at the March Base Meeting. Secretary Gordon Long offered to send out the information, since he can send All Hands notices.
- In regards to Memorial Benches, USSVI National will match the cost up to \$2,000. National must be contacted prior purchasing the new bench.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Not present

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

CRAMA – Butch Bryar:

- 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 1845