

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1804 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Gordon Long, Glenn Little, Ed Stank, Woody Woodsmall, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Ricky Collins, Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal, Larry Knutson, Johnny Brown and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon read the nominations for Distinguished Submariner Award. Afterward, the Board chose the recipient, who will be named at the April Base Meeting.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glenn attended the Hunley/Housatonic ceremony and took some pictures. He has sent them to Ed as PAO for American Submariner.
- Glenn will be unavailable for the Amberjack Ceremony, SubBall and the April Charleston Base meeting. Lou Leal offered to do the photo work.

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Has submitted articles to American Submariner about the Hunley Ceremony including some pictures and our Distinguished Submariner Award.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- The next newsletter will contain an article about the effects of Parkinson 's disease.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 242 members.
- Annual Base Members with unpaid dues (Dinks) will be removed from our Sailing List consistent with National.
- On 31 March, Nick will be updating our website with the new membership application and also update PayPal with the new fees for National and Charleston Base membership dues. The membership application and PayPal links will indicate this increase on 1 April.
 - National will increase to \$30 per year and CB will increase to \$20 per year.
 - All three life membership levels of Charleston Base will increase \$20 for each level.
 - All three life membership levels of National will increase from \$20 to \$100 depending on the level.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1088 - 2) Hampton Roads 270 - 3) Charleston 242 - 4) Bremerton 234

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- As of this evening, we have \$12,504 in the Scholarship fund.
- We are currently waiting on applications to be submitted.

Recreation – Rick Sparger for Johnny Brown:

- Bushy Park recreational area is no longer available. Cooper River Partners no longer allows retired employees to use the facility. We thank Terry Trump for providing use of this fantastic location for many years.
- Recreation Committee Chair Johnny Brown has arranged Short Stay on March 18 as the location for the Oyster Roast. With Johnny out of town in the preceding days, Dave Harvey is taking up the reins as the POC for the event.
- Johnny Brown arrived late to the meeting. He advised that the first 25 cars to arrive at Short Stay will receive free parking.
- Johnny will cook Frogmore Stew and Barbeque.
- Participants are asked to bring sides and desserts.
- Carl will provide a flyer to Johnny for the event.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Will be calling for a working party to ready the float for the SubBall. [SECRETARY'S NOTE: Unfortunately, the hotel denied the request for the float to be parked in front of the building for the event.]
- Nick Nichols discussed the plans for the Amberjack Memorial:
 - At Patriots Point
 - Need Emcee. Mike Ciesielko volunteered.
 - Nick will provide Chaplain Duty.
 - The speaker will be a Submarine Qualified Master Chief from NPS.
 - Need bell toller. Woody Woodsmall volunteered.
 - Need two readers. Ed Stank and Tom Lawson volunteered.
 - Rick has the bugle.
 - Nick has the bell, but Ed Stank will get the Amberjack bell from The After Battery.
 - Carl will provide the PA.
 - Mike Ciesielko will check with NPS CMC about color guard.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Read email regarding National Award process timelines.
 - April 30 – Nominations must be received by National Awards Chair
 - May 17 – Submission to Committee by NA Chair.
 - June – Report selection – Actual presentation to occur at USSVI National Convention
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko discussed and asked to arrange to meet on March 25. Possible location of VFW on Bellwright. FRA is unavailable due to golf tournament.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The February report requires a couple of corrections and will be sent out soon.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing reported.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- I will not be at the Base Meeting. I need someone to do the prayers and report.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **MMCM(SS/SW) Joseph I. Hayes Jr. , USN Ret. , 76**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Feb. 12, 2023. Joe joined the Navy in 1964 and retired in 1994 after 30 years of service. He was a life member of the USSVI & Charleston Base joining both in 2011, a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 55 years, and a Member of FRA Branch 269. Joe qualified on USS PLUNGER SSN-595 [67-72] in 1968. He also served on USS DRUM SSN-677 [72-75], USS LEWIS AND CLARK SSBN-644B [COB 78-81], USS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SSBN-640 [COB 81-85], USS JOHN ADAMS SSBN-620 [COB 85-87], and USS WILLIAM V. PRATT DLG-13/DDG-44 [CMC 88-91]. Joe's shore duty assignments included NAVAL RESERVE CENTER DAYTONA BEACH FL [INSTRUCTOR 75-78] and NAVAL WEAPONS STATION CHARLESTON SC [CMC 91-94]. Joe's service was at Parks Funeral Home on Feb. 16th with burial following at Summerville Cemetery. Charleston Base was well represented and also provided the pall bearers. The family was very appreciative of the service.
- **Phil Nunnally** had knee surgery Wed. Mar 1 which the doctor's thought would be minor. The surgery discovered the damage was more extensive than expected and he'll be on crutches for 4-6 weeks and PT after that. He is home and has plenty of family help. Feel free to text or call. I'll miss the next Subvets meeting and Nuke school graduation. I was planning on taking over the Little David maintenance this spring but that will need to wait until the fall window. I've been trying to get more involved in more Subvet activities and responsibilities over the past few months but Wendy's Covid recovery and now this keeps holding me back. Bummer.
- **Brenda Woodsmall** is having her right knee replaced on Mon Mar 6th.
- **Don Petersen** is not doing well. He can't take phone calls however he does text. If you want to text him the number for text only is 843.532.6464.
- **Tom Clark** had surgery on Jan 23rd for a mass on his intestines. Not cancerous. He spent some time in ICU and then in Rehab and was discharged to home on Feb. 26th. Still requests no calls or visitors until further notice.
- **Rodney McKanna** had his new knee joint put in on Feb. 10th. After spending some time rehab where heh was next doon neighbors with Tom Clark, he was discharged to home a week early. He is doing well and will soon return to work.
- **Rick Wise** has had two infusion and they went well. Base members stepped in to provide transport and two more will do so for the trips in March. He is doing well and has been

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

having elevated temperature which makes him believe the infusions are working. Please continue your prayers.

- **Howard ‘Andy’ Anderson** has been in Trident hospital since Jan. 10. He had 4 heart attacks & 3 procedures during this time. Now on 6th floor for rehab. Says he is still kicking.
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417. He called me Tuesday to say he’s doing OK and to also say he is asking for pictures of submarines to hang at the Victory House. He has talked to those in charge and they have agreed to use pictures if he can get them. These should be similar to those the Scholarship committee has now if possible.
- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson’s Disease. I’ve been playing text tag with him this week.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- National has dropped 17 [list was originally 28] of our members for not paying dues. At the direction of the Base Commander, I sent an email to each of these shipmates and told them to respond to the Membership Chairman for questions or concerns. Even though they have been dropped from National, we [CB] gave them until 1 March before they were removed from the Charleston Base Sailing List. These are the ones who we dropped:
 - Michael Brown Bob Browning Brian Casey James Graham Jr.
 - Randy Haas David Horton Charlie Hudson William Jones
 - Ronald Lamon Timothy Murray Troy Nicholas Larry Paris
 - Michael Price Alan Schweickhardt Matthew Simpson Tom Wilbanks
- OLD VS NEW NATIONAL WEBSITES:
 - You should ensure you are using the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
Until further notice, the rebuilt old website is the current active system that should be used for all of your normal research and data entries (Tools).
- I have been able to put 170 member pictures into the National database. That’s 73% of our members. Please update your profile on National.
- 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. Contact the webmaster with any updates to this page.

Submarine Birthday Ball – Nick Nichols:

- Nick read information about the Birthday Ball.
 - **Theme: Remember the Thresher**
 - Saturday April 8th
 - Cocktail hour 1730 and Ceremony 1830
 - North Charleston Marriott on Goer Dr
 - POC: MMN1(SS) Bradley Holtermann
- Base Commander will be bringing the klaxon and be the responsible person for the klaxon
- The SUBBALL Committee is excited to have our Thresher float as a center piece for the ball. Whoever is going to take and setup the float needs to contact MMN1(SS) Holtermann to find out time and location for setup.
- SD1(SS) Higgins will be the CB oldest Submariner Representative. Jim qualified in 1954 on USS SEA ROBIN SS 407. The Committee is paying for the tickets for Jim and Mildred to attend.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- Anyone who is attending is asked to email the Chaplain and let him know you have your tickets.
- Known to be attending and have tickets: Planning to buy tickets:
 - Woodsmall * Stank + 1
 - Ciescelko + 1
 - Rosselot + 1
 - Woodley + 1
 - Brown + 1
 - Higgins + 1
 - Nichols + 1
- Woody asked about the possibility of taking the Thresher plaque from the FRA Meeting Room to the SubBall since the theme is “*Remember the Thresher*”. He will ask Ken Hutchison about it.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike’s inputs were dispersed among the several subjects above.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Not present.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1920