

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2023

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Larry Knutson, Carl Chinn, Rick Sparger, Johnny Brown, Ed Stank, Bill Freligh, Ken Hutchison, Glenn Little, Tom Lawson, Gordon Long, Woody Woodsmall, Lewis Leal, and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mike thanked those who were involved writing submittals for National Awards.
- Mike thanked all of those involved in the planning and work of the oyster roast at Short Stay.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 252 members.
- Larry requested the new membership form with the updated dues schedule.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1132 - 2) Hampton Roads 272 - 3) Charleston 252 - 4) Bremerton 238

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- As of this evening, we have \$12,700+ in the Scholarship fund.
- We are currently waiting on applications to be submitted.
- Raffle for bottle of bourbon starts this week. The owner sold his entire stock in just a few minutes after opening.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Johnny Brown is expecting to tow the float to NNPTC for their picnic. Rick asked for 4 to 5 people to meet the float and decorate it for the static display.
- Rick requested purchase of a die-nut for cleaning the threads of the poles on the float. It was noted that we have float maintenance funds for this purpose.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- Rick mentioned that he is getting emails stating that the COB password is expired. Nick Nichols pointed out that he gets them also. Nick cautioned him and others about these sort of emails and noted that if the email looks strange, just delete it; especially if the FM line has a bunch of garbled letters and doesn't come from a USSVICB domain.
- Rick congratulated Johnny Brown and Dave Harvey for the work at the Oyster Roast.
- COB and others have pictures for Thom Beach at The Victory House. Ed will be taking them.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Johnny has been in contact with the River Dogs Bushy Park. He shall print out the information about their facilities and costs. Some of the packages are extremely expensive but we could sit together in general seating for about \$9 each. This was the option taken during the previous River Dogs game when they really focused on Stacy Power as WWII.
- Some tickets are also available at \$5, but these are limited.
- There we discussion of future picnics.

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- Mike Ciesielko discussed tickets to events being subsidized by Charleston Base. That subject was left for a later conversation.

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Ed will be submitting an article to American Submariner about the Oyster Roast.
- Ed thanked Glenn Little and others for washing all of the oysters so that there was no mud in them.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- The Newsletter should be published tomorrow.
- Ed is still looking for a replacement as Newsletter Editor.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- We will be reading eleven names of those inductees at the Base Meetings next week.

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken has received no nominations for Base Commander or Treasurer as of tonight.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing reported.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Tom discussed some changes to the tax structure affecting retirees.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Distinguished Submariner Award certificate will be available sign tomorrow.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Not present.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing reported.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Thanked Tom Lawson for taking care of Chaplain/Webmaster duties in March.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

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- **Betty Hayes**, wife of Joe Hayes EP 12 Feb, passed peacefully on March 13 at home. Her funeral service was on Mar. 30.
- **Brenda Woodsmall** knee surgery went very well. Now it's just getting thru the PT.
- **Rick Wise** has completed his first round of treatment. He has three new appointments and shipmates have already spoke up to help. He had a CT scan yesterday; driver was Woody Woodsmall. The news was not good. CT scan shows that the sarcoma has basically doubled in size. Plan is to try radiation and modify the infusion solution. All prayers gratefully accepted. He will have a consultation on Apr 12 to determine future course of action. Tentatively, an infusion on Apr 13 and driver is Jerry Starr. Then he has one on May 4 and his driver is Ed Stank.
- **Tom Clark** had surgery on Jan 23rd. He had a long stay in rehab but has been home for a few weeks and is improving daily. Accepting phone calls/texts/visitors. Hopes to see all of us soon.
- **Howard 'Andy' Anderson** updated his phone it's now 843 830 9013. Did away with the house phone. Got out of the hospital on 3 Feb. 28 days in Trident. Had 2 stents put in on 11 Jan then on the 16th had aortic valve repair & then they installed a pacemaker a few days later. During the time in the hospital he had 4 blood transfusions for a unknown bleed. That's still a problem. I home and alone. I'm OK & it will take a little more time. Longer at 84 years old thanks for checking on me. The 4 heart attacks started all this on 6,7,8,10 Jan. Take care see you all soon.
- **Bob McNeish** reports he is doing a lot better. Still has some struggle, but managing. Dr. says this is going to take time considering age, prostate etc. Bob recently had a bad cold and is coughing a lot.
- **John Lookabill and Judy**, had COVID in mid-March. Both doing well now.
- **Mike Knaub** is not doing well.
- **Don Petersen** can't take phone calls however he does text. If you want to text him the number for text only is 843.532.6464.
- **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.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- As of 1 April, the website was update with the new dues amount for National and Base. This included an updated membership form and update PayPal links.
- I have updated the officer's page. Removed Butch from the board and CRAMA contact; removed Harry from the board and Hunley/Housatonic Service Coordinator but left his as the non-nuclear historian. Removed Mike Knaub as the National Awards Coordinator and we are actively looking for someone to take this on.
- In March, ATT/Bellsouth had put a block on our USSVICB domain email. After Gordon sent them a nice note and I sent them a questionable note we got it lifted. I think there is still some residual issues but will try to get the worked out.

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New Dues Schedule – Nick Nichols:

- New cost of dues for National and Charleston Base became effective at midnight on 1 April. The website was updated with the new membership application and the updated PayPal payments.

Lost Boats Ceremony – Nick Nichols:

- The 2023 Lost Boats Memorial will be held at BLDG 777 on Sat. 8 April starting at 1000. Nick reviewed the order of ceremony, listing participants and uniform.
- Nick expressed his gratitude to NNPTC for use of the building for this event.

Submarine Birthday Ball – Nick Nichols:

- Nick provided information about the Birthday Ball.
 - **Theme: Remember the Thresher**
 - Saturday April 8th

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike discussed the National Award submittals.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1909