

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1802 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Woody Woodsmall, Johnny Brown, Bill Freligh, Ed Stank, Larry Knutson, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Tom Lawson, Glenn Little, Ricky Collins, Lewis Leal, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody now has a credit card reader for his phone in the event that a Base member needs to make a purchase of SK items.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- The next event will be at the River Dogs. After some discussion with them, Johnny was able to get a military group rate of \$5 per ticket. The date will be Friday, July 7. Johnny will make up a flyer for distro.
- The parking has been pushed farther away from the stadium, but they have carts available for those who have trouble with the distance.
- Lou Leal suggested that we have a group event at the ballpark. Johnny stated that we will look into that after we see how the turnout is at the July 7 event.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nothing to report

PAO – Ed Stank:

- The article about the Hunley Ceremony was published in American Submariner. The one of the Distinguished Submariner Award did not.
- Ed has resubmitted his article about the Scholarship Award.
- Ed is currently working on submittals for the Amberjack/Lost Boats Ceremony and Submarine Birthday Ball.
- He will be working on something regarding the oyster roast.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- The Newsletter should be sent out tomorrow evening.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 253 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1147 - 2) Hampton Roads 272 - 3) Charleston 253 - 4) Bremerton 237

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Mike Ciesielko will tow the float to the Armed Forces Day – May 19 – static display at the Air Force Base, since Johnny is unavailable.
- The Weapons Station will also hold Freedom Fest at the softball fields next to the commissary and is asking us to bring the float for display.

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COB – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- As of this evening, we have \$12,812 in the Scholarship fund.
- Have received five scholarship requests.
- Carl reported a large donation was made to the Scholarship Fund by Rick Sparger.
- The bourbon raffle is in progress. Carl would like to exceed \$400 for the fund raiser.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Took pictures of the float at the NNPTC event today.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The report has been sent and all expenses have been included.
- Ricky outlined the balances in the account for each fund.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Amberjack, Base Meeting and Holland Club videos have been published.
- Asked about the Memorial Day Ceremony

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Base elections shall be put at very beginning of the meeting instead of Old Business.
- The Office of Base Commander has two candidates now – Incumbent Mike Ciesielko and former Treasurer Gordon Williams.
- The Distinguished Submariner Award will be second.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported.

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.
- **ETC(SS) Frederick Carl Schmidt** departed on Eternal Patrol Sunday, April 16, 2023. He joined the Navy in 1959 and retired in 1979. Carl qualified on USS Triton SSN/SSRN 586 in 1961. He also served on USS Razorback SS 394, USS Cubera SS 347, USS James Madison SSBN 627, USS Casimir Pulaski SSBN 633, USS Tang SS/AGSS 563, and USS Sailfish SSR/SS 572. Carl was a Life Member of USSVI, joining in 2000, and was a proud member of Cod Base. He was also a member of the Razorback Base, Topeka-Jefferson City Base and USS Snook Base. He was a member of the Holland Club. Carl was a dedicated and faithful

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member of USSVI and served in numerous positions, including Central Region Director, National Chaplain and National Senior Vice Commander.

- **RM2(SS) Steve Lambrecht**, from Charleston and a Navy submarine veteran, passed away yesterday while TAD at Pearl Harbor, HI. This info was passed to me from Chris LaForce who worked with him. Pau was found unresponsive by one of his NIWC PAC colleagues who called 911 and rendered aid. Unfortunately, he passed shortly after arriving at the hospital. Steve had been with NIWC LANT since OCT 2002 supporting the Common Submarine Radio Room. He was well-respected by his teammates as well as sailors throughout the submarine force. Steve set the example for dedication to the mission and the fleet. He would do whatever, whenever, for whomever asked him for a favor and will definitely be missed. His Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm at McAlister-Smith Funeral Home, 347 Folly Rd, Charleston, SC 29412.
- **Rick Wise** had surgery on Apr 25th and went home the following evening. In order to get the cancerous tumor, the right clavicle, shoulder and arm had to be removed. Rick did very well as evidenced that he plans on being at the base meeting. Several of his shipmates have been giving him rides to his appointments and this need will continue until he feels it's no longer needed. Ed Stank took him to his appointment today and Rick said they are just waiting on the pathology report. Roger Gibson will be his ride to the base meeting next Thursday, May 11. He will need a ride to an appointment on Tuesday May 16th at 0800. He is in great spirits and welcomes calls and visits. Just before the surgery, Rick Sparger and Larry Knutson replaced a ceiling fan in the kitchen on April 17th for which Jean really thanks them.
 - Because of a comment made at the SUBBALL to a first class sitting at our table, the NNPTC First Class Association will be working with Rick to go to his house soon and complete yard work for him.
- **Hauns 'Sam' Vlam** is in the Oakbrook Health & Rehabilitation Center for rehab. Bill Freligh and Robby Roberts tracked him down and presented his Holland Club certificate and hat. He doesn't get many visitors so those who remember him might want to visit him.
- **Woody Woodsmall** had surgery on his right shoulder mid-April. It was successful and he's now getting it working again with rehab.
- **Jerry Starr** had eye surgery and is doing well.
- **Howard 'Andy' Anderson** continues his home rehab from his time in the hospital and the 3 heart attacks he had.
- **Mike Knaub** is not doing well.
- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson's Disease.
- **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.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- Updates:

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- The officer's page has been updated. Which brings a question. Is George Scharf still our Historian? I haven't seen him at a meeting in a long time. Who is keeping up with our history?
- I'm still trying to get all our member pictures. What I have is now on the site. I do have a list of the 81 I'm missing. There's about 70% of our members with pictures.
- Profiles for all CB members who are also FRA have been updated to reflect that.
- Sailing list is updated. We have 4 Honorary members listed: Pardo, Temple, Pepper and Power. I have a list of another 13 Honorary of which I can only find 2 that are on the FRA list so I know they are still alive.

Nuclear Power School – Nick Nichols for Phil Nunnally:

- **NNPTC requested** our float for lunch time today. It went well. The float was towed by Johnny Brown. Attendees were Ken Hutchison, Glenn Little, Larry Knutson and Nick Nichols. Several staff members indicated they might attend our next meeting and think about joining USSVI.
- **Phil Nunnally** is now handling the presentations at the Power School graduations. A new base member, Anthony Mazzo, is on staff at the school and is going to work with Phil for these presentations.

Float Coordination – Nick Nichols:

- **Alexis Bradford** who was here at the last meeting to talk to us has give us two dates they would like to have Charleston to bring the float and participate.
 - **Armed Forces Day** at CAFB, Fri May 19th, 1500-1900 (setup at 1400), airbase picnic grounds like we did last year.
 - **Freedom Fest** on the Weapons Station at the Locklear park Softball Fields, Fri June 30th, 1700-2200 (setup at 1600), fireworks at 2100.
- Rick Sparger noted that we need a designated Float Coordinator. After much discussion, Ed Stank suggested that the Vice Commander be the POC. All were in agreement, including Tom Lawson (Current VC).
- Johnny Brown noted that we need to get a new cover for the float. He found one at Lowes that would do the task. We do, however need to put cushioning on the stress points such as the corner stanchions, sail and rudder. The funds are in the budget. Johnny will get the cover.
- Johnny noted that we need to get some painting done on the float.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Twelve nominations were sent to National for awards. One was returned for procedure error. This left ten Base member nominations, plus the Base award submittal.
- Mike welcomed the challenge for Base Commander. The election is next week.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1859