

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2023

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

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- Rick talked about the float, daily excursions, and the need for people to assist setting up and returning to the parking spot.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- There had been some discussion about building a ramp for Don Peterson at his home. His health condition is such at this time that he will likely never get to use it.
- Rick provided Woody business cards for a lady that does embroidery.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing reported

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl read a “Thank You” note sent to the Scholarship Committee from Chase Bonniwell.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 256 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1153 - 2) Hampton Roads 277 - 3) Charleston 256 - 4) Bremerton 241

PAO – Ed Stank:

- Nothing reported.

Newsletter – Ed Stank:

- Nothing reported.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nothing to report

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glen will be at NPTU graduation to take pictures.
- Glen is still trying to get a POC at Patriots Point for the Pearl Harbour wreath laying.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report

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Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Reminded everyone of the Charleston River Dogs game on 7 July.
- Navy Support Activity Golf Tournament for 2023 Navy Ball. A motion was made by Tom Lawson and seconded by Ricky Collins to sponsor the breakfast bar for \$750. A vote was taken and the vote carried. The expenditure requires approval from the membership at the Base meeting next week. Also, it is intended to use funds from the Investment Account.
- MA1 Brad Outhet will attend the Base Meeting next Thursday to talk for 5 minutes about the Golf Tournament. An email will be sent to CB members to organize a team to participate in the tournament.
- Johnny has been in contact with the Citadel about attending a football game this season. Information will be forwarded to Johnny.
- Participating in a BBQ Competition as a fund-raiser for the scholarship fund was mentioned.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Tom thanked everyone who came out to get the float ready to move to the Freedom Fest site and also those who helped set up before the Fest and take it down when it was over.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Two scholarships checks have not cleared the bank. The names were given to the scholarship chairman.
- Ricky will consult with Edward Jones on how to withdraw a small amount from the investment fund.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report

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.
- **Ruth Glass**, mother of Trudy Glass, wife of Jim Lewis, passed away the morning of 6 July. She was 97 years young.
- **Mike Ciesielko's daughter, Erica**, had a serious car accident June 21st and the car was totaled. She was taken to the hospital with broken bones and spine injuries and was in ICU for a few days. She had back surgery and is now home. Wearing a back brace. Mike says she is doing well.
- **Jim Higgins** is in rehab at Elms LifeCare rm 10 Garden Ridge after being in the hospital. He has had back pain for a long time and it was getting worse so he went to the ER where an MRI was done. He had an infection on his spine and is being treated with antibiotics. His progress is slow due to the pain and meds. He is OK with visitors although per Mildred's direction "Do Not Disturb If He Is Sleeping". He needs the rest. Mildred, wife, will be keeping me informed as to how he is doing.

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- **Rick Wise** received his CT scan results on June 28th and they are GOOD! No signs of cancer were found. He is doing so well he will be taking back the responsibility for the Amberjack/Lost Boats ceremony we do each April.
 - On June 30th, Alyssa and 3 others including Chief Thompson, from the FCPOA, came by and raked and took the pine needles and other debris from our backyard out to the road. This was something Jean and I just couldn't do.
- **Rick Collins** has a friend who has the chair in the picture available as a donation if there is anyone who might need one. Contact Rick at treasurer@ussvich.org for more information.
- **Hauns ‘Sam’ Vlam** is in the Oakbrook Health & Rehabilitation Center Rm 315 for rehab. He has Parkinson’s and is doing as well as can be expected. He will enjoy any visits he gets.
- **Woody Woodsmall** is still having some issues with his shoulder after the surgery and rehab is taking longer to complete. On June 30th, he had surgery on his face for a benign tumor and stayed overnight. He will be going in next week for a doctor to look at the surgery site.
- **Howard ‘Andy’ Anderson** is out of cardiac rehab by doctor’s orders. He completed about half of the days. The heart is doing fine and working good for a 84 year old guy. Still have an unknown bleeding source that has reared its ugly head 3 times since Jan. Lots of doctors have been involved. It still remains unknown source of bleeding at this time. He has had this issue for years but appears to have gotten more frequent since the heart attacks. “Of course for me it couldn't be a normal thing. I am going to try to get to the meeting.”
- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson’s Disease.
- **Don Petersen** is not doing well
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- Freedom fest total of 16 SUBVETs and spouses there.
 - Received from Alexis: Thank you for showing up in force to the event. The SUBVETs are always a friendly face of calm in a storm that is these events and I personally appreciate the support. Additionally, thank you on behalf of JBC.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Nothing reported.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not Present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:

- Not present

Most of meeting including time not recorded. Thanks to all that sent email reports.

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[SECRETARY’S NOTE: Most of the meeting audio was lost. BOD Members provided inputs via email. Thanks to all for your response.]