

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**August 3, 2023**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Woody Woodsmall, Larry Knutson, Glenn Little, Ricky Collins, Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal, Johnny Brown, Rick Sparger, Gordon Long, and Nick Nichols.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:**

- Nothing to report

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 254 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings:
- Groton 1156 - 2) Hampton Roads 278 - 3) Charleston 254 - 4) Bremerton 241

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Just taking pictures

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- The investment account is set up to require the Base Commander to go to the office and authorize the withdrawal. The funds will then be transferred to our bank. The Treasurer then can write the checks as needed.
- The check for the golf tournament next week has been written already.
- Even with the \$750 withdrawal, our investment fund balance has increased.

### **VA – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing reported

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing reported

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing reported

### **Recreation – Johnny Brown:**

- The golf tournament will be next Thursday, August 10 at the Summerville Country Club. (Miler). The team members are Johnny Brown, Ed Stank and, Greg Landry and B.J. Leonard.
- The SubVets banner from the float will be taken to the breakfast bar at the tournament. If anyone is available to attend, wear your hat.
- The Fleet will be having a picnic at Marrington Plantation on September 23. Nick noted that they had also a picnic there in the spring and that it was a fantastic time. If you are an FRA member, you should attend or not complain.

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- The outing to the Citadel football game is cancelled due to logistics reasons. The biggest is parking.
- Charleston Base will have a picnic at Marrington Plantation on October 28. The rent for the location is more than reasonable. We will be have Frogmore Stew and Catfish Stew. Please bring sides and desserts. Mike Ciesielko volunteered to cook some BBQ. The pavilion has nearby porta-johns for facilities. Nick recommended that we spray the shelter for bugs early, before everyone arrives.
- The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be on Friday, December 1 at the FRA. The event will begin at 1700. Bill, the DJ will set up and do some Christmas music for the dinner and at 2000, he will be on the other bar side of the building, so for those who would like to do some karaoke, they can go over there.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing Reported.

### **COB – Rick Sparger:**

- Rick asked about the Cold War Memorial Maintenance Fund. Nick Nichols noted that money that is in the Charleston Base bank account for this is not ours, but is in trust by us. For example, the Stimson Association has donated money to this purpose. Several other boat organizations also have. If we go out there to do some serious cleaning, then we would simply contact Rusty Pickett and let him know that we are going to use some of it for cleaning supplies.
- Some of the other Bases have restarted their Kaps 4 Kids programs. Rick asked about Charleston Base getting back to this work. All are in agreement that we need to do this.

### **FRA – Rick Sparger:**

- Nothing reported.
- Nick stated that the new Fleet Reserve website will be coming soon. It will be FRA269GC.org. Hope all our FRA members enjoy it.

### **Scholarship – Johnny Brown for Carl Chinn:**

- Rummage Sale is November 18 at Halloween Express on Old Trolley Road. Carl normally does an email flyer.

### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- It is unlikely that any of our group have school-aged children, so Gordon invited Base Members to bring grandchildren to ParkWay Baptist Church for a One-Day VBS on Saturday, 5 August.
- Nothing else 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.
- **Don Petersen, 76**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday 21 July in Goose Creek. Don joined the Navy in 1968 and retired in 1994. He was a life member of USSVI & Charleston Base joining both in 2002, a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 54 years, and a Life Member of FRA Branch 269 with continuous membership for 42 years. Don qualified

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on USS BASHAW SS/SSK/AGSS-241 in 1969. He also served on USS TINOSA SSN-606, USS JAMES MADISON SSBN-627, USS NARWHAL SSN-671 and USS WILLIAM H. BATES SSN-680. A note of condolence from Charleston Base has been placed on the funeral home website. The Funeral Home has indicated there are no services scheduled.

- I have received word from both the base commander and the FRA Chaplain that Don's daughter wants to hold a SUBVET/FRA service for Don at the Fleet. No one has officially contacted either Bobbi or me.
- **Roger Gibson's daughter, Bonnie**, 61, passed away on the morning of July 25 at St. Francis Hospital from stage IV cancer. She was 12 hours into her hospice care but was too weak. I have not heard of any services being planned.
- **Al Dempster's son, Ed**, sent me an email update on Al. Ed thinks his father is still a member of Charleston Base but we have checked and he was dropped in Jan 2020. I have sent Ed an email letting him know this. According to his son, Al has been out of commission for a while. His health has declined rapidly in the last four years. We recently moved him and my mom into an assisted living facility (The Bridge at Charleston). It's a very nice place and they honor veterans there.
- **Jim Higgins** is still in rehab at Elms LifeCare RM 10 Garden Ridge but expects to go home soon. Still trying to get the infection on his spine 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.
- **Hans '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.
- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson's Disease.
- **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>

### **Other Info – Nick Nichols:**

- I will not be here for the September meeting. The day of the meeting is our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and if I'm at the Base meeting I know we won't see a 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary.
- The day of the October Base meeting is the first day of the Henry L Stimson Reunion. Nick will be inviting all in attendance to come to the Base Meeting.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Nothing reported.

### **Nuclear Power School – Phil Nunnally:**

- Not present

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- Not present

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### **PAO – Ed Stank (Resigned – Position Open):**

- Not present. [SECRETARY’S NOTE: Ed has requested relief from position for several months.]

### **Newsletter – Ed Stank (Resigned – Position Open):**

- Not present. [SECRETARY’S NOTE: Ed has requested relief from position for several months.]

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- Not present

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1847.