

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Ricky Collins, Johnny Brown, Bill Freligh, Ed Stank, Glenn Little, Rick Sparger, Carl Chinn, Larry Knutson, Gordon Long, Tom Lawson, Nick Nichols and Base member Dave Harvey.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The total for the Christmas party was \$1120.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Johnny thank several Base members who had assisted in making the Christmas party a success.
- Johnny spoke about the Goose Creek parade, listing the names of those who attended.
- Johnny offered to pull the Float in the future if needed.
- In the next couple of months, he will be looking for another team event.
- The hockey game will be on January 14. Please wear your vests and hats.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- For Holland Club this year, we have eleven (11) eligible for award.
- The presentation will be held at the Base Meeting on April 13.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko mentioned that he had spoken with a member who did not get his Holland Club award last year.

Newsletter/PAO – Ed Stank:

- Ed had submitted two articles to American Submariner, however neither had been published.
- Ed is resigning as PAO/Newsletter Editor. A replacement will be needed by the end of February.
- Ed is also giving up the job as Charleston Base POC.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Photos from the Christmas party were provided to Nick, who stated that he would have them published on the Base website within the next couple of days.

COB – Rick Sparger:

- COB spoke about Rick Wise and his current health condition and recommended that we have someone else available to present the Legacy Awards at Nuclear Power School graduations.
- COB asked about Mike Knaub and his position as National Awards Coordinator.

FRA – Rick Sparger:

- Nothing Reported.

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Special Events – Rick Sparger:

- We need to do some maintenance on the Float. One of the poles rusted out where it screws into the deck. Dave Harvey's grandson has a shop that can make the repair, but Rick recommended that we replace all four of them.
- Rick will be purchasing a cover for the float. With it under the roof, the birds are having a good time decorating it. He will call for a working party to clean the float once he has the cover in hand.
- Rick has been attempting to contact Charlie Hudson about the scheduled maintenance of the Float. Glenn Little expects to see Charlie this week.
- We were scheduled to pull in the Harleyville Christmas parade, but our Float puller was not available.
- Rick thanked Johnny Brown for his work at the Christmas party and also for offering to pull the Float in the future.
- Rick gave Johnny the key to the storage building. All of the SubVet material is inside a locked cage.

Kaps for Kids – COB for Mike Emerson:

- COB inquired about whether our Base is still participating in KAPS FOR KIDS. All of the supplies for this are now in the storage cage. What hospitals are we able to visit? Nick Nichols pointed out that one of the new National website developers had called him about some website function. In the process, he noted that the Kaps For Kids will probably be reduced on the National website, because everyone only shows the photos with the nurses even though the article speaks of the children. For an article to contain a picture of the children, it requires written release from the parents. In addition, many hospitals are still running in COVID restrictions, making it difficult/impossible to visit.
- Ed Stank talked about possibly visit the elementary school on base and making a presentation. At the hospitals, due to the kid's physical condition, these presentations end up being mainly for the parents. Carl Chinn pointed out that the entire basis for the program is kids in the hospital – originally for cancer.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The drawing for the Dolphin Ring will be held at the Base Meeting next week
- We have two large paintings. One is an oil painting of a WWII submarine battle. This one was donated by George Barnette. The other is a really nice Hunley crew print. Both of these are very high quality, if we cannot obtain a decent amount of funds for them, we shall locate a museum to put them in.
- As of this evening, we have \$10,099 in the Scholarship fund.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 261 members. We still have 41 members on the dink list.
- All have been contacted and been made aware that National will drop them soon. When they are removed from the National membership, we shall also remove them from the Base Sailing List.

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- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings: 1) Groton 1221 - 2) Hampton Roads 279 - 3) Charleston 261 – 4) Bremerton 250 - 5) Requin 193

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Will provide Distinguished Submariner Nomination forms for the Base Meeting next week. As of yet, Gordon has received no submittals. The nominee is to be selected at the February BOD meeting and the award presented at the March Base meeting.
- COB asked about whether a member could be presented the award more than once. Although this has not been done to date, we have no rules restricting this as an option.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- 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.
- Photos from the Christmas party were provided to Nick, who stated that he will have them on the website within the next couple of days.
- At the Christmas party we tolled the bell for 21 of our shipmates. Their names are in the Christmas Party Base minutes posted on the website. The following three departed after the November meeting.
- **ET1(SS) Jimmy L. Kimbrell, USN Ret., 84**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Nov. 30, 2022 at his home in James Island. Jimmy joined the Navy in 1957 and retired in 1976. He was a member of USSVI & Charleston Base [2011], a member of the Holland Club, a member of FRA Branch 269, a member of VFW Post 3142 and a member of American Legion Post 112. Jimmy qualified on USS TIRANTE SS-520 in 1959. He also served on USS EARL B. HALL APD 107, USS ODAX SS-484, USS ETHAN ALLEN SSBN-608, USS WOODROW WILSON SSBN-624, USS SIMON BOLIVAR SSBN-641 and FBMSTC CHARLESTON SC twice. There was no service and no obituary. Ray Kimbrell, Jimmy's son, emailed saying they plan on having his ashes sent to sea per his wishes as he so loved his fellow sailors and his sea service.
- **RMC(SS) Gordon A. Smith, USN Ret., 78**, departed on Eternal Patrol at his home in Cottageville on December 13, 2022. Gordon joined the Navy in 1963 and retired in 1983. He was a Life Member of USSVI & Charleston Base [2010], a member of the Holland Club, and a member of FRA Branch 269. Gordon qualified on USS LEWIS and CLARK SSBN644 in 1967. He also served on GRAYLING SSN646 and L. MENDEL RIVERS SSN686. In accordance with his wishes there was not a funeral or memorial service.
- **LCDR(SS) George William Barnette III, USN Ret., 87**, departed on Eternal Patrol at his home on December 13, 2022. George joined the Navy in 1953 and retired in 1978 after a 25-year career. He was a Life Member of USSVI & Charleston Base [1999] and a member of the Holland Club. He qualified on USS CHIVO SS-341 in 1962. He also served on SARDA

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SS-488, STERLET SS-392 and TUNNEY SS/SSG/APSS/LPSS-282 as Executive Officer. His funeral service was held in the Summerall Chapel at the Citadel today (Thursday, Jan 5th) at 10:30. Charleston Base SUBVETS did not participate. Condolences on behalf of Charleston Base was placed on the funeral home website.

- **Ruth Petersen, Don's wife**, passed away on 31 Dec. Arrangements are being made. Don says many members will know her as the bartender at the Chiefs Club on the base.
- **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.
- **Dawn Ciesielko's** mother passed away in mid-November last year.
- **Fred & Sandra Woodley** were both fighting the flu the week before Christmas. Fred's nephew passed away in mid-November and also Sandra's cousin passed away in mid-November.
- **Mike Ciesielko** had COVID again. He was feeling terrible on Christmas Day and on Wednesday he was diagnosed with covid. He is better and cleared to be out.
- **Rick Wise** thought he would be undergoing chemo for bone cancer in the break of his right arm but instead he has received word he be receiving an immunotherapy treatment. The type of cancer he has will respond better to that treatment. He is scheduled for his first treatment on January 20th. Several shipmates have volunteered to take turns transporting him to Hollings Cancer Center whenever he needs their help.
- **Rodney McKanna** had his right knee Mrsa infection cleared in November. He has healed well.
- **J.J. Fortier** had a complicated back surgery in min-November.
- **Chris LaForce** fell at work on 10.17.22 and was taken by EMS to MUSC. He was there for 8 days and on the 25th went to rehab on John's Island. He was there a month and went home on 11.30.22. He is doing a little better but still on rehab.
- **Thom Beach, 75**, was home over the holidays and is now at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.
- **Gene Weir, 75**, is still fighting his cancer.
- **Don Londergan, 83**, is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Website is constantly updated.
- Activity pictures links on the home page have been updated with all 2021 and 2022 pictures. 2020 pictures will be on soon. All pictures from 2019 and past have been archived but can be requested from the webmaster if needed.
- 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.
- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- The new website is now online. The site is www.ussvi.org. Everyone should have received an email telling them how to reset their password so they can login. If you have an issue let me know.

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- The National Commander sent all USSVI members with an email notice on how to log in on the new USSVI website at <http://www.USSVI.org>. The login is the email address you have listed with the USSVI, the password that you use is a lengthy one (at least 10 characters) but is a very important security feature of our website. After you do log in, send your Base Commander an email that you have.

CRAMA – Glenn Little for Butch Bryar:

- With the Clamagore now gone, CRAMA is essentially dissolved. After all existing debts are paid, all remaining funds will be sent to support the USS Drum in Mobile, AL. George Sharf is the Treasurer. Rick Wise is the Secretary.
- CRAMA hats are available for those who would like one.

Museum Proposal – Dave Harvey:

- Dave Harvey presented an initial proposal for a Submarine Museum to be located in North Charleston. The proposal is for a combined Museum/Banquet Hall/Restaurant at the old Navy Base. This is an effort to prevent the loss of the collection of submarine items currently held by The After Battery. Dave read some of the details including the cost to build, operate and maintain this multipurpose facility. There will be no cost to Charleston Base.
- Nick inquired about the association of Charleston Base with the project based on previous issues that occurred in Groton, of which we must avoid. Dave is reviewing the details with an attorney. The details are in the letter which will be sent to Mayor Summey.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko lauded Dave's idea for the museum and facilities. Some questions that he had will be answered over time. Dave expects to be able to present more details at the April 6 BOD meeting.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Please submit nominations for Distinguished Submariner Awards.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Not present

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Meeting was adjourned at 1918