

## USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**November 2, 2023**

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

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

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

### **Holland Club – Bill Freligh:**

- There will be about fifteen 15 eligible for induction into the Holland Club at the next ceremony.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson:**

- Charleston Base currently has 256 members.
- PAYPAL does not put the proper numbers since the rate increase. Treasurer has contacted PAYPAL but it is not yet corrected. Until then, Nick will disable the link on the Base Website.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings (More than 200 members):
- Groton 1169 - 2) Hampton Roads 283 - 3) Charleston 256 - 4) Bremerton 245

### **Hunley/Housatonic – Tom Holcombe:**

- Tom talked to the Confederate Heritage organization. This next year will be 160 years since the sinking. Because of this they want to have a larger than normal observance. They want to us to do a two-bell ceremony for each of the Hunley/Housatonic crew members. He will meet with them again in January.
- Tom suggested a paver brick in honor of Stacy Power. It is for the VFW in Isle of Palms. Since Stacy was a member of the FRA for 65 years, it would be better to have one made for the FRA lobby. Tom will check on the cost of this.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn:**

- Rummage Sale is November 18.
- Raffle – 2 tickets to Glen Miller concert
- Received donation in memory of Rick Sparger

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

- Will be absent next week at the Base Meeting.
- Spoke about a hearing equipment test in which he was participating.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise:**

- The Base budget has been out for review for three weeks and Rick has received no response; therefore, Rick will request approval at the Base Meeting next week.

### **Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:**

- Nothing to report

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

- Needs to confirm with NPS about the date. Normal rotation would put graduation on December 22.

### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Nothing to report

### **Photographer – Glenn Little:**

- Glenn will be at Coastal Coffee Roasters, the Rummage Sale, the Base Christmas Party and the Goose Creek parade to take pictures.
- Glenn will also be at the Pearl Harbor / WWII Ceremony at the Yorktown to take pictures.

### **Recreation – Mike Ciesielko for Johnny Brown:**

- Mike spoke about the recent Base picnic at Marrington.
- The Base will pull the float in the Goose Creek Christmas Parade on December 9.

### **COB – Mike Ciesielko:**

- Mike has designated Johnny Brown as Interim COB.

### **Special Events – Mike Ciesielko:**

- We need a new Special Events Coordinator.

### **VA – Tom Lawson:**

- Nothing to report

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:**

- Patriotic Event – Guest Speaker next week at the Base Meeting

### **Treasurer – Ricky Collins:**

- Johnny Brown has receipts to turn in yet but is not here this evening.
- Ricky reminded everyone to turn in receipts promptly to help keep his records in order.

### **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.

- **Erica Ciesielko, 34, daughter of Mike & Dawn**, passed away on Friday, 20 October, at home. A memorial service will be held for her at the FRA on Saturday beginning at 1600.
- **Rick Sparger** went to SMC on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and diagnosed with sepsis on his kidney. He got home on the 16<sup>th</sup> and was feeling much better. He was taking IV through a PIC. On Saturday morning, Kit found him on the floor passed away. The memorial service will be on Sunday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> at 1400 at Parks Funeral Home in Summerville. Everyone should have received the email by now. Burial will be private after the service.

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- **Francis Shepherd, 94, Fred Woodley's brother-in-law**, passed away in Michigan on Tuesday 31 Oct. Francis was a Korean War Veteran.
- **Rick & Colleen Collins** are the proud grandparents of Amelia Grace Moser, 8 lbs 2 oz born Sunday Oct 8, 2023. Parents are Geoff & Sarah Moser. Sarah is Rick's daughter. After spending some extra time in the hospital, Sarah and baby Ameilia are both home and doing well.
- **John Furst** has developed a Pancreatic Divisum and **santorinicele** which is cystic dilatation of a duct in the pancreas. This was caused by an undiagnosed birth defect. Arthroscopic surgery was used to install a Stent and remove the cyst. Two months later, they had to remove the Stent. That was last year. In January of this year, he suffered a stroke which affected the left eye. He could not see clearly for a couple of days and his right eye would not move for a few days. His vision has since returned to normal. He has lost at least 50% of my strength on my left side and is going to physical therapy to help regain my strength and balance. I is now having the same Pancreatic problem that I suffered last year. The doctor said that it may return. Waiting to get an appointment.
- **Marvin Miller** was hospitalized for a broken Hip socket. Surgery was successful. He is now at Presbyterian Villages of Summerville Rm R5. His phone number is 843-594-0170.
- **Al Dempster** and his wife, Connie, are in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. His mailing address is: Alan Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. They have a phone in their apartment – (843) 793-1187.
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.

### Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Question. Now that Ed is no longer the newsletter editor/PAO who will be the base POC for National? **Lou Leal volunteered to do this.** His info was provided to National.
- If you change your number or drop your home line, please contact either Larry, Nick or the COB so that we can make the necessary changes locally and with National.
- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>

### Forever Qualified Shadowboxes – Nick Nichols:

- **Forever Qualified Shadowboxes.** Rick Sparger would order the boxes and build them with the dolphins and Forever Qualified brass plate. Who will do that now? Larry Knutson volunteered to do this.

### Associate Members – Nick Nichols:

- Points to consider:
  - I would recommend we revisit our bylaws in January and change them to read that we will have Associate Members. In 2008 the bylaws were amended to having no Associate Members. This was pushed through by a few shipmates who did not want women involved in our meetings. We are one of only a handful of bases who do not have Associate Members.
  - It's time to put aside our archaic thoughts about allowing our wives and significant others into our meetings if they want to attend with us and it is time to grant them Associate Member status if desired by them. Many of the smaller bases could not exist if their

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spouses were not right there with them making the base work. Some even hold office within the base leadership.

- Our membership is getting older, which means those of us in office and volunteering our time are getting older also. Presently only 24 members are doing 32 jobs in our base. That is less than 10% of our members are involved with the base operation. We are getting to be an older group and the few of us who are working to keep this base going can't do it all.
- In case you haven't looked around, when we have our picnics and other events many of those working hardest are our ladies. And working even a lot harder than many of our base members who do nothing but come and 'enjoy' the event.
- I would hope that we are all able to look at this issue objectively and understand we are not the same group we were in 2008 when the no Associate Members was passed.

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

- Mike agreed with Nick regarding Associate Members and also suggested that we have a Ladies' Auxiliary.
- Nick noted that at one time there was a SubVettes organization at the National level, but they could not make it run properly, but there is the Associate Member category.
- Mike discussed the lack of Associate Member category in our Base By-Laws. It will be discussed again at the January BOD Meeting.
- Mike stated that we need a "Quick Reaction Force" to assist, especially during the loss of an immediate family member. He requested that the Board work on this to get budgeted and coordinated. The ladies also could be an important part of this.

### **Duties/Responsibilities – Mike Ciesielko / Carl Chinn:**

- A review of each Base officer's duties and responsibilities is needed.
- Nick has sent members a copy of this for review and return.

### **PAO – Dave Harvey:**

- Not present

### **FRA – Ken Hutchison:**

- Not present

### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson:**

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1921.