

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2024

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Carl Chinn, Tom Lawson, Tom Holcombe, Ed Stank, Larry Knutson, Bill Freligh, Johnny Brown, Anthony Mazza, Lewis Leal, Woody Woodsmall, Glenn Little, Nick Nichols and Gordon Long.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting especially our new COB – Anthony Mazza.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl reported that the total for the day of the Rummage Sale was \$1,844. Online sales brought the total for the sale up to \$2,394.
- Received another donation in memory of Rick Sparger, bringing the total of memorial gifts to \$1,293.
- Raffle in progress. Drawing next week at Charleston Base – 2 tickets to Glen Miller concert.
- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$9,925.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Reminded everyone about the Patriotic Event at Sangaree Middle School on January 19. General Livingston (MoH) will be the keynote speaker.

Hunley/Housatonic – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom followed up with the Confederate Heritage organization. They will likely have Charleston Base do the normal wreath placement. This ceremony is 160 years since the sinking. He will meet with them again before the February event.
- Tom has put together all of the info about the FRA brick for Stacy Power.

License Plates – Ed Stank:

- South Carolina has a fee of \$6,800 up-front cost to get the Submariner Plates started.
- Ed is going to North Carolina for info gathering.
- Ed will be contacting the license plate idea with all the other bases in SC.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 260 members.
- PAYPAL does not put the proper numbers since the rate increase. Nick has disabled the link on the Base Website.
- There was much discussion about the billing issues that we are having with members renewing using PAYPAL. The final decision by the Board was to discontinue use of PAYPAL for this year and reconsider use at a later date.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings (More than 200 members):
Groton 1183 - 2) Hampton Roads 28 - 3) Charleston 260 - 4) Bremerton 247

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

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

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Visited Tom Beach at Victory House.
- The Christmas Party was a lot of work, but a bunch of fun. Johnny had been questioned about the time/day of the event. For those who cannot drive at night, there are various ride share companies or make arrangements with a shipmate. We will plan for the next Christmas Party to be held at the FRA again on a Friday, beginning at 1700 as we did this last year. The FRA is then able to rent the meeting room to another organization on Saturday.
- Johnny is expecting to have an Oyster Roast in March. The planned location is The After Battery.
- Johnny mentioned the Stingrays Hockey Game.

Special Events – Johnny Brown:

- Johnny discussed replacement of the tarp for the float using PVC to make arches to support the tarp.

COB – Anthony Mazza:

- His COB email address is now working. Thank you Nick.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Oakbrook Custom Embroidery has been sold. The new name for the business will be Infinite Creations. The new owners intend to keep the embroidery services.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- The next event Base event where Glenn expects to take pictures is the Hunley/Housatonic Ceremony. Glenn had received some questions about recording video at the event. With the wind, possible rain and simply the lack of light, even still photographs do not turn out that good. Video, simply will not happen,

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.

- **Wayne Standerfer** has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He is the USSVI Immediate Past National Commander. Cancer. Wayne is undergoing tests and will see the oncologist after the tests are completed. The prognosis of those test results will determine the possible treatment options and course of action. Please keep Wayne and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- **Jerry Stout** reported his cancer (Merckle cell Carcinoma skin cancer) has reappeared in my left neck and clavicle after 9 months of clear margins. He had focused radiation centered at

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

the affected area but as this procedure is not a cure; he will be staying on an immune regiment until it appears again. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

- **Tom Clark** has an aggressive Type B lymphoma growing on his spine. His latest email to me: Get chemo every three weeks – next session is the 9th. On Monday, the 8th I get another full body PET Scan to look for and or measure cancer mass. Hopefully that will show some shrinkage since the last scan about a month ago and prove the chemo is working. Fortunately, I've got no specific pain to deal with just a lot of tiredness, some dizziness when trying to stand, and difficulty walking and controlling my legs. I am optimistic that things will improve – albeit too slowly of course, but improving nevertheless.
- **Mike Emerson** had surgery on Dec 21 and is doing well.
- **Sonny Rash** is having lung surgery at the VA on Jan 25. Expects to be in the hospital 2-4 days and then a 2–4-week recovery. He told me he already told the doctor he would cut each of those time limits in half.
- **John Furst** is suffering from pancreatitis which happened after he had the stents put in his pancreas. He's also recovering from a stroke he had last year that left him weak on his left side.
- **Marvin Miller** was hospitalized in September 2023 for a broken Hip socket. Surgery was successful. He was at Presbyterian Villages of Summerville until early Dec 2023. He was discharged to home and became sick. Diagnosed with Covid. Spent a week in Summerville Medical and is now back in the Villages. Freida said she expects him home sometime the week of Jan 8th.
- **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. Johnny Brown saw him on Jan 4th. Thom is in a private room in the Elliott Pavilion Rm A-117a. His phone number is 843.809.9417.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- 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:

- Larry Knutson has the plates, dolphins and boxes will now be assembling the Forever Qualified Shadowboxes.
- Nick believes that, based on the receipts from the Treasurer, Rick Sparger had been paying a lot of the cost of the boxes from his own pocket. Nick was able to get some slightly different, but acceptable boxes from Hobby Lobby that are less expensive.

Laptops – Nick Nichols:

- Nick had previously suggested that the Base should purchase two laptops for both the Treasurer and Membership. With us dropping the use of PAYPAL for this cycle of dues payments, the Treasurer will not need the laptop. Larry (Membership) is currently using an Apple, which does not work well with the National USSVI website – specifically Excel – to

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

make changes to the Sailing List. Nick is able to adjust the items on the Sailing List that Larry, with the Apple, cannot. It is an extra work-around, but between the two of them, the necessary changes can be made. Laptop purchase will be addressed later in the year.

Cleveland USSVI Convention:

- Nick Nichols read information regarding the upcoming Submarine Veteran Convention in Cleveland.
 - Highlights:
 - Ensure we put out the info about the convention
 - Financial support: sponsorship amount of \$500-\$10,000
 - Magazine advertising: \$50-\$250 depending on ad size

Associate Members – Nick Nichols:

- Nick made an initial motion to change our ByLaws, adding back the previously deleted **Article V Membership Section 3 – Associate**. This article had been deleted in a 2008 revision of the ByLaws.
- Nick read the section that had been deleted in 2008. Ed suggested that if someone is paying dues then they should be able to hold office, with possible exceptions. After discussion, the BOD voted to add the Associate Member section back but it needs to be written to be in agreement with the National Bylaws. Nick will return at the Feb meeting with the updated information and the BOD will vote on the matter.

Duties and Responsibilities – Nick Nichols:

- Nick read items from the Event Calendar and the individual listed to spearhead the event.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko asked Tom Holcombe to take over the job of Special Events Coordinator. Tom will review and get back to BC.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon search his files during the BOD Meeting, finding no reference to advertisements for the Tucson convention.

Treasurer – Nick Nichols for Ricky Collins:

- Not present due to illness
- The Treasurer's Report is on the Base website.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike stated that we are behind with nominations for Distinguished Submariner.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Nuclear Power School – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present

PAO – Dave Harvey:

- Not present

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1923.