

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024

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

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mike talked about Duties and Responsibilities

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The End-of-Year report was sent to National USSVI during the first week of January. Receipt was acknowledged by National.
- Nick Nichols made a motion that the Base Commander appoint a three-person committee to determine the use of the money that is in the Investment Fund. Tom Lawson seconded the motion. Ricky Collins suggested that we locate the info regarding the originally stated purpose of the Fund. The motion to appoint the committee passed. BC selected Ricky Collins, Tom Lawson and Woody Woodsmall to determine the best use of the money for the Base that is in the Investment Fund. The committee's recommendation will be provided to the BOD and after review will be go to the entire Base for approval.
- Ricky Collins noted that, since he has become Treasurer, he has been placing the Life Member dues into the General Fund.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 261 members.
- At this time, we are expecting about 15 Dinks.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings (More than 200 members):
Groton 1185 - 2) Hampton Roads 284 - 3) Charleston 261 - 4) Bremerton 241

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$10,186.

Hunley/Housatonic – Tom Holcombe:

- This ceremony is 160 years since the sinking. Tom wants to get an article into American Submariner.
- Muster at 1830 for 1900 ceremony start.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glenn expects to take pictures for the Hunley/Housatonic Ceremony.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody has consolidated the three tubs of SubVet merchandise into a large one with wheels. The old ones are available.

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Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill talked about the inductees for the next Holland Club ceremony to be held at the April Base Meeting.
- There will be about fifteen 15 eligible

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Tom spoke about the Patriotic Event at Sangaree Middle School. We had ten SubVets and two wives present. The children put on a good show. General Livingston (MoH) was the keynote speaker.

FRA Convention – Tom Lawson:

- The FRA is hosting the Southeast Regional Convention in Charleston and requested that Charleston Base place an advertisement in the program.
- Tom made a motion/seconded by Nick Nichols. BOD voted to place a full-page ad for the cost of \$150.
- The Treasurer will write a check to the FRA.
- The FRA is in need of personnel to help with the convention, which will be held at the Double Tree off of Ashley Phosphate. Ken Hutchison will be the lead organizer for the event. Nick will send more info as available.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Tom asked about getting guest speakers for the Base Meeting. He was granted authorization to contact a recommended individual for the July meeting.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Gordon received only one submittal for Distinguished Submariner Award nomination.
- Gordon noted that the July BOD will fall on Independence Day and recommended that we change the day for that meeting. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko reviewed the scheduled events and recommended cancellation of the July BOD Meeting. We will still hold the Base Meeting on July 11.

License Plates – Ed Stank:

- There is a Submarine Convention in Manitowoc, WI where they built diesel boats in WWII.
- Ed visited the Tarheel Base. They hold meetings once every two months and go to breakfast the other months. It took 2 1/2 years to get NC license plates.
- South Carolina already has US Navy license plates.
- Ed suggested that money from the Investment Fund be used to get the Submariner Plates started.

COB – Anthony Mazza:

- Will not be at the Base Meeting next week.
- There will be a SAN FRANCISCO SSN711 Reunion in April 11-14. They will hold a picnic at The After Battery.
- Nick Nichols reported that one of our base members from PA will be heading up the reunion. He is to get his Holland Club induction at our April Base meeting and there will be a large

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number from the reunion attending that evening. At least 2 retired flag officers will be here. They will also be attending the April 13th Lost Boats service in the AM and the Submariner Birthday Ball in the PM.

Submarine Ball – Anthony Mazza:

- The Sub Ball will be held at the Holy City Brewing Company on April 13. In order to get the Trident Ball Room and most places, they must be reserved a year in advance.
- Anthony requested and was granted permission to borrow the Float for the NNPTC Heritage picnic / burger burn.

NPS Awards – Anthony Mazza for Phil Nunnally:

- The next NPS graduation will be held on Friday, March 1.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- 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.

- **Robby Roberts** has tested positive for COVID, is in quarantine and on meds to reduce effects..
- **Rick Wise** had a recent scan and there are nodules in both lungs. The one in the left lung has increased in size since the last scan. He will be setting up a time to have a needle biopsy to determine what they are.
- **Sonny Rash** had my lung surgery at the VA on Monday, Jan 25. It went well and now I'm home recovering. I am O2 therapy and only pain meds when really needed.
- **Marvin Miller** is now home and recovering. He broke his hip socket in September last year and between surgery, rehab and a bout with Cdif it has been a rough 6 months for him.
- **Jerry Stout** reported after his focused radiation centered at the affected area, he will be staying on an immune regimen until it appears again. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
- **Tom Clark** has 1 more chemo session to complete. He will then start weaning off the chemo and is hopeful he will see us at a meeting soon. He says he will still be “wobbly” for several months . . . a small price to be shed of cancer. I know all the prayers that were raised for me are a significant part of getting to this point – thank you all.
- **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 at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. Thom is in a private room in the Elliott Pavilion Rm A-117a. His phone number is 843.809.9417.
- **Don Londergan** is in Cypress Square on Midland Pkwy in room 136. Has no phone and hardly any visitors. Visit if you are able.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

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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>

Associate Members – Nick Nichols:

- Nick Nichols provided copies and read the proposed change to the Charleston Base By-Laws regarding, Associate Members. There was a typo in both National and the proposed change. Upon review, it was determined that the phrase should read “of the Base” rather than “or the Base”. Although not unanimous, the motion passed. The Secretary will immediately send a corrected copy to the entire Base to allow proper time for review. The vote on this proposed change by the Base members will be at the March Base Meeting.

Distinguished Submariner Award – Secretary:

- Gordon read the nomination for Distinguished Submariner. The recipient is highly qualified for this award and will be named during presentation at the March Charleston Base Meeting.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Nothing to report.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Not Present

Special Events – Johnny Brown:

- Not Present

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Not present

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

PAO – OPEN:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1914.