

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2024

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Ricky Collins, Tom Holcombe, Carl Chinn, Phil Nunnally, Larry Knutson, Ed Stank, Anthony Mazza, Greg Landry, Bill Freligh, Woody Woodsmall, Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal and Gordon Long. Mike Knaubb also attended the meeting.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The End-of-Year report was sent to National USSVI during the first week of January. Receipt was acknowledged by National.
- The new Treasurer's Report will include a new line item for Dolphin Tags (Submarine License Plates). Rick Wise donated \$50 to this purpose. When more is donated for this, it shall be put into this accounting.

Hunley/Housatonic – Tom Holcombe:

- The ceremony was held on February 17 with only a few people there. This was 160 years since the sinking. Southeast Wildlife Expo (SEWE) was also happening.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The current balance in the Scholarship fund is \$11,124.
- Waiting on applications.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- The next NPS graduation will be held on Friday, April 26.
- Phil will attend the April graduation, but is looking for someone who can be a backup if needed.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Phil inspected the Little David a few weeks ago and noted which pieces of wood need replacement. He will get the pieces cut and schedule a date to get it done.
- Phil has the paint also.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 262 members.
- National is moving the office to Groton. Dues are currently being sent to the Groton Base.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Rankings (More than 200 members):
 - Groton 1191 - 2) Hampton Roads 284 - 3) Charleston 262 - 4) Bremerton 239

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Ed sent letters to all of the Bases in SC about Submarine License Plates.
- He asked for input from the BOD regarding who should be eligible to get the license plates.
- The general consensus regarding eligibility for the plate was “Qualified in Submarines”.

Submarine Ball – Anthony Mazza:

- The Sub Ball will be held at the Holy City Brewing Company on April 13. They have tickets available.
In order to get the Trident Ball Room and most places, they must be reserved a year in advance. They will make earlier plans for 2025.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Nothing to report – not yet.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko introduce Greg Landry as the new COB.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill has not received certificates from USSVI National, but expects to have 15 eligible for the Holland Club award at the April Charleston Base Meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody reported that the National SK now has a coin/patch set. He has had 15 requests for the sets so far.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Tom reminded everyone about the time change this weekend.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing reported

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Regarding the January Base Meeting, some technical problems occurred, resulting in the loss of video. The section beginning with the Scholarship Committee until just before the Election Coordinator are missing.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

Chaplain – Gordon Long for Nick Nichols:

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

- **Fran Wood, David Wood’s wife**, had bypass surgery in mid-February. She suffered a stroke on the table but is now moving her arm and leg on the left side. This is very good news.
- **Wanda Yeager, 87, Bill Yeager’s wife of 64 ½ years**, passed away on Feb. 15th after 5 days of hospice care. He has been very busy and just thought about letting me know on Wednesday. Her memorial service will be held at a later date.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- **Larry Rosselot** had reverse surgery on his right shoulder yesterday the 6th. It was at Roper downtown and he is expected to be home today the 7th.
- **Ken Curtis** is now home after being in Life Care Center. His text saying he is home also stated ‘hopefully for good this time’. He left rehab on 5 March.
- **Rick Wise** received the report that the biopsy on the nodules in his lungs have cancerous cells.in both. He will be having them removed surgically with the right lung nodule taken out tomorrow the 8th.The left lung nodule will be removed at a later date. He is very optimistic.
- **Mike Emerson** had surgery in mid-December then on 20 Feb the temporary colostomy bag was removed. After being at home for a few days he had to go back to the hospital. His most recent email is: “I made it home safely on Saturday afternoon with the help of Charlie Hudson. Today, Monday, I travel West Ashley to one of the doctor’s offices. It’s gotten to the point where if it wasn’t for the medical professionals, I would not have a social life. I will try to keep you updated. (Tubes Aft out.)”
- **James Graham Sr.** had a scope procedure on his left knee on Feb. 27th. He is home and rehabbing now.
- **Sonny Rash** had lung surgery at the VA on Monday, Jan 25. It went well and he is now home recovering.
- **Marvin Miller** is now home and recovering. He broke his hip socket in September last year and between surgery, rehab and a bout with Cdiff it has been a rough 6 months for him.
- **Jerry Stout** has additional spreading of cancer with a plum size tumor next to his right kidney. Radiation was able to shrink the lymph nodes in his neck area. He is now using a new regimen of immune drugs and significant side effects are expected. He is asking for NO visits but phone calls and text are good until further notice.
- **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.

Webmaster – Gordon Long for 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>
- USSVI National has completed their move from Silverdale WA to Groton CT. They are now housed in the Groton Clubhouse. The new address is on the National website along with the phone number.

Amberjack Ceremony – Gordon Long for Nick Nichols:

- Rick Wise has asked Nick to be in charge of the April 13 Lost Boats/Amberjack Crew/Submarine Birthday recognition service and bell tolling. He has sent out a document to ask for assistance from several members of the board. Please respond as soon as possible to let me know if you will be able to help.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Reunion/HC at Charleston Base – Gordon Long for Nick Nichols:

- SAN FRANCISCO SSN-711 will be having their reunion in Charleston April 11-14. One of our base members from PA will be heading up the reunion. He will be getting his HC induction at our April meeting and there will be a large number of them attending our meeting. 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.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike discussed the upcoming vote at the Base Meeting next week regarding the proposed change to the Charleston Base By-Laws.
- We will also have the Distinguished Submariner Award at the Base Meeting next week.

Shadow Boxes – Larry Knutson

- Larry inquired about shadow boxes. Nick has the info that he needs.

Guest – Mike Knaub:

- We appreciate Mike Knaub being in the meeting tonight. He was a week early – but he was not the only one. Ricky Collins stated that there was another Base Member (unnamed) who did not stay for tonight's BOD Meeting.

Base Meeting Cake Cutting – Ricky Collines for Nick Nichols:

- Ricky asked about the April Base Meeting and having a Submarine Birthday Cake Cutting. Gordon read Nick's email suggesting that we have two – the longest qualified and the newest qualified to do the job. We will talk to Johnny Brown at the Base Meeting about getting a cake.

Challenge Coins – Ed Stank:

- Ed recommended a purchase of coins for Eternal Patrol Ceremonies that are "In Memory of..." coins rather than a Base coin or Holland Club coin. It would be more meaningful to the family. Vice Commander Tom Lawson will provide BC the web link for more info.

Special Events – Johnny Brown:

- Not Present

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Not present.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

PAO – OPEN:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1831.