

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2024

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Woody Woodsmall, Larry Knutson, Bill Freligh, Ed Stank, Johnny Brown, Tom Holcombe, Greg Landry, Phil Nunnally, Lewis Leal, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody reported that he received the patch/coin sets, but with just a bit of drama as the National SK had problems getting the order filled.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 253 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1119 - 2) Hampton Roads 275 - 3) Charleston 253 - 4) Bremerton 239

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nine confirmed for the Holland Club Induction next week.
- Two of the awards will be mailed as they cannot attend.
- Bill will be adding the Swamp Fox members' names the presentation.
- In the ceremony, Bill will be explaining the history of both USSVI and the Holland Club.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko requested that, at the Base Meeting next week, everyone keep their reports brief.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Ed will be going to the Palmetto Base in Lexington and is planning a meeting with the DMV to discuss plate design.
- The plate will not be USSVI specific but rather, “Submarine Qualified”.
- Ed has not heard back from the other SC bases.

Challenge Coins – Ed Stank:

- Ed, again, 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.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Johnny noted a correction to the BOD Minutes was needed. Tom Holcombe is Special Events. Secretary Gordon Long will correct the error in the Minutes.
- There were 86 people who attended the Oyster Roast at The After Battery. Several were from NPS.
- Johnny is planning a BBQ (ribs, pulled pork and brisket) for June at Marrington.

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- Is talking to River Dogs about having a section for SubVets at an upcoming game. More info as available.
- Reported that the wind has taken the cover off the float again.
- Johnny noted that the Habitat for Humanity Restore is planning to close this location. We will need to find another place to store the float.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- The trailer that the float is built upon is currently registered at the DMV to Steve Nelms.
- Nick Nichols noted that we need a Title B Inventory of all Charleston Base material.
- The Storage area needs to be inventoried, with recommendation to BOD for retention or disposition.
- Key to storage building is to be given to COB. Gordon works close to the Storage building and offered to be a key holder.
- Some members have possession of Base items at home. Example: Nick has the Dolphin Bell which is used at EP ceremonies. It makes sense for ease of access. Even so, when a Base member is holding an item, it needs to be on the inventory.
- George Sharf has the cargo trailer.
- Tom is learning all of the events that we normally attend. There was discussion of these events including Coastal Coffee Roasters.
- Nick reported that the Society for American Military Services (SAMS) had stopped organizing events as of last year.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Greg read a calendar list of various veteran related events/days for the month of April. He has also put these days in the Base Newsletter.
- NPTU is holding a 75th anniversary event on April 30. Nick will send the flyer to everyone.
- Greg is asking everyone to bring or at least invite others to the meetings. We should take second place from Hampton Roads.

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:

- April 18 is planned date for working party to paint. Depending on what we get done, there possibly will be another in May.
- Phil will not be present at the April Base Meeting.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

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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.

- **Rick Wise** had surgery on Wednesday to remove the nodule from his left lung although it turned out to be 3 nodules. He called me from recovery at 0930 to tell me the surgery went well. He was in the hospital overnight and came home today. He had the help of Ed Stank to take him for the surgery and stayed with him then Woody Woodsmall brought him home. He is doing well.
- **Fred Woodley** was in the hospital in March with a serious UTI and sepsis. He was treated with antibiotics and sent home a couple of days later. He is still working on recovery. Had appointment with urologist. My bladder is retaining urine and they have me scheduled for more testing on 23rd followed by a scope of the bladder on the 25th. Pretty uncomfortable and hopefully will be able to get to the bottom of it before another round of UTI happens. I am seeing Dr Wingo in North Charleston near Trident Medical Center.
- **Tom Cyrek** is at home with a home health nurse coming by each day. He is feeling better and went to the After Battery Wednesday.
- **Larry Rosselot** had reverse surgery on his right shoulder 6 March. He is home and recovering well.
- **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 – 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>

Amberjack Ceremony – Nick Nichols:

- On April 13th we will conduct the Lost Boats / Amberjack Crew / Submarine Birthday recognition service and bell tolling. It is planned for the CWM. Inclement site is BLDG 777 at NWS behind the gas station. Decision on the location will be made on or before our next meeting. More info will be sent out via email in the next couple of weeks. The papers on the table give the program and responsibilities. Nick reviewed the responsibilities for each portion of the event.

Reunion/HC at Charleston Base – 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

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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.

- 14 shipmates are expected at the meeting
- 30 shipmates are expected at the Lost Boats service

Election Coordinator – Nick Nichols for Ken Hutchison:

- The offices of Vice Commander and Secretary are scheduled for the May Base Meeting.
- Presently there are three candidates for Vice Commander:
 - Tom Lawson – Incumbent
 - Ed Stank
 - Gordon Williams
- The incumbent, Gordon Long, is the only candidate for Secretary.

FRA – Nick Nichols for Ken Hutchison:

- FRA Low Country Boil with proceeds to be used for the FRA Southeast Regional Convention later this year.
 - This will be on Sat. May 18, 1130 – until. There will be raffles for an outdoor grill and 50/50.
 - Cost will be \$12.00 per person
 - Several SUBVETS will be cooking for this.

Base By-Laws Amendment – Nick Nichols:

- Not sure if any of you realize it but the only thing that new amendment does is make us in compliance with National. By taking out paragraph E, the intent of the bylaw to bring new blood into our group was taken away. Who in their right mind would pay \$50 a year to sit in on our meetings and not be able to have input or hold office?

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike discussed the upcoming Base Meeting next week and the additional men attending due to the 711 Reunion.
- Gordon reminded everyone about the discussion of a cake at the last BOD meeting. Johnny will arrange the cake from Publix. Base Commander will pick it up.
- Again, keep reports brief next week.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Not present

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Not present

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Not present

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Not present

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NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Not present

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Not present.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Not present

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

PAO – OPEN:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1911.