

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Woody Woodsmall, Johnny Brown, Bill Freligh, Glenn Little, Tom Holcombe, Carl Chinn, Anthony Mazza, Ed Stank, Rick Wise, Tom Lawson, Greg Landry, Larry Knutson, Lewis Leal, Ricky Collins, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols. Jerry Stout also attended the meeting this evening.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting and reminded all to silence cellphones.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody provided THANK YOU coins to each one in attendance.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Johnny has scheduled a Riverdogs game for May 24. There are 20 people attending. The deadline date for requesting tickets. Folks can still attend, but will have to pay full price for the tickets.
- Last year, six of our people did not show up, so Johnny gave the tickets away to some young folks after telling them that they can thank the SubVets.
- Johnny had a long day cooking a 200lb hog at The After Battery.
- Johnny is planning a September cookout at Marrington. Glenn Little asked about combining that event with the FRA. It is possible, but more discussion on that topic will be needed.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill reported that some were unable to attend the Base Meeting and their Holland Club induction. In the future, since we are video recording the ceremony, he will announce all of the names – even those not present – so they can at least hear their name mentioned.
- The 711 crew arrived early to the Base Meeting last week and helped to set up tables/chairs. Thanks to each one.

Request to Borrow Sound System – Jerry Stout:

- Jerry requested to borrow the sound system and an operator for a Knights of Columbus Memorial Day event. The old audio system is available for loan.
- There are four events around the area on Memorial Day.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing reported.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Mike Ciesielko has not heard from the Armed Forces Day coordinator about bringing the float and asked Tom to check on the status.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Scholarship Committee has received three applications for review. The awards will be presented at the June Base Meeting.

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NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Plans are being made early for the 2025 Submarine Birthday Ball. It will be held at the Trident Ball Room on April 5.
- The Chiefs' Initiation will be held soon.
- There was discussion of moving the Amberjack ceremony to April 5, but the Cooper River Bridge Run is that day. The ceremony will be held on April 12, 2025.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Mike Ciesielko noted that Ed donated \$500 to License Plate fund.
- Ed has not yet heard back from the other SC bases.
- Ed noted that Moonshine Mountain WWII ceremony will be held on May 17.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- Rick reviewed the Charleston Base budget. He had not included the hats which had previously been approved by the Base.
- Due to his health, Rick needs a relief as Comptroller.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

COB – Greg Landry:

- Greg is looking for material that is owned by Charleston Base

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Larry discussed an email that he received from someone whose dad is in Mt. Pleasant and wants to come to the Charleston Base Meeting.
- Charleston Base currently has 255 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1128 - 2) Hampton Roads 275 - 3) Charleston 255 - 4) Bremerton 240

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Three videos have been published:
 - Base Meeting
 - Amberjack/Lost Boats Ceremony
 - Holland Club Induction

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Nothing reported.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

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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.

- **MMCS(SS) Donald Ross Londergan, 85, USN Ret.,** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 20th at the Cypress Square retirement community in Summerville. Don joined the Navy in 1957 and retired in 1975 after 18 years of service. He was a member of USSVI National [2012], a member of Charleston Base [2012], and a member of the Holland Club having been qualified for 67 years. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus of St. John the Beloved Catholic Church and Jedburg Flyers Airplane Club. Don qualified on ODAX SS-484 in 1957 [57-59]. He also served on TRUTTA SS-421 [59-61], THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN-618 [62-64], GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN-643 [65-66], SUNFISH SSN-649 [67-71], GEORGE WASHINGTON SSBN-598 [71-72], GRAYLING SSN-646 [74-75] and HUNLEY AS-31 [75]. As noted in the obituary, a private memorial with immediate family is planned.
- **MSCM(SS) Thomas Henry Peterson, III, 82, USN Ret,** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 24, 2024 in Summerville. Thomas was a 30-year veteran retiring as a Command Master Chief. He was a member-at-large of USSVI but was not a Charleston base member. Thomas qualified on SEA ROBIN SS-407 in 1967. He also served on DOGFISH SS-350, THOMAS JEFFERSON SSBN/SSN-618 and MARIANO G VALLEJO SSBN-658. His service was held on April 27.
- **MTCS(SS) Dan M. Hunt, 74, USN Ret.,** departed on Eternal Patrol on April 30th at the Victory House in Walterboro SC. Dan joined the Navy in 1968 and retired in 1990 with 22 years of service. He qualified on USS JOHN C. CALHOUN SSBN-630 IN 1969. He also service on HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN-655, WOODROW WILSON SSBN-624 and GEORGE BANCROFT SSBN-643. Between 2014 and 2018 Dan was a USSVI & Charleston Base member. The family will receive friends from 1600-1800 Sunday May 5th. Dan's funeral service will be at 1100 Monday May 6. Location for both will be Dial-Murray Funeral Home Chapel, 300 W. Main St., Moncks Corner, SC 29461
- **Rick Wise** had surgery to remove two nodules from his right lung and later, 2 nodules from his left lung. The large nodules had the same sarcoma that caused the loss of his right arm. The smaller nodules in his left lung was ordinary, run-of-the-mill lung cancer. This is the fourth cancer that he is fighting. He requests prayers and has a PET scan scheduled for 4 June to find if there is other cancer in his body. The result will determine the continuation of his fight.
- **Ken Curtis** is still recovering from his fall in early April. He is home and still going to PT twice a week.
- **Tom Lawson** is now on O2 treatment. Having a difficult time breathing.
- **Fred Woodley** had a serious UTI and sepsis in early April. He was treated and released. His bladder test on 4.23 showed he was retaining urine in the bladder and the scope that was done showed narrowing of canyon walls. Bladder is clear of cysts. The only other point of concern is prostate which will be followed for increased PSA. Dr. Wingo (urologist) stated the only thing that can be done is an operation which would require a hospital stay. 6 month follow up appointment in October to rescan bladder and check PSA. This is a debilitating condition which can cause frequent UTIs and back flood of the kidneys. Scope was pretty painful even

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with anesthetics mostly due to the narrow aspect. I will keep you informed. Thanks for your prayers. Let everyone know I'm thinking of them!

In mid-April he had a biopsy on his right ear and the results came back pre-cancerous with no further action needed at this time.

- **Tom Cyrek** is at home with a home health nurse coming by each day. He is having more 'bad' time each day because of this Parkinsons. If you call do so between 1200-1400 so as not to interfere with his evening meds. In addition, his wife Gloria just had hip surgery and may need our help in the future to get Tom to his doctors appointments
- **Jerry Stout** continues his treatment. He has a PET scan on 25 May.
- **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** has moved back to Summerville and is at the Blake at Carnes Crossroads. He is in room 108. His dialysis days are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Visitors are welcome. The address is 4015 2nd Ave., Summerville SC 29486.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Eternal Patrol Ceremony Guidelines – Nick Nichols:

- Nick reviewed the Charleston Base guidelines adopted in 2012 regarding SubVet/Base Member Eternal Patrol ceremonies. This guideline details the importance of keeping dues current, both at National and Charleston Base. There has recently been confusion about what the Base can do in varied situations. The link to this document is:
<https://ussvicb.org/documents/2012%20USSVICB%20Chaplain%20Guidelines.pdf>

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>
- The Lost Boats / Amberjack Crew / Submarine Birthday recognition service and bell tolling went very well and we had a good crowd for a change.

USSVCF – Nick Nichols:

- Nick told of a situation where a Stimson shipmate who received monetary support from the USSVCF and arrangements with Home Depot too assist with rebuilding after his home burned to the ground.

Guest Speaker Request – Jerry Stout

- Jerry Stout mentioned a guest speaker and asked for 30 minutes. The time was reduced to 15 minutes and the presentation to be held in July or August.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Since the normally scheduled July BOD will fall on Independence Day this year, we will cancel that meeting. The July Base Meeting will still be held.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

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PAO – OPEN:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1903.