

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2024

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

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nick has posted the Minutes are posted on the Base Website.
- Gordon reminded everyone that we would not have a BOD Meeting in July which would fall on Independence Day. That decision was made during the May BOD Meeting.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report has been published.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Charleston Base currently has 254 members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1140 - 2) Hampton Roads 275 - 3) Charleston 254 - 4) Bremerton 238

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- The Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$13,022.
- We have two Scholarships at the June Base Meeting next week. Only one will presented in person.
- The drawing for the German submarine model will be at the Base meeting next week.
- The new fund raiser is for the Rusty Bull Brewery on June 20. We will get a dollar for every pint of beer that is sold between hours of 4-11pm. The brewery also has food available. If so inclined, right next door is Axe Throwing.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom is contacting area event coordinators:
 - Freedom Fest for June 28.
 - See Saw Days which will be in September. Expecting a return call.
 - Goose Creek and Moncks Corner.
 - Patriot's Point
 - VFW
- Have made attempts to contact Air Force about Armed Forces Day to no avail.

COB – Greg Landry:

- The After Battery has July 6 available to have our SubVet picnic. Will have burgers/hotdogs/cole slaw/baked beans. Bring sides.

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NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Anthony has 2024 Sub Ball glasses. (Free). The coins are now gone.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Ed attended the Moonshine Mountain WWII ceremony.
- Ed is meeting with DMV on June 18.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill thanked those who helped with the last Holland Club presentation.
- Nothing else to report.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Expects to be at the Base Meeting for photos at Scholarship presentation.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- The Holland Club section of the Base Meeting was extracted and saved as a separate file.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

VA – Tom Lawson:

- 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.

- **John Francis “Frank” Cook, Jr., Commander, U.S. Navy retired, 85**, passed away Monday, June 3, 2024 in Charleston, SC. He was a graduate of the Academy, class of 1963. He was a Commanding Officer of the USS Henry Clay before his retirement in 1983. Frank was not a USSVI member.
- **Johnny Brown** had an infection being treated with antibiotics and then tested positive for Covid just before Memorial Day. He stayed home for the holiday with severe Covid symptoms.
- **Glenn Little** came down with pneumonia after Memorial Day and was on antibiotics.
- **Rick Wise** had a PET scan on Tuesday 4 June. His results Scan showed no visible signs of cancer but row vague areas that will be biopsied on Tuesday 11 June.
- **Ken Curtis** was in the VA at the end of May due to some heart issues but is now home. Still needing to do infusions.
- **Fred Woodley** had a serious UTI and sepsis in early April, 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 prostrate which will be followed for increased PSA.

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- **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. His wife Gloria had hip surgery and currently has the help she needs but may need our future help to get Tom to his doctor appointments
- **Jerry Stout** C-Scan results show no new cancer and a significant shrinkage of both tumors on kidney and center chest lymph node in excess of 60 %. Will continue on single dose of Optivo Immune therapy every month 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** 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.
- **John Glave** is a retired MMCS and a USSVI MAL HC living in Williston, SC. He qualified on the IREX SS482 in 1964 and also served on POLK, DANIEL BOONE, DACE, RAY, BLUEFISH, and SKIPJACK. He recently had a stroke and several mini-strokes. The doctors have given him only a few months. Robby Roberts gave me this info and said if you know him or want to just talk to him you can call him at 803-624-7086
- 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>

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Not present

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike and others discussed increase of membership.
- A suggestion was made to have a booth at the Coastal Carolina Fair.
- Nick suggested offering one year of membership each month to the sailors at NNPTC.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

PAO – OPEN:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1848.