

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2024

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1801 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Bill Freligh, Woody Woodsmall, Johnny Brown, Phil Nunnally, Ed Stank, Gordon Long, Ricky Collins, Carl Chinn, Greg Landry, Glenn Little, Lewis Leal, Tom Lawson and Nick Nichols. Marty Sessler also attended.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- For this month, Woody is putting a ten percent discount on all items in the store.
- Woody sent a few of the VETERAN Flag Lapel Pins to JD Vance’s office with a note asking him to wear the pin during the campaign rallies. Anyone can wear a flag pin, but only veterans can wear this one. The package was signed for by someone at the Russell office building. When watching, look for the pin.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Johnny discussed the plans for this year’s Christmas party at the FRA. Price negotiation are still ongoing.
- Johnny and the group discussed ideas for getting a good “head count” to keep from preparing too much food and wasting money. More discussion to be had.
- The FRA Convention is in September. Because of this, Johnny questioned having our scheduled picnic in October on the heels of the convention.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- Phil will be at the NPS graduation for the awards on August 16.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Phil will put information about the “Real ID” in the next Base Newsletter.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom was not present
- Phil Nunnally suggested having a booth with possibly the float at various community events – such as the Farmer’s Market – to get word out about the Base.
- Ed Stank suggested putting the float at the Coastal Carolina Fair.

Navy Ball – Nick Nichols:

- Nick discussed the Navy Birthday Ball, to be held on October 12. Dress will be formal. The cost will be \$70. Nick will post full information on the Base website.

Submarine Museum – Ed Stank:

- Received message from Keith Post at the Kings Bay Submarine Museum. A lady that has been working there for a long time is now in hospice.

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Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Ed discussed the latest efforts to getting the submariner license plates. Golden Corner Base is interested and willing to put out \$15 per member.
- For the Base to match this, it would cost about \$3,500. Ed suggested that the money be taken from the Investment Fund.
- There is also extra work involved, which DMV does not want to do, to certify whether the applicant is permitted to be issued a Submariner License Plate. That work will fall to Charleston Base.
- A poll of the Base via email will be taken to discover interest level.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to report.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nothing to report.
- Ed Stank talked about a different type of Eternal Patrol coin instead of the Holland Club.
- Ed passed around a sample for review.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nick has posted the Minutes on the Base Website.

COB – Greg Landry:

- It was hot at The After Battery for the picnic, but there was plenty of shade. We had an enjoyable event with members of other bases attending.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn:

- Carl read a Thank You Letter from Johnny Brown's granddaughter, who received the ADM Osborn Scholarship Award.
- Carl read some statistics regarding his tenure as Scholarship Chair.
- Carl stated that current committee members (he and Marty) have – at this time – resigned.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Not present
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1140 - 2) Hampton Roads 275 - 3) Charleston 254 - 4) Bremerton 240

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

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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.

- **Thom Beach** departed on Eternal Patrol this morning at 0630. Linda called me to let me know. She has been told it may take up to 8 days before the funeral home can make all the arrangements but she'll keep me updated. I visited Thom last week and he asked me to conduct the service which will be local with the FRA 2 Bell and the SUBVET Bell Tolling. Military honors will be conducted at the inurnment location in NC.
- **IC2(SS) Steven R. Curtis, USN Veteran, 77**, departed on Eternal Patrol on June 27. His wife informed me on July 16 after the base meeting. He joined the Navy in 1966 and left in 1970. He was a life member of USSVI and Charleston Base as of 2010. He qualified on USS WAHOO SS-585 in 1967. Services were private.
- **EMCS(SS) Thomas J. Lindberg Sr., USN Ret, 89**, departed on Eternal Patrol on July 11. Tom joined the Navy in 1952 and retired in 1972. He was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston joining in 1999, and the Holland Club having qualified in 1962 on USS JOHN MARSHALL SSBN-611. He also served on USS ODAX SS-484, USS LEWIS and CLARK SSBN-644 and USS SEAHORSE SSN-669. Also, he was also a member of American Legion, VFW, and Life Member of Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269. Tom wrote his own funeral service and did not ask CB and FRA to participate. Ray Sparks, my wife Linda and I attended Tom's funeral where I presented the family with the Eternal Patrol Certificate and Holland Club coin.
- **CPO(SS) Gerald D. Olson, USN Ret., 73**, departed on Eternal Patrol on July 24. He lived in Summerville. Gerald proudly served 20 years in the US Navy. He retired from the Navy in 1991 as an E-7. He served on USS Sturgeon SSN-637. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **Base Member Ed Dubreuil's father, Larry**, passed away in Casa Grande AZ in mid-July. Larry served in the Navy and was an ABF3 [3rd class Aviation Boatswains Mate/Fuels] and a VietNam Vet. .
- **Fred Woodley** is still fighting the bladder issues which are causing him to go in and out of a UTI frequently.
- **Jim Higgins** had a pacemaker put in on 17 July. He is home and feeling very good.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** Becky are completely moved in to The Village of Summerville (was Presbyterian Home). His phone number and email remain the same. He is in Cottage 606 and Becky is in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. The new mailing address has been added to our sailing list and to the national database: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville SC 29483-6715.
- **Bill Jennings** is home from the hospital and back to doing his physical therapy.
- **Jeff Reuer** has been diagnosed with partially blocked arteries in both legs which causes pain with even minimal walking. This has kept him from being at the meetings/special events. Sometime in August he will be having surgery to put stents in both legs.
- **Tom Cyrek** is at home with a home health nurse coming by each day. He continues to get worse. Due to his Parkinsons meds, if you call do so between 1200-1400 so as not to interfere with his evening meds.

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- **Al & Connie Dempster** are in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. Mailing address is: Alan Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. Apartment phone – (843) 793-1187.
- **Al Stoll:** can anyone give me any info on him or how to contact him?
- 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>
- Nick recommended that if we are not going to use PayPal anymore, we should remove all references to it on the Base website. The decision was made by the Board to discontinue PayPal. Nick will update the website accordingly.

ID Cards – Nick Nichols:

- Everyone – dependent and retirees – are required to change your ID card prior to 31DEC2025. If you present your current ID after that date, it will be taken from you.
- The new cards are similar in appearance to the CAC and are acceptable by TSA.
- Nick went to the office by the old POMFLANT gate and was able to get new cards in a short time.

Government Logins – Nick Nichols:

- For government website logins, you will soon be required to use a central login service such as LOGIN.GOV. Nick will provide more info on the website.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike was requested by the SER commander to do the conference for next year. There was a brief discussion.

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Not present

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

PAO – OPEN:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1859.