

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2024

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1803 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Bill Freligh, Tom Holcombe, Ed Stank, Phil Nunnally, Glenn Little, Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal, Ricky Collins, Larry Knutson, Greg Landry, Gordon Long and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Bill gave a brief story about his reporting aboard the USS Harter 62 years ago.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Went to convention in Cleveland.
- Talked about taking the float to Coastal Carolina Fair.
- There was discussion about taking the float to other locations for static display.
- There was discussion about placing ads in various circulars especially City Paper.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Talked about behind the scenes at the HL Hunley exhibit and their Oyster Roast.
- Tom made suggestions to the group in charge of the HL Hunley ceremony at Breach Inlet.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Ed reported that the email response rate from the Base members was 109 out of 252 members. Without support from Charleston Base, the Submarine License plates is DOA.
- Ed requested that the Treasurer write him a check to return his contribution to the effort.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Did inspection of Little David. In good condition. No work planned until spring.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- The next graduation is October 11.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Taking pictures.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

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Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- With no Base Meeting last month, there was not August video.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Nothing to report.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- We have 252 Charleston Base members.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1150 - 2) Hampton Roads 275 - 3) Charleston 252 - 4) Bremerton 245

COB – Greg Landry:

- October is Dues Month. Invite someone to the meeting.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- Nothing to report.

Navy Ball – Nick Nichols:

- Nick discussed the Navy Birthday Ball, to be held on October 12 at the Charleston Area Convention Center. Dress will be formal. The cost will be \$70. Nick has posted full information on the Charleston Base website.

Scholarship – OPEN:

- Need Scholarship Committee Chairman

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.
- **RMCM(SS) William A. 'Bill' Neff, USN Ret., Vietnam Veteran, age 80**, departed on Eternal Patrol 22 August in TX. Bill joined the Navy in 1961 and retired in 1987. He was a Vietnam Veteran having served in-country 1966-1967. He was a Life Member of USSVI National [2000] and Charleston [2016], and the Holland Club having qualified in 1972 on USS HADDO SSN-604. He also served on USS MEMPHIS SSN-691. Prior to his submarine service he served on USS GOODRICH DD/DDR-831 and USS WRIGHT CVL-49/CC-2. He will be inurned on the Neptune Memorial Reef, an underwater columbarium located off Key Biscayne in Miami Florida.
- **Beetle Bailey** ruptured his right quad 4 weeks ago. He is in a leg brace. Is going to try to make the meeting next week.
- **Ricky Collins** was sick over the holiday weekend.
- **John Lookabill** was in the hospital over the holiday weekend with COVID. He is now home recovering.
- **Bob Browning** had surgery on his right hand at the VA on 22 August. Larry Knudson drove him down, waited for the surgery and brought him back home. Hard cast for 3 months, then 3 months PT. It was serious surgery if you read the binnacle list email I sent out. He has zero pain and plans on being at the meeting on Thursday.
- **Tom Cyrek** is still at the VA trying to find a place to be transferred to. Most assisted living locations will not take him due to the pump he has for his Parkinsons meds. He has been told

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the loss of use in both legs is permanent. It now looks like he will be moving back home after the VA has rehabilitated the house with the equipment needed for him.

- **Marvin Miller** is now living at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 417, This is behind Trident.
- **Bill Roberts** is healing well from the surgery at MUSC for an esophageal hernia on 19 August. He had a week in the hospital and was home on 23 August. His niece came down to take care of him in recovery. He is in Cottage 606 and Becky is in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville SC 29483-6715.
- **James Graham** is not having the surgery on his leg. He is using an oil that reduces the pain for 5-6 hours after use.
- **Fred Woodley** is still having the bladder issues and also high PSA levels.
- **Jeff Reuer** has been diagnosed with partially blocked arteries in both legs. He has an MRI on Sept 5 to determine extent of the damage. If surgery is required it will be in early October.
- **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.
- 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>
- Recommended that if we are not going to use PayPal anymore, we should remove all references to it on the website. The decision was made by the Board to discontinue PayPal. Nick will remove all reference to PayPal on the Base website.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Not present
- Nick reported that Johnny is planning for a Base picnic in October.

PAO – Vacant:

- Nick reported that our current candidate for PAO has been placing his personal business information in Charleston Base email signatures. Base Commander shall notify him to curtail such activities.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike, Nick and others discussed handling of duties especially requests for SubVet representation at various events.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Not present

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Not present

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FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1854.