

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 3, 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, Glenn Little, Woody Woodsmall, Ken Hutchison, Phil Nunnally, Tom Holcombe, Rick Wise, Larry Knutson, Greg Landry, Gordon Long, Ricky Collins, Tom Lawson, Lewis Leal, and Nick Nichols. Dave Harvey also attended the meeting to discuss the convention.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Nothing to report.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Nothing to Report.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody bought a sample Holland Club hat from The Vest Lady.
- Woody discussed the Investment Fund, noting that if all of the Charleston Base members were to die, then the money in the investment fund should be placed into a designated charity.
- Woody also recommended that the balance in the investment fund be capped a certain level and the balance should be returned to the Base Treasury each year.
- Rick Wise pointed out that the Investment Fund was set up so that when the majority of the Base were Life Members, the Investment Fund would then be used to fund Base operations. It has no other purpose other than funding the Base operations.
- Woody showed a patch which had been dropped in the parking lot at the September Base Meeting. No one at the BOD meeting claimed it. Woody will ask again at the October Base Meeting next week.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Ken plans to get a coalition of fraternal organizations together to do Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations since Summerville has stopped doing them.
- The FRA Southeast Convention was a success. Ken thanked everyone for participating in the fund raisers to make it happen.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- The next graduation is October 11. Will include graduates from the Australian Navy. The Warrant Officer of the Australian Navy (US MCPON equiv.) sked to attend.

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- Looking for Veterans Day events.

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Coastal Carolina Fair – Tom Holcombe:

- The Coastal Carolina Fair is coming up and we are mostly ready. At the last Base meeting, there were a bunch of volunteers, but they are not here tonight. Will poll the Base for more help next week.
- Tom expressed concern about security for the float when unattended. There are plenty of police officers on the grounds.
- Dave Harvey talked about the work that is being done to rework the float.
- We will make plans at a later date to recognize and show our appreciation to the students for the work that they did on the float.
- There was discussion of material to hand out to interested/qualified parties. We eventually decided on the trifold that Tom had presented for review and the submarine picture that we had handed out before. We will also have a log to record names/addresses to contact men in the future about membership.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Tom listed upcoming Christmas parades. Discussion is still needed, but recommendations were given to Mt. Pleasant on 8 DEC and Goose Creek on 14 DEC.
- Ken Hutchison listed other veteran's memorial events that the FRA is involved in and encouraged SubVets to join those efforts.
- Woody Woodsmall expressed his enjoyment having been on the float in the Goose Creek parade. Mike Ciesielko echoed this same sentiment.
- There was discussion about taking the float to other locations for static display.

The Wall that Heals – Tom Holcombe:

- The Wall that Heals needs some more volunteers. Tom will call for details and make request of the members next week.
- NNPTC is scheduled to provide some watchstanders.
- The After Battery is providing coolers with water bottles on ice.

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

SE Regional Convention – Dave Harvey:

- Dave Harvey reviewed his research into needs for arrangement of the USSVI SE Regional Convention to be held in Charleston.
- USSVI will provide \$1500 seed money.
- Interesting events during the period of 13-16 FEB are SEWE with the “Dock Dogs”, birds of prey, Valentine's Day. The Hunley Museum is available on 13-14 FEB for private tours.
- Buses will be scheduled for transportation to all events.
- Double Tree wants \$179 but \$159 per night is possible. A package is being assembled by the hotel staff. The use of the banquet room and courtyard will be somewhere around \$6,000. Dave expects to have the details next week.
- Recommend sending all bases in SE District a hard copy. Nick can also put the form online.
- Rick Wise made a motion to proceed with the SE Regional Convention efforts for February. The motion was seconded and passed. The plans will be presented to the members at the Base Meeting next week. After all, we need all-hands to make this happen.

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Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- The printing of the displays for the float will come from the Admin budget.
- Due to the float repairs, for this year, we need to adjust the 2024 budget for the float by an additional \$2,000. This must go through approval by the Base. It is also important to note that NONE of this is slated to come from the Investment Fund. Previous years' budgets had unused money designated for the float. We now need to use that money because of the work being done.
- Rick presented the proposed budget for 2025. Rick made a motion, with Tom Lawson seconding, that the Board accept and send the 2025 budget to the Base for approval. Motion passed. The budget shall be presented to the Base next week.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- We have 252 Charleston Base members.
- Dues are due for 2025.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1158 - 2) Hampton Roads 276 - 3) Charleston 252 - 4) Bremerton 248

COB – Greg Landry:

- Nothing to report.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The September Base Minutes will be available shortly.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Ricky wrote a check to Ed Stank two months ago. As of this date, the check has not cleared the bank.
- Ricky questioned the dues increase for 2025.
- Nick Nichols made a motion, with Rick Wise seconding, that we hold the Base Dues at the current rate. Motion passed. We just raised the dues last year, so we will not this year. Only National Dues will be increasing.
- Ricky asked about reimbursements needed for the float display boards. Mike Ciesielko provided the receipt to the Treasurer

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – OPEN:

- Need Scholarship Committee Chairman

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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.
- **John Lookabill** will be 90 on October 12th.
- **Jim Boggs** (former CB member) called to let me know his wife, Bettie, is now at home with hospice care. This is due to the cancer she has. Time is short. He will keep in touch with me.
- **Beetle Bailey** ruptured his right quad several weeks ago. He is in a leg brace now and is healing well.
- **Bob Browning** continues to heal well from the serious hand surgery he had in August.
- **Rick Wise** has been told he will get a new arm that is programmable.
- **Tom Cyrek** had spine surgery on Sept. 17th which enabled him to regain some slight movement in his legs. He has been moved to the Elms Life Care Center on University Blvd for rehab but he is struggling with some confusion caused by his 40 days lying in bed. He is able to get into a wheelchair but complains of pain when he does. He is in the Rosewood wing, room 10. Visits would be great as it gets very monotonous there.
- **Marvin Miller** is now living at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 417. This is behind Trident.
- **Bill Roberts** continues to heal from his surgery in August. He will see his doctor next week to discuss his aneurism. He and Becky live in the Villages and he is in Cottage 606 with Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville SC 29483-6715.
- **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. His recent CT scan determined there is a 100% blockage in both legs but his body is regenerating his own bypasses. They are watching it for 6 months and maybe surgery will not be needed.
- **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>

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike talked the USSVI Charitable Fund and the need for a Base Ambassador. Nick spoke about things that have been done by the CF in the past.

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- Not present

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

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Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- Not present

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Not present

PAO – Vacant:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1953.