

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2024

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1800 by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko. Attending were Board of Directors members Tom Holcombe, Dave Harvey, Ed Stank, Johnny Brown, Greg Landry, Tom Lawson, Anthony Mazza, Phil Nunnally, Rick Wise, Glenn Little, Woody Woodsmall, Rafael Guzman, Ricky Collins, Gordon Long, Larry Knutson, Lewis Leal, Tom Lawson III, and Nick Nichols.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Mike welcomed members to the meeting.
- Mike talked briefly about how good the float looks since its overhaul and acknowledged Dave Harvey and the hard work done by the students.
- Mike encouraged everyone to go out the fairgrounds and see the float.

Coastal Carolina Fair – Tom Holcombe:

- The location at the Coastal Carolina Fair has been very successful. We made several contacts.
- Please get pictures to our new PAO Rafael Guzman.
- A motion was made by Dave Harvey with Tom Holcombe seconding to provide the Exchange Club Charity a donation of \$1,000 for use of the space at the fair. Rick Wise reminded everyone that this requires approval from the Base. Short discussion was followed by vote of recommendation by the Board. This shall be put in front of the Base members next week.

SE Regional Convention – Dave Harvey:

- Nick has published the application for the SE Regional Convention on our website. So far, the event is well anticipated at a national level.
- We need to get a separate account for the SER Conv. Treasurer Ricky Collins will work on this. The account needs to be credit card accessible.
- Dave Harvey outlined the expenses associated with the SER including bus transportation, hotel, meal costs etc. The Oyster Roast for the SER will be held at The After Battery. Dinner will be at the FRA. The banquet will be held at the DoubleTree hotel.
- National is providing \$1,500 for seed money. The After Battery is providing \$500.
- Fund raisers are needed. Dave listed several dinners at the FRA along with dinners and breakfasts at The After Battery.
- There was discussion about various other fund raising opportunities. Details on these ideas will be discussed in committee.
- There were questions about any tax issues. We are not selling anything at the SER, but are taking donations.
- Dave listed the coordinators needed for the various tasks associated with the SER. Base members need to jump in and help in a major way.
- Info for the SER is available from a link on the Charleston Base website.
- Dave summarized the smaller workshops and gatherings which will occur during the SER. Each will have a limit to which can attend.
- We can expect to have Associate Members from the other bases attending our Base Meeting in February. This info will be put out in the Newsletter ahead of time.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

- 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.

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank:

- Ed stated that he has *“received enough votes to carry forward with the license plates.”*
- Ed said that he has received a \$600 pledge from Golden Corner and another \$600 from somewhere else (He just can’t find the email). A Charleston Base member has offered \$500 to the plates. Charlie Hudson donated \$50. Between Rick Wise, Charlie Hudson, Ed Stank, there has been \$1100 donated to the license plates. Total donations at this point are expected to be \$2,350. Ed is expecting Charleston Base to use \$3,500 from the investment fund for the license plates.

Recreation – Johnny Brown:

- The Charleston Base Christmas Party will be held at the FRA on Friday, December 6. We currently have 57 people signed up for the prime rib dinner. Notifications were sent out to the Base via email.

COB – Greg Landry:

- Greg congratulated Dave Harvey for the good job on the float and Tom Holcombe for the work at the fair.

VA – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson:

- Nothing to report

NNPTC Coordinator – Anthony Mazza:

- The 2025 Sub Ball will be held on April 5 at the Trident Tech Ballroom.
- Tickets are expected to be available for sale in January. The space should support 500+ attendees.
- NNPTC CMC Cindy Huratiak is extending an invitation to members of Charleston Base to attend her naval retirement ceremony on site on May 5, 2025. Please RSVP via Anthony.
- Anthony has other news to provide once he receives orders.

Little David – Phil Nunnally:

- Nothing to report.

NPS Awards – Phil Nunnally:

- The next graduation is December 6. (Same day as Charleston Base Christmas Party)
- Will include graduates from the Australian Navy. The Warrant Officer of the Australian Navy (US MCPON equiv.) sked to attend.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally:

- If there is something that any member would like to see put into the CB Newsletter, please provide it to Phil at least two days before the end of the month. He goes to press before/by the first day of each month.

Comptroller – Rick Wise:

- At the Base Meeting next week, we will be voting on the 2025 budget.

Photographer – Glenn Little:

- Glenn will be at the fair taking pictures

Special Events – Tom Holcombe:

- Rick Wise reported that he will emcee the Veteran's Day Tolling of the Boats at Coastal Coffee Roasters. This will be Rick's last year as he will turn this over to Tom Holcombe.
- Tom wants to talk about the USSVI National Charitable Fund at next week's Base Meeting.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall:

- Woody has a blazer that is too big for him since he lost weight. It has only been worn once.

PAO – Rafael Guzman:

- Rafael pointed out that most advertising is now done online.
- Newspaper advertising costs a lot and no one reads the paper.
- He listed some options how to advertise on Hulu, Netflix and YouTube.
- For the time being, Rafael plans to make a short video with pictures from past events.
- Some of the online advertising has a charge, and other web locations offer free ads.
- Nick Nichols reported that Rafael has a Base email address: publicaffairs@ussvicb.org.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- Treasurer's Report is out.
- Scholarship Fund currently has a balance of \$3,823.
- Ricky will not be at the Christmas Party. Any checks needed, please provide info.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The BY-LAWS need to be changed to eliminate the dollar amount. Gordon read the proposed change and made a motion. Nick Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed. This recommendation by the BOD will be emailed to the entire Base membership tonight for review and be placed on New Business at the Base Meeting next week.

Membership – Larry Knutson:

- Larry will be on travel during the Base Meeting next week.
- Dues are due for 2025.
- Nick Nichols provided the top Base Standings.
 - Groton 1165 - 2) Hampton Roads 286 - 3) Charleston 252 - 4) Bremerton 246

HL Hunley – Tom Holcombe:

- Nothing reported.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III:

- Nick Nichols reported that Tom has a Base email address: scholarship@ussvicb.org

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.
- **Karen McKanna's father**, Henry Gruber, 95, passed away on Oct. 27th in Illinois. The service will be Saturday Nov 2nd. Keep Rodney and Karen in your prayers as they travel back home.
- **Jim Keller** is living in NY for medical treatment. He is 87 and deteriorating rapidly. Diagnosis: chronic emphysema (COPD), severe skeletal deterioration with Osteo Porosis, Arthritis, and Scoliosis in 2 places in the spine. Doesn't expect to get back to SC again.
- **Chris LaForce** has had some medical procedures happening. He has A-Fib which MUSC has tried to resolve so that he can have some needed oral surgery.
- **Don Meadows** is diagnosed with Parkinson's and skin cancer. Has been having heart pains and has started having seizures due to muscular stranding. He would like your prayers.
- **Ronnie Vandiver** went into the VA on Oct 21st with his continuing GI problems he's had for several years. He is now home recovering.
- **Beetle Bailey** is recovering from a ruptured hi right quad.
- **Rick Wise** is learning to use his new arm with a programable hand.
- **Tom Cyrek** was back in VA for a few days but is now in his daughter's home in West Ashley. He is unable to stand or walk.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. **NEW Room 117. He is answering his cell 843.873.0564.** This is behind Trident.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** are living in the Villages, him 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.
- **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>

SE Regional Seed Money – Nick Nichols:

- Nick Nichols made a motion that Charleston Base match the Seed Money of \$1500 from National for the SER Conference. Ed Stank seconded. Motion passed. The proposal will be presented at the Base Meeting next week.

USSVI – Charleston Base Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Float Coordinator – Nick Nichols:

- Nick Nichols will be adding Dave Harvey as Float Coordinator and as SER Convention Coordinator.
- Dave Harvey reported that the float will be returned to the shop after the Coastal Coffee Roasters to get a new sub-frame put under it.
- The float will be transported commercially on a trailer to Wisconsin in July for a parade event of “All Things Submarine”. There are approximately 150,000 people that attend this event.

Member Dues Payment – Nick Nichols:

- We have two Base members in assisted living that are unable to pay dues. Treasurer Rick Collins reported that we have enough money in the pot from the last “Pass the Hat” effort to cover the dues for Al Dempster and Don Meadows. Board agrees.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko:

- Nothing to report.

FRA – Ken Hutchison:

- Not present.

Holland Club – Bill Freligh:

- Not present.

Kaps for Kids – OPEN:

- Not present

Meeting adjourned at 1944.