

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the January 2015 meeting was 70.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ed Stank. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in January was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Vice-Commander Don Mook. Ed welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions: The following men introduced themselves at the meeting: QM2(SS) Richard Beauregard, Qual Boat: USS Daniel Webster SSBN 626; MMCM(SS) Julian Czeiszperger, Qual Boat: USS Von Steuben SSBN 632; ET1(SS) Emerson Beach, Qual Boat: USS George Bancroft SSBN 643 .

Secretary: Since there were no minutes for the Christmas Party, the Secretary had no report.

Treasurer: Base Treasures Steve Morawiec gave a report on the base finances. The report is available on the Charleston Base website www.ussvicb.org . The base took in \$348.53 more than we spent in 2014. By direction of the Board of Directors that amount was moved from the General Fund to the Scholarship Fund.

Steve also stated that he would not run for re-election in May.

Vice-Commander/Membership Chairman: Base Vice-Commander Don Mook had no report but as Membership Chairman reported that there are 338 members of Charleston Base. 20 base members owe national dues (\$20) and 36 members owe base dues (\$15). He will be available to take dues for 30 minutes after the meeting. Dues can also be paid on-line at the base website, www.ussvicb.org .

There is a problem in that the National Membership Chairman had not received the last payment from Charleston Base and 51 members of Charleston Base that were included in that payment are currently listed as delinquent as per National. That includes the Charleston Base Membership Chairman. As soon as the payment clears the problem should go away.

Because of the difficulty in getting the payments to National Don cannot ensure your membership doesn't lapse if you pay after January 15. There is no penalty if your membership lapses.

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

November Report

Highlighted boat of the month:

ARGONAUT was lost on Jan 10, 1943 with the loss of 102 officers and men off Rabaul, on her 3rd war patrol. While attacking a convoy, she torpedoed a Jap destroyer who, along with 2 other destroyers, depth charged her. As she tried to surface, the destroyers sank her by gun fire.

- **Gary Lynn Buckholder** of Fort Mills departed on Eternal Patrol on January 5th. He was a Simon Bolivar shipmate but not a member of USSVI. An online condolence message has been left on behalf of the base.
- **Virginia Hix**, wife of **Carol Hix**, passed away on Nov. 28th. Her service was on Dec. 6th and was attended by several of the base members.
- **Sonny Rash** had major surgery in the VA hospital today. He had an aortic aneurysm repaired. He is scheduled to be in ICU for 4 days, then 2 days in a regular bed and the home for rehab. His grandson has taken time off to help him and Doris.
- **Marvin Miller** broke his ankle on December 27th. Frieda is taking good care of him. He will be having an operation at the VA next Wednesday.
- **Lee Young** went into the hospital with fluid on his lungs. While in the hospital he had two heart attacks. The doctors were able to open a 99% blockage and correct the problem that caused the heart attacks. Due to a problem with the stent Lee is back in the hospital as of the meeting time.
- **Bob Deschaine** was in and out of the hospital most of 2014 battling colon cancer. His doctors have declared him cancer free. He recently fell and broke his arm in two places. His wife, **Norma**, had knee surgery today but was not out of surgery by the time of the meeting. Bob needed some help while Norma is in the hospital and Ray Bryant has stepped up to the plate and assisting them during this time. BZ to Ray!
- **Glenn Fleming** was taken to the hospital on Christmas day after a bad chemo reaction. He is home with hospice and Joyce told me that he is not having any more chemo at this point. Glenn is in good spirits and visitors are welcome, just call first and no sickness please.
- **Jimmy Kimbrell** was in the hospital mid-December with lung issues and difficulty breathing. He is doing better now.
- **Kit Sparger** spent Christmas through Dec. 28th in the hospital with breathing and heart issues. She is home now and according to Rick is doing much better.

- **James Wyndham**, Ken Fuhr's father-in-law, passed away on Dec. 19th. Many of you remember him coming with Ken when Ken was the Storekeeper.
- **Bob Hubert** was in the hospital from Dec. 18th thru the 31st with fluid around his lungs. He is home recovering and the results of tests indicate no malignancy.
- Ken Curtis' grandson, **Matthew**, was in the hospital mid-December at the same time as his daughter-in-law, **Lisa**. Matthew is now on the liver transplant list and Lisa had kidney stones.
- Mike Knaub's son, **David**, had a double lung transplant in mid-November. He should be leaving the hospital next Monday. He did have a stroke while in the hospital but is doing some better.
- **"Frenchy" Fuqua** continues to recover from his stroke.
- **Gary Williams** had a catherization at Trident hospital today. As soon as he can he will let us know how he's doing.
- **James Graham Jr. (JD)**, who is James Graham's son, is 27 years old and has muscular dystrophy. For the past several months he's had a choking, coughing and swallowing problem. He goes in for an evaluation on January 13th. Every day with him is a blessing as he was not supposed to live past the age of 18.
- **Buddha** is sick tonight and several others are missing due to sickness
- **Doc Hill** (WWII Vet) is not doing well.
- **Estelle Jones**, Willie's (WWII Vet) wife, is not doing well.

Follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

WEBMASTER NOTES: Website is updated constantly. The Charleston Base website is www.ussvicb.org.

Newsletter: Newsletter Editor George Fuchs had no report.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had a few copies of the 2015 VA compensation Pay Scale and of the VA Burial Forms.

FRA: Larry Cox reported that Sunday, January 25 9 – 11:30 am will be another Old-time Navy Breakfast at the FRA. The cost is \$5 each. On Sunday 1 February is the FRA Superbowl Party. This is for ticketholders only. A limited number of tickets are left and are for sale at the bar. The price is \$50 each and includes an open bar, snacks and food.

Storekeeper/Election Coordinator: Base Storekeeper Ken Hutchison stated that he still had 2015 calendars for sale for \$9 each. The election this May is for Base Commander and Base Treasurer. Both incumbents are not running. So far the only candidate is Base Secretary Rick Wise running for Base Commander.

Submarine Veterans of World War II/Scholarship Committee: Swamp Fox President George Scharf reminded the base of the next Swamp Fox meeting, Thursday February 19 at 1130 at Ryan's in Summerville.

As Scholarship Chairman he pointed out that the Charleston Base Challenge Coins will be sold by the Base Storekeeper with the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. The committee is looking into possible fundraisers to allow the general public to support the Scholarship Fund. The first one they are working on is a car show. He asked if any members had suggestion to please let the committee know. The Scholarship Committee consists of George Scharf, Ricky Collins and Gary Williams.

Ed Stank pointed out that applications for the James B. Osborne Scholarship are due no later than April 15. Applications for the National USSVI Scholarship are due no later than March 15. Information and forms are available at the Charleston Base and USSVI National websites.

CRAMA: Director of Restoration and Maintenance Butch Bryar reported that CRAMA had received assurances from the Coast Guard that Clamagore could only be moved to Florida on another ship or a barge. CRAMA will be seeking support in the state legislature to have Clamagore turned over to CRAMA.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson made the following report:

Have you ever wondered who first uttered the phrase: "You've got to be sh**ing me?"

Well it just so happens to have originated with the Father of Our Country way back when George Washington was crossing the Delaware River with his troops.

There were 33 (remember this number) in Washington's boat. It was extremely dark and storming furiously and the water was tossing them about.

Finally, Washington grabbed Corporal Peters (remember this name) and stationed him in the bow with a lantern. He ordered him to keep swinging it, so they could see where there were going.

Corporal Peters, through the driving rain and cold, continued swinging the lantern back and forth, back and forth. Then a big gust of wind and a wave hit the boat and Corporal Peters and his lantern went into the Delaware.

Washington and his troops searched for over an hour but Peters could not be found. All of them felt terrible, for Corporal Peters was well liked.

Sometime later Washington and his troops landed on the shore, wet and totally exhausted. He rallied the troops and told them they must go on.

An hour later one of the men reported "General, I see some lights ahead!"

They trudged toward the lights and came upon a huge house. What they didn't know was that this was a house of ill repute, hidden in the forest, to serve all who came.

The General pounded on the door as his men crowded around him. The door swung open and, much to their surprise, stood a beautiful woman. She smiled broadly as she saw so many men standing there.

"Madam" said the General, "I am General George Washington and these are my men. We are wet and exhausted and desperately need warmth and comfort."

Again the madam looked at the men standing there and with a broad smile said "General, you've come to the right place. We can surely give you warmth and comfort. How many men do you have?"

"Well Madam," Washington replied "There are 32 of us without Peters."

And the Madam replied "You've got to be sh**ing me!"

The After Battery: Steve Moraweic reminded that the Annual After Battery Hog Roast will be on Saturday April 11. This is also the birthday of the US Submarine Force so the theme is "Going Down for 115 years."

A question came up about holding the Submarine Birthday Ceremony at the Submarine Cold War Memorial and the ceremony will be held in the morning with time left for the Hog Roast.

District Commander: Paul Viering reported that the South East Regional Convention will be April 20 – 23 at the Radisson Resort at the Port in Cape Canaveral, FL. Information and registration forms are on the Charleston Base website.

The annual Moonshine Mountain WWII Memorial Service will be held on May 16th. Information is on the Charleston Base website.

The Hunley-Housatonic Memorial Service will be held on February 17 at the Sunrise Presbyterian Church on Sullivan's Island. We should be presenting the roses to the lady mourners so will need 13 presenters. The uniform will be the Charleston Tuxedo (light blue shirt, khaki pants and navy blue blazer). If you are interested in being a presenter send your name to the COB at cob@ussvicb.org .

Paul also told the base that he would not run for District Commander in the next election.

Base Commander: Ed Stank reported that he had been contacted by the Tarheel Base, of which he is a member, about joining in the Bonefish Project. This is a public relations program where the Bonefish Grills receive a photograph and plaque of the USS Bonefish which they display in the restaurant.

Ed will investigate what is required. District Commander Paul Viering said he would contact other district bases about the project.

There is an Oyster Roast at the Red Bank Club on Friday, January 16 at 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 each in advance and \$25 each at the door.

Ed told the base that he will be making a trip to the Veteran's Victory House in Walterboro on Tuesday, January 13. He will leave from the VFW on Bellwright Road in Ladson at 1000. If you would like to go give Ed your name so he can let the Victory House know since they want the group to have lunch with the veterans. Ed plans to keep doing this on the Tuesday following base meetings.

Ed also told the base he will run for District Commander for our district.

Old Business: Work is supposed to start on the new float trailer on Monday, January 12. Float Manager Marty Sessler will check on progress and if nothing is done we have another group to take over the project.

Ed also said he thought the Red Bank Club did a good job on the Christmas Party but that there was a problem with the bartender. We are willing to take suggestions of other locations for the next Christmas Party and are actively looking into having it at the FRA if we can use the whole building.

New Business: It is time to submit nominations for the Distinguished Submariner Award. The form is on the base website. This is for what the nominee has done for the base and there is no timeframe limit.

It is time for the annual review of Charleston Base By-Laws and supporting documents. If you have any suggestion please submit them to any Board member. One thing Ed would like the group to look at is the possibility of on-line voting for base officers.

Rick Wise stated that since he had decided to run for Base Commander he was resigning as Base Secretary. He will continue to perform the duties as Acting Base Secretary until a new Secretary can be appointed by the Base Commander, Ed Stank and the approval of the Board of Directors in accordance with the By-Laws.

If no one steps up to take the position by the May meeting, Rick will remove his name from consideration as Base Commander.

Good of the Order: Steve Moraweic told the base that we now have an on-line store. The proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact Steve.

Ray Sparks reminded the base that the 2015 USSVI Convention will be in Pittsburg, PA on September 7 – 13.

Depth Charge: Walt Curtis won a one year membership to the FRA.

The depth charge was won by Gordon Smith

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Commander adjourned the meeting at 2005.