

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
14 June 2018

Opening Ceremonies:

- The June 2018 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Ralph Rhorsen with a quorum of officers and a total of 71 members present. The meeting started at 1901 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by incoming Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines Lost during the month of June:
 - USS HERRING (SS-233) – June 1, 1944 – 8th war patrol – LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 83 SOULS
 - USS R-12 (SS-89) – June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo approach near Key West FL – LOST WITH 42 SOULS – 21 SURVIVORS
 - USS GOLET (SS-361) – June 14, 1944 – 2nd war patrol – LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 82 SOULS
 - USS BONEFISH (SS-223) – June 18, 1945 – 8th war patrol – LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 85 SOULS
 - USS S-27 (SS-132) – June 19, 1945 – grounded of Amchitka Island Alaska – NO LOSS OF LIFE
 - USS O-9 (SS-70) – June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH – LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 33 SOULS
 - USS RUNNER (SS-275) – June 30, 1943 – 3rd war patrol – LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 78 SOULS
 - Total of SEVEN Boats and 403 Men Lost
- The USSVI Creed was read by incoming Base Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Ralph Rhorsen welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Swearing in of Officers:

- Chaplain Nick Nichols conducted the swearing in of two members as officers of USSVI – Charleston Base:
 - Vice Commander - Mike Ciesielko
 - Secretary – Gordon Long

Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Presentation:

- Scholarship Chairman George Scharf and Committee member Gary Williams presented the 2018 scholarship award to Megan LeBaron. She is the granddaughter of Tom Cyrek and will be going to Queen's University in Charlotte, NC. The award this year is \$700. Photos were taken to record the event. Congratulations to Megan and we wish her all the best in her schooling.
- Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen thanked the family and guests. They were then dismissed from the meeting.
- George Scharf introduced the new Scholarship Committee members:
 - Chairman – Carl Chinn
 - Members – Marty Sessler and Rick Sparger
- Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen expressed his gratitude to George Scharf for giving his time while serving as the Scholarship Chairman.

Special Guest Speaker – Charles Hood:

- Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen introduced Charles Hood (a radiologist and native of Pickens) who wrote and was promoting the book titled, *“Poopie Suits and Cowboy Boots”*. The book is about stories that his brother Frank shared with him during his time aboard and as Commanding Officer of a fast attack submarine. He had a video presentation and spoke for nearly an hour. The presentation was quite humorous as he explained how “helpful” that the SUBVETs have been finding errors in the book so that they could be corrected in this current edition. Charles stated that the entire proceeds from the sale of these books are being donated to the National USSVI Scholarship Fund. The book has already provided \$4,000 to this cause and he expects another \$3,000 to be contributed soon.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- None present.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- No new business.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the USSVI Charleston Base May Business Meeting has been published and promulgated. There were no additions or deletions. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer’s Report has been published and promulgated. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain/Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Reid Casey was a LST Quartermaster/Coxswain in WWII – Africa, D-Day and in the Pacific – still with us and living at The Crossings
- Highlighted Boat of the Month – USS Golet (SS-361) was lost 74 years ago today on her second war patrol.
- Roger Gibson is at Summerville Medical.
- Mike Welch’s brother David passed away at age 69 on Friday, June 8 in Denver, Colorado.
- Tom Lufkin had outpatient surgery on his elbow and is home resting.
- Ed Simokat is home. Joe Hayes is assisting him with transportation needs.
- We are glad to see Tom back tonight.
- Request anyone going to The After Battery to call Luke Murphy and stop by to see him.
- Call other members to see if they need a ride to the meeting on bad weather days or if they don’t drive at night.
- Still need PAGE 2s from members.
- Make use of the Events page on the Base Website.

Victory House – Ed Stank

- Those going to the Victory House need to meet at the *Legion* VFW Post on Bellwright Road 10am.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- There are currently 291 Members of USSVI Charleston Base.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

- Reported on visit to the Shriner's Hospital in Greenville. Three from Charleston Base, Bill's wife and three from the Greenville Base. They were able to see twenty-seven children and their parents. The next visit will be on Saturday, August 4 at the Florence hospital.
- Notified members about the group in the Chicago area that is requesting drawings of the float. If anyone has any information, please advise.
- Warned members to be on alert for scams attempting to get information.

Veterans Affairs/DAV – Ken Curtis

- Check the FLASH section of the Base website for information.

FRA – Rick Sparger

- Rick reported about the upcoming 20th anniversary dinner celebration of the FRA Home building.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- He has assumed the Chairman duties.
- Marty Sessler and Rick Sparger are members of this committee.
- The committee has a print of a set of Dolphins which are comprised of 131 different submarine related rating insignia and other items. They are selling raffle tickets now and the drawing will be held at the end of the August Business Meeting. You do not have to be present to win, so if you will not be at the August meeting, be sure to put your name and phone number on the back of the ticket.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Scharf

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NPS Awards – Ray Sparks

- The next graduation is June 29. The school has a new Commanding Officer, Capt Peterson.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- Nothing to report

Public Affairs/Newsletter – Rick Wise

- Nothing to report

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report

Special Events Coordinator – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report

COB – Joe Lunn

- Both NAVY TIMES and ALL HANDS are both available online.

Base Commander – Ralph Rohrsen

- Thanked Mike Ciesielko and Gordon Long for volunteering for the jobs of Vice Commander and Secretary respectively.
- We are working hard to find events that the Base where can get involved so that we are more visible to the community. Please let us know if you know of an event where we can participate.

Good of the Order

After Battery

The After Battery is open every Wednesday.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

Today is the 75th anniversary of Flag Day.

In our day, we had an acronym – LS/MFT. Do you recall? But today, this new generation has LGBTQ. Is this a trend? This past few decades have seen the rise of the feminist. Females in combat roles, females in submarines and also corporate CEOs. All this and equal rights – rights to drive in U.A.E, rights to vote and now the final straw: The Miss America contest is dropping the swimsuit portion and won't judge on looks. Who knows, maybe Rosie O'Donnell will have a chance at "Ms. America".

Last month I told of some "Simple Truths". Here are a few more:

1. Money cannot buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than on a bicycle.
2. If you help someone when they're in trouble, they will remember you when they're in trouble again.

As you may know, my wife has dementia and this story hits right home:

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip.

When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table and didn't miss them until they had been driving for about forty minutes. By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses.

All the way back, the elderly husband became the classic grumpy old man. He fussed and complained and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just wouldn't let up for a single minute. To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the old geezer yelled to her, "While you're in there, you might as well get my hat and the credit card."

Drawings

FRA – Larry Pepper

Depth Charge – John Lookabill

Closing Ceremony

Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction, Base Commander Ralph Rohrssen announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm. The meeting was closed at 2025.