

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
9 August 2018

Opening Ceremonies:

- The July 2018 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko in the absence of Base Commander Ralph Rhorssen with a quorum of officers and a total of 79 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of August was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines Lost during the month of August:
 - USS BULLHEAD (SS 332) – August 6, 1945 – 3rd War Patrol – LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 84 SOULS
 - USS FLIER (SS 250) – August 13, 1944 – 2nd War Patrol – LOST WITH 83 SOULS – 8 MEN SURVIVED
 - USS S-39 (SS 144) – August 13, 1942 – 3rd War Patrol – NO LOSS OF LIFE
 - USS HARDER (SS 257) – August 24, 1944 – 6th War Patrol – LOST WITH ALL HANDS – 79 SOULS
 - USS COCHINO (SS 345) – August 26, 1949 – NO NAVY LOSS OF LIFE – ONE CIVILIAN LOSS – TUSK LOST 6 SOULS DURING THE RESCUE
 - FIVE Boats and 253 Men Lost
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 - Electronics Technician Senior Chief - Submarines, Paul A. Viering – US Navy Retired – Departed on Eternal Patrol – July 17, 2018
- The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko and then, he welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- One man was present in the meeting for the first time:
 - Steve Curtis – IC Electrician – Qualified on USS WAHOO in January 1967

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- Ronald Lamon presented his request for USSVI Charleston Base to be part of a Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast. He has contacted the major towns of Berkeley County (Goose Creek, Hanahan and Moncks Corner) as well as the Berkeley County Sheriff's office. He wants to plan this event for a Saturday at the end of September or beginning of October. He has not contacted the small Berkeley County towns but will not turn them away if they show up. He is asking USSVI Charleston Base, FRA and Marine Corp Association to each provide \$150 for the effort. Ron stated that if the cost exceeds \$450, then he will cover the difference. He does not have an accurate number of guests, although the BCSO estimate put it at about 80. Ron is therefore planning for 100 people. He wants to keep it small for the first event and is limiting it to officers in Berkeley County even though some in the room want to include Dorchester County. Larry Cox pointed out that the FRA does quarterly events where they have 180-200 people. Preparations for this start a week ahead of time and it is a lot of work. Larry stated that you cannot guess at the number of people who will come. It must be limited to a certain group but you must have an accurate head count. Rick Sparger echoed the effort that is required saying that this is a worthy cause but he thinks that the cost and the amount of work has been underestimated. Again, Ron said that he will cover the cost above \$450. Rick said that perhaps Ron could hire the cooks at the FRA galley. Ron will explore this possibility but it will take more than the two of them. Ron has not, as yet, prepared a list of what food will be served. Mike Ciesielko acknowledged that this is a good cause and asked the membership to see Ron after the meeting. Meanwhile, Ron has been asked to obtain a head count, have a menu prepared and present this again at the next Base meeting in September. Throughout all of the discussion, there was no motion presented.

- Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko requested someone to take over the job as Hunley/Housatonic Coordinator due to the passing of Paul Viering – Harry Nettles volunteered for the task. Many Thanks to Harry especially since getting a turnover will not be possible!!

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- ONE ADDITION RELATED TO LAST MEETING – Rick Sparger provided \$100.00 to the Scholarship Fund from his July Depth Charge winnings to the Treasurer at the BOD Meeting last week. He had won the July Depth Charge in absentia after leaving his tickets in care of Marty Sessler. Rick did have some damage to electrical and electronic items in his home during the lightning strike, but the house itself is okay.
- The Minutes from the USSVI Charleston Base July Business Meeting have 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. The contribution from Rick Sparger will show up on the next Treasurer's report.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- August 12, 1958 - USS Nautilus completes first undersea voyage to North Pole – 59 years ago
- August 12, 2000 - Soviet Submarine KURSK sank in Barents Sea – loss of all hands – 18 years ago
- August 14, 1945 - VJ Day – Victory in the Pacific – 72 years ago
- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
 - USS FLIER SS250 was lost while on her 2nd war patrol with the loss of 78 crew members. Flier was transiting on the surface when she was rocked by a massive explosion (probably a mine) and sank within less than a minute. 13 survivors, some injured, made it into the water and swam to shore. 8 survived and 6 days later friendly natives guided them to a Coast Watcher and they were evacuated by the USS Redfin.
- **Paul Viering** passed away on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. The viewing and family visitation on Friday evening was very well attended by the Base Membership.
- **Margie Deal** fell on July 29th and broke her hip. She is Compass Health (used to be Health South.) She will be there 9-14 days in room 204. Visitors welcome after 1300 M-F and regular hours S-S.
- **JJ Fortier** had his surgery on the 24th and was home on the 25th. As he said his recovery will be a long one. All calls are welcome.
- **Gordon Smith** had surgery on the 20th and was home on the 23rd. He is sore but doing well. God is good brought him thru 2 cancer surgery.
- **Lee Young** was in the hospital recently. He is now home. His granddaughter is going to be providing care for Lee and Carol.
- **Marvin Miller** is doing well after ending up on the floor at the July meeting.
- **Mary Jane Baciocco**, Adm. Baciocco's wife, passed away on June 30th in Cary NC. She will be buried in Annapolis MD.
- **Jed Alan Heames** departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 31 July. He was not a member of SUBVETS. He served on WOODROW WILSON.
ENCM(SS) Leon 'Zeb' Steele departed on Eternal Patrol on Tuesday, 31 July. He was not a member of SUBVETS. He served on TRUMPETFISH, LAMPREY, SALMON and SEA POACHER.
- **Elmer Feezer's** 1 (almost) 2 year old great-granddaughter, Liberty Grooms, passed away on Tuesday, August 7th as a result of accidental drowning in a swimming pool accident.
- **Rich Alkire** fell 2 times Thursday morning. EMS & Fire Department responded both times to get him up. He has been told if he falls again he will have to be taken to the hospital. It was possible caused by a medication reaction.
- **Larry Cox** has pancreatic cancer which has metastasized to his liver. He is having weekly chemo now.
- Hampton Roads Base has started a new program where members check on other members who have not been at the meeting or are having health issues and can't get out. There is a list on the table of all our base members who are 80 or over. If you would like to participate in this program put your name beside the one you would like to call.

- The Chaplain notified the membership that he still needs page 2s from many of us. He will be sending out the form via individual emails this month in hopes that he gets some of them back.
- If you have a change of mailing address, phone number, email address please let the base leadership know about it. We need to make sure all of our records are updated so we can make contact with you if we need to.

WEBMASTER – Nick Nichols:

- The website officer's page has been updated with all of our current base officers and board members.
- Website is constantly updated.
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- USSVI Charleston Base currently has 289 members. Larry will soon start collecting dues for next year.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

- The last "Kaps" trip Saturday, August 4, was successful. The group has visited 66 children and their parents so far this year. The next trip will be Tuesday, October 2 at 10am.
- Bill gave "Kaps for Kids" patches that says, "Happiness is seeing a child smile" to Harry Nettles, Roger Gibson, Joe Lunn, Mike Emerson, John Flynn, Joe Hayes, Theron Irving, Jack Harden, Ken Hutchison and Rick Sparger in appreciation for visiting the children with him at the hospitals.

Veterans Affairs/DAV – Tom Lawson

- New articles are posted on the Charleston Base website.
- Locations to volunteer are: Weapons Station, Trident Medical Center and the VA Hospital in Charleston.
- Drivers are especially needed for Summerville and Berkeley County areas.

Fleet Reserve Association – Larry Cox

- Encouraged everyone to join the FRA. The regular meeting will be held on August 16, at 1900.
- On Monday, August 13, at 1800, the FRA will be hosting General Livingston (MOH) who will be speaking at the Vietnam Veterans of America meeting. He has written a book and will be signing them. The proceeds of the book will go to Patriot's Point.
- The FRA bowling league will be going bowling on August 29 at Marrington Center.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Ciesielko

- We are thankful that Stacy Power is able to attend the meeting this evening.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The new committee has raised about \$500 to date.
- The drawing for the artist proof "Dophin" print comprise of 131 different submarine related rating badges and other items. The drawing will be held at the end of the meeting tonight.
- The Scholarship Committee will have an auction at the end of the meeting for a print of "The Kiss" – the iconic Times Square photograph taken on VJ Day, August 14, 1945.
- The money from both of these shall go to the Scholarship Fund.

Nuclear Power School Awards – Rick Wise

- The next NPS graduation will be on Friday, August 24. Muster at the Navy Exchange parking lot at 0800.

Public Affairs/Newsletter – Rick Wise

- Nothing to report

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- If you provide him a shirt, he will have Dolphins and your name put on it for \$13.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report

COB – Joe Lunn

- Enjoyed the trip with Kaps for Kids. It was uplifting.

Vice Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Base Commander is in Kentucky. He is working again and traveling.

Good of the Order

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

I don't recall if, in the past, I told you that that submarine sailors are at least 50% smarter than other sailors! Want proof?

First: Why has the MCPON resigned? He was a CT, but he thought his stuff was equal to that of a senior admiral, the CNO, his boss, who is – by the way – a submarine officer. Admiral Richardson was a past CO of the USS Honolulu (SSN-718).

Second: A member (Non-Qual) of the USS North Dakota shot himself with an M-16, in the shoulder. He probably forgot which end the bullet comes out of.

Now for the news flash of the month!!

Stormy Daniels and Queen Elizabeth went to the Pearly Gates on the same day. They met with St. Peter to find out if they would be admitted into Heaven.

St. Peter said, "Unfortunately, there's only one space available in Heaven today, so I must decide which one of you will be admitted."

The angel asked Stormy if there was some particular reason why she should go to Heaven. Stormy took off her top and said, "Look at these. They're the most perfect breasts God ever created and I'm sure it will please God to be able to see them every day for eternity."

The angel thanked Stormy and asked Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the same question. The queen walked over to a toilet; pulled the lever and flushed it without saying a word. The angel immediately said: "Okay, Your Majesty, you may go into Heaven."

Stormy was outraged and asked, "What was that all about? I showed you two of God's own perfect creations and you turned me down. She simply flushed a commode and was admitted into Heaven! Would you explain that to me?"

"Sorry, Stormy," said the angel, "but even in Heaven, a royal flush beats a pair, no matter how perfect they are."

Mike Emerson

Has tickets for the Christmas Party. The tickets are still valid even though the wrong date got printed on the tickets.

Ken Curtis

DAV Drawing – This year, there is a 3 day/2 night stay at Myrtle Beach Hilton, \$50 fuel ticket, tickets for two at the Alabama Theatre, tickets for two at the Carolina Opry, free meals at area restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner among other things. The drawing is October 9. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are \$5. See Ken after the meeting.

Rick Sparger

Read portions of email from Base Commander Ralph Rohrsen:

"Online voting for the 2018 USSVI National Election is now live... will continue until October 10...Members may vote by logging on to the USSVI web site... Base Commanders: You may bring a laptop to a Base meeting and members may vote at the meeting. Members may assist other members in voting, but each member must cast his own vote. Remember, your vote is your voice in the makeup of our organization's "Command Team." Tom Conlon, Election Master". Even though the candidates are running unopposed, Rick encouraged everyone to vote for something.

Rodney McKanna

“Undie 500” is next month. Please bring NEW (in package) tee shirts, underwear and socks for men and women.

Drawings/Auction

FRA – won by Stacy Power

Dolphin Print (Don Stuart artist proof/framing by Donovan’s on Trolley Rd) – won by Doc Hopkins – Charleston Base member who lives in NC. (not present – sent Marty Sessler money to purchase tickets for him).

VJ Day Photo Print Auction – Congratulations to Beetle Bailey as the high bidder.

Depth Charge – Jimmy Legg – made \$100 donation to scholarship fund.

Closing Ceremony

Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction, Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm. The meeting was closed at 2012.