

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting**  
**11 October 2018**

**Opening Ceremonies:**

- The October 2018 Base Meeting was called to order by Secretary Gordon Long in the absence of Base Commander Ralph Rhorssen and Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of two officers (Secretary and Treasurer) and a total of 57 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of October was given by Harry Nettles in absence of Base Chaplain Nick Nichols who was away for the USS Henry L. Stimson reunion. Submarines Lost during the month of October:
  - USS SEAWOLF (SS-197)      October 3, 1944 – 15th War Patrol      Lost with all hands –100 souls (83 crew and 17 Army)
  - USS S-44 (SS-155)              October 7, 1944 – 5th War Patrol      Lost with 56 souls – 2 men became POWs and survived the war
  - USS WAHOO (SS-238)            October 11, 1943 – 7th War Patrol      Lost with all hands – 80 souls
  - USS DORADO (SS-248)          October 12, 1943 – New - training      Lost with all hands – 77 souls
  - USS ESCOLAR (SS-294)        October 17, 1944 – 1st War Patrol      Lost with all hands – 82 souls
  - USS DARTER (SS-227)          October 24, 1944 – 4th War Patrol      No loss of life
  - USS SHARK II (SS-314)        October 24, 1944 – 3rd War Patrol      Lost with all hands – 87 souls
  - USS TANG (SS-306)              October 25, 1944 – 5th War Patrol      Lost with 78 souls – 9 men became POWs and survived the war
  
  - USS O-5 (SS-66)                October 29, 1923 – near Panama Canal      Lost with 3 souls
  - Nine Boats and 563 Men Lost
- The USSVI Creed was read by Treasurer Gordon Williams. The Secretary welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**Introductions of New Attendees:**

- Two men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
  - Randy Smith – EM2 – USS Nautilus '75-79 – moved from Michigan and lives here now.
  - Roger Jolly – HM1 – USS L. Mendel Rivers '87-'91, USS Sand Lance '91-'93 – the best time of his life.

**Old Business:**

- Ronald Lamon presented his updated request to Charleston Base for support of the Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast. Due to scheduling conflicts the date has been changed to November 3. He expressed his thanks to Rick Sparger who provided menu information derived from previous FRA breakfasts. The estimated cost has increased from this latest information but he is still only asking for Charleston Base to support the event with the original \$150 request. The leftover groceries will be provided to the FRA since the event is being held here without any rental fee being charged. He has people to cook but needs volunteers to help run the kitchen. Rodney McKanna presented a motion to authorize the \$150 expenditure from Charleston Base. Jeff Reuer seconded the motion. The motion passed by a show of hands with a wide margin of votes. The Base Treasurer shall provide a check for \$150 to support the Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast. Law Enforcement Agencies in Berkeley County will be notified of the invitation to the breakfast to be held on November 3, 2018.

**New Business:**

- **Social Media Coordinator** – Gordon Long presented the BOD request of the Base members to consider becoming the Social Media Coordinator. This individual needs to be someone who is well-versed in the use of social media such as Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc... We had no volunteers from the members at this meeting. The request will be presented at the November Base meeting.
- **Phone APP** – Gordon Long presented the BOD request of the Base members asking if anyone knows someone (even their children or grandchildren) who does coding to build a "Smartphone APP" which can

provide basic or even extended information about Charleston Base? We had no response to this request. We will ask again at the November Base meeting.

- **Base Photographer** – COB (Joe Lunn) presented the need of Charleston Base for someone to take pictures at the Base meetings and other events because we are missing out on Base history. No volunteers at this time. COB also amplified the need for someone to be in charge of Charleston Base member recruitment on Social Media.

#### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the USSVI Charleston Base August Business Meeting (The September Base meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence) have been published and promulgated on the Base website. There were no additions or deletions. The minutes were approved.

#### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- The Treasurer's Report for August/September have been published and promulgated on the website. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

#### **Chaplain – Harry Nettles:**

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
  - USS ESCOLAR SS-294 was lost on Oct 17, 1944 with the loss of 82 men. Escolar's last communication was with Perth on 17 October- she was never heard from again. She was on her 1st war patrol and was most likely lost to a mine somewhere in the Yellow Sea.
- **Mike Welch** was in Roper Downtown ICU. He had his surgery on his leg, went home, and then a day later had to go back to the hospital due to heart issues. He was scheduled to have a heart cath but that has been upgraded to a quadruple bypass. He had the bypass on Tuesday and it went well; however it was a 6-way bypass. While in ICU to recover he developed pneumonia. Soupy Campbell notified us that he has been moved to a regular room. He is on the mend but very weak so no visitors yet.
- **Elmer 'Moon' Mullins** was in MUSC recovering from surgery on the inside of his skull. Fred Woodley informed me that Moon will have the procedure to remove the mass on his skull at MUSC on Wed Oct 3rd at 2:30pm. Fred reported on Thursday that Elmer's procedure went very well to biopsy the area in his skull. They did not keep him overnight and allowed him to go home. He sounded very upbeat and is glad to have that behind him. Fred will visit him this week.
- **Ken Curtis** is home. On Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, he had 2 stints put in and they (the VA) opened two OLD blockages. One of them was the one that caused my heart attack in December 1997. They could not open them at the time but they did yesterday. PRAYER WORKS!!!! I'm home and doing great.
- **Becky Roberts** had knee surgery this past Monday. She is now home with lots of pain and doing home health for now. She will have to follow up with physical therapist.
- **Wanda Nelms** was transported to Summerville Medical Center and was in ICU until this past Tuesday. She is now home.
- **Rick Wise** will be going in for a cardiac cath on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>. If this goes well, he will have an aortic valve replacement in November.
- **Rick Sparger** will have his left knee replaced on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Larry Cox** has pancreatic cancer which has metastasized to his liver. He was on weekly chemo but it was having no effect.

#### **Victory House – Ed Stank**

- Ed will be leaving at 1000 on Tuesday October 16 from the VFW on Bellwright Road for the visit to Victory House. Tom Scott usually attends and Ed invited others to come along for the visit. Anyone who has donations for Victory House, please let Ed know, so that he can get them.

#### **Recreation – Ed Stank**

- Ed has tickets to the Base Christmas party to be held on December 14 at the Air Force Base NCO Club. Tickets are \$15 per person. There will be two free drinks provided. There will be plenty of soft drinks at no charge.
- Ed reported that access to the storage shed on the base currently requires a day notice to obtain the key to the building.

- Ed talked about the recreation survey forms that he provided to everyone several months ago. He had 23 responses.
- He is collecting recipes for assembling a USSVI Charleston Base Cookbook. Please provide your favorite recipe(s) to Ed. He is also looking for help to assemble the book. If you can help, please let him know.

### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- USSVI Charleston Base membership increased by one today and we now have 290 members. Larry is collecting dues for next year. Larry requested that if anyone changes their email address, to let someone know so that he can update the Sailing List and we can all update our address books.

### **Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy**

- Reminded everyone that the pictures up front each month are of the submarines lost during the current month.
- On Tuesday, October 2, the “Kaps” group comprised of Mike Emerson, Ed Stank and Bill Kennedy made a trip to McLeod Hospital in Florence. They visited 14 children. So far this year, 82 children have been visited in the hospitals. This was to be the last “Kaps” visit for the year, but the hospital staff mentioned that November and December are their busiest times. There will be another visit to McLeod on Tuesday, December 4. If anyone needs directions or wants to meet up along the way somewhere, please call Bill.
- The skull caps (doo-rags) went over well with the children during this last trip.
- Bill thanked George Scharf who donated wristbands, on which says, “Kaps for Kids”.
- He also has “Kaps for Kids” patches for those who visit the children with him.

### **Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger**

- The FRA Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday night October 13. \$15/person.
- The FRA will be borrowing the SubVets float for the Charleston Veteran’s Day Parade on November 10. Charlie Hudson will be pulling the float. Those SubVets who are also FRA members are invited to ride on the float.

### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Scharf**

- Regular WWII meeting will be held at the FRA meeting room on Thursday, October 18 at 1130.
- We had no WWII veterans at the Base meeting tonight.

### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- The drawing for the Smoker/Grill will be held at the end of the Base Meeting on November 8. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5.
- The committee also has tickets for a raffle of a book titled, “U.S. Submarines”. The book is signed by Admiral Osborne, of whom, for which the Scholarship Fund is named. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5. Drawing also to be held on November 8.
- For the book, you must be present at the meeting to win. For the cooker, names are written on the tickets, so you do not have to be present to win. See Carl, Rick Sparger or Marty Sessler to purchase tickets for either of these items supporting the scholarship fund.

### **Storekeeper – Ron Chambers**

- The calendars for 2019 will be here next month.
- Ken Hutchison enjoying a vacation with his wife and will be back next month.
- Jenny Viering donated a bunch of books, submarine tee-shirts and patches. There are lots of them here and they are free to who want them. Please look at them after the meeting.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- The float will be taken to Coffee Roasters in Summerville for November 11.
- We have been invited to pull the float for Christmas parades at Summerville, Harleyville and Andrews. Since we are limiting the distance that we will pull the float, Andrews will not happen. Rick polled the members for those willing to attend Harleyville on November 29 and Summerville on December 9. He will send in the forms to enter the float into the parades at those two locations.

## **COB – Joe Lunn**

- At the risk of stealing thunder from the Nuclear Historian, COB shared a story he read on Facebook: A lawyer boarded an airplane in New Orleans bound for New York and brought a box of frozen crabs aboard. He asked a blonde flight attendant to take care of them for him. She took the box and promised to put in the crew's refrigerator. He advised her that he would hold her personally responsible for them to stay frozen and in an arrogant manner that he was a lawyer and what would happen to her if she let them thaw out. Shortly before landing in New York, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "Will the lawyer who gave me crabs in New Orleans please raise your hand." No one raised their hand, so she took the crabs home and ate them. Two things learned here: 1) Lawyers aren't as smart as they think they are. 2) Blondes aren't as dumb as you think they are.
- Nothing else to report.

## **Good of the Order**

### **After Battery – Rick Sparks**

After Battery is open every Wednesday. Come on out.

### **Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

A Senior Chief Auxiliaryman goes to the Navy Commissary and notices a very attractive woman waving at him. She says, "Hello."

He's rather taken aback because he can't place where he knows her from, so he asks, "Do you know me?"

She replies, "I think you're the father of one of my children."

Now his mind travels back to the only time that he had been unfaithful to his wife, so he asks, "Are you the stripper from the bachelor party that I made love to on the pool table, with all my buddies watching?"

She looks into his eyes and says calmly, "No, I'm your son's English teacher."

That same Auxiliaryman was in the commissary. He saw a woman shopping in the commissary where she selected:

A half-gallon of 2% milk

A carton of eggs

A quart of orange juice

A head of Romaine lettuce

A 2lb. can of coffee

A 1lb. package of bacon

As she was unloading her items on the conveyor belt to check out, a slightly inebriated Senior Chief Auxiliaryman standing behind her watched as she placed the items in front of the cashier. While the cashier was ringing her purchases, the Senior Chief Auxiliaryman calmly stated, "You must be single."

The woman was a bit startled by this proclamation, but she was intrigued by his intuition, since she was, indeed, single. She looked at her six items on the belt and saw nothing particularly unusual about her selections that could have tipped off the drunk to her marital status. Curiosity getting the better of her, she said, "Well, you're absolutely correct. How on earth did you know that?"

The drunk Auxiliaryman replied, "'cause you're ugly."

### **Rodney McKanna**

Thanked everyone for supporting "Undie 500" by bringing underwear for homeless veterans.

### **Drawings/Auction**

FRA – won by Marty Sessler

Depth Charge – Skip Chilton

### **Closing Ceremony**

Harry Nettles led the group in a prayer of Benediction; Secretary Gordon Long announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm. The meeting was closed at 2012.