

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
9 May 2019

Opening Ceremonies:

- The May 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Acting Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of three officers and a total of 66 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of May was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. Submarines lost during the month of May:
 - **USS LAGARTO (SS-371) May 3, 1945 – 2nd War patrol Lost with All Hands – 86 Souls**
 - **USS SCORPION (SSN-589) May 22, 1968 – returning from deployment**
Lost with All Hands – 99 Souls
 - **USS SQUALUS (SS-192) May 23, 1939 – during test dive 33 survivors – 26 Souls Lost**
 - **USS STICKLEBACK (SS-415) May 30, 1958 – under tow off Hawaii NO LOSS OF LIFE**
 - **FOUR Boats and 211 Men Lost**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Mike Ciesielko, who then welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Three men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - Andrew Lay – IC2 – Qualified on USS Boise SSN-764 – 2014
 - David Britt – LT(LDO)/MM – Qualified on USS James K Polk SSBN-645 – 1977 – also served aboard USS James Monroe SSBN-622, USS Simon Bolivar SSBN-641, USS John Adams SSBN-620, CSS-18 SMMS Team, USS Theodore Roosevelt CVN-71. After retiring from the Navy, he worked at Charleston Naval Shipyard until it closed.
 - Bruce Bohon – ETC – Qualified on USS Simon Bolivar SSBN-641 – 1972 – also served aboard USS Tecumseh SSBN-628

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **ELECTIONS – Election Coordinator – Ken Hutchison:**
 - As of the beginning of this meeting, Ken had only received one nomination for the office of USSVI Charleston Base Treasurer – the incumbent, Gordon Williams. Ken requested additional nominations from the floor and received none. Ken requested that Gordon Williams be accepted by acclamation. Gordon Williams was accepted as Treasurer by voice vote.
 - As of the beginning of this meeting, Ken had only received one nomination for the office of USSVI Charleston Base Commander – the Vice Commander/Acting Base Commander, Mike Ciesielko. Ken requested additional nominations from the floor and received none. Ken requested that Mike Ciesielko be accepted by acclamation. Mike Ciesielko was accepted as Base Commander by voice vote.
- **APPOINTMENT OF VICE COMMANDER – Mike Ciesielko**
 - Acting in capacity of Acting Base Commander/newly elected Base Commander, Mike Ciesielko appointed Tom Lawson to assume his previous duties as USSVI Charleston Base Vice-Commander.
- **OATH OF OFFICE – Base Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**
 - Three officers were sworn in by the Base Chaplain Nick Nichols
 - Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko
 - Vice Commander – Tom Lawson
 - Treasurer – Gordon Williams

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from April Base meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There were no other additions or deletions to the April Base meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

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

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

Highlighted boat of the month:

USS LAGARTO SS-371 was lost on May 3rd 1945 with the loss of 86 men near the Gulf of Siam. She was on her 2nd war patrol and is believed to have been lost to a radar equipped minelayer. USS HAWKBILL SS-366 got revenge two weeks later by sinking the minelayer.

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Diane McBride, daughter of Beetle & Carol Bailey**, passed away on Friday, Apr. 26th. Her funeral was on May 2nd. I placed a note of condolence from Charleston Base on the Funeral Home website. I mistakenly put out that Carol had passed in the condolence. I have apologized to Carol.
- **Leon Manning, uncle of Rick Collins**, passed away on Thursday, Apr. 25th in GA. His funeral May 3rd in TN. Leon was 96 years young and a WWII veteran of the US Army Air Corps. I placed a note of condolence from Charleston Base on the Funeral Home website.
- **Sharon Sessler** broke her wrist on Apr. 17th, had surgery on Apr. 25th, and is home recovering.
- **Bob Snyder** was diagnosed with prostate cancer 2 years ago and given 2 years to live. His cancer has spread to several organs and bones. He has had several appointments at the VA this week. His doctor told him today the current treatment was keeping his cancer from getting any worse. He would enjoy receiving calls to talk. 843.412.2530.
- **Ken Curtis** is still fighting and still working on Monday mornings at the VA clinic at NWS doing his DAV function. The latest is he said he isn't any worse but they still can't seem to find the problem. He's had 5 days in the last month without a Dr.'s appointment. They are continuing to give him blood and iron treatments and has had it fairly rough. He is currently in the 4th round of iron infusions.
- **Soupy Campbell** is in Roper downtown Rm 7041 as of yesterday. He has had 3 surgeries in the last month to stop the bleeding from his bladder. He would like visitors and appreciates all who have visited him already.
- **Roy Robertson** is in NHC Rehabilitation Center in West Ashley (2230 Ashley Crossing Dr, Charleston, SC 29414). He's been there for 4 months now. Very hard to understand his speech.
- **Jim Williams**, 60 years old, non-USSVI/CB member, is still in the VA after 3 months. He broke his hip when he fell in his workshop and has undergone 5 surgeries. These all failed due to an infection in his bones. Nothing can be done. He is now in the VA hospital in the CLC area and will be there until end of life. He has a wife who has in remission cancer and a 42 year old mentally disabled son. If you are at the VA downtown for any reason try to stop by and talk to him for a few minutes. Stacy Power's son Casey also went to visit at the VA Hospital.
- **Gordon Smith's** cancer has returned. Nothing can be done at this point.
- **Art Hance** has been diagnosed with stage 2 aggressive prostate cancer. He had surgery on January 8th and is recovering well. He will be going in at a later date for blood work to check if all the cancer was removed.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- 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.
- Greg Webb is working on our Charleston Base mobile app. The plans are to go live with it by August.
- Lou Leal is our Social Media Coordinator. The base Instagram (IG) account is working now. If you have something to put on it there are two ways to do so:

- When posting to your IG account add #ussvicb and your post will show in base account. Remember the post should have something to do with the base and not just your personal stuff.
- If you don't post to your IG account but have something that would be of interest to the base membership, simple send it to social@ussvicb.org and Lou will put it online on the base IG page.
- Admin responsibility for the base Facebook (FB) account will transition from Rick Wise to Lou Leal within the next few weeks. Lou will use the FB and IG accounts together to put out information about Charleston Base.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – George Sharf:

- We recognized Stacy Power here tonight.
- There will be a WWII Luncheon at the FRA in June.
- Ed Stank told the Base members that Walt Curtis' wife Maureen has sold her house here and will be moving to Greenville. She needs some help on moving day to load up. Ed will provide more information when available.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- If you have photographs or information that you want put on Facebook or Instagram, send Lewis the items. His email address is on the Base website.

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

- Bill will be scheduling a Kaps for Kids trip to the Shriner's Hospital in Greenville soon.
- The next Kaps for Kids trip will be to Florence McLeod Hospital on May 21. Meet at 10am on the third floor. Contact Bill and let him know if you want to come. KAPS IN FLO NEXT

Membership – Larry Knutson

- USSVI Charleston Base membership increased by one tonight. The Base now has 278 members.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Veterans can receive free dental care at more than 450 Aspen Dental facilities nationwide by making an appointment for the date on June 8. Tom has more information for those who need it. Visit their website also for more information.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The Charleston Basket will be raffled tonight. Contents are:
 - A one-night stay at the Embassy Suites (The old Citadel)
 - A \$50 gift certificate for dinner at Hyman's Seafood.
 - A \$25 gift certificate for Kaminsky's Dessert Café
 - A Horse Carriage Tour for two
 - A tour of the Aiken-Rhett House
 - A bottle of Prosecco wine
- There have been seven Scholarship applications received. The Scholarship Committee will meet soon to determine how many Scholarship awards are to be presented at the June Base meeting.
- The committee has Base Challenge coins available. \$12 each.

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- A lawsuit was filed by CRAMA against Patriot's Point on April 16. They were served on April 17 and have until May 20 to answer. A tentative court date will be mid-June. When Butch gets a firm date for the hearing, he will let everyone know. Butch has a copy of the suit for those who need to know more. The suit is also available by visiting the Charleston Base website and following the CRAMA link.
- CRAMA is in need of members to show support for the lawsuit and beyond. It really would be good to show the judge handling the case several hundred or more people are interested enough to be part of the organization.
- For the last 20 years, each Monday, Heritage and History tours of the Clamagore have been conducted with the Nuclear Power School. Butch and others were at Patriot's Point for the tour with the students, but now have been "asked" not to return to Patriot's Point. He is certain that the lawsuit is the reason for this demand.

Butch requests that everyone contact Patriot's Point regarding the situation and inquire why submarine veterans are being excluded from visiting Patriot's Point.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to Report

NPS – Ray Sparks

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be June 7.

Fleet Reserve Association – John Lookabill for Skip Chilton

- The FRA has upcoming elections. Make sure to vote for the people that you want to have on the board.

Public Affairs – Rick Wise

- Rick will be resigning as PAO effective May 31. Jerry Stout has volunteered to assume the duties of PAO.
- Rick did some cleaning of the Little David memorial, but the maintenance working party has now been moved to October. By that time, there will be possibly fourteen boards which will require replacement. It gets hot inside during the summer.

Recreation – Ed Stank

- The baseball game is sold out. Ed suggested muster at 1830. BASEBALL GAME IS SOLD OUT

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to Report

COB – Joe Lunn

- We will be supporting the Memorial Day ceremony at the Summerville Cemetery. Charleston Base will provide the sound system.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

- Nothing to Report

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- The Hog Roast was successful, having at least 250 present.
- On June 2 and June 9, The After Battery will host a Conceal Carry (CWP) class. See Tom Clark for more information. The cost for the class is \$25.
- The Old Salts hog roast in Rhode Island will be held from July 27 to August 3.
- Ray was in Groton for the 55th Anniversary of USSVI.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Rick pointed out the "Most Popular SubVet". That honor has to be given to Joe O'Saben as his picture is in the newspaper every day about a dozen times. No Charleston Base member can even come close to that amount of "popularity". [Joe has multiple advertisements in the paper for his real estate business.]
- An old, retired, Navy Captain physician, Doctor Gordon Geezer, became very bored in retirement and decided to reopen a medical clinic. He put a sign up outside that said, "Dr. Geezer's Clinic. Get your treatment for \$500 – if not cured, get back \$1,000."

U.S. Army Captain, Doctor Digger Young, who was positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000. So, he went to Dr. Geezer's office.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?"

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in Dr. Young's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Aaagh! – This is gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days figuring to recover his money.

Dr. Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Dr. Young: "Oh, no you don't – that is gasoline!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

Dr. Young (after having lost \$1,000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Dr. Young: "My eyesight has become very weak – I can hardly see anything."

Dr. Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so, here's your \$1,000 back" (giving him a \$10 bill).

Dr. Young: "But this is only \$10!"

Dr. Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your vision back. That will be \$500."

** MORAL OF THE STORY ** Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart and "old Geezer".

** REMEMBER ** Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Rodney McKanna
- Scholarship Charleston Basket Raffle – Mike Ciesielko
- Depth Charge – Ron Snyder

Closing Ceremony

- Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm.
- The meeting was closed at 1952.