

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

13 June 2019

Opening Ceremonies:

- The May 2019 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 75 members present. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the 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 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, 1942 – grounded off 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**
 - **Seven Boats and 403 Men Lost**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Admiral James B. Osborne Scholarship Presentations – Scholarship Committee:

- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko introduced the Scholarship Committee members.
- Chairman – Carl Chinn / Members, Rick Sparger and Marty Sessler presented a certificate and a \$500 award check to each of these four college-bound students.
 - **Collin Trump** – grandson of Terry Trump. Collin lives in Livermore, CA and will attend San Diego State University. Terry received the award for his grandson. Carl Chinn read a letter sent by Collin thanking the Base for the award. Collin intends to study software engineering.
 - **Reagan Bonniwell** – granddaughter of Ed Stank. Reagan lives in Virginia Beach, VA and will attend James Madison University. Ed Stank has already been provided the award to present to his granddaughter there.
 - **Jordan Campeau** – grandson of Hermenegildo Maula. Jordan lives in Summerville, SC and will attend Clemson University. He was also accepted to Mississippi State University and University of South Carolina.
 - **Noah Deal** – grandson of Walt Deal. Noah lives in Ridgeville, SC and will attend College of Charleston.
- Base Commander Mike thanked the Scholarship Committee and guests. The guests were then dismissed prior to continuing the Base meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Three men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - Brian Davy – ET2 – Qualified on USS Ray SSN653 – OCT 1988 – Also served aboard USS Frank Cable AS40
 - Bill Adams – MMC – Qualified on USS Capitaine AGSS336 – 1963 – Also served aboard USS Lewis and Clark SSBN644
 - Frank Russell – ET1 – Qualified on USS Sand Lance SSN660 – Also served aboard USS Fulton AS11 and USS Billfish SSN676

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- **Two proposed amendments to Charleston Base By-Laws – Carl Chinn**

Proposed Amendment to Charleston Base Bylaws, Article V Membership

Purpose: To do away with Article V, Section 2, Regular, Paragraph B.

“Anyone who is a regular member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II is eligible for Regular Membership in USSVI.”

Reasoning: Submarine Veterans of World War II formally shut down in September 2012. Removing this paragraph from the Bylaws in no way changes our commitment to honor and cherish those brave men who have gone before us.

Impact: There is no financial impact on our organization. Remaining World War II submarine veterans are not affected in any way.

Proposed Amendment to Charleston Base Bylaws, Article VII Officers

Purpose: To amend Article VII, Section 2, Appointed, Paragraph A.

As written:

The following Officers will be appointed by the Base Commander:

Chief of the Boat	Public Affairs	Scholarship
Chaplain	Storekeeper	Historian
Membership	Veterans Affairs	Webmaster
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	Holland Club	

Amend to read:

The following Officers will be appointed by the Base Commander:

Chief of the Boat	Public Affairs	Scholarship
Chaplain	Storekeeper	Recreation Committee
Membership	Special Events Coordinator	Webmaster
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	Holland Club	

Reasoning: The positions of Recreation Committee Chair and Special Events Coordinator are a regular part of Base operations. These positions have been appointed as Officers for several years and should be added. The positions of Historian and Veterans Affairs, although important, are informational in nature and not directly responsible for Base operations and should be regarded as committees vice officers.

Impact: There is no financial impact on our organization

- These two Proposed Amendments shall be presented again and a vote taken at the July USSVI Charleston Base Regular meeting under Old Business.
- **Cold War Memorial – USS Haddo / USS Pollack Vandalism – Nick Nichols**
 - Nick read a request from Rusty Pickett (CWM POC) regarding a brass plaque which was stolen from the Cold War Memorial. Charleston Base is being asked to contribute to the replacement of the plaque; a total cost of about \$650. There is no known association for either Haddo or Pollack, which were the first two nuclear powered submarines to be stationed at the Charleston Naval Base. The Board recommends providing \$200 towards the replacement of the plaque. The balance of the replacement cost will be from Haddo or Pollack shipmates and the Naval Submarine League. To prevent future theft, the plaque will be attached using industrial epoxy rather than screws. John Lookabill made the motion to provide the \$200 with Butch Bryar seconding. The motion was passed.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

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

Treasurer – Gordon Williams:

- The Treasurer's Report for May has been published and promulgated on the website. Gordon had been asked about the current balance in the account. He explained the two non-accessible funds (Scholarship and Cold War Memorial Maintenance and Preservation) and provided the working balance of the checking account. There were no additions or deletions. The report was approved.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

● **Highlighted boat of the month:**

S-27 (SS-132) was lost on June 19, 1942 when it grounded off Amchitka Island. She was on the surface in poor visibility, charging batteries and drifted into the shoals. When she could not be freed and started listing, the captain got the entire crew to shore (400 yards away) in relays using a 3-man rubber raft. The entire crew was rescued.

- There are several shipmates and family members who have given Nick information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time
- **LDCR(SS) David Lloyd USN Ret.** Departed on Eternal Patrol June 1. He was not a USSVI Member. Online condolence sent.
- **QM3 Warne McClelland**, 93, departed on Eternal Patrol May 16 in Hilton Head. He served on the ODAX SS-484 during WWII but did not qualify SS. He was not a USSVI Member. Online was condolence sent.
- **RM1(SS) Scott Buchheit**, 57, departed on Eternal Patrol May 21. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence was sent. After the Chaplain's report was presented, two Base members – Joe O'Saben (Scott was Joe's neighbor for several years) and Mike Ciesielko (Scott was Mike's boss for 15 years) – each gave a glowing remembrance of Scott about how good of an attitude he had to the end.
- **LCDR(SS) Charles Decker**, USN Ret., 79, departed on Eternal Patrol May 20. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence was sent.
- **ETC(SS) Richard Kennedy USN Ret.**, 68, departed on Eternal Patrol May 12. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence was sent.
- **Marvin Wade McLendon**, 77, departed on Eternal Patrol June 10. Served on USS BLUEGILL during the Vietnam War. He was not a USSVI member. Online condolence was sent.
- **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. Bob is home with palliative care but is also able to get out; his last sighting was at the After Battery on Wednesday. Would like to talk to you so give him a call. His cell #: 843.412.2530.
- **Soupy Campbell** was in the hospital for 4 weeks and has been home 2 weeks. He is recovering and taking it easy. Requests no visitors at this point but would enjoy phone calls. Home: 843.871.2524 Cell: 843.810.3805. GW provided an update about Soupy.

- **Ken Curtis** is still conducting his DAV sessions at the VA Clinic on Monday mornings.
- **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 2.5 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.
- **Gordon Smith's** cancer has returned. We are glad to see him here tonight.
- Nick asked that if anyone would consider relieving him as Base Chaplain, he would like to talk to them. He has been Chaplain since 2007. It is not an easy job, but it is a fulfilling one.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- Website is constantly updated.
- There is a new link on the Base website [**USSVI National Message Traffic**] which contains information from National USSVI, which we used receive via email. The information will stay up for a couple of months and then be removed. Make sure to check this link regularly.
- 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.

Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson for George Sharf:

- We recognized Stacy Power here tonight.
- Stacy talked about his conversation with Admiral Richardson (CNO) at the Submarine Birthday Ball. When Stacy was COB aboard USS Sabalo SS302 in Pearl Harbor, he had trained Frank Kelso to be a submariner. Kelso eventually became CNO.
- There will be a WWII Luncheon at the FRA on June 20.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Kaps for Kids – Bill Kennedy

- Not present

Membership – Larry Knutson

- USSVI Charleston Base membership increased by two tonight. The Base now has 280 members.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to Report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- Charleston Base had previously received donations to the Scholarship fund in memory of Jack Harden. Carl has received two more totaling \$125. The short note included with each one was read aloud. Carl has already sent "Thank You" letters for these donations.
- The Scholarship committee has a DVD entitled "Weapons of War – Missile Submarines" to auction tonight.
- The Scholarship committee has Challenge coins available.

SPECIAL EVENTS – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to Report

CRAMA – Butch Bryar

- A court date had been scheduled for June 20, but since the governor has vetoed the \$2.7M [that was to be provided to Patriot's Point], the court case will not happen. CRAMA representatives are meeting with a lawyer to work on some contractual papers regarding the Clamagore. Every man wearing dolphins should be on the CRAMA membership role. This is important to show interest from submarine veterans. Dues are only \$20 per year.

NPS – Ray Sparks

- Nothing to report

Fleet Reserve Association – Skip Chilton

- Elections were held last month. Installation of those officers will happen on June 14.
- On Fridays, the FRA has a pool tournament and karaoke.

Public Affairs – JERRY STOUT

- Nothing to Report

NEWSLETTER – Rick Wise

- Nothing to Report

Recreation – Ed Stank

- Ed was not present as he is in Virginia visiting his family members.
- Rick Sparger noted that when the SubVets attended the River Dogs baseball game, Stacy Power was interviewed and shown on the big screen. When Stacy was introduced as a WWII submarine veteran, everyone in the stadium was on their feet in applause. Rick noted that there are still some dedicated patriots in our country. Theron Irving noted that it was GW that arranged the interview to be shown. Thank you GW.

Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to Report

COB – Joe Lunn

- Joe has received a letter from the marketing director of Carowinds to various veteran's organizations. The park is offering incentives for all current and prior military members to visit. Carowinds is having military appreciation days from June 29 to July 7. By showing valid, active, inactive or retired ID card, park admission is free. Reduced ticket prices for family members are also available during these days.
- Joe has visited a pulmonologist as recommended in the American Submariner article.

VA – Tom Lawson

- The Chief Selectee Breakfast will be Wednesday, 28 August at 0600 at the Cracker Barrel in North Charleston. All SubVet Chiefs are invited to attend.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.

- Nothing to Report

Good of the Order

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Nothing to report

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike will send an email when he schedules another shoot at Twin Ponds.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Chuck Bradley
- DVD Auction – Glenn Little
- Depth Charge – Tim Esch – Donated \$100 to Scholarship Fund

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 1956.