

# United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

## Minutes of Business Meeting

### 13 February 2020

#### Opening Ceremonies:

- The February 2020 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Tom Lawson with a quorum of three officers and a total of 61 members present. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko was away due to travel. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of February:
  - **USS BARBEL (SS-316)** February 4, 1945 – 4th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 81 souls
  - **USS SHARK (SS-174)** February 11, 1942 – 1st War Patrol Lost with all hands – 59 souls
  - **USS AMBERJACK (SS-219)** February 16, 1943 – 3rd War Patrol Lost with all hands – 72 souls
  - **USS GRAYBACK (SS-208)** February 26, 1942 – 10th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 80 souls
  - **USS TROUT (SS-202)** February 29, 1944 – 11th War Patrol Lost with all hands – 81 souls
  - **5 Boats and 373 Men Lost**
  - **H.L. HUNLEY** February 17, 1864 Lost with all hands – 8 souls
- **Chief Radioman, Submarines, Jimmy Jack Legg, US Navy Retired – Shipmate Departed on Eternal Patrol – January 28, 2020**
- The USSVI Creed was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

#### Introductions of New Attendees:

- One man was present at the Base meeting for the first time:
  - Larry Krause – EM1 – Qualified on USS Torsk SS423 – 1963 – Also served aboard Triton SSN586 for five patrols.

#### Old Business:

- **Budget – Rick Wise**
  - Rick had provided copies of the proposed 2020 Charleston Base Budget to each table for review. Rick made a motion to accept the budget. The motion was seconded by several unidentified members. Vice Commander Tom Lawson offered a period for discussion, but there was none. The motion was passed by a vote of the membership without objection.
- **Elections – Ken Hutchison**
  - Ken reminded the Base members that this year, the offices of Vice Commander and Secretary are scheduled for election at the May Base Meeting. He currently has not received any, but is accepting nominations for these two offices. The successful candidate will assume the position in June.
- **OYSTER ROAST – COB**
  - The Oyster Roast will be held at the FRA on February 29. Tickets are \$25 and are currently on sale and can be purchased at the bar. In addition, members are invited to bring chili for the cook-off. Rick Sparger will be bringing his fish stew. Wrist bands will be required for those eating oysters. Drinks will be available from the bar.
- **HUNLEY/HOUSATONIC – HARRY NETTLES**
  - The Hunley/Housatonic ceremony will be held on February 17 at 1900 – Sunrise Presbyterian Church. Muster at 1830 – Uniform is Charleston Tuxedo but vests are permitted. After the service, the group will go to the inlet. Bring a coat and a flashlight.

#### New Business:

- **None**

### **Secretary –Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the February Base meeting have been published in the Base Newsletter and promulgated on the Base website. There were no additions, changes or deletions to the February Base meeting minutes and were approved as written.

### **Treasurer – Gordon Williams:**

- The Treasurer's Report for February has been published and promulgated on the website. There was one change to update the balance of the Scholarship fund.
- Clarification was provided regarding an entry regarding the advertisement in the Stratford yearbook.
- There were no other additions or deletions.
- The report was approved with the one change about the Scholarship Fund.

### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
  - **USS SHARK (SS-174)** was lost on Feb. 11, 1942 with the loss of 59 officers and men on her 1st war patrol. SHARK 1 was the 1st US submarine sunk by enemy surface craft in the Pacific. She was most likely sunk by depth charges.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given Nick information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Jimmy Jack Legg** departed on Eternal Patrol Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Ralph A. Johnson Memorial Hospital. His service was held on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Dyal Funeral Home Summerville with 24 Charleston Base SUBVETs and Ladies attending. Jimmy joined the Navy in 1961 and retiring in 1982. He was a Life Member of USSVI National and Charleston Base, a member of FRA Branch 269, a member of VFW POST 3509 and an active member of the Patriot Guard Riders. He qualified on USS HENRY L. STIMSON SSBN 655 in 1971, serving on the STIMSON twice, both Blue and Gold crews, JOHN ADAMS SSBN 620 and at Submarine Group SIX Charleston. Prior to entering the submarine service he served on USS GUARDIAN AGR 1 and earned a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam with Inshore Undersea Warfare Group One Unit 3 at Qui Nhon [kwee nyawn] republic of Vietnam Naval Base. A condolence message was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Ruth Ann Carlson, Rick's wife and Erik's mother**, passed away on Friday, Jan. 31, at Trident Hospital. Her service was held on Friday, Feb. 8 with many Charleston Base members attending. A condolence message was placed on the funeral home website.
- **Darlene Graham, James' wife**, was taken to Trident on Feb. 8th with chest pains. Doctors found a 95% blockage in a main artery and put in a stent. She is recovering.
- **John Furst** sent the following via Fred Woodley: My Pulmonologist threatened to hospitalize me if I do not shake this Bronchitis. She gave me a ton of medications, and if I am not better in 2 weeks, she will hospitalize me, and give me intravenous antibiotics. As it was, I got 2 shots in the butt. Needless to say, I will not be at Subvets tonight. Say hi to everyone for me. Have a good evening. I will keep you updated. John
- **Ed Stank** had neck surgery on Monday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. He was discharged on Tuesday and is recovering. Ed was at the meeting.
- **Ed Simokat** fell in late December and suffered a broken back. He had surgery to put in plates and steel rods. He is home continuing his recovery.
- **Stacy Power** is recovering from his toe amputation.
- **Jim Loveday** is home recovering from his fall around Thanksgiving 2019.
- **Don Londergan** is in Room 136 at Cypress Place. His phone number is now 843-990-3938. Don was at the meeting.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- Nick has Page 2s available. Please complete yours, if you have not done so.

### **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. If any Base member is responsible

for coordination of any Base event, then it is imperative that Nick is informed, so that the Base Website can be updated or corrected as needed.

- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- Lowe's recently sent a message saying that if you use MyLowe's to claim a military discount, then you must update and verify your registration with them. Do this by signing onto the Lowe's website and logging in.
- The 2020 Submarine Birthday Ball will be held Saturday April 11 at the Marriott Downtown on Lockwood Blvd. Tickets for WWII Veterans are FREE. Regular price is \$35 per person. The theme for this year is USS Clamagore SS-343.

#### **Submarine Veterans of WWII – Mike Emerson for George Scharf:**

- Stacy Power is not here tonight. No Report.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not Present

#### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**

- Mike has received from Bill Kennedy, enough crayons and coloring books to last a year.
- There is a need for hats but the Base has only \$600 on budget for this. Hats from National are cheaper, but in order to add CHARLESTON BASE to the hats, we need someone who does embroidery, preferably as a side business instead of a commercial entity.
- If any Base member would like to contribute to the Kaps for Kids embroidery costs, please contact Mike.
- The next visit to McLeod is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18.

#### **Flag Folding Duty – Mike Emerson**

- Mike is asking for someone to take over the flag folding duties at SubVet funerals. It is an honor to perform this duty and will take some practice to say the 20 words that are to be spoken to the family when presenting the flag.

#### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- The Base currently has 273 members. USSVI has removed 18 members from the National Sailing List because of unpaid dues.
- Charleston Base currently ranks third at this time in membership behind Groton and Hampton Roads.

#### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- Nothing to Report

#### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- Tonight's raffle will be for a \$25 gift card from Flowertown Florists and a \$30 gift card for Top Dawg Tavern.
- The committee had a USS Thomas Jefferson hat available for the first one to make a donation to the Scholarship fund. It went to a new owner immediately during the meeting.
- The Scholarship Committee will be holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 2 to benefit the Scholarship Fund. The location will be on Old Trolley Road in the parking lot of Rodney's Rockets. Global Storage nearby has donated a small storeroom for items to be staged. To permit efficient use of space, creative stacking will be required. For this reason, everyone is asked to put small items in cardboard boxes and to hold your larger bulky items until the sale. The sale will run from 0800 to 1300. Setup will begin at 0500. The committee will need some extra help for setup and assistance during the day. The committee is asking for donations of household items (no clothing, linens, draperies etc.). Household items, tools, toys, sporting goods etc. are all good items to donate. Base members are encouraged to talk to their neighbors and friends to see if they may want to donate items for the cause. At the end of the day, any remaining items will be picked up by the Kidney Foundation truck and taken to their Thrift Store nearby. In the event of rain, the sale will be held on May 9. The committee is relying on the members to put out the word for the event. They have flyers, but will look into an advertisement in the paper. The FRA and VFW newsletters are also possibilities.
- Base Challenge coins are still for sale. There are a few Holland Club bolo ties available.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- Charlie Hudson spoke about the request being made to Habitat for Humanity Restore (Formerly 84 Lumber) next door to the FRA for storage of the float. The corporate office is asking for more documentation including a lease agreement and a more extensive liability statement. It is possible that the Naval Submarine League has a lawyer who could provide assistance for us.
- The float is ready for the Grits Festival in St. George.
- A suggestion was made to have the float taken to the Submarine Birthday Ball for static display.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

- As of this date, we are still waiting on the decision from the judge.
- It is time for all CRAMA members to get their dues paid.

### **NPS – Ray Sparks**

- The next Nuclear Power School graduation will be in late March. Ray will provide the date at the next Base Meeting on March 12.

### **Fleet Reserve Association – John Lookabil for Skip Chilton**

- The FRA will hold its Valentines Dance on February 15 with an Elvis impersonator to sing at the party.

### **Public Affairs – Jerry Stout**

- Nothing to Report

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise**

- Rick has been working as Newsletter Editor for four years and is asking for a relief as Newsletter Editor. It is not a difficult job.

### **Recreation – VACANT**

- No Report

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

- Nothing to report.

### **COB – Joe Lunn**

- Tickets for the Oyster Roast to be held at the FRA are available now - \$25 each.

### **Vice Commander – Tom Lawson**

- Be sure to do a good cleanup tonight of your tables. Staff is shorthanded tonight.

### **Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko.**

- Not Present

### **Good of the Order**

#### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- The Hog Roast in the Swamp will be April 19-25, 2020. Lots of activities are planned.

#### **Jimmy Legg – Theron Irving**

- Jimmy had told Theron the story regarding his Purple Heart: After removing the .38 caliber slug from his chest, the officials initially refused to grant the medal because it was thought to be “friendly fire”. The enemy in Viet Nam had stolen and captured all kinds of weapons and ammo. Jimmy took the case to Senator Strom Thurmond who got the medal for him.

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

- It is good to be back, but no story tonight. Instead, Rick wished to express his gratitude for the Base members who came out “in mass” to represent SubVets at the funeral of his wife Ruth Ann. The funeral director at

Simplicity had said that hers was the largest funeral that they had put on since the facility had opened on Treeland Drive. That statement truly pleased Rick, whose wife was – with the exception of his first six years – with him throughout his entire Navy career. She was an ombudsman and did a fabulous job. According to the Commanding Officer, she was the only female member of the USS Sculpin. She was even given a name tag. She did some magic things that the even CO could not do. A brand new crew member had checked onboard and had no uniforms. The movers had taken everything – including his uniforms – and shipped it. The crew member had gone to them, but the company refused to let him have his uniforms. Their statement was, “You either take it all, or nothing.” The Captain said, “It’s okay, I’ll take care of this.” He called and was told the same thing – “...all or nothing”. The Captain called Rick’s wife. In fifteen minutes, she called him back saying, “Have the member down there in a half-hour. They will pull his uniforms.” Rick said that he has no idea what she did, but she got results. She really was an amazing lady and Rick wants to thank each one for being there. Rick will try to come up with a story for the Base Meeting next month.

### **US Navy Band – Gordon Long**

- Gordon advised the Base members of the Navy Band concert to be held at Charleston Southern University on February 27 as they stop on their Southeast Tour. Contact information at CSU was provided for obtaining the tickets – which are free but must be reserved.

### **USS Henry L Stimson Reunion – Nick Nichols**

- The USS Henry L Stimson Association will be holding a reunion from October 7-11 in Cincinnati, OH. There are quite a few things happening during this reunion. If you or someone that you know were on the Stimson, please look at the website [www.ssb655.org](http://www.ssb655.org) for registration info.

### **School Board Candidate – Vice Commander Tom Lawson**

- Larry Guthrie was asked to stand briefly as Tom read information about Larry’s son Evan who is running for Dorchester County District 2 School Board.

### **Drawings & Auctions**

- FRA Drawing – Larry Guthrie
- Scholarship Drawing – Bill Hayes
- Depth Charge – Bill Roup

### **Closing Ceremony**

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson announced adjournment of the meeting followed by three blasts on the diving alarm.
- The meeting was closed at 2006.