



- The USSVI Creed was read by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members to the meeting.

#### **Introductions of New Attendees:**

- Three men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
  - Matthew Simpson – FT – CMDCM – Qualified on USS James Madison SSBN627 – 1986 – Also served aboard USS Nathaniel Greene SSBN636, USS Chicago SSN721, USS San Juan SSN751, USS Minneapolis-St. Paul SSN708 and COB while aboard USS Alexandria SSN757. He served aboard two targets – USS San Jacinto CG56 and USS Iwo Jima LHD7 as CMC, earning the SW and AW designation. His shore commands were SUBTRAFAC SAN DIEGO, SUBRON-6, SUBSCOL NEW LONDON and retired from NAVHOSP BEAUFORT in 2012.
  - Timothy Domrose – STS – CMDCM – Qualified on USS Sand Lance SSN660 – 1981 – Also served on USS Narwhal SSN671, L. Mendel Rivers SSN686, returned to USS Narwhal as COB, USS Pasadena SSN752 as COB and completed his career as CMC at NWS Charleston in 2007
  - Bill LaTorre – CWO4 - Qualified on USS Lewis & Clark SSBN644 – 1982 – Also served aboard USS Mariano G. Vallejo SSBN658, USS Key West and others on both east and west coasts. He was part of the NPS move from Orlando to Charleston before going to work at Naval Reactors.

#### **Old Business:**

- Since the Vice Commander is not present, swearing in of Vice Commander and Secretary will occur at the BOD Meeting in January.

#### **New Business:**

- The Charleston Base budget had previously been presented to the membership. Rick Wise made a few comments and presented the motion to accept with Ed Stank seconding. The motion passed without objection.

#### **Secretary – Gordon Long:**

- The Minutes from the November Base meeting were emailed directly to each Base Member and promulgated on the Base Website. No additions or changes were noted. The Minutes were approved as written. The November Base Minutes will be printed in the next Base Newsletter.

#### **Treasurer – Base Commander for Gordon Williams:**

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

#### **Chaplain – Nick Nichols:**

- **Highlighted boat of the month:**
  - 79 years ago today, USS Sealion was lost on Dec 10, 1941 with the loss of 4 men. To prevent her from falling into enemy hands, she was scuttled in Manila Bay after incurring severe bomb damage during the initial Japanese attack. One other Sealion man was later captured and died in POW camp.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **EMCM(SS) Richard W. Cleeve, Jr., USN Ret**, departed on Eternal Patrol on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. He fell in October and broke his hip, had surgery and when to a rehab facility where he contracted COVID. He was taken to the hospital and passed away there without any of his family. There will be a small service in Pinopolis with family but no visitation. James Cleve, **Richard's son**, said the family is asking in lieu of flowers to make donations to the Charleston Base Scholarship Fund.
- **June Reuer, Jeff's wife**, passed away on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Her service was held on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Roger Gibson's sister, Pat Tobasko**, passed away on Nov. 30 at age 93.
- **Wayne Bohon, Bruce Bohon's** brother, passed away on Nov. 30 at his home in FL. He was 68. Bruce's mother passed away Oct. 7 here in Summerville.
- **Edith Carol White Weaver**, widow of WWII SUBVET **Bill Weaver** (EP 2016), passed away Dec. 4 in Miamisburg, OH. Her funeral was today in Cross SC.
- **Rodney McKanna** will have surgery on his right knee of January 8<sup>th</sup>.

- **Don Ort** has a severe heart blockage and a bad heart valve. He now has a date for surgery. It will be on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 0800.
- **Dennis “Frenchy” Fuqua** is not doing well. About a month ago he was admitted to Trident with Pneumonia. While he was being treated they discovered he has Lung Cancer. He is home now under Barbara’s care (843)797-3230. He has decided not to have treatments. He cannot talk but Barbara will be glad to answer any questions. He now has a hospital bed and hospice at home.
- **Ken Hutchison** fractured two ribs the day of the Rummage sale.
- **Brian Sparks, Ray’s** son had a stroke and was in the hospital. He is now back at work.
- **Sonny Rash** is doing well after having his toe amputated.
- **Rick Wise** is having some intestinal and bladder problems associated with the radiation exposure from the seeding. He is feeling much better now.
- **Ken Lux** had pneumonia and it has cleared up.
- **George Burton** is undergoing treatment for lung cancer. He is on IV Chemo and will have a PET scan soon. Also having a problem with his blood sugar spiking extremely high.
- **Bob Snyder** is home with palliative care.
- Please complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so. Of all the EP this reporting period, no one had a page 2 on file.

#### **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.
- Member 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.
- Lewis & Clark Association has changed from Yahoo.Groups to **USSLewisandClark.groups.io** and they are trying to contact as many L&C shipmates as possible. If you want more info please send an email to [webmaster@ussvicb.org](mailto:webmaster@ussvicb.org).

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

- Stacy Power is not present tonight.
- Rick Sparger reported that Stacy has 65 years as an FRA Member.

#### **Social Media – Lewis Leal:**

- Not Present

#### **Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson**

- Mike has called the two hospitals which we go to. They acknowledged that we cannot visit right now. Kaps for Kids events are on hold until the hospitals contact us to resume visits.

#### **Membership – Larry Knutson**

- 277 Charleston Base Members – There are still about 60 members who owe dues at this time. They will soon be dropped

#### **VA – Tom Lawson**

- Not present

#### **Scholarship – Carl Chinn**

- Carl gave report of the Rummage Sale. Of the items contributed, \$740 was made using Craigs List during the sale date delays. At the sale, the committee earned \$1597 and items retained for sale after the sale have brought \$120 so far, for a total of \$2457. The scholarship fund now has more than \$5200 and the effort is ongoing.
- Carl expressed his gratitude to those who helped in the Rummage Sale effort. His wife helped greatly in the presale earnings. At the sale location were Rick Sparger, Marty Sessler, Ken Hutchison, Larry Knutson, Glenn Little, Ed Stank and Rick Collins.

- After the end of the sale, a large donation was made to the Kidney Foundation Thrift Store comprised of a trailer and loads from a couple of pickup trucks.
- Challenge Coins are available.
- The committee has a few submarine lighters that were donated – Bancroft, Polk and CSS-16. These are for sale to benefit the scholarship fund. See Carl.
- The Committee has a shotgun raffle. Tickets are \$10. The drawing will be at the February 11 Base Meeting.

### **Special Events – Rick Sparger**

- Rick gave a brief report about the Harleyville Christmas Parade making note that it was a good event but cold. He thanked Mike Emerson and Glenn Little for each of their contributions to the event.
- Rick has cancelled Charleston Base participation in the Summerville Christmas Parade for this year. Although we have pulled the float in this parade for at least fifteen years, we did not receive notice of this year's event. Rick called the coordinator's office and found that there have been policy/personnel changes made. Previously, there was no entry fee, but now they wanted \$150. They said that they would waive the fee for this year but would have to revisit this subject next year. Even though the fee was to be waived, Rick received a \$150 invoice in the mail the next day.
- Rick is making arrangements to pull the float Saturday in the Goose Creek Parade. This will be the first time that Charleston Base has been in this parade. Rick provided parking details for those attending.

### **CRAMA – Butch Bryar**

- We are still waiting on the judge's ruling.
- CRAMA membership is due.
- Butch is working on a maintenance schedule to provide the legal team. They asked for a quarterly schedule of what work the volunteers would be doing broken down by each week and compartment.

### **Nuclear Power School – Rick Wise for Ray Sparks**

- The next NPS graduation is December 18. The school will provide the two performance awards from Charleston Base SubVets to the top officer and enlisted submarine designated individuals.
- The event is still closed because of COVID restrictions.

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

- The FRA will be redoing their raffle pill bottles and requested assistance from all volunteers.
- There FRA will be holding a Christmas Dinner on 18 DEC. Price is \$5 each.
- Glenn Little reported that, at the dinner, there will be an Ornament Exchange if you would like to bring one.

### **Newsletter – Rick Wise**

- The November Newsletter will go out Friday, 11 DEC.
- Rick, again, requests a relief from duties as Newsletter editor due to his medical situation.

### **Comptroller – Rick Wise**

- The only item was the 2021 Charleston Base budget. This was taken care of earlier under NEW BUSINESS.

### **Recreation – Bill Hayes**

- Since this is the first time that many Base members have seen him, Bill introduced himself. He had originally volunteered to help but was asked to chair the committee.
- At the Board Meeting we decided to arrange some type of event each quarter.
- He is working on having a spaghetti dinner in either February or March. We have a location right now, but the time is not yet confirmed.
- Bill lives a good distance away, so he requested someone in the local area to assist him with the recreation efforts. Also, if anyone has suggestions, please let Bill know.

### **Public Affairs – Ed Stank**

- Ed contacted Post & Courier and the Joint Base Charleston weekly paper about Charleston Base.
- He is working on the article regarding our participation in the Harleyville parade and will do the same for the Goose Creek parade.

- Ed is also writing articles for submittal to American Submariner

### **Storekeeper – Ken Hutchison**

- Charleston Base has some Friends of the Hunley hats, pins and bumper stickers because of our sponsorship of the Hunley. The money for these items will be provided back to the Base general fund.
- The Storekeeper has received 2021 calendars. These are \$10.

### **COB – Rick Sparger (Acting)**

- In the month of December, we normally have our Christmas Party instead of a Base Meeting. Rick thanked all those who attended the Base Meeting tonight.

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

- Noted that, during this time of the year, folks mostly want to be with family. Thanked the membership for being here tonight and noted that we have made some personnel changes in Recreation, PAO and COB. We also need a new Newsletter Editor. Rick Wise is unable to continue.
- Mike has asked all officers – whether elected or appointed – to review their duties and responsibilities.
- Mike asked all members to contact any of the Base Officers if you know of a Base Member deserving of the Distinguished Submariner Award.

### **Good of the Order**

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

- **WORDS TO THE WISE!**
  - **“EXPERIENCE”** is a wonderful thing! – It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again!
  - **“ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE”** is no match for natural stupidity!
- When I joined the Navy, I met a bunch of second class and first class petty officers with 20 years or more in the Navy. Just as many of you have, these were some smart individuals, or so I thought. These guys could not make Chief! So, before I ever made third class petty officer, I resigned myself that I could not, ever make Chief. But, by a stroke of luck and wisdom of “my Chief”, I made it!  
A couple of years later, I made Senior Chief with the guidance of “my Chief”. Then, a couple more years and the “Chief” told me that if I listened to him, followed his lead and drank from the silver chalice, I would make Master Chief! But I had to do exactly as directed! Drink from the chalice only as directed! And so, he drank! [Secretary’s Note: At this point, Rick demonstrated the incorrect way to drink; only to pour it down his shirt].

#### **After Battery – Ray Sparks**

- Not present

#### **Gun Club**

- Nothing to report

#### **Drawings & Auctions**

- Scholarship Committee Auction – ATP Range – Greg Landry
- There was a Challenge Coin Door Prize using a random number chosen from the sign-in sheet. The associated member did not have a Challenge Coin, so the prize will be held until next month.
- Depth Charge – Terry Trump

#### **Closing Ceremony**

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting with three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 2004.