

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
8 June 2023

Opening Ceremonies:

- The June 2023 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 48 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Mike Ciesielko and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of June:
 - **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 Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

ADMIRAL OSBORN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

- Carl congratulated the Base members for the contributions to the Scholarship Fund; having an historic high this year – more than \$14,000.
- The Scholarship Committee Members – Chairman Carl Chinn and Rick Sparger presented four awards. Only one was presented in person:
 - Gilliane Russell – Granddaughter of Tom Lawson III – Graduated from Charleston County School of the Arts – She was accepted at College of Charleston, Clemson and University of South Carolina and will attend University of South Carolina
- The other three recipients will receive their awards separately:
 - Chase Bonniwell – Grandson of Ed Stank – Lives in Virginia Beach – Graduate of Kellam High School – He was accepted and will attend Tidewater Community College at Virginia Beach – Ed Stank accepted the award on behalf of his grandson.
 - Allison Brewer – Granddaughter of Ed Simokat – Graduate of Wilson High School in Florence – She was accepted to Charleston Southern University, Clemson University, North Greenville University, Francis Marion University, University of South Carolina, Presbyterian College and Anderson University. At this time it is unknown which of these schools she will attend.
 - Samuel Chinn – Grandson of Carl Chinn – Lives in Crofton, MD – Will attend The Citadel
- Carl thanked his wife – not in the room – for all the work that she did for the Scholarship Committee.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko congratulated the Scholarship Committee for great effort this year.
- The guests were dismissed for the remainder of the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Four men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - Paul Bechtel – QMCS – Qualified on USS Kamehameha SSBN642 – 1955 – Also served aboard USS Queenfish SSN651, John C Calhoun SSBN630 and Woodrow Wilson SSBN624
 - Tyler Bullock – EMN3 – Qualified on USS Albuquerque SSN706 – 2014
 - Bob Lehman – MM2 – Qualified on USS Requin SS481 – 1961

- Ralph Ford – TMC/CWO4 – Qualified on USS Theodore Roosevelt SSBN600 – 1961 – Also served aboard USS Ulysses S Grant SSBN631, USS John C Calhoun SSBN630, USS Holland AS32, USS Simon Lake AS33 and POMFLANT

Old Business:

- **None**

New Business:

- **PAO Needed** – Base Commander Mike Ciesielko:
 - Mike Congratulated Ed Stank for his outstanding work as PAO. Ed wishes to pass on this task to another Base member. Charleston Base has been represented well to the public during his tenure. We have had numerous articles printed at this time.

Freedom Fest – Tom Lawson (Reported out of normal order due to family requirements this evening)

- The Base Float will be taken to Locklear Park for Freedom Fest on June 30. We need folks to attend. Games/Food/Beverages and Fireworks. No ID card needed. Flyers will be available.
- Tom has recently received several requests about how to obtain copies of DD214s. These can be obtained by visiting www.archives.gov and completing the application. The local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans Association can be of assistance if needed.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the May Base Meeting were emailed directly to the entire Base membership, published in the Base Newsletter and have been promulgated on the Base Website. The Base Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for May was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Highlighted boat of the month:
 - USS R-12 (SS-89) was lost on June 12, 1943 with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Amy Clark Korngiebel, Tom Clark's daughter**, passed away on May 18, 2023 while surrounded by family, at the Low Country Hospice (Agape) on Myers Road in Summerville. Amy was born Feb 15, 1966 at Langley AFB Hospital. Her service was held on May 23, 2023 at Carolina Memorial Park
- **Rick Wise** has recovered extremely well from his cancer surgery and is in great spirits. He is able to drive himself to his doctors' appointments. Larry Knudsen has gone by his house and installed a second fan for him.
 - On Thursday, May 25, seven NNPTC Sailors, members of the FCPOA, that's First-Class Petty Officers Association for those who like to know what the acronym means, descended on his humble abode and conducted field day on his yard doing an excellent job. Pictures will be on the website by the meeting next week.
 - Rick Wise provided more details and thanked the FCPOA for their assistance.
- **Hauns 'Sam' Vlam** is in the Oakbrook Health & Rehabilitation Center Rm 315 for rehab. Sam has Parkinson's and is doing as well as can be expected. After the Holland Club meeting, Bill Freligh and Robby Roberts tracked him down and presented his Holland Club certificate and hat. He doesn't get many visitors so if you are able, he would enjoy a visit.
- **Woody Woodsmall** is doing well in his rehab from shoulder surgery.

- **Howard ‘Andy’ Anderson** is in cardiac rehab at Summerville Cardiac Rehab ctr after having 4 heart attacks & then 3 separate heart procedures earlier in the year.
- **Mike Knaub** is getting out now. He has been attending the after battery.
- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson’s Disease.
- **Don Petersen** can’t take phone calls however he does text. If you want to text him the number for text only is 843.532.6464.
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417. He called me Tuesday to say he’s doing OK and to also say he is asking for pictures of submarines to hang at the Victory House. He has talked to those in charge and they have agreed to use pictures if he can get them. These should be similar to those the Scholarship committee has now if possible.
- **Beetle Bailey** had knee surgery on Monday and in a lot of pain.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols

- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Nothing to report

Membership – Nick Nichols for Larry Knutson

- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]:
1) Groton 1151 – 2) Hampton Roads 275 – 3) Charleston 255 – 4) Bremerton 237

National Awards – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing reported.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The awards presented this evening totaled \$10,000, so it is time to replenish the coffers. The bourbon raffle will be held tonight.
- A raffle for four season tickets to Flowertown Players in Summerville. These tickets normally cost \$97 for Senior/Military. The drawing for these tickets will be held next month.
- We still have Challenge Coins for sale.
- The Rummage sale will be held on November 18.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- The only event coming up is Freedom Fest at Locklear Park.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- The FRA will hold a picnic on July 4.
- Ken has been reelected as FRA 269 President.

Nuclear Power School – Phil Nunnally

- The next graduation for NPS will be held July 7. Rick Wise will actually make the presentation.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- The River Dogs game will be July 7. At this point, we have 21 planning to attend.
- We are planning a Christmas party this year. Location TBD.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody had some dolphin window decals, but they are all gone now.
- Woody has some “Salt Life – Amuses Me” merchandise

Newsletter – Ed Stank

- Nothing reported.

PAO – Ed Stank

- Two articles have been submitted to / accepted by American Submariner, so they should be coming out soon:
 - Holland Club Induction
 - Submarine Birthday Ball / Amberjack

COB – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Nothing reported.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing reported.

Good of the Order**Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson**

- Not present.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Nothing reported.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Mike expressed the desire to schedule another shoot at Twin Ponds Rifle Range.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Not present.

NNPTC CPOA

- The Chiefs at NNPTC are also offering assistance to Charleston Base members as needed.

Drawings & Auctions

- Auction for USS Bonefish Carving – Carl Chinn presided – Won by Lewis Leal for \$20.
- Bourbon Raffle – JW Smith in Maryland
- FRA Drawing – Johnny Brown
- Challenge Coin Drawing – Won by Carl Chinn – Donated back for drawing at later date.
- Depth Charge Drawing – Jerry Stout – Contributed some to Scholarship Fund

Closing Ceremony

- Base Chaplain led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1957.