

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
13 July 2023

Opening Ceremonies:

- The July 2023 Base Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Tom Lawson with a quorum of three officers and a total of 51 members. Base Commander Mike Ciesielko was not present. 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 July was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of July:
 - **USS S-28 (SS-133) July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise Lost with All Hands – 49 Souls**
 - **USS ROBALO (SS-273) July 26, 1944 – 3RD war patrol Lost with 77 Men – 4 Died as POWs – 81 Souls**
 - **USS GRUNNION (SS-216) July 30, 1942 – 1ST war patrol Lost with All Hands – 70 Souls**
 - **THREE Boats and 200 Men Lost**
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Guest Speaker – MA1 Brad Outhet:

- After being introduced by Recreation Chairman Johnny Brown, MA1 Brad Outhet from WEPSTA Charleston provided details about an upcoming Golf Tournament which is to raise funds for the Navy Ball to be held on October 14.
- The tournament will be held at the Miler Country Club course in Summerville on Thursday, August 10. While not allowed to put the notice on the flyers that he provided, he promised FREE BEER. He detailed the varied levels of business sponsorship. For the players, the admission is \$125 each or \$500 per team.
- Brad answered a few individual questions, including that there are no limit to the number of teams.
- Johnny noted that he sent the notice out to the Base members regarding formation of golf teams.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- Three men were present at the Base meeting for the first time:
 - Adam Taylor – LT – Qualified on USS Mississippi SSN782 - 2018
 - Bryan Baranowski – MMN1 – Qualified on USS Jimmy Carter SSN23 – 2019 – Also served at NPTU Charleston MTS701
 - Nicholas Fender – MMN1 – Qualified on USS New Mexico SSN779 – 2018 – Also served at NUC “A” School – Basic Machinery Instructor – Scuba Diver

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- At the Board Meeting last week, the recommendation was made to sponsor a Lunch Bar at the Golf Tournament. The motion by Johnny Brown was seconded and discussion followed. The suggestion was made to withdraw \$750 from the Investment Fund for this purpose. By both show of hands and voice vote, the use the funds was approved by the members in attendance.
- No further business.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the June 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 June 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:
 - GRUNION was lost on July 30, 1942 with the loss of 70 crew members while on her first war patrol near Kiska Harbor. She radioed that she sank two sub-chasers and damaged a third, but was never heard from again. Grunion's mangled remains were found in the Bering Sea in 2006 off the Aleutian Island of Kiska.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.
- **Bobby Jonason** of Goose Creek departed on Eternal Patrol on Monday, 10 July. He was not a member of USSVI.
- **Ruth Glass**, mother of Trudy Glass, wife of Jim Lewis, passed away the morning of 6 July. She was 97 years young.
- **Mike Ciesielko's daughter, Erica**, had a serious car accident June 21st and the car was totaled. She was taken to the hospital with broken bones and spine injuries and was in ICU for a few days. She had back surgery and is now home. Wearing a back brace. Mike says she is doing well.
- **Jim Higgins** is in rehab at Elms LifeCare Rm 10 Garden Ridge after being in the hospital. He has had back pain for a long time and it was getting worse so he went to the ER where an MRI was done. He had an infection on his spine and is being treated with antibiotics. His progress is slow due to the pain and meds. He is OK with visitors although per Mildred's direction "Do Not Disturb If He Is Sleeping". He needs the rest. Mildred, wife, will be keeping me informed as to how he is doing.
- **Rick Wise** received his CT scan results on June 28th and they are GOOD! No signs of cancer were found. He is doing so well he will be taking back the responsibility for the Amberjack/Lost Boats ceremony we do each April.
 - On June 30th, Alyssa and 3 others including Chief Thompson, from the FCPOA, came by and raked and took the pine needles and other debris from our backyard out to the road. This was something Jean and I just couldn't do.
- **Rick Collins** has a friend who has an electric wheel chair and will donate it if there is anyone who might need one. Contact Rick at treasurer@ussvicb.org for more information.
- **Hauns 'Sam' Vlam** is in the Oakbrook Health & Rehabilitation Center Rm 315 for rehab. He has Parkinson's and is doing as well as can be expected. He will enjoy any visits he gets.
- **Woody Woodsmall** is still having some issues with his shoulder after the surgery and rehab is taking longer to complete. On June 30th, he had surgery on his face for a benign tumor and stayed overnight. He will be going in next week for a doctor to look at the surgery site.
- **Howard 'Andy' Anderson** is out of cardiac rehab by Dr orders. He completed about half of the days. The heart is doing fine and working good for a 84 year old guy. Still have an unknown bleeding source that has reared its ugly head 3 times since Jan. Lots of doctors have been involved. It still remains unknown source of bleeding at this time. He has had this issue for years but appears to have gotten more frequent since the heart attacks.
- **Joe Lunn** is still battling his Parkinson's Disease.
- **Don Petersen** is not doing well
- **Thom Beach** is still at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols

- Until told differently, continue to use the website of <https://ussubvets.org>
- Freedom fest total of 16 SUBVETs and spouses there.
 - Received from Alexis: Thank you for showing up in force to the event. The SUBVETs are always a friendly face of calm in a storm that is these events and I personally appreciate the support. Additionally, thank you on behalf of JBC.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Not present

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Charleston Base currently has 256 members.
- Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]:
 - 1) Groton 1152 – 2) Hampton Roads 278 – 3) Charleston 256 – 4) Bremerton 242

National Awards – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing reported.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- At the last Base Meeting, we spent \$10,000 from the Scholarship Fund for issuing awards.
- We received a “Thank You” from each of the four recipients of the Scholarship Award. Carl read each response. Two were via text message. One was sent by email. One was actually mailed in the form of a card. All expressed their gratitude for the money provided to them.
- We are now, again raising funds for next year. Tonight we have a raffle for two season tickets to Flowertown Players in Summerville.
- We also have the Challenge coin drawing tonight.
- We still have Challenge Coins for sale - \$12 each.
- The Rummage sale will be held on November 18.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- Rick expressed his thanks for all that helped by cleaning and preparing the float for Freedom Fest. He also thanked those that helped to get the float into the location and get it back to storage.

Submarine Museum – Dave Harvey

- Mayor Summey did not respond, so the request was made to the Governor.
- Summey has passed the decision to the new mayor, which will be after the election in November.
- The information package is ready for the new mayor – whomever it shall be.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School – Phil Nunnally

- The last NPS graduation was on July 7 and had the very first students from the Australian Navy.
- The next graduation for NPS will be held somewhere around Labor Day weekend, but the dates are uncertain at this time.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- We had 25 members & spouses at the River Dogs baseball game.
- Six of our expected group did not show, so the tickets were given to and appreciated by some young folks.
- Johnny is waiting on response from the Citadel
- Johnny is planning to arrange an Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast.
- Johnny and Ken Hutchison are working together to have SubVet at Fleet events to be non-competitive with each other but possibly being a joint venture. More info as available.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has Window Decals. If you want, you can cut off the “Salt Life” statement and have a really nice set of Dolphins to apply to your window.
- Woody also has a few hats available that say, “It never happened and we were never there.”

Newsletter – Ed Stank

- Ed thanked Scholarship Chair for providing details about award winners.
- Ed is still looking for a relief as Newsletter Editor. Without a relief, there may not be any more Newsletters.

PAO – Ed Stank

- Ed has submitted an article about the Charleston Base Scholarship program to American Submariner.
- He may send an article about the Aussie NPS graduation.

COB – Rick Sparger

- There is a lady who works at Eggs-Up Grill who also does embroidery. Rick recommended her for any embroidery that you may need to have done.
- Rick has business cards available.

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Base Commander could not be here tonight. Tom thanked members for attendance and cooperation this evening.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

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

- Not present.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Not present.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Not present.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Not present.

Drawings & Auctions

- Auction for Theatre Tickets – Marty Sessler
- FRA Drawing – Lindsay Nelson
- Challenge Coin Drawing – Won by Pete Garrison.
- Depth Charge Drawing – Unknown

Closing Ceremony

- Base Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson announced adjournment of the meeting.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1954.