

2021 USSVI ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

9/4/2021

ORLANDO, FL

National Commander Wayne Standerfer opened the Annual Business meeting at 0900 on 9/4/2021

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Bell

Recitation of Creed and Statement of Purpose by Jon Jaques

National Officers in attendance

Wayne Standerfer	Jon Jaques	Steve Bell
Ray Wewers	Ken Nichols	Tom Williams
Vic VanHorn		

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S REPORT

- This year has been litmus for our organization. Some bases used various ways to overcome the pandemic through use of ZOOM and other means. Thanks to all.
- WEBSITE UPDATE---We no longer have to depend on our server as all our data is now backed up on the Cloud. In the past, three program companies gave up on converting our website to something new and more user friendly. Tim VeArd developed our present website and when he died most of his proprietary knowledge went with him. Even his son, Ken, does not have the knowledge to do most of what we need. We have a company, Springly, out of Paris, France working with us this past year and are making good progress. The new website will not have all the bells and whistles that we have now and will be a basic website. Base Commanders, District Commanders, Regional Directors and National Officers will all have access to their areas of responsibility.

NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

- We are now an organization with \$1,000,000 in assets along with real estate in the Clubhouse valued at \$453,000 and base holdings at \$500,000.
- 2020 Annual Financial Audit was completed by the four Regional Directors and National Treasurer with all issues being resolved by the National Treasurer. Results of the audit were approved.
- 2022 budget---Expected revenue is \$251,780 including \$22,000 from the Investment account.
- Major expenses are National Office (salary, rent, and office supplies), American Submariner, Liability Insurance Premium of \$14,000 (request \$25 from each base to help defray this expense), Travel is expected to return to 2019 levels after the 2020 pandemic. Website expense expected to be \$20,740
- Total expenses projected to be \$251,709 with excess income of \$71.

- Motion to accept 2022 budget made by Bob Bissonnette with second by Pete Juhos. Motion passed by acclamation.
- NATIONAL CONVENTIONS--- Ozzie thanked the 2021 Convention for a job well done
- 2022 Convention will be held in Buffalo, NY as a 4 day convention from 8/24-8/27/2022. Contract room rate is \$119/night and is in effect for 3 days before and 3 days after.
- 2023 Convention is rescheduled for Tucson, AZ from 8/28-9/2/2023. Room rate is \$101/night. Work in progress to develop website for online registration,

NATIONAL JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER---

- Membership---Last year membership was 12,057 and this year it stands at 11,850, a loss of 207. In February, National dropped 543 due to non-renewal. 392 members went on Eternal Patrol. We need to work on retention as we are 437 shy of qualifying for War Veteran Status.
- New Base Development—3 new bases to be covered by National Secretary
- National Office---Dennis Nardone---Process all dues to the amount of \$250,000 annually. All monies flow through the National Office. Process all membership cards and issue 800+ annually. Office is managed by 1 paid employ and 4 volunteers.
- Public Relations---Rick Mitchell---Developing a new manual and should be available within 60 days.

NATIONAL SECRETARY---

- Chartered three new bases—Sculpin Base in Kansas, Heart of Texas Base in Waco, TX and South Lakes Florida Base in Mineola, FL
- Dropped Ponce DeLeon base due to lack of candidates for Officer positions
- Possible new base in Rolla, MO
- Possible reestablishment of Thunder Mountain Base

NATIONAL TREASURER---

- USSVI is only veterans' organization that has no debt
- Travel expense dropped from \$60,000 \$9979 in 2020 due mostly to pandemic
- Major expenses for 2022 are: American Submariner--\$48,000, National Office--\$52,000 and travel back up to \$60,000. Over the last 10 years, \$60,000 is the norm for travel expenses.

OLD BUSINESS---None except for website

NEW BUSINESS---

- National Commander swore in 15 new District Commanders.

GOOD OF THE ORDER---

- Bill Scott announced new Awards procedures of awarding Gold and Silver Anchor, Ben Bastura and Newsletter of Year award at the Men's luncheon and the Joe Negri, Meritorious, Robert Link and District Commander of the Year awards at the Awards Banquet.
- Wayne Phillips was selected as the new District Commander of the Year.
- Awards Manual is being revised to cleanup text, remove redundancies, include the purpose of the Awards Program, responsibility of committee chairmen, and remove the names of the committee members.
- National Bulletin will come out in February listing the names of committee members and due dates for submitting nominations and selections.

- Goal is to send manual to District Commanders for review, present revised manual to Board of Directors and implement in January
- All awards will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting and the Awards Banquet.
- The Ladies and Men's Luncheon will be combined.
- National Commander thanked the Convention Committee for a well done Convention.
- Charitable Foundation table at the Convention raised \$6,000 for the fund.
- Discussion on reduction in Life Membership dues was tabled for Board review at their next meeting.
- Widows who wish to remain as Associate Member must have sponsor. Normally, the base will act as their sponsor,
- Ozzie asked for possible site for 2024 convention. Groton Base volunteered as did South Carolina. Selection will be made and finalized at a later Convention.

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Bissonnette and second by Bill Andrea. Motion approved by acclamation.

National Commander closed the meeting at 1015 on 9/4/2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Wewers
USSVI National Secretary