

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa, NY

Meeting Date: February 3, 2016

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1905 with 19 members present.
- The Base muster list was passed around.
- A Moment of Silence for Shipmates on Eternal Patrol
- There was a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of February and Base Associate member Lillian "Chickie" Barden who passed away on February 2nd was remembered.

Base Secretary Art Nolan indicated there was a quorum present.

Oath of Office

USSVI National Commander Al Singleman administered the USSVI Oath of Office to Base Commander Jim Irwin and Base Treasurer Randy Stein after their being duly elected by the membership for the 2016 term.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was read by Base Treasurer Randy Stein. It was voted upon and accepted without correction.

Base Commander's Report

The Base's post office box has been paid for.

A system for boat sponsorship annual reminders is being worked on by National. Base Treasurer Stein reported that our boat sponsorship has been paid for this year.

We have received our regular annual invitations to participate in the Malta Armed Forces Day

Parade to be held on Saturday, May 21st and the Saratoga Flag Day Parade to be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016. Member attendance at these parades has been steadily declining, so higher numbers were encouraged.

The Clifton Park VFW Base Commander invited our Base Commander to visit and look over some U. S. Navy related memorabilia that was donated after the passing of one of their members. After viewing the items, it was deemed that our Base could not properly care for the memorabilia as the family was requiring climate controlled conditions for storage. During the visit, the VFW Commander stated that their Post is soliciting for membership. Base members are asked to spread the word.

On Friday, January 29, 2016 our Base Commander presented our “Tenacity Award” to ENM3 Juan-Carlos Cruise at the NPTU graduation ceremony. It was noted that ENM is a new rating. The Navy is now distinguishing between nuclear and non-nuclear sailors as well as making the rating more gender-neutral. The next NPTU graduation is March 4, 2016.

National award nominations are now being accepted and must be submitted by April 30, 2016. Nomination forms are on the USSVI website.

Please consider being a “back-up” to Base Treasurer Randy Stein. A person is needed to step-in should the Base Treasurer not be able to attend a meeting. This would also be good experience for someone who is interested in learning about the Treasurer’s position.

Thank you to Kurt Von Maucher making an Eagle Scout presentation in Schenectady on January 9th. If anyone hears of an upcoming Eagle Scout ceremony, or wishes to participate in making the Base presentation, contact the Base Commander.

OLD BUSINESS

Progress continues to be made on the project to name a portion of Route 9 in Saratoga County in honor of all submarine veterans. We are now awaiting its introduction as a bill in the State Legislature. All indications are that it will receive a favorable response. There may be a circumstance where the Base is requested to provide representation at the Legislature on short notice. If you are available and desire to participate, let the Base Commander know and he will place you on a list.

The “Ring the Bell for Cancer” project has stalled due to a lack of response from Saratoga Hospital. Another attempt will be made to gauge any interest from the hospital. If not, the effort will be discontinued.

Associate Member MaryEtta Nolan published the Base’s first newsletter. She sent out a Base-wide request for ideas for a title for the newsletter and reported she had received 3 suggestions: “Periscope”, “Periscoop”, and “Green Board”. The membership will vote on a name at the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ray Misiewicz will present his USS Virginia program at our March meeting.

LONG TERM PLANNING

There is the need to encourage the purchase of pavers for the New York State Submarine Memorial. New pavers need to be installed prior to the “Tolling of the Boats” ceremony.

GENERAL BASE INFORMATION

Ray Misiewicz is slated to present at our March meeting his new talk entitled, "USS Virginia, From Sail to Nuclear Power". His current schedule includes:

1430 February 17th @ Glen Eddy
1400 February 27th @ Saratoga Military Museum
1900 March 17th @ Colonie Library
1230 March 31 @ Moreau Community Center
1030 May 13 @ Clifton Park Library

If another group is interested in this talk or any of the other 12 nuclear submarine talks, Ray can be reached at: wicz2004@yahoo.com.

Scholarship applications for 2016-2017 are now available on the USSVI website. Last year USSVI distributed 30 scholarships totaling in the area of \$40,000.00. .

Please consider completing a Base History form available on AlbanySaratogasubvets.com. We have received approximately 30 so far.

2016 Submarine Calendars are still available for purchase. See Diane Singleman if interested.

Break

Binnacle List

National Commander and Base COB Al Singleman gave a report on the current status of his health. He related that his surgery was successful and he has been deemed cancer free. He stressed the importance of pre-screening and highly recommended getting an MRI to confirm the location of the problem area of the prostate. Be aware that not all treatments are covered by Medicare as many are experimental. The relating of his experience was well received and given a hearty applause.

Closing Remarks

The 50/50 raffle was conducted. Mike Lynette was the winner of \$28.00.

Base Chaplain Irwin read the closing prayer and the SUBVETS Creed was recited.

Please make note that due to a scheduling conflict, the next regular meeting will begin at 1900 on March 9, 2016. (2nd Wednesday of the month.)The meeting will be held at the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa, NY.

The meeting was concluded at 2020.

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Submitted by: Art Nolan
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary
Pride Runs Deep