

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

Meeting Date: April 5, 2017

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1900 with 20 members present.
- The Base muster list was passed around.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Base Commander Irwin.
- A Moment of Silence for Shipmates on Eternal Patrol
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of April.
- Each Base member introduced themselves.

Base Secretary Art Nolan indicated there was a quorum present. There was one amendment to the March 1, 2017 minutes to reflect that the drawing for the Navy pillows would be held at this April meeting and not the May meeting.

Randy Stein gave the Base Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was voted on and accepted without correction. He also reported the check that was sent to BOCES for materials to pay for the base float has finally cleared.

Base Commander's Report

The Base Commander has viewed photos of the base float. At present, it is still a skeleton. The float's condition required an entire rebuild. It is hoped the project will be completed before our first parade.

There will be a free breakfast provided to all those participating in the Malta Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday, May 20, 2017. The breakfast will be held from 0730 – 0930 at the Malta Presbyterian Church located on Dunning Street.

Official notice has been received for the Ballston Spa Parade to be held, Saturday, May 27, 2017. Line up at 0830 in the Ocean States Job Lot parking lot. We are in the first division. The VFW is the host this year. Hot dogs and burgers to follow in the adjacent park.

The "Adopt a Soldier" organization will be holding a golf tournament on June 10, 2017. This is a fund raiser for the Veteran's House and Guardian House for homeless veterans. The fee is \$85.00 per person. The event starts at 1200 at Airway Meadows in Gansevoort.

On November 12, 2017, a "Veterans Ball" will be held in the Hall of Springs from 1700 – 2100. This event will also raise funds for the Veterans House and Guardian House and other local facilities for homeless veterans.

Please take advantage of the SUBVETS scholarship program as well as nominating people for the SUBVETS awards. All forms are located on the SUBVETS website. If anyone needs additional assistance they can contact the Base Commander or Base COB for guidance. National Awards nominations are due by April 30th and the Newsletter nominations are due May 15, 2017.

The Base Commander yielded the floor to Base COB Al Singleman to give a report of on the SUBVETS mid-term meeting he attended in Dallas, Texas. He reported on the moratorium on Associate Members until the numbers meet the IRS requirements for charitable organizations. The annual convention will be held in Orlando, Florida. The Charitable Foundation has so far distributed \$9,000.00 in brotherhood money for shipmates in need. Several gifts were made to those who suffered major losses due to flooding in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area. Contributions to the Charitable Fund would be appreciated.

A prototype has been developed to combine the USVII Constitution and By-laws into one document. It is being sent to the Board for evaluation. USSVI is in good shape and financially stable. The website project is on schedule and will be an excellent tool for many levels of the organization when placed on-line.

Next month's meeting will be abbreviated due to Ray Misiewicz's presentation.

Reminder that June's meeting will be held on the second Wednesday in June instead of our regular first Wednesday meeting date. **The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017** at the regular start time of 1900.

OLD BUSINESS

Base Chaplain Janet Irwin has been following up with Shenendahowa's youth group that has shipped several "care packages" overseas in support of our troops. This program was started by school teacher Erica Lynn Ladu, whose recent untimely death affected both the children and the program. In tribute to Mrs. Ladu, the students and counselors wish to finish her work by sending the remaining donated items to the troops. However, they are lacking the cost of postage. Base Chaplain Irwin is conducting a raffle for two US Navy pillows with all funds going to Mrs. Ladu's project. See the Base Chaplain for tickets. Cost is \$1.00. The drawing will be held tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

A lengthy discussion was held on how to increase membership and overall Base participation. The Base Commander emphasized that all ideas are welcome and encouraged members to bring forth and act upon ideas for the overall benefit of the Base and community activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3, 2017 Base Meeting – Ray Misiewicz presents, "160 million miles on nuclear power".

Malta Armed Forces Day Parade – Saturday, May 20, 2017. Line up at 0930 on Bayberry Drive. Note: (Free breakfast from 0730 – 0930 at the Malta Presbyterian Church located on Dunning Street.)

Scotia Parade – (If enough member interest) Wednesday, May 24, 2017. Line up location to be determined.

Ballston Spa Parade – Saturday, May 27, 2017. Line up at 0830 in the Ocean State Job Lot on Route 50.

"Tolling of the Boats" – Saturday, June 3, 2017, at 1100

Saratoga Flag Day Parade – Saturday, June 10, 2017. Line up at 11:30 on North Broadway near William J. Burke Funeral Home.

Base Picnic – Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Noon (6) Base members will be inducted into the Holland Club.

LONG TERM PLANNING

"Tolling of the Boats" – Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 1100. Bill Preece will provide his sound system. Bill Preece and Bob Bailey volunteered to do the readings. Mike Lynette volunteered to toll the bell for the ceremony. Senator Kathy Marchione will be our guest speaker. Pending unforeseen circumstances Roy

Wilson, the C/O of USS ALBANY, SSN 753, the COB, and possibly a few crewmembers will be in attendance.

The Base Commander reported it has been 17 years since there has been an increase in Base dues. Later in the year, he will propose a dues increase of \$5.00 to help offset Base expenses. The Base Treasurer reported our Base has been running at a slight deficit for the past two years. Members present every month have been sustaining the Base through the 50/50 raffle or other donations. A dues increase would help spread the costs through the entire Base membership instead of only those attending regular meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brick pavers – If you have not purchased one, please consider it. Forms are available online. We need an order of 12 by spring.

Storekeeper – Holland Club Challenge Coins are now available for order through the Base Storekeeper. Also available are decals of dolphins and submarines as provided by Base member Dan Danielson.

SUBVETS History Reports – see the Base Chaplain for the forms or download them from the website.

Kaps4Kids – No report.

GENERAL BASE INFORMATION

Base member Dan Danielson reports that the Green Mountain SUBVETS Base will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, July 22, 2017 at Silver Lake Park in Barnard, VT. Start time is at noon.

BINNACLE LIST

Base member Richard Craft, fell and broke his femur in February. Still recovering in rehabilitation. The Base will send a get well card in the near future.

BREAK

50/50 Raffle was conducted. Kurt Von Maucher was the winner.

The raffle for the Navy pillows was held. Base Storekeeper Diane Singleman was the winner. In addition to the raffle ticket proceeds, Fred Miller generously donated another \$150.00. Thank you, Fred! Base Chaplain Janet Irwin will give a final report on the Shenendahowa's "Support Our Troops" project at next month's Base meeting.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Base Chaplain led the closing prayer and the SUBVETS Creed was recited.

The next regular meeting will begin at 1900 on May 3, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa, NY.

The meeting was concluded at 2031.

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