

MINUTES OF MEETING ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI

Location: Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa, NY

Meeting Date: October 5, 2016

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1900 with 21 members present
- The Base muster list was passed around.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.
- 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 October.
- Members introduced themselves and named their qual boat and other boats served. Associate members also introduced themselves. One guest of Dan Danielson was present – Wayne Pickett, Secretary of Green Mountain Base

September's Minutes were sent out and reviewed by base members with no corrections.

Base Secretary Art Nolan reported there was a quorum present to conduct the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was read by Base Treasurer Randy Stein.

One new member for a Base Membership of 112.

Base Commander's Report

Base Commander Jim Irwin and Base Chaplain Janet Irwin recently visited the widow of the executive officer of USS Tang. He was lost when the boat went down. They have become close friends and the widow has informed them she is going to bequeath USS Tang memorabilia upon her passing to the USSVI Albany-Saratoga Base. This includes his original Navy Cross Medal with the Presidential Letter of Commendation, (2) Presidential Unit Citations, a Purple Heart, and Meritorious Service Awards. Also, there are original letters from Admiral Nimitz and Admiral Lockwood informing her of the loss of USS Tang.

Member Ron Barrett was inducted into the Holland Club with a ceremony conducted by Base Commander Jim Irwin and USSVI National Commander Al Singleman. A standing ovation was given to him as he was welcomed into this prestigious club.

Float: Bill Preece informed Base Members that repairs needed on the float will be can be done with the help of BOCES. Requests will be made in the near future to see if they would be willing to take this on as a project. Materials may need to be provided by the base, but details will be

worked out and presented to the membership. Al Singleman will make copies of the Conning Tower plans for the committee working on the float.

Base Commander, Jim Irwin thanked everyone who voted in the USSVI National Elections. National average for voting was 14% with Albany-Saratoga's online voting was at 20% (not counting the mail in ballots).

OLD BUSINESS:

Friends Helping Friends at Boscov's – No new updates. We will revisit this next year.

Base Picnic: The Picnic was a huge success, with a great turnout of Base Members. Fred Miller received the second highest USSVI Award – the Robert Link Award for his outstanding work on the Highway Project. Three members were inducted in the Holland Club: Kurt Von Maucher, Daniel Danielson and Stanley Westhoff.

Press Conference on Highway Project: Thursday, October 6 at 1030 is the press conference for renaming Route 9. Meeting place is BJ's B-B-QSA on Route 9 in Saratoga Springs. Politicians and News Media will be present for this event. DOT will provide at least two signs, one Northbound and Southbound. The official name will be "The United States Submarine Veterans Memorial Highway – Saratoga" and it will run the length of Route 9 in Saratoga County from the Crescent Bridge to South Glens Falls for a total of 40 miles. This is a National initiative with a goal to have roads named in every state.

Sub Vet License Plate Project: In New York the license will have a minor change with coloring in the background to the USSVI National insignia.

NEW BUSINESS

Revolutionary Run: Run by the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency, they are looking for donations and volunteers on Saturday, November 5, 2016 for their fund raising race. This agency helps Veterans in need. If interested, contact Jim Irwin.

Dues: National is \$25.00 (if you are not a life member) and Base Dues is \$10.00 (which everyone owes). If you wish to pay multiple years, you can only pay base dues for the same number of years.

Break

National Convention – During the Convention, Mike Naughton was elected the Regional Director but health reasons cause him to resign, Les Altschuler the person who ran against him was appointed to fill his position. He will be attending the Northeast Regional Meeting.

Northeast Regional Meeting – October 7, 8, 9, 2016. Saturday Meeting will have 21 people (5 from the base). Discussion will be on what is going good and what isn't in the USSVI Northeast

Region covering Maine to Northern Virginia. All Districts, except District 4 will be represented at the meeting.

Christmas Wreaths: On Saturday, December 10, 2016 at the National Cemetery at 11:00 AM.

Christmas Meeting: We will be collecting for Toys for Tots and Submarine Related Items to be raffled. The meeting will start half hour earlier at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

Memorial Paving Bricks: We are going to start pushing more to sell Memorial Bricks at the Memorial. Base members who have not already purchased bricks are encouraged to do so. Engraver will be back next Spring.

Binnacle List: Walt Barden, one of the founding members of the Albany-Saratoga Base, died recently from liver cancer. George Gasser is recovering from leg surgery.

History Report: See the Chaplin for the three-page form, also available online.

50/50 Raffle: won by Bill Preece who donated \$25.00 to the Memorial Foundation which according to our treasure has a balance of \$5281.45.

Good of the Order:

Al Singleman wants to work on getting a memorial area and be able to display the many ship's plaques that he has acquired. Will be assembling a work group to make A-frame displays and pedestal plaques at the Memorial.

Newsletter Editor, MaryEtta Nolan was recognized for her recent Peri-Scoop Newsletter.

Two DVD's (from the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony) are available for a \$5.00 donation to the Foundation.

Closing Remarks

The Base Chaplain read the closing prayer and the SUBVETS Creed was recited by all.

The next base meeting will be on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 1900 at the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant St. Ballston Spa, NY.

The meeting was concluded at 2010 .

Submitted by Art Nolan, Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary

Pride Runs Deep