

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

Meeting Date: July 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 July.
- Base member introductions.

Base Secretary Art Nolan indicated there was a quorum present.

The Base Treasurer's Report was waived due to his absence.

Base Commander's Report

Thanked Bill Preece for filling in as Base Secretary and Senior Vice Commander Bob Bailey for conducting the June meeting.

Base Chaplain Janet Irwin secured all the patches on our parade float skirting. The Velcro all around was also replaced. The BOCES thank you signs have been secured on both sides of the float. It is requested that anyone who uses the float for an event, please be mindful of weather conditions so the refurbished float will not be damaged. The skirts and the signs are not designed for bad weather, so if there is any question concerning rain, please do not use either.

This Base float project was a complete success. Base Chaplain Irwin reported hearing many positive comments along parade routes relating to the Base and the BOCES students who worked on the float. The float has definitely increased public awareness of both the Albany-Saratoga Base and BOCES.

Please cast your ballots for District Commander either electronically or in a sealed envelope to be given to the Base Commander. He will forward the ballots upon receipt to the Regional Director. Or, the ballots can be mailed directly to the Regional Commander.

Special thank you to Walt Forney for his efforts during the Ballston Spa Parade. There was a miscommunication on the location of the presentation wreath. Walt immediately travelled to Dehn's Florist, picked up the wreath, and transported it to Ballston Spa Memorial Park in time for its presentation. While in the park, it was noticed that the forward, starboard bow plane on our memorial was loose. Thank you, Walt, for all your efforts.

The new American Legion Post Commander has requested assistance with parking at the Saratoga County fair from Tuesday, July 18 through Sunday, July 23, 2017. Hours are from 0800 – 2300. Hours are broken down into 2 - 4 hour shifts. There is a sign-up sheet at the bar and any help is greatly appreciated. Our Base is extremely grateful to the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234. The Post has never charged us a fee for using their meeting space as opposed to many other places around the nation that charge SUBVETS from \$50.00 to \$150.00 per meeting to use their space. This is a great way to thank the Post for their support as this is a fund raiser for them.

Interest has been expressed in our Base participating in the Schuylerville "Turning Point Parade" to be held on Sunday, August 6, 2017. However, Bill Preece will not be able to bring the float. If someone else is

interested in towing the float for the parade, please contact the Base Commander. Otherwise, members can march with the banner.

USSVI National has advised a Go Fund Me page has been established on Facebook for the USS Ling that is basically grounded in Hackensack, New Jersey. It is a WWII submarine that is mired in mud there with no hope of being moved to a more suitable site. Plans are to create a memorial site in place.

The Base Commander will not be available for the August meeting. Senior Vice Commander Bob Bailey will preside.

OLD BUSINESS

The "Tolling of the Boats" was well attended. Special thanks to Base Newsletter Editor Mary Etta Nolan for bringing her Navy Reserve Unit and the Undersea Warfare Unit from NOSC Schenectady. The unformed sailors added to the significance of the event. Left over food from the lunch was brought to the Male Veterans Home in Ballston Spa. Also, thank you to Steve Cipperly for picking up the memorial wreath and returning the stand to Dehn's Florist.

New pavers will not be set until spring of 2018. Please continue your sale and donation efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign-up sheets for the Base picnic will be made available this year with a change. In order to help with ordering the correct amount of food, the new list will ask how many people will be in your party and how many hamburgers, or hotdogs, or both you wish to order. Also, state what type of food you will be bringing as this is also a pot-luck. Salads, dessert, specialty dishes, beans, etc. are always welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Schuylerville "Turning Point Parade" – Sunday, August 6, 2017. Meet at the Schuylerville School Parking Lot at 1230.

Base Picnic – Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Noon in the shelter behind Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234. (6) Base members will be inducted into the Holland Club.

LONG TERM PLANNING

The Base Commander reported it has been 17 years since there has been an increase in Base dues. The Base Treasurer Later in the year, he will propose a dues increase of \$5.00 to help offset Base expenses. 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.

Base Officer nominations are made in September and October with elections being held in November. Installation of Base Officers is conducted in January. All positions are open for nominations. Base Commander Irwin will not be seeking re-election. Base Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Secretary, and Treasurer are the elected positions. The Base Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander positions must be held by regular members. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by regular or associate members. The Base Chaplain and Chief of the Boat are selected by the Base Commander. If you seek to be re-elected or run for one of these Base Officer positions, please notify Chief of the Boat Al Singleman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 Commander Jim Irwin announced that July marked his 50th anniversary of graduation from sub school.

Base Newsletter Editor MaryEtta Nolan announced she and Art have started organizing and fund raising for the USS SCOPION, SSN-589 50th Anniversary Memorial Service to be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27, 2018 in Norfolk, VA. She now has 50th Anniversary patches and challenge coins available for sale. Please see her before or after the meetings.

Saratoga Harness Racing is seeking an “Inspector” to supervise the walking of horses who have just completed their races as they are walked to the Test Barn. This person will also help collect samples from the horses for drug testing. This is a State of New York position at the rate of \$117.00 per day. If interested, see the Base Commander for contact information.

Saratoga High School had (2) students appointed to West Point, (1) student appointed to the Naval Academy, and (1) student appointed to the Merchant Marine Academy.

BINNACLE LIST

Base Treasurer Randy Stein's absence at this meeting is due to his current driving situation. Randy is having a flare up with his legs and is awaiting approval on a VA prescription for hand controls on his vehicle. Hopefully, everything will be approved and installed so that Randy can soon return. We all wish him the best.

BREAK

Raffle was conducted. Dan Danielson was the winner of \$25.00 and immediately donated it back to the Base. (He commented that his wallet was too full.) Thank you, Dan for your generosity.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Base Chaplain led the closing prayer.

The SUBVETS Creed was recited.

The next regular meeting will begin at 1900 on August 2, 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 2010.

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