

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

Meeting Date: October 7, 2015

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1900 with 16 members and 1 guest present.
- The Base muster list was passed around.
- There was a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- 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 October.

Base Secretary Art Nolan indicated there was a quorum present.

Randy Stein gave the Base Treasurer's report. Current membership: 118

Base Commander's Report

In September, the Nominating Committee completed its task of presenting names for the nomination of Base Officers for 2015/2016. Chairman Al Singleman provided the following list of nominations:

Commander:	Jim Irwin
Senior Vice Commander:	Bob Bailey
Junior Vice Commander:	Al McGuire
Secretary:	Art Nolan
Treasurer:	Randy Stein

Members were reminded that the positions of Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander must be Regular members. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer are open to both Regular and Associate members. A call was made for nominations from the floor and there were none.

Another call for nominees will be held at the November meeting with the election to follow, Newly elected Officers will be installed in January.

Commander Irwin asked the National Commander/COB Al Singleman to provide a report on the USSVI National Convention held in Pittsburg, PA, September 7 – 12, 2015. He reported the tours of the Shanksville, PA 9/11 crash site were outstanding. Members attended memorial services for the victims.

A "Tolling of the Boats" ceremony was held aboard the USS Requin. Jr. ROTC read the names of the boats. There was a good showing of Navy personnel in uniform in attendance. All of the USSVI business meetings were well attended and productive.

"NORTHSTAR KIDS" performed a patriotic program at the banquet. Also in attendance, was Lt. CDR Krysten Ellis, one of the first female officers assigned and qualified on submarines.

Our own Base member, Tom Glenn, was awarded with USSVI's second highest award for his hard work, accomplishments, and dedication to USSVI and the Albany-Saratoga Base. The Robert Link Award is most prestigious and we are honored it was given to such a deserving member. It was presented to Tom at our Base picnic. This convention was very well done. The next convention will be held in Reno, Nevada.

Work was done on the national budget and reported that USSVI is on schedule and moving forward. USVII has no bills and no debts.

The national database update is progressing well with beta testing scheduled for later this year and further testing during the first months of 2016. Full implementation is on target for Spring.

National is also seeking to hire a "Social Media Manager" to assist with publicity and recruiting for USSVI through Facebook, Twitter, etc. The average age of SUBVETS is 67. Membership numbers are flat and new recruiting tools such as this are being developed.

There were four widows who attended our Base picnic. Each one of them commented on how much they appreciated being invited to our events. Letters of thanks were read from two widows who could not attend the picnic, but were very grateful for the invitation. This is something we must continue to do and keep them as part of our family.

Phil Griffith, who was a base member in Florida, but had a secondary membership here, passed away in August. The local Base had a memorial service on September 5, 2015. Phil wished to be buried at sea and his remains are awaiting transport at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

In lieu of the USSVI National Officer Challenge Coin presented at the "SUBVETS Tenacity Award" Ceremony, Commander Irwin designed an Albany-Saratoga Base Tenacity Award Challenge Coin to be presented to the award recipient. He displayed the coin design. The cost of the coin would be \$465.00 for 100. Since this was above his spending limit, Commander Irwin asked if a motion be made to approve manufacture and purchase of these new coins. Mike Lynett made the motion that funds be expended to purchase the coins and the motion was seconded by Bill Preece. The motion was unanimously passed.

Project USS Bonefish – As part of a project to increase SUBVETS visibility, there is an effort to place a picture of the USS Bonefish, which was lost during WWII, in each Bonefish restaurant in the country. There is a Bonefish restaurant on Wolf Rd. in Colonie. Base Commander Irwin will approach the Bonefish management with this idea and hopefully get a picture hung as sponsored by our Base. The Bonefish CEO is completely behind this effort, so there should be little resistance to its implementation. The picture that is used is drawn by our national artist, Tom Denton.

Commander Irwin reported on a program he learned of in Portsmouth where cancer patients are presented with plaques as they complete or during chemo therapy and a bell is rung. He thought this was an admirable program and an idea for a similar Base project for Albany Medical Center. Commander Irwin and COB Al Singleman will pursue the idea with Albany Medical Center and report on their findings. Mike Lynett will check with Saratoga Hospital.

UPCOMING EVENTS

None for October

November 4th - Officer elections

LONG TERM PLANNING

Base Christmas Party – The past couple of years we have held the Christmas Party as pot luck on the December meeting night. We have also tied into the Toys for Tots programs with the Ballston Spa Rescue Squad delivering the donated items. Please consider if we would like to do pot luck and toys for tots again this year and we will discuss it at the November meeting.

December 5th was decided as the date for our annual wreath laying for our deceased members at Saratoga National Cemetery in December.

GENERAL BASE INFORMATION

Commander Irwin and Base Chaplain Irwin dropped off the donated items to the veteran's house in Ballston Spa and all were very happy to receive the items. They are doing well with coffee, but they still need items such as laundry detergent and toiletries. All members are encouraged to keep up the good work and continue to supply these items for the veterans.

It was also noted that the women's facility is no longer at the location we have been delivering items. No one had information as to where they are now located. An effort will be made to find their new location so our donations to the women veterans can be continued.

Reminder that dues will be going up after January 1st. Renewal rates for next year at the current rates will be honored until December 31, 2015.

There is a national USSVI effort to name a section of highway in all 50 states to honor submarine veterans. Locally, the section of Route 9 in Saratoga County is being worked on in our State Legislature. Fred Miller, a Base member, is leading this project for us.

Please consider completing a SubVets History form available at Albanysaratogasubvets.com or get your copy at the meeting.

Break

Binnacle List

John Cook is holding his own.

Closing Remarks

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was MaryEtta Nolan. MaryEtta won \$30.00.

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

The next regular meeting will begin at 1900 on November 4, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa, NY.

The meeting was concluded at 2100.

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