



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Albany-Saratoga Base
American Legion Post 70
34 West Ave.
Saratoga Springs, NY

Meetings every 3rd Wed of the Month
Minutes from **April 20 2011** meeting

- 7:05 pm: The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Senior Vice CDR John Christopher with 14 members present
- Base muster was taken
- Members stood and saluted for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- The Base Chaplain offered an opening prayer

The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of April. The Chaplain also asked us to remember Base member Ed Luther who departed on eternal patrol March 28, 2011.

Base members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

Acting Base Secretary Jim Irwin indicated there was a quorum present.

The reading of the minutes of the March meeting was waived; a motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. The motion was passed.

Randy Stein gave the Base Treasurer's report. The ending balance is \$8541.69. A motion to approve the report was made and

seconded. The motion was passed.

Good and welfare

Base member Tom Kelley is still in the Glens Falls Hospital. The Chaplain routed a card around for all present to sign. Tom is anxious to get back on his feet and get things back to normal. He was disappointed that he had to miss the "Tolling the Boats" ceremony.

Old Business

The "Tolling the Boats" ceremony held on April 11th at the American Legion Post 234 in Ballston Spa was well attended and well received. In attendance were 10 Base members, 25 active duty Navy personnel from the Kesselring Site, representatives from American Legion Post 234 and VFW Post 123 along with media coverage from YNN, Channel 9. We also met two female students from the site who have been selected to be the first female submariners.

Foundation report: The monument stone has been ordered. The stone will be 4' x 8' and gem mist (black with gray marbling) in color. The closing for the property from the Post Office to the Village is scheduled for mid May. The Village will be sending the Foundation a check for \$1500.00 toward our project. Al Singleman reported that Tom Glenn has been a bulldog on this project and deserves a great deal of credit for the recent progress.

Pavers for the courtyard that will surround the monument are now for sale. All Base members are encouraged to begin selling them. We are hopeful that each Base member will purchase at least one paver and hopefully be able to sell a few more. We will be asking all the New York Bases to participate in the sale of pavers. This project will also be advertised USSVI National. We need to sell somewhere in the neighborhood of 200-300 pavers to cover our expenses above and beyond what is now funded.

Nominations for District 5 Commander are open and will remain open until April 30. ***Our base COB Jim Irwin has been nominated.***

Janet Irwin has begun to attach the ship's patches to the Base float skirts.

Please remember to bring in your donations for the VA Hospital "ditty bag".

New Business

Parades – two parades are coming up:

May 28 – Memorial Day Parade in Ballston Spa – followed by the ground breaking for our NY State Lost Submariners Memorial (more details to follow)

May 30 – Memorial Day Parade in Albany – the crew of the USS Albany (SSN-753) will be in this parade. The Grand Marshall will be the Commanding Officer (more details to follow)

Al Singleman reported that the Foundation charter expires in February 2012. We will apply for an extension, either another temporary term or a permanent charter.

Frank Hardick addressed the meeting and discussed three interesting books:

"The Silent War" by John Pina Craven"

"Death of the USS Thresher" by Norman Polmar

"War Beneath the Waves" by Don Keith. This book chronicles the story of the USS Billfish. While on war patrol in the Makassar Strait, she endured a fifteen-hour continuous depth charge attack. A former shipmate of Frank was onboard the Billfish during the war patrols. If anyone has a copy of this

book and would like it signed, Frank can arrange it. (Frank also commented that this book is being made into a movie that will be directed by Clint Eastwood)

50/50 raffle (worth \$28.50) and the winner was Tom Glenn!

The USSVI Creed was recited by all, following which the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm on May 18, 2011 at the **American Legion Adirondack Post 70 in Saratoga Springs, NY.**

Submitted by: Jim Irwin
Past Eastern North D5
Commander

Albany-Saratoga Base – COB

Pride Runs Deep