

U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Albany-Saratoga Base

American Legion Post 234

23 Pleasant Street

Ballston Spa, NY

Meetings 1st Wed of every Month

Minutes from 04 Jan 2012 meeting

1900 hours: meeting called to order by outgoing Cmdr. Bob Bailey. Today's base meeting is our first of the year in our new location at American Legion Post 234 in Ballston Spa.

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Base muster (14 members & spouses present).

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Members stood and saluted for the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

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Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.

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The Bell was tolled for boats lost during the month of January:

USS S-36 (SS-141) 20 Jan 1942

USS S-26 (SS-131) 24 Jan 1942

USS Argonaut APS-1 10 Jan 1943

USS Scorpion (SS-278) Jan 1944

USS Swordfish (SS-193) Jan 1945

Base and associate members introduced themselves and the boats they served on.

Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus confirmed a quorum was present.

The reading of the minutes for the October was waived. Base member Fred Carlson motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by base member Tom Glenn; motion carried.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein gave his report; Base member Tom Glenn motioned to accept the report; seconded by Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus. Motion carried

First order of business: administered the USSVI Oath of Office to our base officers for 2012:

Cmdr. – Jim Irwin

Sr. Vice Cmdr. – John Christopher

Jr. Vice Cmdr. – Al McGuire

Treasurer – Randy Stein

Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus

Base information notes:

Cmdr. David Soldow relieved Cmdr. Thomas "TR" Buchanan as commanding officer of USS Albany (SSN 753) during a change of command ceremony on December 14, 2011 at Naval Station Norfolk. We are pleased to note that, as promised, Cmdr. Buchanan promptly shipped the old brow banner to our base.

The December base meeting was scheduled to coincide with the annual base holiday party held on Saturday 10 December at the RECOVERY sports grill on Wolf Road, Colonie (Albany) NY. High background noise and inability to sequester our group made this location impractical for holding our base meeting. Consequently, Cmdr. Bailey elected to cancel the meeting. We numbered a respectable seventeen (including spouses) for the party!

Foundation report:

Al Singleman updated the Memorial status:

The Foundation is to get a 5-year extension.

American Legion Post 234 and VFW Post 358 have purchased 245 bricks. Approximately 100 bricks remain to be sold.

During the Holiday period, a large Christmas wreath was posted at the Memorial stone by base member John Mishoe, courtesy of Dehn's Flowers. Very nice touch, John.

The Village of Ballston Spa has committed to install lighting to illuminate the memorial and its walkway.

Some details of the submarine model are surfacing (no pun intended): the length will be about 20'x 8', rudder and diving planes will be steel. Options include powder coating the steel parts for long term corrosion resistance. The hull could possibly be fabricated from carbon fiber. An April Installation date is possible.

Future Foundation Museum – Ballston Spa Village Mayor John Romano is still looking to find us a room for our museum in the old church building located at the SW corner of West High Street in Ballston Spa. Stay tuned!

Holland Club –six base members will become eligible for Holland Club induction in 2012:

Walt Barden

John Cook

Ted Curley

Phil Griffith

Tom Kelley

Clark Shafer

We note that some bases, e.g., Groton, plan for and schedule a suitable formal ceremony and presentation. We agreed to review and revisit this idea for our next Holland Club induction.

Binnacle List Update: If you would, drop Base member Tom Kelley (email:

wkelly7@nycap.rr.com) a line -I'm sure he would appreciate a note or two.

VA Hospital “ditty bag” – Think: donations! Al Singleman requested base members bring in your old clothes (you know – the ones that take up space in your closet? And that you’ll probably never wear again?) for delivery to the VA Hospital.

50/50 Raffle – and the winner is – (would you believe?) -Harry Terzian – again!

District Meeting – the district meeting is now set for 18-19 May at the Best Western Clifton Park. Attendees will include Base Cmdrs. from Buffalo, Southern Tier, Hudson Valley and New York City, Long Island. Dinner after the meeting will be at the Ravenswood Pub in Clifton Park. Anyone interested in attending, contact Cmdr. Jim Irwin.

Storekeeper’s Corner – Diane has 2012 USSVI Calendars on hand at \$10.00 each. Magnetic bumper stickers are also available. Anyone wishing to upgrade your base wardrobe; i.e., vests, jackets, shirts, ball caps, ship’s patches, etc., give Diane a call!

USS Croaker Memorial -Update: Cmdr. Jim Irwin talks to the caretaker monthly – his latest report is that five of the eight original Plexiglas panels have been replaced with the superior Lexan material. We are considering a working party to give the caretaker a helping hand. An overnight stay could be arranged aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Little Rock. More on this at a future meeting.

Wreaths for National Cemetery – wreaths were laid on Saturday, December 17. Six Base members participated, including:

John Cook

John Mishoe

Walt Forney

Al & Diane Singleman

Mike Lynett

Janet & Jim Irwin

Admiral Rickover will be the topic of the Ray Misiewicz presentation at our next base meeting – mark the date on your calendar: Wednesday 1February 2012!

Just as a side note, your base secretary had the honor of being personally interviewed by the Admiral

– twice! A harrowing experience? You bet! Know that all Naval Reactors Representatives were required to write a letter report addressed to the Admiral at least once a week!

At 2045 hours, the motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. The USSVI Creed was recited by all, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Fritz Feldhaus –

Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary

Base Officers –

Cmdr. – Jim Irwin 383-2481

Sr Vice Cmdr. – John Christopher –399-4810

Jr Vice Cmdr. – Al McGuire – 752-5389

Secretary – Fritz Feldhaus 885-3546

Treasurer – Randall Stein –

Chaplain – Janet Irwin – 383-2481