



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

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

Meetings every 3rd Wednesday of the
Month
Minutes from **Saturday 18 Sep 2010**
meeting

1345 hours - CDR Bailey called the September meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base to order; 19 members were present. This meeting was also the occasion for the *first annual base picnic*, held at the Navy Recreation field located on Galway Road in the Town of Milton. The base muster list was routed for all attendees to sign in. All hands saluted the colors and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Base Chaplain (Janet Irwin) opened the meeting with a prayer and Tolloed the Boats for the month of September.

All members present stood and stated their names, qualification date and boat(s) served on. Base member spouses also introduced themselves. We welcomed special guests Walt and Chickie Barden to the festivities; Ed Luther arrived later on - but there nonetheless!

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. A motion was made (Tom Nolan), seconded (Al McGuire) and carried to accept the financial report as presented.

Secretary verified quorum present. Meeting minutes for the month of August were previously distributed by email or US mail. Tom Glenn's motion (seconded by John Mishoe) was carried to accept the minutes as distributed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Our first annual base picnic was a resounding success, due in no small part to Base member Bruce Talbot's efforts, who reserved Pavilions 1 & 2 for our use, not to mention the setup of the propane gas grill and coolers. Al Singleman promptly manned the chef's duties at the grill - no time wasted there! - setting up for and grilling hamburgers, hotdogs, sausages, all provided by the base. Many tasty side dishes and desserts also arrived, provided by base member spouses who are seconded as gourmet specialists! Everyone came prepared to have a great time! We could have but never did get around to the horseshoes or volleyball - all the more fun in the relaxed atmosphere - and the weather was perfect!

Vito De Leonardis - we noted with regret that our World War II vet **Vito De Leonardis** is now on eternal patrol. Our base turned out twelve strong for the wake held on Thursday 9 September at DeMarco Stone Funeral Home in

Guilderland. Vito's sister Victoria De Leonardis-Dice sent a gracious letter to the base extending her heartfelt thanks for our base member's attendance and ceremony recognizing Vito's extraordinary submarine service. Our base chaplain had a few words about the absence of any of Vito's history in our base archives - yea and verily, we need to get this information down for the record before the opportunity passes us by.

For whom the bell tolls -

Mike Lynette introduced a new business item for the base. He recently saw an obituary for a submariner down in North Carolina that caught his attention. The moving ritual of tolling the bell was extended to the funeral of the submariner, where the bell was rung every three (3) seconds while the casket was being moved. While the cortege was at a standstill, the bell was tolled every thirty (30) seconds. The final tribute was 7 (seven) to signify a life had been given. Mike strongly recommended that base members consider incorporating a similar ceremony into our base procedures. CDR Bailey commented that there would be many details to be addressed - all of which would point toward the need for a standing committee (and chairman) for that purpose. We will pursue this proposal further at our October meeting.

Fred Carlson noted that for the case where burial is at the Saratoga National Cemetery, we do not have any ritual in place for this purpose. The Base Chaplain Janet Irwin pointed out that we serve at the family's request; any ritual we would provide would need their approval in

advance. While such a final salute could be done at the cemetery, the schedule for burials is typically very tight - particularly when there is another funeral immediately following. We will place this item on the agenda for the October meeting.

Al Singleman mentioned that in the month of November, there will be a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Saratoga National Cemetery. He plans to issue an email soon with more details. There is much to read and learn about the history of this on line at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

Note that the USSVI National Chaplain now has a copy of our memorial service, compliments of our base chaplain, Janet Irwin. You can view the Eternal Patrol Certificate (well hidden - (just kidding!)) on the USSVI national website.

- **Troy - Uncle Sam Parade** – held on Sunday, 12 September. In addition to our base submarine float, we had two stalwart members in attendance: Base CDR Bailey and Will Asher. As it turned out, the Troy Police Color Guard needed a place to form up, so our float wound up with its own color guard - in the 1st Division, 8th float in line! This parade saw the first use of our new magnetic Base logo sign plaques on the truck - sharp!

KAPS 4 KIDS Report –

Al Singleman updated our efforts in this area:

- At the USSVI website, The USSVI

KAPS 4 KIDS Program Chairman has posted bulletins on what to do when we as a base visit the kids at Albany Medical Center. Al tells us that USSVI is ordering more of the blue and pink KAPS. The novel [And the Baker's Boy Went to Sea](#) has proven to be such a popular handout item that we have sent in our order for ten more cases of the novel to distribute during future KAPS 4 KIDS events.

Veterans History project - Base Chaplain – (Base Historian) – so the story goes, we need YOUR life history. Do yours on line at our base website! The VA Hospital Ditty Bag locker is also in need of any useful toiletry and clothing donations.

Binnacle List: If you know of anyone who should be on the Binnacle List, email Jim Irwin.

District 5 Conference - Southern Tier NY Base is hosting the D5 conference on October 15-16 (Friday & Saturday) at the Comfort Inn, Front Street, Binghamton. The cost is reasonable! See Jim Irwin for the details.

Sea Daddy program – If you have a list of base member names to contact, please find the time to get in touch... see how they are doing...extend an invite to the next base meeting – we'll arrange the transportation!

NEW BUSINESS

Base Banner - The base still needs a new banner with the USSVI logo and the

Albany-Saratoga base name. The base now has two sets of magnetic plaques with the USSVI – Albany-Saratoga base logo.

Facebook – USSVI National is now on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com and create a Facebook account. Then “search” for USSVI or USSVI Albany Saratoga.

•**Base website news** – the base website is up to date! The website address is: www.albanysaratogasubvets.com

• **Foundation update** – Al Singleman reported the memorial continues on a holding pattern pending resolution of the site land plot ownership issue. The village is negotiating with the US Post Office. The foundation website is now being targeted for late October.

Storekeeper – let Diane know when you would like to order caps, shirts, vests, etc. *Diane is now taking orders for the 2011 USSVI Calendar.*

New Submarine CD's – Check out our base library inventory on submarine DVD's. Next time you come to a base meeting on West Avenue, take a look!

2010 Robert Link award was presented by the USSVI National Junior Vice Commander, Al Singleman, to our very own Jim Irwin, for his work as a Base and Eastern District 5 Commander, and for his support of the USS Croaker Memorial museum submarine in Buffalo.

USS Croaker Memorial – action on a Buffalo trip has been tabled until next spring. We will start planning in January 2011. In case you didn't know, *Croaker* was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) on 12 September 2008.

50/50 raffle – and the winner was – Tom Glenn! (Sorry Harry...) Half to Kapps4Kids, of course.

Base float – skirt banner: proposal: each member contribute one ship's patch for the boat(s) he served on. The patches would be the same size as used on ship's jackets. Each will be attached to the banner. An email will be issued spelling out the details.

USSVI Albany Saratoga Base vehicle magnetic stickers – the base now has two sets.

Navy Ball - The date for the annual Navy Ball is Saturday 15 October at the Saratoga Hilton. Tickets can be purchased from NPTU: ETC May 884-3206, ET1 Geiger 884-3207, EM1 Trembley 884-3382, MM1 Moser 884-3044, YNC Hipple 884-3294, Medical: HM2 Allen 583-5300, NSA: Sue Bone 886-0200 ext 104. Food choices are Prime Rib, Chicken Madeira, and Pasta Prima Vera. Tickets are \$40 each; you can also pay at the door.

New Base Junior Vice Commander - Al Singleman nominated Al McGuire to fill the open position of Albany-Saratoga Base Junior Vice Commander. Base Treasurer Randy Stein seconded the

nomination. The nomination was approved by all members present.

At 1600 hours, CDR Bailey stated he would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Al McGuire so motioned, (seconded by Fritz Feldhaus). All hands recited the creed. CDR Bailey then adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: Wed 20 October 2010

Submitted:

Fritz Feldhaus - Base Secretary