



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 **17 February 2010** meeting

CDR Bailey called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was made. The Base Chaplain Tolded the Boats for the month of February. Special note was made of the recent passing (11 February 2010) of Tracy Bydairk, the son of former base CDR Walt Bydairk who went on Eternal Patrol last December. Jim Irwin noted that the Bydairk family expressed their deep appreciation that some of our base members attended Tracy's wake on Saturday 13 February 2010.

Members present introduced themselves, qualification date and boat(s) served on.

New member (unable to attend tonight's meeting) to join: Robert Shaw, age: 86, currently a member of Hudson Valley Base. Shaw had not completed submarine qualification when WW II ended; therefore he can join only as an Associate member.

Secretary verified quorum present. January's minutes were previously distributed by email and US mail; a motion was made and carried to accept the minutes as distributed. Muster was taken and recorded.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented the Treasurer's Report for February 2010. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Base Bylaw changes - Jim Irwin noted that two changes (proposed at a previous meeting) remain to be acted upon. First, the current Base Bylaws do not permit Associate members to be appointed to fill either the Secretary or the Treasurer positions; the proposed change eliminates this restriction. Second, USSVI National Bylaws do not permit honorary members. Our Base Bylaws need to be brought in line with this National requirement. In each case, a motion was made and carried to make the necessary changes.

Kapps4kids – no change in status to report.

Subase Groton trip – Jim Irwin reported that he now has 45 names signed up for the April trip. Only seven empty seats left to fill.

Veteran History project - Base Chaplain – (Base Historian) – noted that of 95 base members on our current roster, only 14 have provided life histories. None of the five members who passed last year had life histories on file. Questionnaires are available and on hand tonight. Eventually, once the base website is up and running, you will be able to fill out these forms on line. Until then, please submit your life stories on paper. And while you're at it, don't forget to include a personal photo.

District 5 Conference is to be held this fall in Binghamton Oct 15 –17. Contact Jim Irwin if you are interested in attending.

Sea Daddy program – need to reach out and touch someone – if you have a list of base member names to contact, please find the time to get in touch and see how they are doing – extend an invitation to attend the next base meeting – we'll arrange transportation if needed!

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Day parade – CDR Bailey reported that he had accepted the Veterans of Lansingburg's invitation for us to march in their Memorial Day Parade on 31 May 2010.

Parade route - 123rd St and 5th Ave south to 115th St and 5th Ave, turn down 115th St to 2nd Ave, then north on 2nd Ave to 121st St.

Organizations must be in position by 1015 hrs. Lineup post will be referred by local newspaper announcements, as the date approaches. For the last two years, our lineup post has been at 125th St between 5th and 6th Ave.

Tom Glenn pointed out that everyone should be carrying a small flag when the parade begins – if only to place it in the waiting hand of a young child watching the parade from the side of the street. Picture the face that lights up now that there is a flag in hand to wave as the rest of the parade goes by. Several base members set about firming up plans to identify and locate a supply source to stock up on these flags at reasonable cost. A motion was made and carried to purchase a ready supply of these flags.

The base needs a new banner with the USSVI logo and the Albany-Saratoga name. Jim Irwin said he could obtain a 4'x 3' banner printed on both sides for \$65. Walt Forney stated he could have one made at reasonable cost and have it delivered within a week of placing the order. The base also needs a new flag holder and pole.

National Award Nominations – (2nd call posted on 18 Feb 2010) - are now being accepted through 30 April 2010 (except Newsletter Award: closing date is 15 May 2010). View details concerning these Awards at the USSVI website (ussvi.org). Check it out!

Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2009 – for veterans enrolled in VA health care whose outside insurance had only covered part of the cost of emergency treatment, this new law enables the VA to reimburse veterans for the remaining cost. Prescription drug costs are covered but income/asset limitations (\$42,000) mean few will qualify for this benefit.

2010 USSVI Scholarship Grant Program – if your grandchild is planning on attending college in the fall of this year, give this program a shot. Download the application and check it out.

Binnacle List – Base member Fred Miller is on the USSVI Binnacle List, recovering from a 2nd back surgery operation. He would appreciate cards. If you know of someone who should be placed on the Binnacle List, send an email to Jim Irwin.

Facebook – USSVI National is now on Facebook. CDR Bailey stated we are looking for a volunteer to get us listed. Tim Frederickson stepped up – more on this at the next meeting.

Storekeeper – Diane pointed out that she is ready available to take orders for caps, shirts, etc. Once up and running, our new website will include storekeeper access.

Base website - Randy Stein stated that the front page of our current website is up to date, including the date for tonight's meeting. Al Singleman made a motion for the base to foot the bill for the new version of Front Page, i.e., Microsoft Expression Web 3 to edit the base web page. Motion seconded by John Christopher; approved unanimously.

New Submarine CD's – Walt Taylor has added several new CD's to our base library: (1) Sea Hunter: the Search for Early Submarines, (2) Submarine Operations – WW II Pacific Theater, (3) Atlantic Submarines, (4) Virginia Class – Hidden Hunters.

USS Croaker Memorial – update: Their summer meeting is scheduled for 1 Aug 2010. We will consider planning a trip to Buffalo; for those interested, the trip would be an overnigher. Our base is currently paying down the \$500 that we contributed to the Croaker memorial.

50/50 raffle – and the winner was - Walt Forney! At \$32.50.

Albany Saratoga Memorial Foundation – status report given by Al Singleman. The Ballston Spa Village Mayor has agreed in principle to establish a New York State Submariners Memorial in the Ballston Spa veterans' memorial area located on Lowe Street between the Village library and the US Post Office. A full-scale poster board replica of the 4'x7' memorial was shown. Over 450 names will be engraved in ½ inch white lettering on the 8" thick black granite slab. We will be sending a notice to all New York State Sub Vets bases requesting their assistance in identifying whether any other names need to be added to the original list researched by our past shipmate Bob Ondek. Singleman outlined the long-range plan for the memorial. Phase I is the memorial just described. Phase II will add the brick pavers oval that will have one brick for each of the 65 Lost Boats, and Phase III will add a model of USS Albany SSN 753 (Los Angeles class) submarine. The public will be invited to buy memorial bricks for a memorial walkway that will be laid out in an elongated "S" between Lowe Street and Milton Avenue.

VA Hospital in Albany – The base chaplain pointed out that the purpose of the large cardboard box that she brought to this meeting is to be used to ferry ditty bag stuff and other useful toiletry and clothing donations to the veterans in need at the VA hospital. Need to fill it up!

All hands recited the creed; CDR Bailey then adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday 17 March 2010