

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 20 January 2010

As outgoing base CDR, Al Singleman called the meeting to order at 1910 hours.

The first order of business was to conduct the base change of command. The following new officers were sworn in:

Base CDR - Robert Bailey

Senior Vice CDR - John Christopher

Treasurer - Randall Stein

Secretary - Fritz Feldhaus

Chaplain Irwin gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was made by all members. The Chaplain Tolloed the Boats for the month of January. Each member introduced himself and the ships served on. The base recognizes WW II member Roland Mitchell (not present) as the only WW II base member currently left on the roster.

Three new members introduced themselves and the ships on which they initially qualified:

* **Tom Flanders (Grouper AGSS-214)**

* **Bruce Talbot (Puffer SSN-652)**

* **Tim Frederickson (Tucson SSN-770)**

The motion to accept the minutes for December 2009 (issued and sent 14 January 2010) was made by Tom Kelly and seconded by Bill Preece.

Fred Carlson (outgoing Treasurer) delivered his final base Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2009 (cc provided to the incoming Treasurer). A motion was made and seconded Al Singleman, Bill Preece) and carried to accept the December 2009 Treasurer's Report.

Al Singleman stated the Memorial will be located on Low Street in the Village of Ballston Spa. A meeting is scheduled next week to finalize the details with John Romano, the Mayor of Ballston Spa, along with key representatives of the local VFW and American Legion organizations already represented at this location. A photo of the park grounds located between the village library and United States Post Office was presented for information. Current planning is to contract with LaBrake Memorials to design a black granite slab memorializing the 450+ New York submariners on permanent patrol with each name permanently engraved in white lettering. Ideas were brainstormed for arranging timely publicity for the construction and dedication of the memorial, including detailed articles in such publications as Our Towne (Ballston Spa, Saratoga), Daily Gazette, Saratogian, Ballston Journal, et al. A prerequisite for publication is to finalize the details of the design - to this end, a Foundation meeting was proposed and promptly arranged. Al Singleman volunteered to host the meeting at his home; the initial meeting was scheduled for Saturday 30 January, 2010. All interested members were invited to attend.

Christmas Dinner - Base members voted to recognize the outstanding dinner put on by our very own master chef, Tom Ondek. To this end, a heartfelt Thank You card from the base will be sent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Past Due Dues! 31 January is the cutoff date for annual national dues; there is no grace period. To miss this date is to be automatically dropped from the National membership. Nuff said.

KAPPS FOR KIDS - last done 17 September, 2009. Looking for volunteers for a follow-on visit.

Subbase New London - Groton bus trip. 15 have signed up; deadline minimum is 40 names. Opportune time is now to make this trip.

Personal History - get r' done! See the base Chaplain Janet Irwin for the forms.

The base 50/50 raffle went to the new installed Base Secretary! Sorry, Harry!

NEW BUSINESS

Things we are agreed to move forward on: the memorial, recruiting, bus trips.

Base Storekeeper - Diane is your point of contact for vests, shirts, hats, USSVI patches, pins, web belts, buckles with Dolphins.

District 5 meeting - tentatively scheduled - Friday thru Sunday, 15 - 17 October, 2010 in Binghamton at the Comfort Inn right off I-81. Current cost projections include a \$10 registration fee, room/day \$75 (Fri & Sat nights), box lunch \$12, catered buffet Saturday evening \$20, Comfort Inn room includes free breakfast. Extras so far include an American Legion room (<3 miles from hotel) donated at no cost to us; hotel hospitality/conference room (40 person capacity) - provided at no cost by hotel - will be used to host Saturday's box luncheon. Never been to Binghamton? Here is a prime opportunity! If this piques your interest, let the base CDR know quickly as prompt action is needed to nail down accommodations at these prices.

USSVI National Convention - find out if Cincinnati Reds are in town that week!

VA Hospital - calling for overnight bag stuff: sneakers, slippers, reading glasses

Base support of area parades - need information/follow-up on Ballston Spa: Memorial Day; Albany: Veterans Day. Last year we supported Schuylerville (Turning Point Parade), Lansingburg Flag Day, Saratoga Springs Flag Day and Memorial Day. With our Memorial now beginning to look within reach, the base needs to make its presence seen and heard now more than ever.

Sea Daddy program set up by Al Singleman - looking to follow through on reaching out to base members on a personal basis - just to let them know we really do care.

The motion was made (Fred Carlson) to adjourn the meeting and seconded (Jim Irwin). The creed was recited and the meeting was then adjourned.

Our next meeting: 17 February 2010 at 1900

Submitted by Albany/Saratoga Base Secretary

Fritz Feldhaus, LCDR USN RET