

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: April 2nd, 2025

The April meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Jim Cree at 1900 with 24 Base Members present and one guest.

- The Base muster list was made available by the Base Secretary.
- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chief of the Boat Mike Lynett.
- The Base Chaplain Janet Irwin read the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of April.
- The Base Chaplain remembered John Cook, a fellow base member who departed on eternal patrol on March 10th, 2025.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Secretary's report

- Update to the date for the Malta Parade. It **is not** on Armed Forces Day as usual due to a conflict. **The Malta Parade will be on May 10th**, which is a week earlier than usual. The event list at the end of the minutes has been updated.
- The USSVI Scholarship Program through the Charitable Foundation closes on 5/19/25 for the next school year. Remind those kids/grandkids to get the application in! Link is in the correspondence section below.
- If you desire to nominate someone for a National award, nominations are due by 4/30/25. See the manual on the USSVI site for more information.
<https://ussubvets.org/Documents.asp?Type=Manuals>
- The USS CROAKER is having the annual working party from May 5th – 9th. Space will be available on LITTLE ROCK again for anyone who needs accommodations. Contact Tim Gregory at timgregory637@gmail.com or by phone at 716-289-8304 with your name and contact info to participate or if you have any questions.

Treasurers report – was read.

New Business

- Details have been finalized for the 25th Anniversary Dinner. SVC Jim Cree was hoping for a larger turnout. So far 24 members have expressed intent to attend. Jim asked if there were any ideas to get more people out to events or boost membership.
 - Mr. Combs, guest of Andy Bodien, discussed the Peer to Peer program. Perhaps some members could attend some of their events and meet fellow submariners who might be interested in our organization.

- Another idea was looking to see if the Saratoga NEX/Commissary had a bulletin board we could post a flyer on.
 - Al Singleman discussed his view after experiencing the issue over many years in the organization. He mentioned the need to keep members busy outside of the monthly meetings. He mentioned the importance of just wearing the Base hat or any boat hat to generate conversations with fellow submariners, or have cards to pass out when you meet people and mentioned the importance of connecting with other organizations and people.
 - Janet Irwin mentioned we are doing well considering. She feels half the members of the Base are members for the license plate only. So with almost 25 members at a meeting, that is really almost half. She is happy to have many people come for the wreath laying at the cemetery and to the tolling of the boats. She also mentioned the importance of showing up to the Wake's of members when they pass away. We only had 5 members at the last Wake.
 - Mr. Combs also mentioned that Peer to Peer can fund other local groups events, perhaps something we could look in to further.
 - Butch McCabe mentioned the Times Union has a weekly spotlight/promotion section called "Duty Calls", which is free. We could look at some sort of advertisement there.
- Jim Cree asked about Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) status. Jerry Whitehead was not present, so no update available on that. Post Meeting Note: Jerry confirmed Albany Med is still not an option, and will focus more on trying to get into the Hole in the Woods in the future.
 - Jim Cree asked if anyone was interested in doing a flyer. John Mishoe stated he knows a person who is a graphic designer and could talk to them about possibly assisting if we have an idea of what we might want.
 - Randy Stein discussed the program the Charitable Foundation started to provide free Wills for USSVI members. <https://www.mylegacywill.com/ussvcf>
 - Jim Irwin provided an update on the 25th Anniversary Dinner:
 - Jim and Janet stopped by Augie's to check which room we will have. Our assigned area for the evening will depend on our final head count. Also, there is another group event that evening.
 - Entree's will be Chicken Parmigiana, Eggplant Parmigiana, and the Kitchen Sink. Entrée's will be served family style and each table will have all three at the table. Salad will also be available. Beer/House Wine/Soda/Dessert are also included.
 - The event will start at 1800
 - Opening remarks by the Base Commander at 1830 and then a prayer by the Chaplain.
 - Dinner will be served ~1845.

- Cost is \$40 per person and is due by May 1st
- If you still need to pay, send a check, payable to **Albany-Saratoga Base, USSVI** to Jim's home address:

James Irwin
1557 Crescent Rd.
Clifton Park, NY 12065

- Jim Irwin discussed changes to enter the American Legion starting next month. The Legion is upgrading their security system, and we will need to enter through the front door, not the back door as usual.
- Our usual person at the Legion to deliver chairs to the Tolling of the Bells is not available this year. More to follow next month as we finalize the details for the tolling of the boats.
- The 50/50 drawing was held, and the prize was won by Al Singleman.
- The Base Chaplain delivered the Benediction
- The USSVI Creed was recited.
- The next meeting will be held on May 7th and will begin at 1900.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2005.

Upcoming Events

- 4/24 at 1400 – RPI NROTC Awards Ceremony at the Armory
- 5/9 at 0915 – RPI NROTC Spring Commissioning Ceremony at Hanger 743
- **5/10 – Malta Armed Forces Day Parade (Updated date)** Park at Community Center, meet at Town Hall at 0930. Parade starts at 1005
- 5/16 at **1800** – 25th Base Anniversary Dinner at Augie's in Ballston Spa
- 5/24 – Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade
- 5/26 – Glens Falls Memorial Day Parade
- 6/7 – Tolling of the Boats
- 6/14 – Saratoga Springs Flag Day Parade
- 7/4 – Clifton Park Independence Day Parade
- 8/2 – Schuylerville Turning Point Parade
- 8/31 to 9/6 – 2025 USSVI Convention in Orlando, FL
- 9/13 – Base Picnic at the American Legion (Tentative Date)
- 12/3 – Base Meeting and Holiday Potluck at the American Legion
- 12/6 – Wreath laying at Saratoga National Cemetery

Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- Scholarship Information
 - USSVI Charitable Foundation Scholarship applications are open 10/31/24 thru **5/19/25**
<https://www.ussvcf.org/scholarship-application.html>
- 2025 Calendars
 - \$14.00 from the Base Storekeeper Jim “Fuzzy” Marshall
 - \$18.38 plus shipping from National Storekeeper:
https://store.ussvinationalstorekeeper.com/merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=USSVINSK&Category_Code=Calendars
- 2025 Convention– Orlando Florida – 8/31/2025 to 9/6/2025. Room rate \$120.00
<https://subvetconvention.org/>
- Please consider purchasing a brick paver for our Memorial.
<https://www.subvetmemorial.com/buy-a-brick.htm>
- Please fill out a Sub Vet history report – see the Base Chaplain or forms are available on the Base website.
<https://www.albany-saratogasubvets.com/pdfs/Subvet%20History%20Report.pdf>

Submitted by: Kurt Daniels
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary
Pride Runs Deep - Shoot First!!!
End Report.