

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: June 1st, 2026

The June meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Jim Cree at 1900 with 20 Base Members present and 1 guest.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Base Secretary Kurt Daniels.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin read the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of June.
- The meeting was paused to give those in attendance the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the basket of scratch-offs the base donated to the American Legion fundraiser.
- Base members introduced themselves.
- The base welcomed a guest, Tom Fueston. Tom qualified on USS MARIANO G VALLEJO (SSBN-658) and did a tour at NPTU Ballston Spa.

Secretary's report

- National Officer elections are starting soon, opening June 19th and will run through September 4th. Voting will be available online at ussubvets.org or there is a ballot in the American Submariner that can be mailed in.

Treasurer's report

- Was read

Business

- Jim Cree thanked all who came out to support the events in May. There were many with three parades, RPI commissioning, and an NPTU graduation.
- Logistics specifics for the Tolling of the Boats on June 6th were discussed.
- The Saratoga Flag Day parade is on Saturday June 13th, at 1200. Jim 'Fuzzy' Marshall will pull the float. Lineup location should be received soon and will be provided before the parade.
- The base received a new request for a parade from Jim Stevens. The parade is in Granville, NY to commemorate America's 250th. The parade will start at 1100. Granville is about an hour northeast of Ballston Spa right on the NY/VT border. There were a few members who could likely support. The minimum to tow the float and carry the banner is 3. Bernie Landers asked if there could be a carpool. Jason Vilander offered to give rides to folks from the park and ride at exit 18 if needed. We resolved to discuss it again at the July meeting and see if we have enough support. Jim Stevens is on the parade committee so there is really no deadline to make a decision on if we can make it or not.
- Jason Vilander gave a synopsis of the work done on the CROAKER working party this year and the overall experience.

- Jim Irwin reported the Base's parade application for the Clifton Park 4th of July parade was approved.
- Jim Irwin thanked those who came out to help clean the Submarine Memorial on May 30th. Present were Jim and Janet Irwin, Jim Cree, Steve Cipperly, Shafer Gaston, and Kurt Daniels
- Jerry Whitehead updated the group that Albany Med will still not allow visitors near cancer patients for Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) and he is still working on another solution.
- Randy Stein shared that his wheelchair accessible mini-van was totaled while it was in for servicing at Armory Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. Randy has been unable to get acceptable compensation from insurance or the dealership to obtain a new van. He is looking into getting assistance from a local news channel help his cause.

The 50/50 drawing was held and the drawing was won by Tom Kirbey.

The next meeting will be on July 1st and will begin at 1900.

The meeting adjourned at 1958.

Upcoming Events:

- 04 July - Clifton Park 4th of July Parade at 1200
- 11 July – Granville 250th Celebration Parade at 1100
- 27 July – NPTU Class 2506 graduation
- 02 August - Schuylerville Turning Point Parade at 1300
- 06-11 September - USSVI National Convention
- 12 September – Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Military Parade
- 25 September – NPTU Class 2507 graduation
- 26 September - Base Picnic
- 20 November – NPTU Class 2601 graduation
- 02 December - Base Holiday Potluck
- 05 December - National Cemetery Wreath Laying
- 22 January – NPTU Class 2602 graduation

Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- 2026 National Convention:
 - Corpus Christi, TX at the Omni Hotel
 - September 6-11, 2026
 - <https://subvetconvention.org/>
- USSVI Charitable Foundation 125th Submarine Anniversary Commemorative Coin
<https://www.ussvcf.org/commemorative-coin>
- USSVI Charitable Foundation's service to provide free wills for USSVI members.
<https://www.mylegacywill.com/ussvcf>
- 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. Forms are also available on the Base website.
<https://www.albanysaratogasubvets.com/pdfs/Subvet%20History%20Report.pdf>

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