

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: February 4th, 2026

The February meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Jim Cree at 1902 with 16 Base Members present.

- 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 February.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Celeste Cornell (Jack Cornell's widow, Jack departed on eternal patrol 6/15/20) brought memorabilia to donate to the base from her late husband's 34.5-year submarine career. Jack Cornell was a Master Chief who retired from NPTU at the Kesselring Site and served as Command Master Chief. Celeste also mentioned she brought three submarine pictures from 1912 belonging to Jack's uncle who graduated from sub school that year. She would like to share them with the Base and has also been looking for a museum to donate them to. Suggestions included the Military Museum in Saratoga and the Museum at the Base in Groton. Celeste said she would bring the pictures in before the next meeting for anyone to view.

Jim Irwin conducted the swearing in of incoming elected base officers who were present.

Base Commander – Jim Cree
Base Secretary – Kurt Daniels
Base Treasurer – Tom Kirbey

Still to be sworn in are electee's Jason Vilander (Senior Vice) and Andy Bodien (Junior Vice)

Treasurer's report

- was read

Secretary's report

- Randy Stein asked me to pass information about a Veteran History Project sponsored by the Library of Congress. They are looking to create video stories from veterans and spouses. See attached flyer at the end of the minutes.
- The petition to name a submarine after Henry Breault is still floating around, here is the link to sign the petition if interested. [Henry Breault petition](#)

New Business

- NPTU Class 2503 Graduation was on 6 February.
- NPTU Change of Command occurred on 12 February. Captain LeAndra Kissinger relieved Captain James Diefenderfer

- The Saratoga Flag Day parade has been cancelled for this year due to lack of groups for the parade and challenges with getting enough volunteers to run the parade.
- There was a request for us to support a new parade in September at Hudson Falls. It would fall on 12 September, the second Saturday in September, which is typically the weekend we have the Base picnic. Jim Irwin also mentioned the National Convention would be wrapping up the day before and personnel who attended would likely be travelling. We will tell the person organizing we should be able to attend the parade. We'll keep in touch with the organizer and see if it actually gets scheduled or not.
- Jim Irwin provided some updates:
 - USS ALBANY will be changing homeports in the near future but we don't know where the boat will be going yet. Jim will be meeting up with the boat's leadership soon and will be presenting them with Base coins and patches.
 - The ships at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park will be getting an overhaul in the future. The park received a second grant of \$860K to fund the overhaul of THE SULLIVANS and CROAKER.
 - Jim mentioned he got a letter from Harry Terzian to contact Harry's son. Jim has tried to contact Harry's son but has not received a call back yet. (Harry is a base Plankowner)
- Al Singleman provided an update on Base Member Tom Glenn. Al reports that Tom doesn't get out much anymore but is doing well. Tom was instrumental in the submarine memorial, particularly in securing the land from the USPS for the Village of Ballston Spa. Tom wrote a great history of the whole project [here](#).
- Mike Lynett asked how the float was doing. The float remains at John Mishoe's property. However, we still need to find a long-term solution for storage.

Old Business

- If you still need to pay dues, pay them ASAP, **especially if you have Subvet license plates because if you are not a member of a NY base you will lose your plates:**
 - Annual National Dues: 40\$ (3 Yr term \$113, 5 Yr term \$185)
 - Annual Base Dues: 15\$ (You can pay for up to 5 years at once, if desired)
 - Make checks payable to: Albany Saratoga Subvets
 - **Send one check** with National/Base dues total and the Base Treasurer will ensure dues get sent to National.
 - If you need to check status of your dues send an email to the Base Treasurer at tkirbey@nycap.rr.com
 - Send payment to the Base Treasurer:
 - Tom Kirbey
 - 12 S. Jordan Drive
 - Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

The 50/50 drawing was held, and the prize was not won by Steve Cipperly due to being on Zoom, the drawing was instead won by Adam Mainville.

The next meeting will be on March 4th and will begin at **1900**.

The meeting adjourned around 2000.

Upcoming Events:

- 03 April - NPTU Class 2504 graduation
- TBD - RPI NROTC Awards Ceremony
- TBD - RPI Commissioning Ceremony
- 09 May - Malta Military Veterans & First Responders Parade
- 23 May - Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony
- 25 May - Glens Falls Memorial Day Parade
- 29 May – NPTU Class 2505 graduation
- TBD - Tolling of the Boats
- 04 July - Clifton Park 4th of July Parade
- 27 July – NPTU Class 2506 graduation
- TBD - Schuylerville Turning Point Parade
- 06-11 September - USSVI National Convention
- 12 September – ****Possible event**** Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Military Parade
- TBD - Base Picnic
- 02 December - Base Holiday Potluck
- TBD - National Cemetery Wreath Laying

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.

Seeking SubVets and SubVet spouses who wish to share their stories!

SubVet stories will be collected by video either in person or via Zoom and sent to the Library of Congress as part of their Veterans History Project. Additionally, soon we will be including links to these interviews through the USSVCF website.

Everyone – SubVets and SubVet spouses- has incredible, heartwarming, heart-stopping, educational, and otherwise entertaining stories from when they first donned the uniform to when they returned to civilian life. Please consider sharing your story today.

Contact Jessica Hult email at pr@ussvcf.org to set up your interview appointment today.

Your story matters, and her story matters too!

