

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
 Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
 Meeting Date: October 2nd, 2024

The October meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Senior Vice Commander (SVC) Jim Cree at 1900 with 20 Base Members present.

- 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 read the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of October.

Secretary's Report –

- The address to send dues is as follows:
 - Tom Kirbey
 12 Jordan Drive S
 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Treasurers report – was read.

Old Business

- Al Singleman asked if Base dues were still \$15.00 a year. **The Base dues are staying the same at \$15.00 a year**, the National dues are the ones going up starting January 2025.
- National Rates table from last month:

USSVI Annual & Lifetime Dues Table			
USSVI National Dues	Years Renewed / Age at Lifetime	Current Dues until 12/31/2024	Revised Dues as of 01/01/2025
Annual Dues	1 Year	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00
	Oct-Dec & Next Year	\$ 35.00	\$ 47.00
	3 Years	\$ 85.00	\$ 113.00
	5 Years	\$ 140.00	\$ 185.00
Lifetime Dues	76+ Years	\$ 120.00	\$ 150.00
	66 -75 Years	\$ 240.00	\$ 300.00
	56 - 65 Years	\$ 360.00	\$ 450.00
	46 - 55 Years	\$ 500.00	\$ 625.00
	Up to 45 Years	\$ 600.00	\$ 750.00

New Business

- Randy mentioned there have been some inquiries about calendars. The 2025 calendars are available from the National USSVI Storekeepers website, and from the USSVI Charitable Foundation. It's a bit less expensive if you get them from the Charitable Foundation.
 - \$18.38 plus shipping from National Storekeeper:
https://store.ussvinationalstorekeeper.com/merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=USSVINSK&Category_Code=Calendars
 - \$13.01 with shipping if you chose to cover credit card processing fee, \$12.00 if you don't cover credit card processing fee from Charitable Foundation.
<https://www.ussvcf.org/> Then click on "PURCHASE A 2025 SUBMARINE CALENDAR" link
- Al Singleman will be passing down info/storekeeper items he has to Jim Marshall so Jim can get up and running as the new Base Storekeeper.
- Andy Bodien mentioned the start of scholarship application season is upon us.
 - Dolphin Scholarship Foundation applications are open 10/1/24 thru 3/15/25
<https://www.dolphinscholarship.org/scholarships/>
 - USSVI Charitable Foundation Scholarship applications are open 10/31/24 thru 5/19/25
<https://www.ussvcf.org/scholarship-application.html>
- Jim Irwin notes:
 - USS ALBANY returned from deployment in early August and contacted Jim to let him know there were 32 newly qualified submariners from deployment. Jim got certificates and letters shipped down to Norfolk for the boat to present the sailors at quarters on the pier.
 - Jim is corresponding with the USS ALBANY COB to determine if they will have a namesake visit soon.
 - Jim discussed the 25th anniversary of the Base coming up in May. He looked at another location in Clifton Park but it isn't handicapped accessible. He mentioned we should have a slide show with photos of the Base's activities over the last 25 years which he summarized for us. Also, we should pull the trigger soon on a location as May is graduation season and we may have a hard time finding a venue the longer we wait.
 - Jason Vilander donated \$45 dollars of his 50/50 from the September picnic to the Holland Club, thanks Jason! The rest of the 50/50 went to tip the Legion's bartender.
- Al Singleman supported the 25th anniversary get-together at Augies as well as doing a slideshow.

- We will make a decision about the 25th Anniversary at the November meeting.
- This year's holiday Potluck will be at the meeting on Wednesday, December 4th. There is a new Google sheets signup, see link below, or just send me an email with your info and I'll enter it.
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1v8lzWwOsS5Eg2SF7ht5C64Fb0nGY0c8GnHjdBOWyDNY/edit?usp=sharing>
- The wreath laying at the G.B.H. Solomon National Cemetery will be Saturday, December 7th at 1100. Jim Irwin will be taking wreath orders at the November meeting. Janet discussed the importance of the event.
 - Wreaths are purchased by the Base for the Base members on Eternal Patrol.
 - If you desire a wreath to place for someone else, you must pick it up the day of the wreath laying.
- Randy Stein reminded us to fill out the history form (link below) so if you depart on Eternal Patrol, we have something to say about you when placing your wreath.
- Andy Bodien mentioned the Wreaths Across America event is the following Saturday, on December 14th.
- Jerry Whitehead discussed his boat reunion where Submarine Squadron 8 Commodore, CAPT Brian Hogan spoke. CAPT Hogan spoke of the challenges of submarine upkeep and that a fast attack periodic overhaul is now taking 3 years, a refueling is taking 5 years, and we are only building 1 new submarine a year. Also, with the AUKUS partnership up and running, 1/3 of the VA Class boats have an Aussie onboard.
- 50/50 drawing was held and the \$33 prize was won by Larry Ascenzi
- The USSVI Creed was recited.
- The next meeting will be held on November 6th and will begin at 1900.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1958.

Upcoming Base events:

- 04 December: Base Holiday Potluck at the American Legion, starts at 1830.
- 07 December: Wreath laying at Saratoga National Cemetery, start at 1100.

Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- 2025 – Orlando Florida – 9/1/2025 to 9/6/2025. Room rate \$120.00
- 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.albanysaratogasubvets.com/pdfs/Subvet%20History%20Report.pdf>

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