

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI**  
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa  
Meeting Date: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

The April meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Al Singleman at 1900 with 16 Base Members present.

- The Base muster list and March meeting minutes were made available by the Base Secretary.
- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by the Base 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 April.
- The Base Chaplain remembered the late Base Member Marv Hassell's spouse, Alice, who passed away on 26 March 2024.

**Treasurers report** – was read.

**Old Business**

- Vice Commander Jim Cree was unable to contact the delinquent members due to lack of contact information available. The Secretary will provide the sailing list to Jim to assist in his efforts.
- The Saratoga Flag Day Parade was moved due to the Belmont Stakes coming to town on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Parade was moved to July 4<sup>th</sup> with a 1700 step off. The Base is already committed to the Clifton Park July 4<sup>th</sup> parade so we will not attend the Saratoga parade.
- There were 10 people who responded they would attend a luncheon on April 11<sup>th</sup> if held. The decision was made to not hold the luncheon this year.

**New Business**

- The USS CROAKER is conducting another working party. The dates are May 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Contact Tim Gregory at [timgregory637@gmail.com](mailto:timgregory637@gmail.com) or by phone at 716 289-8304 or Ken Wojtanik at [mm1ssn615@gmail.com](mailto:mm1ssn615@gmail.com) or phone at 716 238-4937 with your name and contact info to participate or if you have any questions. Sleeping accommodations will be made on the USS LITTLE ROCK tied up next to the CROAKER. They will also need to know your shirt size so they can provide you with the correct size volunteer shirt.
  - Jerry Whitehead and Bernie Landers attended last year so they could provide some perspective to anyone who may have question.

- The District Commander is having a Base Officer Zoom call on 4/9/24 to discuss District-wide issues. They desire to know what our base does that every base should do and what National can do to better the organization for the members.
- The NY Southern Tier base has been having trouble getting personnel to take positions on the board. They are considering being absorbed by another base and becoming a satellite group. This was done at the Groton base with success. We could use Groton's by-laws as a guide to help set up the relationship, if needed. A motion was made by Jim Stevens to offer to become the parent base for Southern Tier if they desire. The motion was seconded by Butch McCabe. The motion passed with no objections.
- Janet Irwin discussed that the Honor Flight organization is looking for people to write thank you cards for the mail call portion of the Honor Flight. Janet will start bringing cards to the next and subsequent meetings. You can pick up cards to fill out and bring them back and Janet will take them to the Honor Flight people. Jim Irwin spoke about the Honor Flight process and that they are taking veterans from the Cold War Era and what a positive experience it was.
- Jim Stevens reported back the spare tire and mount was purchased for the float. Total cost was \$153.81. *POST MEETING NOTE: Jim Stevens will be looking to set a date for **field day** on the float prior to the first parade of the year. Stay tuned during the May meeting for details.*
- Jim Irwin discussed an upcoming ceremony being held by the USS ALBANY Association. The association will be dedicating restored sections of the USS ALBANY (CA-123/CG-10) bow section in the new Memorial Park. The event will be held on 11 May, 2024 at 1100 at Rensselaer Riverfront Part at Broadway and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in Rensselaer. Some details on their website here: <https://ussalbany.org/event/memorial-park-coming-soon/>
- Jim Irwin reminded all personnel that any nominations for base awards from national are due by 4/30/24. The 2024 Awards manual contains descriptions of awards and nomination templates. <https://www.ussvi.org/file/national-docs/2024-USSVI-Awards-Manual---Jan-2024.pdf>
- Base Member Kurt Semon is on the Board of Directors for the Capital Region Veterans Memorial, and they have been working on the Legacy Project. Kurt has talked with members of Subvets about this project in the past and noted part of past concern was how Cold War Submarine Veterans would be represented. On the website there is a map rendering of the final project. The map shows 8 conflict memorial areas, a reflection area, and a POW/MIA memorial area. A ninth conflict memorial area is not shown on the map but has been created on the site. It was an educational moment for the Team. This conflict is identified as "Expeditions". The

historical marker at this memorial site explains "Expeditions" and cites the service of the USS Parche (SSN 683) as an example. The ribbon cutting for the memorial was moved due to the recent winter weather, and will now occur on 18 May, 2024 at 1300. More details about this project at <https://capitalregionveteransmemorial.org/about/>

- Jim Irwin mentioned that State Representatives will declare the day of April 11<sup>th</sup>, Submarine Day in NYS again this year. The declaration will be presented at the Tolling of the Boats on 8 June, 2024.
- 50/50 drawing was held and won by Randy Stein – \$30.00
- The USSVI Creed was recited.
- The next meeting will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> and will begin at 1900. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 234.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2000.

**Upcoming Base events:**

- 24 April: RPI NROTC award ceremony. 1400 at the Armory Gym on 15<sup>th</sup> St in Troy, NY.
- 18 May: Malta Armed Forces Day Parade. Park at Community Center, meet at Town Hall at 0900. Parade starts at 1005
- 25 May: Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade. Meet at the Ocean State Job Lot parking lot. Step off at 0900.
- 27 May: Glens Falls Memorial Day Parade.
- 29 May – 1 June: Groton Base 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
- 8 June: Tolling of the Boats, Submarine Memorial at 1100
- 4 July: Clifton Park 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- 4 August: Schuylerville Turning Point Parade
- 19-24 August: USSVI National Convention in Cleveland
- September: Base Picnic
- December: Wreath laying at National Cemetery

## Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- The 2024 USSVI National Convention will be hosted by Cod Base on August 19-24 at the Embassy Suites Rockside in Independence, Ohio (Just south of Cleveland) (About a 7½ hour drive from the Capital District).  
<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.albanysaratogasubvets.com/pdfs/Subvet%20History%20Report.pdf>

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