

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: November 5th, 2025

The November meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Bill Preece at 1900 with 21 Base Members.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Base Secretary Kurt Daniels.
- The Base Chaplain Janet Irwin read the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of November.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Secretary's report

- The next meeting will be the Potluck Dinner, 12/3. Wreath laying at the cemetery will be on Saturday 12/6 at 1100. Anticipate another NPTU graduation in early December (will be on 5 December).
- [Holiday potluck signup link](#)

Treasurers report – was read.

New Business

- Jim Cree's discussed some tips on Medicare/Medicaid. Bottom line up front: you may incur penalties that have to be paid each year if you don't sign up as soon as you are eligible, depending on what other insurance coverages you may have.
 - See this page that describes Medicare late enrollment penalties.
 - <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/medicare-costs/avoid-penalties>
- Tom Krauser attended a HENRY L. STIMSON reunion in Groton, CT. The reunion included a trip to Sub School for graduation. At the ceremony the Australian National Anthem was played, and there were 15-20 Aussie's graduating with the class.
- Andy Bodien's son was present at the USS UTAH (SSN 801) commissioning ceremony on October 25th. Andy's son is a mechanical engineering intern at Electric Boat and has been working and learning about all the different valves onboard.
- Greg Miller mentioned on a visit to Groton he was able to tour the newer escape trainer and how interesting that training was.
- Elections were held for Base Officers for the next two years. The following personnel were elected and will be sworn in at the February 2026 meeting.
 - Commander – Jim Cree
 - Senior Vice Commander – Jason Vilander
 - Junior Vice Commander – Andy Bodien
 - Secretary – Kurt Daniels

- Treasurer – Tom Kirbey
- Adam Mainville volunteered to be the assistant Chaplain.
- Jim Irwin provided some updates:
 - The Legion has a meeting on the first Wednesday in January 2026 so our January meeting will not be held.
 - Jim recommended we start the December Potluck/meeting early with a 1730 setup and 1800 start since the Legion's bar tender only stays until 1900.
 - If you would like to purchase a wreath to place yourself at the cemetery you can order one for the same price as the Base will get them. You can pick it up at the cemetery. Contact Jim Irwin (subvetjim@gmail.com) to order a wreath.
 - The Doubleday Diner (formerly Rt. 50 diner) is back up and operating and is sending meals to the Men's and Women's Veterans home. They estimate the cost of the meals they provide weekly at \$75. Jim recommended we see how they do for a few more months and then consider donating some funds to cover meals.
 - Chango Elementary School is having a Veterans Meet and Greet again this year and is on November 10th. Anyone who would like to participate should be there by 0830.
 - Former associate member MaryEtta Bishop Nolan is taking command of the New York State Naval Militia and being promoted to Rear Admiral (Lower Half). MaryEtta's father, Chief Torpedoman Walter "Wally" William Bishop, was lost on the USS SCORPION. The ceremony will take place on November 21, 2025 at 1100 at the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, 330 Old Niskayuna Rd, Latham, NY 12110. Email MaryEtta directly at maryettanolan@msn.com if you desire to attend in order to be put on the access list.
- If you still need to pay dues:
 - 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 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 won by Jim "Fuzzy" Marshall. Fuzzy donated \$70 of his winnings back to the Base.
- The next meeting will be on December 3rd and will begin at **1800**. (Potluck setup will start at 1730)
- The meeting adjourned at 2005.

Upcoming Events

- 12/3 – Base Meeting and Holiday Potluck at the American Legion
- **12/5 – NPTU Class 2502 graduation. (Expect it will be at 1000 at the NSA Saratoga Springs MWR Fieldhouse again, but still need to verify start time and venue)**
- 12/6 – Wreath laying at Saratoga National Cemetery, 1100 start time, meet outside the Public Information Center.

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.