

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI**  
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa  
Meeting Date: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The March meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Al Singleman at 1858 with 23 Base Members present and 2 guests.

- The Base muster list and February meeting minutes were made available by the Base Secretary.
- 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 March.
- The Base Chaplain remembered Base Member Alfred McGuire who departed on eternal patrol 15 February 2024.
- Treasurers report was read.

**Old Business**

- Jim Stevens reported a spare tire and mounting bracket for the float would cost \$146.82. This would cover the tire/wheel from Tractor Supply and a mounting bracket from Harbor Freight. Ron Barrett made a motion to complete the purchase. Jim Cree seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

**New Business**

- The Base Commander (BC) announced the Junior Vice Commander, Shafer Gaston, had resigned his post. BC Al Singleman appointed Jim Cree as the new Junior Vice Commander and was sworn in.
- The USSVI insurance policy was discussed and how it covers us during parades and gatherings. There was a question on if we were current in payments to National for the policy. Tom Kirby and Randy Stein believed we were paid up due to paying for multiple years. BC Al Singleman to make some calls to determine status.
- The Base will be continuing our sponsorship of sending the American Submariner magazine to the USS Albany and NPTU Ballston Spa.
- A discussion of the Holland Club was held and how the Base usually donates to help

the Club with materials and shipping costs for the current years Holland Club inductees. BC Al Singleman recommended the Base donate \$100 to the Holland Club. Don Kline made a motion to donate \$100 to the Holland Club. Jim Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objection.

- Jim Irwin discussed there were some prospective Holland Club members who had not paid dues and we should determine if they would be re-joining or not. Treasurer Tom Kirbey reviewed the list from December of outstanding dues and updated it. Jr Vice Jim Cree will contact those with outstanding dues to see if they will be re-joining.
- Donations to the Rt 50 Diner were discussed to assist in their meals to the Men's and Women's Veterans Shelter. The discussion resulted in resolving to donate twice a year. A motion was made to donate \$150 to the Rt 50 Diner by Jim Cree. Rocky Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.
- Jim Stevens mentioned he would be driving the float this year but was looking for a second person to assist. Jim Marshall volunteered to help.
- BC Al Singleman discussed a video with information recently declassified about the USS THRESHER. The video features CAPT Jim Bryant speaking and is titled "Declassifying the Fate of USS THRESHER"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oVKp8ynsmA>
- BC Al Singleman discussed 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 9:00 AM. Parade starts at 10:05 AM
  - 25 May: Ballston Spa Memorial Day Parade.
  - 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 11:00 AM
  - 15 June: Saratoga Flag Day Parade (Maybe)
  - 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
- Last year the Base had a luncheon on April 11<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the Submarine Force birthday. A question was posed to the floor if there was interest in organizing this event, with no response. Secretary Kurt Daniels will send an email to gauge interest to determine if the luncheon will be held. A one question survey was created and emailed to Base Members. Survey located at the following link. <https://forms.gle/SmQbQZDuR9jJdXpF7>
  - BC Al Singleman mentioned that on March 8<sup>th</sup> it will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of when TM2 Henry Breault received the Medal of Honor for his actions when USS O-5 (SS 68) sank after a collision on 28 October 1923.
  - BC Al Singleman read a thank you card from the American Legion bartender who assisted us during the December holiday party. She thanked us for the generous tip.
  - The floor was opened for sea stories:
    - Don Kline met a couple at a funeral who mentioned their grandson was underway on his submarine for the first time. Turns out their grandson is on the USS ALBANY. (Hooyah! Still making history!)
    - Jerry Whitehead reminisced about CP-1 and how hard it was to open MS-1 and MS-2 back in the day.
    - Guest Carl Jump recalled when on the USS BLENNY (SS 324) he pulled his service weapon on a gentleman who barged aboard without conducting the proper customs and courtesies with the POOD. When the Duty Officer came topside, he realized the gentleman was ADM Rickover!
  - 50/50 drawing was held and won by Tom Krauser – \$35.00. Tom donated his winnings to Kaps4Kids.
  - The USSVI Creed was recited.
  - The next meeting will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will begin at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 234.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 2005.

## **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).
- Please consider purchasing a brick paver for our Memorial.
- Please fill out a Sub Vet history report – see the Base Chaplain or forms are available on the Base website.

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