

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: September 14th, 2024

The September meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Bill Preece with about 30 Base Members and guests present.

- The Base muster list was made available by Senior Vice Commander.
- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was conducted.
- The Base Chaplain read the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of September.

Treasurers report – was read.

New Business

- It is that time again to start paying Base and National dues. The Base Treasurer must send in all National dues by December 31st so get them paid in Oct and November. National dues are rising at the start of 2025, see below notes from the convention on the details.
- Jim Irwin notes from the 2024 Convention:
 - Good Convention, many excellent trips, very nice host hotel with outstanding amenities. Good breakout groups, good speakers.
 - Election results – National Commander – Jon Jaques, Sr. Vice – Tim Carlisle, Jr. Vice – Tom Williams, Northeast Regional Director – Jeff Walsh. Also, our current District 5 Commander, Fred Marazita was selected as the District Commander of the Year.
 - Upcoming Conventions:
 - 2025 – Orlando Florida – 9/1/2025 to 9/6/2025. Room rate \$120.00
 - 2026 – Corpus Christi Texas – 9/6/2026 to 9/11/2026. Room rate \$142.00
 - 2027 – Reno Nevada – 8/22/2027 to 8/27/2027. Room rate \$129.00
 - Scholarships from the Charitable Foundation – total of 59 at \$2200.00 each
 - **Effective 1/1/2025 dues are rising by 33%. Annual dues will be \$40.00 (see chart for all others). Any dues received by National prior to 12/31/2024 are at the old rate. In other words get your National dues paid by the December meeting so our Treasurer can get them in by 12/31/2024.**

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

- US Navy (or someone) has developed and the Navy is now using a 3D printer that can print in metal making the wait for hard-to-find spare parts shorter.
 - In an effort to expedite maintenance procedures, the Navy is now placing more commonly requested spare parts strategically around the globe to make them more rapidly accessible.
 - Although the Navy is experiencing staffing issues, the submarine force does not have that problem.
 - Shipyard delays with regard to submarine maintenance and building is due to supply chain issues and labor shortages in the shipyards. Navy is considering looking for an additional shipyard but they are not sure that is an end all solution.
 - Neither Albany-Saratoga Base or any members won any awards at the Convention.
 - Finally, Holland Club hats are on order as Jenny sold out of her supply at the Convention.
- Janet Irwin remembered Associate Member Diane Singleman who passed on 8/15/24 and read her eulogy.
 - Al Singleman reminded all to diligently maintain their own health. Get annual physical exams, wellness check-ups from insurance providers, and use our Veterans Hospital Services. Even if you are not yet eligible for Medicare or Veterans Care....REGISTER with the Stratton VA Medical Center. Many will be surprised at how this top shelf this facility is. Civilian health care records can be forwarded to the VA for future use and progressive comparison when eventually needed in the future. Submarine Service is/was hazardous duty and makes you eligible for some disability(ies) eg. tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

- The USSVI Creed was recited.
- The next regular first Wednesday of the month meeting will be held on October 2nd, 2024.
- There were about 30 members/guest present for the picnic, the variety and quality of the side dishes was commendable. Thanks to all for a great picnic, if you weren't present, you missed a great event. BC Bill Preece said "The perfect Annual Picnic with many members & their wives attending, perfect warm sunny day and plenty of good food. Thanks again to our Grill Master, Al Singleman for doing a great job keeping the burgers & dogs cooked to perfection, as he has done for many years now."
- Post Meeting/Picnic Notes
 - RPI NROTC is having their annual Navy/Marine Corps Ball on November 1st. The guest of honor will be the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James Conway. Last year the cost was around \$65 per person. It will be held at Franklin Terrace. More details to follow.

Upcoming Base events:

- 01 November: RPI NROTC Navy/Marine Corps Ball, Franklin Terrace, Troy NY
- 07 December: Wreath laying at Saratoga National Cemetery
- 01 September – 06 September 2025: USSVI National Convention, Orlando FL

Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- 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.