

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: September 26th, 2026

The annual Base Picnic and October meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Jim Cree at 1138 with 12 Base Members and 7 guests present.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Base Senior Vice Commander Jason Vilander.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin delivered the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of October.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Secretary's report

- Upcoming events are:
 - 20 November – NPTU Class 2601 graduation
 - 02 December - Base Holiday Potluck
 - 05 December - National Cemetery Wreath Laying
- Time to start thinking about paying dues. National dues can now be paid online through the national website or by cash/check to the Base Treasurer. Base dues remain at \$15 for the year and can be paid by cash or check to the Base Treasurer Tom Kirbey
 - Tom Kirbey, 12 S. Jordan Dr, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Treasurer's report

- Was read

Old Business

- Kap(SS)4Kid(SS) – Nothing heard yet on a date for an October visit, we expect to hear from Albany Med at the beginning of October. Jason Vilander reported that Glens Falls didn't have many child cancer patients but did have many adults who were Vets who might benefit from a visit from fellow veterans. Jerry Whitehead brought up his effort to start a program called Vets helping Vets, which will provide exactly what Jason was describing. The program is in the approval process with the Albany Med system.

New Business

- This year's Holland Club inductees Rocky Smith and James Williams were not present so an alternate plan to present their awards will be determined.
- Jim Irwin discussed highlights from the National Convention in Corpus Christi, TX.
 - The national elections were completed with 17% of all members voting, this is up from 11% for the previous election, and the plan is to continue using the online system, Election Buddy, moving forward.
 - Jon Jaques remains at the National Base Commander for two more years.

- The motion to approve life membership for Associate Members was approved. Once rates are determined, Associate Members will be able to complete the process.
- The new website is performing well and has been a work in progress. There were over 900 bugs reported after launch and 95% of them have been resolved. One bug that remains is the inability to track your local Base Membership status but Randy Stein reported the issue is being worked.
- The insurance company National uses for liability insurance raised rates for the coming year. National determined a new payment structure for individual bases based on number of members. With our base having over 100 members we are considered a large base and our contribution to the insurance premium will be \$100 for the year.
- The Charitable Foundation gave out 80 scholarships of \$2,500 each this year for a total of \$200,000 in scholarships.
- Looking at the organizations budget, it's looking good and apparently we are the only Veteran organization that doesn't have any debt.
- Future conventions:
 - 2027: Reno, NV from 8/22-8/27/27
 - 2028: Norfolk, VA from 8/28-9/2/28
 - 2029: A bid is in for Charleston, SC and is being reviewed.
- Congratulations to Randy Stein who was the recipient of a Meritorious Award for his work at the Treasurer of the Charitable Foundation.
 - The Meritorious Award is presented to an individual or Base that exemplifies the motto "Pride Runs Deep", who by their efforts and involvement promote a positive image of the United States Submarine Veterans.

The next meeting will be on November 4th and will begin at 1900.

The meeting adjourned at 1205.

There was plenty of ice cream left over from what we received from Stewarts. Janet will be keeping the remaining ice cream safe in her freezer and will bring it to the November meeting!

Upcoming Events:

- 20 November – NPTU Class 2601 graduation
- 02 December - Base Holiday Potluck
- 05 December - National Cemetery Wreath Laying
- 22 January – NPTU Class 2602 graduation

Correspondence – Convention and other updates

- 2027 National Convention:
 - Reno, NV
 - August 22-27, 2027
 - <https://subvetconvention.org/>
- To get on the list to support a Kaps(SS)4Kid(SS) event, call or email Jerry Whitehead. If you call Jerry and he doesn't answer, be sure to leave a voicemail. Let Jerry know if you would like to support the event at Albany Med, or Hole in the Woods, or both locations. (Jerry Whitehead 518-409-5668 jwhitehe@nycap.rr.com)
- 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