

MINUTES OF MEETING ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI

Location: Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa, NY

Meeting Date: 04 April 2018

The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Out-going Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1900 with 17 members and 3 potential members present.

- The Base muster list for attendance was passed around
- Out-Going Base COB, Al Singleman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Invocation by Base Chaplin, Janet Irwin followed by the reading and tolling of the LOST BOATS for the month of April.
- Base members introduced themselves, the boat on which they qualified.
- Oath of Office was recited by In-Coming Base Commander, Al Singleman and In-Coming Chief of the Boat, Mark Maiellard. A round of applause for out-going Base Commander Jim Irwin.
- Acting Base Secretary MaryEtta Nolan indicated there was a quorum present.
 - Randy Stein gave the Base Treasurers report. The base membership is currently at 107.
- Binnacle List – Art Nolan needs to step down from Base Secretary due to health reasons. Looking for someone to step up and take over as Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Submarine model in VET Park needs to have the numbers and waterline applied. New decals were ordered by Al Singleman and will be reapplied soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Engraver for New Pavers will be done prior to the June “Tolling of the Boats” Ceremony (tentatively set for June 2, 2018). For the new people, Jim Irwin explained the pavers and will send an email to the base members with the Paver form. The price is \$75.00. Should be submitted to Jim by May meeting. The USS Albany had a Change Of Command so we need the name of the new CO for our monument. The American Legion and the VFW is interested in pavers.
- Tolling of the Boat Ceremony: Base Commander will acquire speaker and send invitations to the Site and Families. Press release will need to be done.
- Parades: Elk’s Flag Day Parade will be June 9, 2018 assemble at 1100. Base float will be completed in the next few weeks.
- Kaps for Kids: Explained to new members about the program that visits Child cancer centers and hands out pink and blue caps and make them honorary Submariners.

- Al explained to new members the past activities by the USSVI Albany-Saratoga Base: parades and library talks by Ray Misiewicz and Al Singleman, presentations from the Silent Service TV, info on the Foundation and the Tolling of the Boats Ceremony.
- Al went around the room getting ideas for what to do to increase meeting activity and projects like Kaps for Kids, Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day Service at Soloman Ceremony, Boat tours at New London or NYC. During Summer meetings have outside with cookout. Advertising with the Chronicle and local stores brought in a few new potential members. Plan to get name tags.
- Problem on a National Level to get younger sailors interested in the USSVI by doing family-oriented activities and getting wives to attend meetings and become associate members. The Base started in the year 2000 with 13 members and now we have 107, the average meeting has 25 attendees.
- Start a “Sea Daddy” Program were base members call inactive members to keep them updated and see if we can reinvigorate the members.
- Need to get into projects: One idea is to get a room in Ballston Spa for submarine memorabilia. Al will talk to the Mayor and see what can be use as a museum. Al explained our memorial is the only one dedicated to just New York Submariners who died while serving on submarines.
- 2022 National Convention is open. Possible hosting the convention in Saratoga or Albany area. It’s a lot of work but the base can make money for the foundation.
- Meetings will short 20-30 minutes video presentations and guest speakers. Plan to get someone from the VA to explain benefits, the Site CDR talking on nuclear power or local politicians on what is going on in the state.
- USSVI Scholarship deadline is April 15. It is for immediate family, go on the website and apply.
- National Awards must be submitted by April 30th. Awards manual is on the website.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Winner of the 50/50 Janet Irwin for \$30.00
- Al thanked everyone for their ideas and had members tell a Sea Stories.
 - Press releases will be continued for the monthly meetings, need agenda two weeks prior to meeting.
- Members recited the USSVI Creed.
- Meeting adjourned at 2025.

PRIDE RUNS DEEP

Respectfully submitted by MaryEtta Nolan