

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa, NY

Meeting Date: August 5, 2015

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1902 with 13 members present.
- The Base muster list was passed around.
- There was a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- A Moment of Silence for Shipmates on Eternal Patrol
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of August.

Base Secretary Art Nolan indicated there was a quorum present.

Randy Stein gave the Base Treasurer's report. Current membership: 118

Special Presentation

CDR Irwin presented Ms. Hanna Sheehan, granddaughter of Base Member Frank Hardick, a \$1000.00 USSVI scholarship check. Ms. Sheehan will attend Clarkson University. This was the first time a family member of our base was awarded this scholarship.

Base Commander's Report

CDR Irwin read a letter from Mrs. Laura Graban, mother of Kevin Graban, recent recipient of our base's "USSVI Tenacity Award". The letter stated how grateful both she and her son were for this award as he initially struggled with his coursework but worked hard to accomplish his goal of graduating nuclear power school. She believed this award reinforced her son's commitment to a professional Navy career and thanked our base for being helping to make this a life changing event for him.

Through the efforts of Tom Glenn, Charles Carson, a WWII vet was reactivated to our base roster. He was onboard the USS Redfish in 1944 when it left Saipan charged with trying to sink a Japanese aircraft carrier that was loaded with kamikaze planes and accompanied by destroyers. The men of the USS Redfish succeeded in sinking the carrier and escaping after a severe depth charging.

USS Albany may be delayed in leaving the shipyard in April of 2016. 15 more sailors from the USS Albany have earned their dolphins and our Base has sent a letter of congratulations and a certificate to each individual to the COB for presentation at Quarters.

OLD BUSINESS

Voting for the District Commander's position must be done by August 8th.

Reminder on the dues increases effective the first of the year

NEW BUSINESS

CDR Irwin reported on a program he learned of in Portsmouth where cancer patients are presented with plaques as they complete or during chemo therapy and a bell is rung. He thought this was an admirable program and an idea for a similar Base project for Albany Medical Center. CDR Irwin and COB AI Singleman will pursue the idea with Albany Medical Center and report on their findings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7th – 12th SUBVETS National Convention/Pittsburg, PA. Base COB and SUBVETS National Commander Al Singleton gave an overview of scheduled events at the convention and urged members to attend. The convention will kick off with a parade on Monday. On Tuesday, there will be a special preview of the Shanksville, PA 9/11 plane crash site memorial which opens on Friday. There will be a marine parade during the Tolling of the Boat Ceremony on Wednesday, a baseball game on Thursday where they will recognize the SUBVETS, and the Awards Banquet will be on Saturday. This will be the closest convention to our area for a while. It is about an 8 hour drive.

September 19th - Base Picnic. Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234. 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM. The Base will take care of the meat, hamburger, hotdogs, beer and soda, sign- up sheet for attendance and side dishes. Holland Club Induction of 4 members: Dale Breault, Daniel Corrigan, Robert Walsh, and Ed Heuther.

LONG TERM PLANNING

Base Christmas Party

GENERAL BASE INFORMATION

CDR Irwin recently toured the USS Croaker in Buffalo. He learned all 3 vessels on display are in need of extensive exterior repair. They all need to be pulled out of the water due to leaks, but the cost of doing that is great. The Croaker's interior is in very good shape, but the superstructure is rotting away. They have had recent problems with vandalism. If our Base considered a working party, they would be put to good use.

The Senior Vice Commander position is open for next year's Base officer elections. Bob Bailey expressed an interest in running. CDR Irwin solicited a volunteer to work with Base Treasurer Randy Stein during the next year to learn the requirements of that position.

Break

Closing Remarks

COB Singleman revealed he has recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He will be undergoing a treatment procedure in January and his long term prognosis is excellent. He stated the reason he was reporting this to the Base was to make us all especially aware of the benefits of regular physicals that screen for this type of cancer. He highly recommended the Urology Institute of Northeastern New York, affiliated with Albany Medical Center.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Diane Singleman.

The Base Chaplain read the closing prayer and the SUBVETS Creed was recited.

There will be no regular meeting in September. The Base picnic and awards ceremony will serve as the monthly meeting and will be held on Saturday September 19th at the Post

The next regular meeting will begin at 1900 on October 7, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa, NY.

The meeting was concluded at 2008.

Submitted by: Art Nolan
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary
Pride Runs Deep