

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa
Meeting Date: September 2nd, 2026

The September meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander (BC) Jim Cree at 1900 with 20 Base Members present.

- The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Base Chief of the Boat Mike Lynett.
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin delivered the opening prayer, and the Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of September.
- Base members introduced themselves.

Secretary's report

- National Officer elections are on-going and end Sept 4th.
 - An email will should have come from "**Election Buddy**" with brief instructions and the URL that will take you to the voting page.
 - Alternately there is a ballot in the *American Submariner* that can be mailed in.
- September events are:
 - 06-11 September - USSVI National Convention
 - 12 September – Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Parade at 1300
 - 25 September – NPTU Class 2507 graduation at 1000
 - 26 September - Base Picnic at 1130 **This will also serve as the October Meeting.**
- Here is the link for the [picnic sign up](#), also look for a link in the email with these meeting minutes.
- Time to start thinking about paying dues. National dues are \$40 and 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

- Jim Cree reported that Al Singleman will be available for grill duty at the Base Picnic. He's had some recent medical procedures but is doing well.
- We have two members for Holland Club induction this year. Rocky Smith and James Williams.
- Bill Preece visited the mobile Vietnam Memorial in Glens Falls while it was in town. He reported it was a very good display.
- Adam Mainville visited the USS MARINETTE (LCS-25) while it was in Albany. He was surprised how small all the spaces were, especially the mess decks which he estimated were about half the size of crew's mess on an SSBN.

New Business

- Jim and Janet Irwin detailed their journey to the cemetery and beaches of Normandy while on their European river cruise. Jim's father was one of the soldiers who went ashore in Normandy, surviving that effort, and the rest of his units' campaigns. Janet was able to speak when they visited the ceremony and read the poem "Lost Harbor".
- Jim Irwin mentioned that one of members on Eternal Patrol, John Ebenhoch, would be honored in Albany County's monthly ceremony on Tuesday September 8th.
 - [Link to video of the ceremony](#)
- Jim reported that Stewarts received our request for ice cream and it was approved, so he will be picking up the ice cream to have at our picnic on September 26th.
- Tom Krauser reported that the MTS-626, the ex-DANIEL WEBSTER, was recently towed from Charleston.
 - <https://abcnews4.com/news/local/decommissioned-submarine-uss-daniel-webster-gets-final-tow-past-sullivans-island-tuesday-history>
- Jim Cree mentioned the membership list on the website needed updating so he will get in touch with Randy Stein to make the changes.
- Randy did not get the desired outcome from the dealership that damaged his van. He was able to get a loan and purchase another used van and should have it soon. He plans on making it to the Base Picnic.
- Adam Mainville mentioned there was some news recently about an approved property tax waiver for veterans who are 100% disabled.
 - There is information on the NYS tax site, however the application and instructions are not available yet.
 - [Veterans exemptions](#)
- Dan Page asked about the status of setting up a visit to the USS ALBANY. We had been trying to get in touch with the COB to set something up, but we've been unable to get a response.

The 50/50 drawing was held and won by Steve Cipperly (again), who donated his winnings to the Base.

The next meeting will be at the Base Picnic on September 26th and will begin at 1130. This meeting will serve as the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1955.

Upcoming Events:

- 06-11 September - USSVI National Convention
- 12 September – Hudson Falls/Fort Edward Military Parade at 1300
- 25 September – NPTU Class 2507 graduation
- 26 September - Base Picnic (Will also serve as the October meeting)
- 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

- 2026 National Convention:
 - Corpus Christi, TX at the Omni Hotel
 - September 6-11, 2026
 - <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 First!!!
End Report.