



## U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Albany-Saratoga Base  
American Legion Post 70  
34 West Ave.  
Saratoga Springs, NY

Meetings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the Month  
Minutes from **Wed 16 Mar 2011** meeting

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1900 hours - CDR Bailey called the March meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base to order; 25 members present for base muster. All hands saluted the colors and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Base Chaplain (Janet Irwin) opened the meeting with a prayer and then Tolloed the Boats lost during the month of March.

**Military History** - CDR Bailey noted that the last surviving U.S. WWI veteran Frank Buckles died on February 28 2011 at age 110. Per presidential proclamation, all flags of the United States of America and New York State were flown at half mast yesterday as a mark of respect and in remembrance of the generation of American veterans of World War I. Today, we observed a moment of silent salute in memory of the last U.S. survivor of the "War to End All Wars".

Each member present stood and stated his name, qualification date and boat(s) served on. Base member spouses also introduced themselves.

Base Secretary Fritz Feldhaus verified a quorum present. Meeting minutes for the month of February were previously distributed by email or US mail. A motion was made (Mike Lynette), seconded (Tim Frederickson) and carried to accept the minutes as corrected.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented his report. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the report as presented.

**Binnacle List** – our shipmate Gus Negus is back home as of Wednesday (9 March) last week following an unplanned trip to the emergency room to fix a leg embolism and subsequent pacemaker installation. He is up and about and doing well; we'll see him soon.

**Pending Holland Club induction** – we note that John Christopher, our Base Vice CDR, has reached that half-century mark required for induction into the Holland Club. This ceremony will be scheduled in the near future. Stay tuned!

**Special Presentation** – as the first order of business for tonight's meeting, Frank Dorchak delivered a 20-minute presentation on the **Salute Military Golf Association**. More information is available on line at their website <http://www.smga.org>. Our foundation chairman Al Singleman noted that last year's attempt at a golf promotion for our Albany Saratoga Memorial Foundation memorial was a no-go.

### **Base Storekeeper** –

**Longevity Pins** –Diane Singleman spelled out the details regarding the proposed purchase of longevity pins (available in 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, & 25 years). After a brief discussion, the motion was made (Bill Preece), seconded (Tim Frederickson) and carried to authorize funding. The initial purchase (42 pins (@ \$4.00 each) was based on the number of base members who regularly attend and participate in base functions. Once the next longevity level is reached, the member can exchange his pin for the next level.

**Float Skirt Patches** – 110 patches were ordered, with more coming (new base members, extras). Each member had been requested to contribute one ship's patch for the boat(s) you served on. The patches are the same size as sewed on your ship's jacket. Sewing the patches onto the float skirt is a work in progress - our base sail maker (Janet Irwin!) will have them done in time for our first parade. A major innovation!

**Base Caps, Shirts, Vests, etc...** Diane is ready to take your order! Get those new ship patches sewn onto your USSVI vest!

**Veterans History project** - Base Chaplain – (Base Historian) – so the story goes, we need YOUR life history. Do yours on line at our base website!

**VA Hospital Ditty Bag** – as always, the need continues for useful toiletry and clothing donations.

**District 5 Conference** news – Jim Irwin reports that, as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, Paul Orstad, ENRD began accepting nominations for the upcoming Eastern North District elections. If you know a good candidate, send an email to Jim – he will relay that to Orstad. The District Commander elections will be held in the May/June time frame.

**Sea Daddy program** – For those who have a list of base member names to contact, please find the time to get in touch... see how they are doing...extend an invite to the next base meeting – we'll arrange the transportation!

**Facebook** – USSVI National - Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), and create a Facebook account. Then “search” for USSVI or USSVI Albany Saratoga.

● **Base website news** – check it out! goto [albanysaratogasubvets.com](http://albanysaratogasubvets.com)

● **Foundation update** – Al Singleman's report: the memorial had been in a holding pattern pending resolution of the site land plot ownership issue. The Postal Service confirmed Tuesday, 15 March 2011 that the federal agency has agreed to the sale of the land. With this momentous news, groundbreaking for our memorial will soon be a reality!

**Foundation website?** Now looking to be online the first week in April...

**New Submarine CD's** – Check out our base library inventory on submarine DVD's. Next time you come to a base meeting on West Avenue, take a look!

**50/50 raffle** – and the winner was – Bill Preece! Note that half of the 50/50 raffle goes to the VA Hospital Ditty Bag Fund.

Following the meeting break and the 50/50 raffle, we yielded the floor to Frank Dorchak for a video presentation on the **Salute Military Golf Association** using Al Singleman's laptop computer/projector setup.

**New members** – welcome aboard!

Take note, shipmates – you may be seeing one or more of these new faces at future meetings:

Charles Castiglione - USS Greeneville, SSN772  
Joseph Staubach – USS Dogfish, SS 350  
Kenneth Harkness– USS Ohio, SSBN/SSGN 726  
Kevin Hoyt- USS Pittsburgh, SSN 720

At 2100 hours, a motion was made to adjourn. All hands recited the creed. CDR Bailey then adjourned the meeting.

**Next meeting: 20 April, 2011.** See you there!

Submitted:

Fritz Feldhaus – Base Secretary