



U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.
Albany-Saratoga Base
American Legion Post 70
34 West Ave.
Saratoga Springs, NY

Meetings every 3rd Wednesday of the Month
Minutes from **17 March 2010** meeting

CDR Bailey called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was made. The Base Chaplain (Janet Irwin) Tolloed the Boats for the month of March.

Members present introduced themselves, qualification date and boat(s) served on.

Secretary verified quorum present. February's minutes were previously distributed by email and US mail; a motion was made (Walt Forney), seconded (Bill Preece) and carried to accept the minutes as distributed.

Muster was taken and recorded.

Base Treasurer Randy Stein presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2010. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Subase Groton trip – Jim Irwin reported that he now has 51 names signed up for the 18 April 2010 bus trip. Only four seats left to fill.

Veterans History project - Base Chaplain – (Base Historian) – noted that she has received two new life histories. That brings the total to 16 (of 95) base members on our current roster that have provided life histories. None of the five members who passed last year had life histories on file. Questionnaires are on hand. Once the base website is up and running, you will be able to fill out these forms on line. Until then, please submit your life stories on paper. Don't forget to include a personal photo.

Binnacle List – Fred Carlson – in addition to celebrating his 80th birthday - is in the hospital recovering from a hernia operation. Everyone at the meeting routed around a Get Well card for signature. Fred Miller, we have been told, is now home from his stint in the hospital and is now rehabbing from his 2nd back operation. If you know of anyone who should be on the Binnacle List, send an email to Jim Irwin.

District 5 Conference to be held this fall (Oct 15 –17) in Binghamton is still looking for signups. Contact Jim Irwin if you are interested in attending.

Sea Daddy program – need to reach out and touch someone – if you have a list of base member names to contact, please find the time to get in touch and see how they are doing – extend an invitation to attend the next base meeting – we’ll arrange transportation if needed!

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Day parade – CDR Bailey reminded everyone present that our Base will be marching in Lansingburg’s Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 31 May 2010. CDR Bailey provided a street map showing the two Parking lot locations. We need to be formed up and in position by 1015 hrs. Lineup location will be posted in the Troy Record. For the past two years, we lined up at 125th St between 5th and 6th Ave.

Parade route - 123rd St and 5th Ave south to 115th St and 5th Ave, turn down 115th St to 2nd Ave, then north on 2nd Ave to 121st St.

A source has been identified to purchase a supply of small hand held flags at reasonable cost. A motion was made and carried to purchase (Buy American!) three gross of these flags at \$29.95/gross.

The base still needs a new banner with the USSVI logo and the Albany-Saratoga name; Al Singleman has this item for action. As noted at the February meeting, the base also needs a new flag carry belt holder (white) and pole; a motion was made and carried to purchase these two items through SaratogaFlag.com.

National Award Nominations – (2nd call posted on 18 Feb 2010) - are now being accepted through 30 April 2010 (except Newsletter Award: closing date is 15 May 2010). View details concerning these Awards at the USSVI website (ussvi.org). Check it out!

2010 USSVI Scholarship Grant Program – if your grandchild is planning on attending college in the fall of this year, give this program a shot. Download the application and check it out.

Facebook – USSVI National is now on Facebook. Update: Tim Fredericksen has setup our Albany Saratoga Facebook page. This is locatable by first creating a Facebook account; Go to www.facebook.com to do this. Then simply search for USSVI or USSVI Albany Saratoga. Tim pointed out that use of the Facebook is good advertising for the base.

Storekeeper – let Diane know when you would like to order caps, shirts, vests, etc. Once up and running, our new website will include storekeeper access.

Base website – As authorized during the last month's base meeting, Randy Stein purchased the new version of Front Page, i.e., Microsoft Expression Web 3 to edit the base web page. All that remains is for base member Hartnagel to set up access for Randy Stein.

New Submarine CD's – Walt Taylor added thirteen new CD's to our base library today:

Victory at Sea Volumes 1-4;

Modern European Submarines (various video clips);

Battle History of the Navy: Born into War;

Hitler's Lost Sub (NOVA);

Nuclear Sharks: The Final Mission Soviet K-129;

Nuclear Sharks: USS Scorpion mystery;

Weapons Races: The race for the nuclear submarine;

The Grey Wolves – The Inside Story of the U-Boat War;

Cold War Submarines

Ghost Fleet – The Search for Japan's Secret Subs

USS Croaker Memorial – update: Their summer meeting is scheduled for 1 Aug 2010. We will consider planning a trip to Buffalo; for those interested, the trip would be an overnigher. Our base continues to pay down the \$500 that we contributed to the Croaker memorial.

50/50 raffle – and the winner was - Mike Lynette! At \$27.50! Mike promptly donated his share to the Kapps4Kids. To correct the secretary's oversight in last month's minutes, note that Walt Forney did the same when he won the February 50/50 raffle.

Albany Saratoga Memorial Foundation – status report recap given by Tom Glenn. The Ballston Spa Village Mayor has agreed in principle to establish a New York State Submariners Memorial in the Ballston Spa veterans' memorial area located on Lowe Street between the Village library and the US Post Office. We will be sending a notice to all New York State Sub Vets bases requesting their assistance in identifying whether any other names need to be added to the original list researched by our past shipmate Bob Ondek. Phase I is the memorial itself (we need to finalize the design – hopefully this will occur soon after next week's meeting with the Village mayor). Phase II will add the brick pavers' oval: one brick for each of the 65 Lost Boats. Phase III will add a model of USS Albany SSN 753 (Los Angeles class) submarine. The public will be invited to buy memorial bricks (4"x 4" and 4"x 8") for a memorial walkway that will be laid out in an elongated "S" between Lowe Street and Milton Avenue. An excellent suggestion was made to check whether the village library could make a niche location available inside to showcase the memorial design (John Mishoe suggested obtaining an artist's rendering) once it is approved. We need someone to follow up on this gem. With regard to what is happening on the memorial, we will also work on getting the word out to base members who (for whatever reason) do not attend base meetings.

VA Hospital in Albany – Jim Irwin reminded everyone of the large cardboard box that will be used to ferry ditty bag stuff and other useful toiletry and clothing donations to the veterans in need at the VA hospital. Need to fill it up!

Tolling of the Boats – this ceremony will occur on Friday, 9 April 2010. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be at the county municipal building on West High Street. The float would then be staged in the parking lot in front of the building. Walt Forney reported that he has fixed the bunting on the float. John Mishoe volunteered a parking facility to store the float. CDR Bailey asked for volunteers for Saturday 3 April 2010 (about 1000 hrs) to aid in doing any paint touch up and other minor upkeep and maintenance needed to bring the float up to par.

At 2050 hours, following a motion to adjourn - All hands recited the creed. CDR Bailey then adjourned the meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday 21 April 2010

Submitted:

Fritz Feldhaus - Base Secretary