

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: American Legion Post #1450, Halfmoon, NY

Meeting Date: January 15, 2004

The January meeting for the **2004 USSVI Convention Committee** was called to order by George Gasser. There were 12 members present.

George reminded all present that Saratoga County, the City of Saratoga Springs and the Saratoga Visitors bureau have each made a serious financial commitment to the 2004 Convention.

It was decided that George Gasser and Walt Bydairk will take care of the signing of contracts relating to the Convention. The signed contract will be given to the Base Commander for filing.

George reported the Saratoga City Center will require a \$500.00 deposit and a 1 million dollar liability insurance policy to be in force during the convention. It is assumed the Casino will require similar arrangements.

The Base will have two exceptional opportunities to advertise and promote the Convention. One will be in the American Submariner Magazine and the second will be in the 2003 Convention Program. The exact prices for the advertising were not available but it was agreed that we should take advantage of these opportunities.

Al Singleman reported the Base Website was up but "Under Construction." He has a meeting with the Web Master scheduled for 1/17 and he will have more information at the next meeting. It was agreed that we want the Website operational by sometime in March 2003. When it is operational we will insure that Convention information is top priority.

George reported that there will be a parade for the Sub Vets during the Convention. We will encourage the bases that attend to participate.

Our request for Tax Exemption is in process, we expect more information at the next meeting.

Frank Hardick reported on the progress of the trips that will be offered to those attending the convention. Some of the trips include visits to Cooperstown, a dinner Cruise on Lake George, a Paddlewheel Boat ride from Schylerville to Whitehall, and some walking tours of the City of Saratoga. We would like to develop a map with just items of interest to convention attendees.

Marketing opportunities were also discussed. At the 2003 Convention our Base will have an informational table for 4 days to answer question and to promote our event. The Saratoga Visitors Bureau will have a table for 2 days to promote Saratoga. Also, the Visitors Bureau has agreed to produce a video promotion of Saratoga, part of which will be a presentation by our Base promoting the convention. The Visitors Bureau will absorb all production costs and in addition will pay for the duplication fees and mailing costs to send copies to each of the Bases.

It was discussed that some Sub Vets only attend Boat Reunions during the Convention and do not register or attend Convention activities. We need to encourage everyone to register for the Convention as we may end up subsidizing room rates for some of these people.

Al Singleman displayed some of the plaques that we can offer to corporate donors and sponsors. It was agreed that they should be large enough to read from a distance and look professional. Al will continue working on them.

We still need to work on a system that the base can accept credit cards. We are trying to get a local merchant to accept them on our behalf.

In conclusion it was determined that the Base will need to raise funds in the amount of approximately \$50,000.00 to put on this Convention the way we hope to. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

The next Convention meeting will be on February 19, 2003. The 2004 Convention meeting will start at 6:30 PM, which will be followed by our regular meeting at 7:00 PM at the American Legion Post #1450, Grooms Road, Clifton Park, NY.

Submitted by: Jim Irwin, Secretary
Albany-Saratoga Base
Pride Runs Deep