



U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS, INC.
ALBANY - SARATOGA BASE
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Fritz Feldhaus, Jr. Vice CDR

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Albany-Saratoga Sub Vets Members

It is close to the time when we will close out the year and start a new one. We got a lot accomplished this past year and I thought it might be useful to summarize what we did this past 12 months.

1. The new slate of base officers was invested at the January Meeting:

Base CDR	Bob Ondek
Sr. Vice CDR	John Cook
Jr. Vice CDR	Mike Stoneback
	Fritz Feldhaus (replaced Mike Stoneback)
Secretary	Jim Irwin
Treasurer	Fred Carlson

2. An Executive Board was created to set policy and approve major changes to the way the base does business. The board can meet or decide business by e-mail. The Board consists of:

The 5 elected officers

Past Base CDR

Chaplain

COB

2 or 3 members selected by the CDR

3. In an attempt to increase attendance at meetings, and based on comments on members who have other commitments on our regular meeting nights, it was decided to have 2 Saturday morning brunch meetings. The attendees at these meetings was not appreciably different than the regular 3rd Wed. Night meetings. However, there were 4-6 people who could not attend the nighttime meetings. It will be up to next year's board to decide whether we should continue the Saturday brunch meetings. I personally believe that these meetings are a good change from the regular agenda.

4. The board decided to look into purchasing a VCR Tape/CD/DVD plater/recorder. This was approved by the base members and we have purchased one. We have used it on several occasions during the year.

5. Toll the Bells: It was decided to conduct two Toll the Bells Ceremonies, one at the NY State Capitol and the other at the Saratoga County offices in Ballston Spa. These were both held in April, 2005.

6. The base currently has 3 checking accounts: one which is a holdover from the 2002 Vietnam

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Memorial Exhibit which is reserved for a planned Sub Vets Memorial, a regular base account and an account from the 2004 Convention. It was decided that the base should look into investing the Memorial account and the Convention account to get a return on the monies these contain, since neither has been drawing interest. Since then, the Memorial Account has been invested in Trustco Bank Stock and the Convention Account has been transferred into an interest bearing account, pending deciding on a better investment strategy. We are in the process of creating a not for profit foundation under the IRS rules. We hope to have this accomplished by the end of this calendar year.

7. We discussed plans for the NYS Sub Vets Memorial. We approached Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. about a long term use of an L shaped area surrounding the brownfield, but were turned down. We are now trying to get a plot of NYS land at the south end of Saratoga Springs for this purpose. We have support from NY Congressman John Sweeney, NYS Senator Joseph Bruno for this Memorial. We have support from the past 2 Saratoga Springs administrations. In January, we will renew our request for support from Saratoga Springs for this purpose.

8. The base participated in the "Books for Boats" program. We collected several large boxes of books and then found out that the people running the program had too many books and could not use ours. Al & Diane Singleman, after many calls, found that the USS Reagan would accept these books. They were sent to the USS Reagan.

9. The base also answered the request for toiletries and sundries for wounded service men and women from Afghanistan and Iraq who were transported to Germany without their personal belongings. Again, the base came through with a bang, sending a number of boxes of toiletries, etc. The Prime Hotel and Holliday Inn in Saratoga Springs each contributed boxes of items for this cause.

9. We have inducted 4 members into Holland Club and have 2 additional members to induct (could not attend meeting because of illness or inability to travel at night).

10. Base Member Robert Moore, Sub Vets WWII Life Member, USSVI Life Member and Albany-Saratoga Base Member embarked on Eternal Patrol after a long illness. He will be interred in The Gerald F Solomon - Saratoga National Cemetery in the Spring of 2006. The base will participate in the ceremony.

11. We have posted a list of scheduled base meetings and events for 2005 on our web site. The members were also given copies of the schedule.

12. We have had some problems maintaining our web site up to date. We have some plan to get a few people qualified on the web site to remedy this situation.

13. The base took part in a number of civic events in 2005:

- a. Armed Forces Day Parade in Saratoga Springs
- b. Flag Day Parade in Saratoga Springs
- c. Revolutionary War "Turning Point" Parade in Schulerville

14. The base helped set up a lecture by Joe Buff, author of submarine novels and lecturer on submarine warfare at the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. Joe is an Assoc. Member of Albany-Saratoga Base.

15. We participated in the fight to keep Groton S/M Base and Portsmouth NSY open. Joe Buff played a major role in this effort by providing essays on the damage to our national protection if these bases were closed. We provided essays and articles on the base closings to all the bases in NE US and NYS and urged a write in effort to fight the base closings. We were thanked for our efforts by the Congressman representing Groton, CT.

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16. Since the base inception, we have held regular meetings at AL Post 1450 in Clifton Park, NY. We had been meeting at AL Post 70 in Saratoga Springs frequently in conjunction with our 2004 Convention. The facilities at Post 70 are better suited for our meetings and the base voted to have all of our meetings there. This started in Oct. 2005.

17. In December, 2005, we will have our Xmas Dinner at AL Post 70, catered by Chef Tom Ondek. We currently have about 45 people signed up for the Roast Beef dinner.

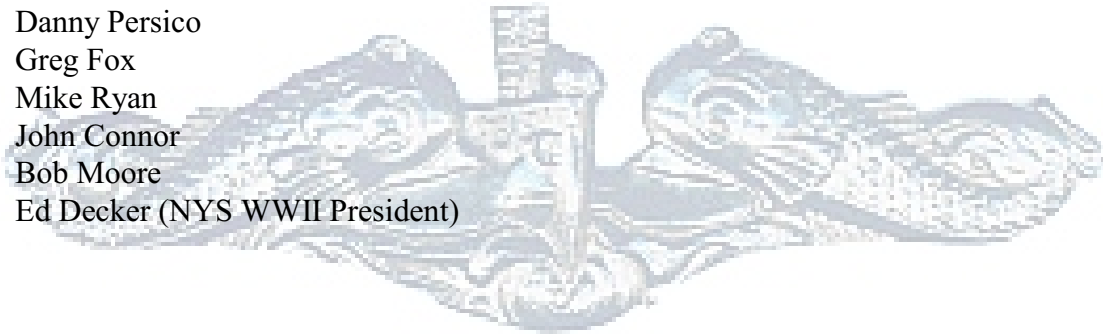
I wish to thank the Base Officers, the Executive Board Members and the Base Members who have made this past year a success. Our base officers for 2006 are:

Base CDR	John Cook
Sr. Vice CDR	Fritz Feldhaus
Jr. Vice CDR	Ray Koch
Secretary	Bill Preece
Treasurer	Fred Carlson

Please give them the support they need to make this another great year. May the Good Lord watch over us, our base and all our service people in the coming year.

Let us not forget our members on Eternal Patrol. May they rest in peace.

Danny Persico
Greg Fox
Mike Ryan
John Connor
Bob Moore
Ed Decker (NYS WWII President)



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Fraternally,

Robert J Ondek, CDR
Albany-Saratoga Base
US Submarine Veterans

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