

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

Meeting Date: March 19, 2003

The January meeting for the **2004 USSVI Convention Committee** was called to order at 6:30 pm by George Gasser. There were 15 members and one guest present.

Fred Carlson reported the Tax Exempt Certificate has been issued and copies were given to the Base Commander, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Our guest, Terri McKenna is the Base Web Master. She spoke about the Base Web Site. It is now up and running with information available on most links. We will provide her with the necessary information to get all the links operational. George Gasser had suggestions as to what information will be necessary for the link for the convention such as links to the various hotels, Saratoga Visitors Bureau, and RV information.

We went over the plans for the informational booth we will be manning at the 2003 Convention in Reno. We will need handouts, banners, trip information, etc. We should have most of the trips we will be offering in place but we will poll convention goers for any additional trips they may be interested in.

George Gasser reported the Elks are willing put on a parade for us but we need to send them (Jerry Wells) a request and also request a State grant for the money to cover the cost.

George also asked the Base to reconsider the possibility of raffling off a berth on the Razorback. He agreed there was a question of liability and he said he would speak with an attorney to discuss the issues.

We discussed the need for a convention logo. Walt and Chickie Barden passed around artwork with several suggestions. They also had several small items with examples of the artwork, coffee mugs, book markers, etc. They will continue to pursue this.

We plan to ask the Saratoga Racetrack to donate or sell to us at a discount the canvas tote bags they use for giveaways for us to use as welcome gifts for convention attendees. We will also need to solicit some other small gift items for inclusion in the gift bag. Everyone is asked to see if they can find donors.

We will ask the City of Saratoga Springs to establish an account on our behalf to hold and disburse any grant money and or sponsor donations. This will allow the money to remain tax exempt and also be tax deductible for the donors. We also need to contact Larry Gordon to aid us in preparing the grant application.

Fred Carlson reported on the Albany Airport situation. The Airport Ambassadors will greet arriving convention goers and assist/direct them with their needs. They hope to have a booth set up in the baggage claim area with convention information along with posters and signs throughout the airport. Additionally we will be asking local car dealerships to donate vans we can use to transport arriving guests.

Al Singleman had examples of model submarines that will be similar to the ones used on plaques that will be given to corporate donors.

Frank Hardick discussed the trips we had previously worked on. He had a list of prices that was passed around with details of each trip.

Finally, on April 11<sup>th</sup> our Base is conducting a Memorial Ceremony in Ballson Spa. After the ceremony we will meet with City officials to discuss the upcoming convention. All are invited to attend.

The next Convention meeting will be on April 16, 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