

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

Meeting Date: April 16, 2003

The April meeting for the **2004 USSVI Convention Committee** was called to order at 6:30 pm by George Gasser. There were 16 members present.

Frank Hardick went over several trips that were available. There were both all day and half day trips. He is still waiting for our final prices from the vendor so we can come up with a per person price and will have them by the next meeting. Frank also reported that the Great Escape would be holding their annual "October Fest" the weekend before and the weekend after the convention and that the Sub Vets would qualify for a group rate of \$14.99.

George Gasser reported that after our ceremony on April 11<sup>th</sup>, he met with the following individuals: Larry Gordon – grant expert, Phil Klein – County Supervisor Saratoga Springs, Christine Gilchrist – Deputy Commissioner of Finance for Saratoga Springs, Gene Corsale – all around "doer" and "gopher", Bob Mitchell – County Veteran's director, Jerry Wells – Parade, City Center, American Legion, and Elks liaison. These folks will serve as a Steering Committee for our convention. Items that came the initial meeting:

We will have a parade.

We will ask Barry Schwartz (CEO of NYRA) to donate 2000 canvas bags for giveaways

We will apply for a grant for matching funds; the county will make the application. We will establish a Sub Vets Fund Account to be administered by the City of Saratoga Springs.

The Board Chairman and Senator Bruno will meet in Albany.

The economic impact of the local community must be emphasized.

We will solicit a letter of support from Senator Sweeney supporting our convention. We will use this letter of support to solicit corporate donations from large Government Contractors. It was suggested we ask for \$50,000 from GE.

We need to send a letter of request to Saratoga County Board chairman asking for funding for the trolley along with printing and mailing fees to be included in their next years budget.

We must get the local Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary, Lions, and Jaycees involved.

George Gasser suggested that we place an add promoting the convention in the next issue of the American Submariner. It was agreed that we will vote on this during the regular meeting. Also, that we ask Reno for the inside page of their Convention Program. Al Singleman agreed to contact the Reno Convention chairman for details.

We need to order shirts for those attending the Reno Convention and eventually for our convention. The shirts from the previous convention were supplied by the Saratoga Tourist Bureau. They cost approximately \$35.00. Jim Irwin agreed to try to find a local embroiderer to see if we can get a better price.

We reviewed the logos that Walt and Chickie Barden had come up with. No action was taken on them.

Everyone was asked to try to solicit donations from anyone they can think of. We need small items for giveaways in the gift bags such as pens, pencils, rulers, magnets or anything along those lines. T-shirts were discussed and if we received enough cash donations they are a possibility. We also need to solicit beer and wine to be served at the convention.

Commander Al Singleman has designed a plaque that will be given to anyone or any vendor who donates a yet to be determined amount of money or merchandise

The next Convention meeting will be on May 21, 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