

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

Meeting Date: November 19, 2003

The November meeting for the **2004 USSVI Convention Committee** was called to order at 7:15 pm by George Gasser. There were 20 members present.

Chairman Gasser reported the following:

- Advertising – We will have 4 pages of advertising in the coming issues of the American Submariner. We are entitled to two free pages per issue for four issues. We used our 2 free pages from the 1 issue and 2 from the last issue for this issue so there was no cost to us. The 4 pages for the next issue we will use our 2 free pages and will must pay \$450.00 per page or \$900.00 total for the additional two pages. This will be the case for the next quarterly issue.
- Hotels – There are 1200 rooms on the trolley route. 400 rooms are at or near the Prime Hotel: 370 rooms are at or near the Holiday Inn. The Prime Hotel is sold out. There are 16 reunions set at this time.
- Welcoming Party – Will be held at the Casino. Mrs. Whitney will be the hostess, the City will arrange the flowers, the Elks will tend bar, the High School jazz band will perform, BOCES students will cater. John Cook will meet with city officials to co-ordinate things.
- A Convention bank account has to be created. This is in process. Diane Singleman will collect incoming funds and deposit them in a timely fashion. Fred Carlson and Bob Ondek will be authorized to sign checks to pay bills. Bills must be authorized by Convention chairman and approved by the Base membership. If a bill must be paid before the next Base meeting payment may be made with the approval of the Convention Chairman or Co-chairman.
- Parade – We still are looking for a Grand Marshal. The Navy band will play, there will be floats, bases will march and there will be other bands.
- Navy Band – Congress Park is not available for Friday night for the Band to perform a free concert. We will check the possibility of renting the City Center to hold the concert there.
- Speakers – The secretary gave a report on who had agreed to speak. The only one from whom a positive response has been received was Sherry Sontag. President Bush sent a letter saying it was still under consideration.
- Trolleys/Buses – The fees for the trolleys have increased dramatically. Suggested having 55 passenger buses. The fee for these buses is \$550.00 for 12 hours plus \$75.00 per hour over 12 hours. We will need 2 buses 16 hours per day for 5 days = \$8500.00. We may need extra buses for peak hours. We will look into school buses and rental vans.
- Memorabilia Room – We need to send specific instructions to the bases as to what is acceptable, when and where to send it, where to leave it and where and when to pick it up.
- Civilian meeting – There will be a meeting of Civilian teams – the Steering committee and others on December 1st. (Changed to December 10th at 7:00pm in the Saratoga City Council Chambers)
- Vendor Contracts – The size of the room and available services were discussed. The Secretary will send out contract agreements to potential vendors.
- RV'ers – Adirondack Resort Campground is on the Convention Web page, we will add another choice.
- Boat Sign in Books – Hudson Valley Base had agreed to take on this project.
- Boat Reunion Dinners – The Prime Hotel can accommodate 6 Boat Reunion dinners on Thursday and 6 on Friday. The Holiday Inn can accommodate 3 on Thursday and 3 on Friday.
- Grants and Funding – The city of Saratoga Springs has tentatively budgeted \$30,000.00 for the Sub Vets, this is subject to be reduced. The County of Saratoga has omitted our request for funding from their tentative budget. Members are asked to attend the budget hearing for the County on November 25th at the county office complex in Ballston Spa. We will ask to have it reinstated.

We still need help in all areas of fundraising, please volunteer to help in any way you can. Thanks.

The members were polled to see if there was anything else to discuss. Being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.

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