

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

Meeting Date: December 17, 2003

The December meeting for the **2004 USSVI Convention Committee** was very informal due to the inclement weather and the absence of Chairman Gasser. There were 11 members and 3 guests present.

Base CDR Singleman reported the following:

On December 10, 2003 Base members met with a number of civilians who have offered to assist with the Convention.

The meeting went as follows:

George Gasser did an introduction of those in attendance and made opening remarks.

John Cook gave an overview of our Convention plans. Commissioner Tom McTyge reported the City of Saratoga was going to work hard to help us however they can. Skip Scirroco reported that the County of Saratoga had reinstated the \$15,000 back into the County budget but there were some restrictions on how it can be used. George Gasser reported that he met with Senator Joe Bruno's staff and he has agreed to budget \$15,000 in State funds to help for Band and related expenses. Jerry Wells from the Saratoga Elks will work to co-ordinate the parade. Dave Waghorn, the Exalted Ruler of the Elks will work on contacting bands to participate in the parade. Ben and Jerry's of Saratoga has agreed to donate the use of their van during the Convention. Lorna Dupree has agreed to assist with coordinating the civilian groups and the tasks they will be working on. The Milton Site will assist with color guards and quarterdecks. Master Chief (?) will be the contact person. Gavin Landry and Cathy Denkinberger from the Saratoga Tourism Bureau are working to increase attendance.

The Convention Video was shown and enjoyed by all. A group from Ballston Spa inquired about the possibility of bussing people to Ballston Spa to take advantage of the Antiquing possibilities in that town. It was suggested that if they provide the bus the Convention would promote the opportunity.

It seems we have great support from the surrounding communities so we must take maximum advantage of this.

There was a request that George Gasser and Walt Bydairk be given the authority to sign the contracts with Upstate Transit for the Bus Trips.

A representative of Royalty Services, Inc. will give a presentation at the January meeting. They are a professional fundraising company who would like to assist our Base in raising funds and putting together a Convention Yearbook.

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