

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

Meeting Date: May 21, 2003

The May meeting for the **2004 USSVI Convention Committee** was called to order at 6:40 pm by George Gasser. There were 16 members present.

Frank Hardick reviewed the 8 all day trips and the 4 half day trips that are in the planning. The all day trips include Cooperstown, West Point, the Groton Sub Base, Great Escape Octoberfest, Lake George dinner cruise, FDR Home and Library/Vanderbilt Mansion, a Carillon Cruise on Lake Champlain, and shopping at the Factory Outlet in Lake George/Glens Falls. The half day tours included a golf outing at the Spa golf course, a bus tour of Saratoga, a trip to the Saratoga Battlefield/National Cemetery, and a trip to the Equine Sports Center (hopefully the slot machines will be there by then). The prices for the trips were set to include a small profit for the base on each trip to help offset the expenses we will incur for the convention.

It was brought up that we need to devise a strategy to market the convention to ex Sub Vets that do not belong to USSVI. Possibly by contacting Submarine Vendors and other areas that may be job markets for these folks. Anyone with ideas please send them to us.

The grant we were originally going to seek through the county will be switched to the city of Saratoga Springs. We will have to provide a breakdown of how we will be spending the grant money.

We need to set up a meeting with Ray Callanan who is the Saratoga county supervisor who is the Commissioner of Veteran Affairs

We are creating an ad for the next edition of the American Submariner and for the Reno Convention Program Book. The deadline is near so we will ask for an extension on submitting the ad. The funding has already been approved by the Base.

George Gasser discussed the video that will be created by the Saratoga Tourist Bureau. It will be about 7 minutes long. It will talk about all the reasons that Saratoga Springs will be a great place for the Convention. Three of our members will have spots in the video; George Gasser, John Hadley, and Walt Bydairk. This video will be played at the Reno Convention and a copy will be sent to every base in the organization to be shown at a meeting.

We still need help in many areas:

We need to solicit donations of beer and wine which we will give to the Prime Hotel as part of an agreement to have drink prices set at \$2.00.

Visiting restaurants for boat reunion info. Party size, prices, discounts, etc.

Visiting motels and hotels for information on prices, capacities, discounts, etc.

Drafting letters for soliciting funds. Anyone with experience in this area please let us know, we need your help. Chickie Barden and Bob Ondek will be helping with them.

Gathering names, titles, and addresses of Submarine Vendors so we can solicit donations from them.

Al Singleman showed the prototype boat plaque we will give to supporters who contribute large amounts. There will be different sizes for different levels of sponsorship.

The next Convention meeting will be on June 18, 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