

MINUTES OF MEETING

ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI

Location: Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, Ballston Spa, NY

Meeting Date: March 1, 2017

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by Base Commander Jim Irwin at 1900 with 19 members present.
- The Base muster list was passed around.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Base Commander Irwin.
- A Moment of Silence for Shipmates on Eternal Patrol
- Base Chaplain Janet Irwin offered an opening prayer.
- The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of March.
- Each Base member introduced themselves.

Base Secretary Art Nolan indicated there was a quorum present.

Randy Stein gave the Base Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was voted on and accepted without correction.

Base Commander's Report

The Base Treasurer reported the Base received \$6.05 from the Amazon Smile purchase program. The Base receives ½ % on all sales made through this program. Information on how to participate is located on Amazon's website.

Base member Mike Lynette's daughter Michele made a very generous offer to donate a professional quality color printer to the Base. However, the offer was declined due to anticipated maintenance costs. The Base Commander thanked Michele for her generosity on behalf of all the members.

There was an issue with one of our SUBVETS memorial highway signs. The Base Chaplain discovered one of the Clifton Park churches had bolted a church identification sign to the memorial highway sign. The Base Commander and Chaplain immediately went to the identified church and the situation was immediately rectified. The church sign is no longer there.

It has come to our attention that the Bonefish Grill on Wolf Rd. in Colonie has permanently closed. The whereabouts of the donated USS BONEFISH picture is unknown.

Reminder to take advantage of the SUBVETS scholarship program as well as nominating people for the SUBVETS awards. All forms are located on the SUBVETS website. If anyone needs additional assistance they can contact the Base Commander or Base COB for guidance.

The Base Commander yielded the floor to Base COB Al Singleman to give a report of the issues concerning the ongoing efforts of USSVI National to update their website. It has been a costly endeavor that now seems to be back on track with a new vendor to complete the project. A vote to authorize the additional \$30,000.00 to complete the project will be taken shortly.

The COB also gave a detailed report on the status of the Charitable Funds.

There was some confusion as to whether USS ALBANY, SSN 753 was receiving copies of the "American Submariner". The boat is in fact receiving the magazine as confirmed by her

commander. The boat sponsorship payment method will be changed to ensure she is reported as “sponsored” in the magazine from now on.

Also, USS ALBANY is scheduled to complete her yard maintenance in May or June.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the USSVI Albany-Saratoga Base Parade float. It is located at the Colonie BOCES. The Base Commander reported very little progress has been made on the float since it has been stripped down. The project manager stated he was still developing the list of materials needed to complete the job. However, he was confident the float would be ready for our first parade on May 20th. He is also investigating why our Base’s \$805.00 check for the cost of the project has yet to be cashed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3, 2017 Base Meeting – Ray Misiewicz presents, “160 million miles on nuclear power”.

Malta Armed Forces Day Parade – Saturday, May 20, 2017. Line up at 0930 on Bayberry Drive.

Scotia Parade – (If enough member interest) Wednesday, May 24, 2017. Line up location to be determined.

“Tolling of the Boats” – Saturday, June 3, 2017, at 1100

Saratoga Flag Day Parade – Saturday, June 10, 2017. Line up at 11:30 on North Broadway near William J. Burke Funeral Home.

Base Picnic – Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Noon (6) Base members will be inducted into the Holland Club.

LONG TERM PLANNING

“Tolling of the Boats” – Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 1100. Bill Preece will provide his sound system. Bill Preece and Bob Bailey volunteered to do the readings. Mike Lynette volunteered to toll the bell for the ceremony. Awaiting confirmation from Senator Kathy Marchione as our guest speaker. Pending unforeseen circumstances, the commander of USS ALBANY, SSN 753, the COB, and possibly a few crewmembers will be in attendance.

The Base Commander reported it has been 17 years since there has been an increase in Base dues. Later in the year, he may propose a dues increase of \$5.00 to help offset Base expenses. The Base Treasurer reported our Base has been running at a slight deficit for the past two years. Members present every month have been sustaining the Base through the 50/50 raffle or other donations. A dues increase would help spread the costs through the entire Base membership instead of only those attending regular meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Brick pavers – If you have not purchased one, please consider it. Forms are available online. We need an order of 12 by spring.

Storekeeper – 2017 submarine calendars are in. Please see Storekeeper Diane Singleman for purchase. Cost is \$10.00. Holland Club Challenge Coins are now available for order through the Base Storekeeper. Also available are decals of dolphins and submarines as provided by Base member Dan Danielson.

SUBVETS History Reports – see the Base Chaplain for the forms or download them from the website.

Kaps4Kids – No report.

GENERAL BASE INFORMATION

Base member Dan Danielson reports that the Green Mountain SUBVETS Base will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, July 22, 2017 at Silver Lake Park in Barnard, VT. Start time is at Noon.

Base Chaplain Janet Irwin has been following up with Shenendahowa's youth group that has shipped several "care packages" overseas in support of our troops. This program was started by school teacher Erica Lynn Ladu, whose recent untimely death affected both the children and the program. In tribute to Mrs. Ladu, the students and counselors wish to finish her work by sending the remaining donated items to the troops. However, they are lacking the cost of postage. Base Chaplain Irwin is conducting a raffle for two US Navy pillows with all funds going to Mrs. Ladu's project. See the Base Chaplain for tickets. Cost is \$1.00. Drawing will be held at the May meeting.

BREAK

None

50/50 Raffle was conducted. Mike Marko was the winner.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Base Chaplain led the closing prayer.

The SUBVETS Creed was recited.

The next regular meeting will begin at 1900 on April 5, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Henry Cornell American Legion Post 234, 23 Pleasant St., Ballston Spa, NY.

The meeting was concluded at 2020

Submitted by: Art Nolan
Albany-Saratoga Base Secretary
Pride Runs Deep