

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALBANY-SARATOGA BASE, USSVI
Location: American Legion Adirondack Post 70, Saratoga Springs, NY

Meeting Date: January 16, 2008

- The regular meeting of the Albany-Saratoga Base was called to order by CDR Singleman at 7:05 p.m. with 51 members and guests present.
- The Base muster list for attendance and a copy of the previous months' minutes were passed around for all to sign and view.
- The Base Chaplin offered an opening prayer

There was a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

At this time District 5 Commander Jim Irwin swore in the Albany-Saratoga Base Officers for 2008 as follows:

Base Commander – Al Singleman
Sr. Vice Commander – Fritz Feldhaus
Jr. Vice Commander – Ray Koch
Treasurer – Fred Carlson

Secretary – Mike Lynett was not present and will be sworn in at a later date. He is presently enjoying sunny Florida.

The Bell was tolled for Boats lost during the month of January and Submariner Edward Hickey of Burnt Hills who died 12/15/07 was also remembered.

All WWII Veterans present were asked to stand and be recognized. Ray Koch and Bill Whitney stood and were applauded.

Base Commander Singleman reported that Base members Paul Hartnägel and Craig Shafer were on the Binnacle list.

The reading of the Base minutes was waived and the minutes were approved as written.

The Treasurer's report for November and December was given. The closing balances for December were as follows: checking - \$2140.90, Memorial Foundation Money Market - \$35,164.42, Memorial Foundation checking - \$5000.00, and Trustco Stock – 65.417 shares @ \$9.525. There was a motion made and seconded to accept the reports as given. Also, there was a motion made and seconded to sell the Trustco Stock as it was steadily losing money. The proceeds of the sale will be deposited into the Base checking account.

Committee Reports

Base Commander Singleman reported that the Memorial Foundation will be one year old in February. The 501 (c) (3) is in place and all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Frank Hardick gave a report on the memorial. He set up a drawing of an artist's conception of the memorial and indicated that in today's dollars he would estimate the cost at five million dollars. He will have the architectural plans completed in approximately 3 months and will begin to ask for bids. He reminded us that we have a lot of money to raise. He requested all base members make a list of equipment manufacturers of equipment we remember from the boats. The base will contact all these entities. Also, we will request donations from Submarine vendors, politicians, and from private donors.

All Holland Club members were asked to come forward at this time. Base member Bill Whitney was honored and was inducted into the Holland Club. Bill qualified in 1944 on USS Chivo (SS-341) Congratulations Bill!

Base member and Golf Tournament Chairman John Christopher gave a brief report on the upcoming event. He has solicitation booklets made up and also has envelopes with donation request letters available to the Base members. He indicated that if every Base member could get one sponsor it would help make the tournament successful. If all the sponsorships available are sold, the Foundation will make a profit of \$200,000.00.

PRIDE RUNS DEEP

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Old Business

Commander Singleman reported that the Base needed to make arrangements to get our KapSS for KidSS program underway. We decided to work with the Double H Hole in the Woods camp and the Ronald McDonald House in Albany.

New Business

Base Commander Singleman reported he would like to start two projects. First, he would like to use the former Base Web Site to become a "Virtual Museum". Members who have submarine memorabilia can have it photographed and displayed on the site. Secondly, he would like to begin a program entitled "First Dolphins" wherein our Base would purchase several sets of dolphins, both silver and gold, and send them along with an accompanying certificate to newly qualified crew members on the USS Albany (SSN-753). There will be more to follow in the future on those items.

Jim Irwin reported that the District 2/District 5 Meeting will be hosted by our Base this coming October. The date will be set as not to conflict with the Navy Ball. We hope to have the meeting at Post 70 where once the date is set we will have the lunch and dinner catered at that location. We will need volunteers to assist with the catering, also to man the hospitality room and to negotiate with local hotels for the best room rates. More details to follow at the next meeting.

Base members were asked to think about a date for the summer picnic and if they wanted it at Lanthier's Grove again or at another venue.

Good and Welfare

CDR Singleman reported that the 50/50 raffle proceeds from November and December totaled \$160.00. The Base originally voted to send them to the fire victims in San Diego, CA but instead voted to send them to Paul Rompel in Holtsville, NY. Paul is a USSVI member of Long Island Base who is disabled and caught up in the bureaucracy of waiting for Social Security disability to kick in. A Base member added another \$40.00 and a Base check in the amount of \$200.00 was sent.

The Base 50/50 raffle was held with a prize of \$24.00 and won by John Mishoe.

The Creed of USSVI was recited by all and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting will begin at 7:00 pm on February 20, 2008. This meeting will be held at the **American Legion Adirondack Post 70 in Saratoga Springs, NY.**

At this time the meeting was turned over to Base member Ray Misiewicz who gave his presentation entitled "The Silent War." It covered some of the history concerning the special operation boats, Halibut, Seawolf, and Parche. It was enjoyed by all.

Submitted by: Jim Irwin
Eastern Region District 5 Commander
Albany-Saratoga Base
Pride Runs Deep

Albany-Saratoga Base mourns the loss of Base Member and WWII Sub Vet Lou Drapalski who passed away on January 24th. Rest easy shipmate – we have the watch.