The Zaloga Banner

The Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520
Serving Our Community, State and Nation since 1946
Kenneth Secor, Commander
(518) 459-1520
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"For God and Country"

April, 2026

Executive Board: Will meet on Tuesday, **April 7th** at **6:30PM.**

General Membership Meeting: The regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, **April 14th** at **7:00PM.** At this meeting nominations for the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees will be accepted in anticipation of voting at the May General Meeting.

Board of Trustees: Will meet on Tuesday **April 21st** at **6:30PM.**

Albany County American Legion: Will meet on Thursday, April 23rd at the **Helderburg Post**, **977**, Altamont, at **7:00 PM.**

The **Honor a Vet** will be held on Monday **April 6th** at the Albany Elks Club, 25 Allen St. at **8:30AM**. This month's honoree will be **Andrew "Stretch" Phelan, U. S. Army**. Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.

2026/27 Officer/Trustee Elections

During the month of April, nominations for Executive Board and Board of Trustee positions are being accepted. Nominations can be submitted either by contacting Jerry Perry in person or at (518) 459-1520 and leave a message. Nominations can also be made at the April General Membership Meeting. Remember, you may nominate yourself or any other member but in order to do so, you must have their consent, so if they are not present, their consent must be in writing. **Note:** The election of Executive Board and Board of Trustee positions will take place at the May General Membership Meeting. Positions for election to the Board of Trustees are three - 3 year terms along with the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. **Note:** to be considered for an officer position on the Board of Trustees, a nominee must have served a minimum of eight years, combined, on the Executive Board and/or the Board of Trustees. Finally, all those elected, either for the Executive Board or the Board of Trustees will be sworn in during the June General Membership Meeting.

Memorial Day Events

The start of our annual Memorial Day remembrance is the placement of flags in Albany Rural Cemetery on May 17th to honor our Veterans. Then, on May 25th, we march in the City of Albany Memorial Day Parade and close out the day with an open house at our Post. More info to follow next month.

Membership

Our membership renewals stand at 484, which represents 91% of our goal of 533. We need 49 members to renew their dues so that the Post can attain 100% membership. As a convenience, you can pay your dues on line at *www.legion.org/renew* or drop it off and/or mail it to the Post. Also, if you know of a member that is financially unable to pay, (nursing home, hospital, financial hardship, etc.) please notify **Bob McGraw** at **(518) 265-6851. Please note:** if your dues were not paid by **January 1st** you are now in a delinquent status and your **red door key card** will no longer grant you access to the **Post.** You will need to have a **blue door key card** and you can only get that by paying your 2026 dues. Also, please remember that the dues for this year are $45.00. If you have any questions about your membership, you may call the Post at (518) 459-1520 and someone will get back to you.

Walkathon

This year's annual **Albany County Auxiliary/SAL** "They Marched For Us, Let's Walk For Them" **Walkathon** will be held on **April 25th** at the Sharon Drive Pavilion in Cook Park, Colonie. Registration will be at 11:00 AM with the walk to begin at noon. This year's proceeds will benefit Veterans' programs. If you are interested in donating contact **Dave Bishop** at **(518) 590-6483** or **Judy Benner** at **(518) 869-8668** or send your check, made payable to Detachment of NY, and note "Walkathon" on the memo line, and send to J.E. Zaloga Post, 4 Everett Rd. Ext., Albany, NY 12205. Also, "Boots" may be purchased at the bar.

Mothers' Day Breakfast

You are invited to our annual Mothers' Day breakfast, to be held on Sunday, May 10th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. The buffet will include scrambled eggs, bacon, breakfast sausage, French toast sticks, waffles, gluten free waffles, mini Danish and of course coffee, tea, orange and cranberry juices. Donations: $12.00 for adults, children 6 to 10 $7.00, and children 5 and under are free. It is highly recommended that parties of 8 or more call the Post (518) 459-1520 for reservations.

Commander's Message

Greetings. It's officially Spring. Well, the snow is almost gone and it's still a little chilly out but it will be warm in no time. Last month we started having Sunday dinners at the Post and they have been going very well, especially the St. Patrick's Day dinner. I'm sad to say that I haven't been able to be at all of them due to just having surgery but our 1st Vice Commander Bob McGraw has been there filling in and keeping me updated on the success of the dinners and the support our members have provided. Our cook, Charlie, has been doing a great job. Thank you Charlie. Because of the success, we will continue with these Sunday dinners. I hope to see many of you there once I recover. The kid's Easter party was also a great success. The kids and parents had a great time. Thank you to the Auxiliary for running the event. Coming up soon will be Memorial Day and Poppy month. We will need volunteers to place flags at Albany Rural Cemetery, march in the parade, and assist with the open house after the parade. Please contact Bob McGraw at (518) 265-6851 if you would like to help. May is Poppy month which is one of our biggest fundraisers. The funds we raise help support our Legion programs. Please consider volunteering to assist us with this important fundraising. If you would like to help please contact George Otty. Also, election of officers will be coming up soon. If anyone is interested in running for a position in our Post leadership contact Jerry Perry or see him at our next meeting. Enjoy the warming weather and thank you for being a part of our Legion family.

Poppy Distribution

Poppy Chairmen, Roger Gulley and **George Otty** remind us that **May** is **Poppy month**. Now is the time to consider helping to make this project of the American Legion as successful as it can be. Don't forget the importance of donations collected from the distribution of this little blossom which go to assist our hospitalized and needy **Veterans**. If you have some time to help distribute these small mementos, which commemorate the sacrifices of men and women who served and died for our **Country** in all wars, contact Chairman Roger Gulley at **(518) 489-0331** or **George Otty** at **(518) 813-0448** and leave a message. They will have various times and locations available to distribute Poppies so please consider donating some of your valuable time to help with this important endeavor. In furtherance of this project, Roger and George will have a list of times, dates and locations available at our April General Membership meeting.

SAL Corner

John Trong, Squadron Commander

Hello everyone. Monday night cornhole has been a big success. If you're looking for something to do stop down and join the fun. Food is available for purchase at 6pm and the games begin at 6:30. There are 30 members playing. Congratulations to Charlie "the cook" our 50/50 winner in March.

The 2026 Annual Sons' Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 25th. Tickets are available at the bar or by calling me (518) 928-5744. A $30 donation includes appetizers, buffet, beer, wine, soda and entertainment. 50/50 and raffle tickets can be purchased at the event. The deadline for purchasing tickets is April 12th. If you'd like to donate a gift card or basket for the raffle please contact me.

Sunday dinners are now available at the Post from 3pm until 6pm. Please check the schedule to plan your Sunday out. It's a good day for getting together with friends and enjoying a delicious meal.

2026 membership dues are past due. Please see Dave Bishop to renew. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14th.

Please consider volunteering at any upcoming post events. New volunteers are needed and welcome.

Stay safe. See you all soon.

BINGO

Every Friday night a BINGO extravaganza is held in our Klimek Hall. Doors open at 4:15PM with games starting at 7:00PM. Each week prizes in excess of $2,300 are awarded. Also available is a gourmet selection of delectable "BINGO fare". Come and enjoy an evening of games with a chance to leave with a profit. You'll enjoy the repartee with the most friendly callers in the area. .

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Sick Call

Dave Bernardi - Van Renns. Manor Nursing Home
Pat Faragon - Shaker Point Nursing Point
Ed Kearsing - Schenectady Center
Herm Ungerman - Peregrine Nursing Home

"We remember our fallen comrades"

Donald Thayer	**06/02/25**
Mark S. Blank	**03/07/26**

If you know of any Veteran who is ill or suffering extreme hardship please feel free to call **Chaplain Elmo Kearsing at (518) 573-0781.**

Auxiliary News

Pam Tracy, President

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00.** Please bring a favorite dessert to share. Thank you to all of the members that always help to set-up, and clean-up after each meeting. I really appreciate it.

April County Meeting: will be held on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 7:00pm** at the Helderberg Post in Altamont.

Membership: Our Unit has 365 members out of 387 paid. That has put the Unit at 94.3%. Thank you to all that paid their dues for the 2026. The Unit would like to welcome New Members Cheryl Sifka and Jackie Place.

50/50 Raffle: this drawing takes place at our monthly meeting. The cost per ticket is $1.00. You may purchase as many tickets as you would like. This raffle is vitally important in the operation of our Unit's many programs. If you wish to be in the drawing on a monthly basis, you can send a check along with mailing labels to the Post in care of Beverly Schilling or visit her any Friday night at bingo. Make the check payable to: ALA Unit 1520. The drawing runs from January to December of each year. **50/50 Drawing:** The winner of the March 50/50 drawing was Dan Ryan. He received $187.50.

VA Bingo: Our Unit is very happy to announce that Bingo is being hosted once again at the VA Hospital. Thank you to Beverly and Larry Schilling for getting it set up. Our volunteers Donna Salamida, Pat Eworonsky, Helen Rizzo, Anne and Joe Forenzo, Kim Aguado and myself along with Bev and Larry enjoyed it as much as the clients. We will be hosting it once a month from September through June. The next one is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th from 1:00-3:00. Take the main elevators to the 4th floor and go through the glass doors. The activity room is right there. It is such a rewarding experience and all are welcome to help.

Our S.A.L. Detachment will be hosting their **Annual Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, April 25th at** Cook Park in Colonie (use the Sharon Drive entrance). Everyone is welcome to join the walk. Registration is at 11:00am and the walk will start at 12:00 noon. If you cannot make it and would like to donate, you made do so by sending a check to Judy Benner, 13 Broderick Street, Albany, New York 12205. Please make the check out to S.A.L. Detachment – Walk-a-thon.

Our S.A.L. Squadron 1520 will be hosting their **Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, April 25th. The cost is $30.00 per person.** This price includes a hot/cold buffet, beer, wine and soda along with a dessert table. Tickets are on sale at the bar. Come out and have a wonderful time and support our S.A.L. Squadron

Poppy Distribution: Our poppy distribution time is fast approaching. Chairperson Claire Grant is seeking volunteers for this project. We Need Your Help. Please contact Claire at 518-527-2934 for dates, times and locations. We need your help to make this program a success.

Nomination of Officers: April is the month for nominations of officers. Nominations are open for the following offices: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Anna Kelly and Ann Trong are the Co-chairmen for this committee. If you are interested in running for any of these offices, please see one of them.

End of Year Dinner: the date for this affair is Tuesday, June 16th. The plans are in the works. More information will follow in the May newsletter.

Chaplains Corner: Please notify Jo Grace at 518 573 3957 on the passing of a member. Please notify Pat Lito at 518 459 3842 regarding the illness of any member. Get Well Cards were sent to: Ann Zaccardo, Patricia Lito, Deana Barna, Katy Carras, Candy Person, Myrna Robinson and Brigette Christensen. Condolences were sent to the families of Teresa Rourke and Dolores Willey on their passing. Thinking of you cards were sent to Ann Wright on the passing of her brother Joseph and also Darlene Newman on the passing of her partner Joseph Piccolino

Signs of Spring are appearing in the Gardens.

For God and Country,

Pamela Tracy, President

JOSEPH E. ZALOGA POST 1520
AMERICAN LEGION
4 EVERETT ROAD EXT
ALBANY, NY 12205

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 727
Albany, NY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Are You Hungry?

Albany County Cemetery Plot Fundraiser: On May 3rd from 2:00PM to 6:00PM a fundraiser dinner will be held to benefit the section in the Albany County Cemetery dedicated to Albany County veterans. This section is currently being renovated and maintained by Albany County legionnaires. Expenses, include the realigning of the grave stones and lawn maintenance. This event will consist of pepperoni, cheese and crackers from 2– 2:45, at 3:00 there will be a brief program consisting of three speakers who will this talk about the burial site and at 3:30 a spaghetti dinner will be served for a donation of $20.00.

Post Dinners

Weekly dinners in the DeMizio Lounge, prepared by Chef Charles:

April 12 - Chicken Parm
April 19 - Turkey
Dinners will be available starting at 3:00PM and ending at 6:00PM or until food runs out.

Notify the Post if you have a temporary or permanent change of address.

Saturday Night Entertainment

Saturday-Apr. 4th - Brian Zappel

Saturday-Apr. 11th - Sal Graziano

Saturday-Apr. 18th - Kevin Pepe

Saturday-Apr. 25th - No entertainment in the bar. (see Sal fundraiser)

Coming Soon

April 14th - Poppy gluing party
April 25th - SAL/Auxiliary Walkathon
April 25th - SAL Fundraiser
May 3rd - Cemetery Spaghetti fundraiser
April 10th - Mothers' Day breakfast

WANT INFORMATION ON THE AMERICAN LEGION ?

Go to **www.legion.org**

Support Our Troops and especially our Members that are serving our Country