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"

February, 2026

Executive Board: Will meet on Tuesday, **February 3rd** at **6:30PM.**

General Membership Meeting: The regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, **February 10th** at **7:00PM.**

Board of Trustees: Will meet on Tuesday **February 17th** at **6:30PM.**

Albany County American Legion: Will meet on Thursday, **February 26th** at the **Legnard-Curtin Post #927, Green Island** at **7:00 PM.**

The **Honor a Vet** will be held on Monday **February 2nd** at the No. Albany Post, #1610, at **8:30AM**. This month's honoree will be **Ralph Baird, U. S. Army**. Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.

Valentine's Day Party

Our annual Valentine's Day party will be held on **Saturday, Feb. 14th**. Appetizers will be served from 6:00 to 7:00pm with a turkey dinner served at 7:00pm. Beer, wine and soda will be included for a donation of $25.00. Music for your listening and dancing pleasure will be provided by Scott McNellis. Tickets are available in the DeMizio Lounge and must be procured by **Feb. 7th.**

Super Bowl Sunday

Join the fun. The Zaloga Post annual Super Bowl party will be held on **February 8, 2026** at 6:30pm A $35.00 donation will include beer, wine and soda along with snacks starting 1/2 hour before the game until the end of the game. A buffet which will include chicken wings, sausage and peppers, vodka penne, macaroni and potato salads, along with potato wedges will be served after the 1st quarter. Tickets can be purchased in advance in the DeMizio Lounge. Donation on the day of the game will be $40.00.

Membership

Our membership renewals stand at 462, which represents 87% of our goal of 533. We need 71 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 who is financially unable to pay, (nursing home, hospital, financial hardship, etc.) please notify **Robert McGraw** at **(518) 265-6851. Please note:** if your dues have not been paid by **January 1st** you are now considered delinquent 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 now $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.

Post Snow Policy

Because snow has a tendency to accumulate on the roof, and especially on the solar panels on the rear of the building, access to the Post will be restricted to the front of the building after a snow fall. Please comply with safety signs or when instructed by staff. Also, regarding possible cancellations of events at the Post such as Bingo or an actual Post closure, check your local TV stations for community calendar where school closings are normally listed.

Volunteers

As previously mentioned in other editions of this publication, the continued successful running of our Post is significantly dependent on members volunteering their time and talents. Every month there are numerous tasks that require attention and as everybody has heard, "many hands make light work". Think about helping out and call Bob McGraw at (518) 265-6851.

Commander's Message

Well it's been an interesting winter so far with the weather. However, we have been busy at the Post. First of all, we had a great Department Commander's visitation and dinner. The County took Department leadership for brunch at the Blanchard-Currey Post, a tour of the USS Slater, & capped off the visit with a great dinner here at our Post. I want to thank all the members that came to the Post and especially the Legionaries, Auxiliary, and Sons that helped us with the events during the Department's Mid-Winter conference. What a great time. Many members from other Posts commented about how great our facility is and how friendly and welcoming our members were. We do have a great facility and are thankful to all the volunteers who keep it running. Our members though are what really make this Post what it is. Thank you all for being members and contributing to the success of our Post. Coming up this month we will have a couple of our popular events, the Superbowl party and adult Valentine's Day party. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events. Wayne Peplowski and our Sons have started a cornhole night every Monday at 7pm. It's just for fun so if you're interested, stop in some Monday and join the fun. Stay warm and safe. As always, 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**. Yes, it is a few months away, but 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.

Cornhole

As noted elsewhere in this edition, an enthusiastic group of our members currently get together every Monday night to play "cornhole". If you haven't tried it you don't know what you are missing. Stop in any Monday at 7:00 PM and give it a try.

SAL Corner

John Trong, Squadron Commander

Hello everyone. The Department Commander visitation and the Mid-Winter Conference in January went very well. It was great meeting the people who stopped by the Post. Thank you to all the Sons who helped out. Cornhole started on January 5th. There are over 20 members playing on Monday nights. It's a great way to break up the winter boredom. Congratulations to Patty Eworonsky our 50/50 winner in January. As we enter February, we have the Superbowl party on the 8th and the Valentines Day Party on the 14th. Come out and join in on the fun! 2026 membership dues are now due. Please see Dave Bishop to renew. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10th.

Tickets will be available on February 8th for the annual Son's fundraiser to be held on April 25th. More information to come soon.

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

Stay safe. See you all soon.

BINGO

Every Friday night a BINGO extravaganza is held in our Klimek Hall. Doors open at 4:30PM 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
Joe Rivers - Recovering at Home
Herm Ungerman - Peregrine Nursing Home

"We remember our fallen comrades"

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, February 17th at 7:00 pm.** Please bring a favorite dessert to share. Thank you to all of the members that always share their delicious baked goods, help to set-up, clean up and close up after each meeting. I really appreciate it. The February County Meeting will be held at the **Blanchard – Curry Post in Delmar on Tuesday, February 24th at 7:00pm**

Membership: - $35.00 for Seniors (18 years of age and older), Juniors $8.00 (17 years of age and younger). Make all checks payable to: A.L.A. Unit 1520. They can be mailed to: Pam Tracy, 111 Frederick Avenue, Albany, New York 12205. 518 459 9259. If you leave any form of payment with the bartenders be sure that the payment is in an envelope addressed to me along with your name in the left hand corner. The deadline for renewal of dues has been extended to March 1, 2026. PLEASE, get your dues in before this date.

Veterans Hospital Bingo: starting on Tuesday, March 3rd our Unit will be hosting Bingo from 1:00 – 3:00 at the Stratton VA Medical Center. We are seeking volunteers to help with this fun time. Our Auxiliary, Legionnaires and Sons are welcome to join us. Please contact Beverly Schilling at 518 772 8711 if you are interested.

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. The winner of the January drawing was Donna Rogers for $170.00.

New Members: The Unit would like to welcome all of our new members, They are Donna St. Jean ,Donna Castle, Angela Schissler, Kathleen Berghela, Tara Francis, Paula Breen, Marilyn Ryan, Eleanor Kobasa, Susan Adams, Deborah Sullivan, Joyce Vine, Amanda Amyott, Lorie Hull, Carole LaFia, Amber Wagoner and Maureen Schaefer. Please plan on attending our February Meeting.

Chaplain's Corner: Get Well cards were sent to: Beverly Schilling, Patricia Reedy, Barbara Shanahan, Loretta (Lorie) Fish, Lorna McCartan, Sandy Fratianni, Michael Cea, Diane Burke (sister of Jeanne Moseley and Kathy Holmberg). Condolences were sent to Ann Renz on the passing of her husband Truman and Kathleen Holmberg on the passing of her husband John. Please contact Chaplain Jo Grace at 518 573 3957 on the passing of a member and contact Corresponding Chaplain Pat Lito at 518 459 3842 on the illness of any member.

Annual Valentine's Dance: February 14, 2026– Cocktail Hour – 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Dinner at 7:00pm. The meal will be a turkey dinner with all of the trimmings and delicious dessert. Beer, wine and soda are included in the price of $25.00 per person. Tickets are available from our wonderful bartenders. Please list every individual person's name that you are buying a ticket for. This makes it much easier to do the seating assignments.

Volunteers Needed: Poppy Chairman Claire Grant is looking for volunteers for the upcoming Poppy distribution season. It is not too early to sign-up. Claire has her sign-up sheet ready to be filled.

I will be seeking volunteers to chair our end of the year Auxiliary dinner in June. I will also be looking for a Nominating Committee (2 people) for the upcoming April meeting. Please, it takes a village. Be part of this village.

American Legion Birthday Month: March is the month that we celebrate the birth of the American Legion. The Legionnaires and Sons will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00. Beverly Schilling will be donating her delicious birthday cake for this celebration. We are seeking other baked goods for this meeting also. They can be dropped off at the Post. Be sure to put my name on them.

Our 2025 Holidays have come and gone. I would be remiss if I did not say **"THANK YOU"** to all our Auxiliary, Legionnaires and Sons for all their efforts in making our building look so beautiful during this time of year. Many positive comments were given during this Harvest and Holiday Seasons.

Save the Dates: March 10, 2026 – Men's Monthly Meeting – American Legion Birthday Month – donated desserts needed. Meet and greet the Easter Bunny Ice Cream Social – Sunday, March 22nd 1:00 – 3:00. (No Charge) sign- up box will be in the bar starting on Sunday, February 15, 2026. Limited to the first 50 children signed up. Sons Detachment 1520 Annual Fundraiser will be held on April 25, 2026. More info to follow in the April Newsletter.

For God and Country, Thank You. Pam

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

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Attention!!!

Department of New York website:

nylegion.net

PLEASE

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

Saturday Night Entertainment

Saturday-Feb. 7th - Brian Zappel

Saturday-Feb. 14th - No entertainment in lounge

Saturday-Feb. 21st - Sal Graziano

Saturday-Feb. 28th - Bill Perry

Coming Soon

Feb. 8th - Super Bowl Party
Feb. 14th - Valentine's Day Party
March 22nd - Kid's Easter Party
April 25th - Annual SAL fundraiser (more info in future newsletters)

WANT INFORMATION ON THE AMERICAN LEGION ?

Go to **www.legion.org**

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