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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Email: zal1520@nycap.rr.com
Facebook: Official Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520 @
www.facebook.com/groups/866411328765532

"For God and Country"

January, 2026

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

General Membership Meeting: The regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, **January 13th** at **7:00PM.**

Board of Trustees: Will meet on Tuesday **January 20th** at **6:30PM.**

Albany County American Legion: Will meet on Thursday, **January 22nd** at the **E. T. Ruane Post 476, Cohoes** at **7:00 PM.**

The **Honor a Vet** will be held on Monday **January 5th** at the **Robert L. Weininger, VFW Post 8692**, 142 VFW Drive Colonie NY, 12205. at **8:30AM**. This month's honoree will be **James E. Brown, U. S. Army**. Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.

Mid-Winter Conference

This year's Mid-Winter Conference will be held **January 16th - 18th** at the Crowne Plaza/ Desmond Hotel. For a list of meetings and events you may inquire at NYLegion.net, click on "news and events" and then "mid-winter conference". On **Friday**, **Jan. 16th** at the Post, food will be available from 4:00 to 7:00pm and as well as on **Saturday, Jan. 17th** from 3:00 to 6:00. Entertainment, will be available in the DeMizio Lounge both nights for your dancing and listening pleasure.

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. Draft beer, wine and soda will be included for a donation of $25.00. Music for your listening and dancing pleasure will be provided. Tickets will be available in the DeMizio Lounge starting **Jan. 12th** and must be procured by **Feb. 7th.**

Post Closures

The Post will be closed on both December 25th and January 1st.

Membership

Our membership renewals stand at 428, which represents 80% of our goal of 533. We need 105 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 **Robert McGraw** at **(518) 265-6851. Please note:** if your dues have not been paid by **January 1st** you will be placed 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 is $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.

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 hot buffet which will include chicken wings, sausage and peppers, vodka penne, macaroni and potato salad and 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.

Commander's Message

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season and may the new year be a great year. It was great to see so many members at the Pearl Harbor ceremony and the adult Christmas party. As the new year starts we have plenty of events coming up such as the Department Commander's visitation dinner (January 14th), the Department mid-winter conference (January 16-18th), Superbowl party (February 8th), and the adult Valentine's Day party (February 14th). Hope to see a great turnout for these events too. We are preparing for our Poppy distribution and donation sites so we will be asking for volunteers soon. This is one of our biggest fundraisers so it's important that we get volunteers to support this. Welcome to our newest bartender, Frank Aguado, who will be working on Sunday afternoons. In order to provide some more activities here, the Sons will be starting a weekly cornhole night on January 6th. This is not a league, just a fun evening and you can contact Wayne Peplowski if you are interested or have any questions. We are doing great on membership but still have a bit to go to reach our goal. Membership is the duty of all our members so please help us retain our current members and get new members. As always, thank you for being a part of our Legion family.

V. A. Donations

On Dec. 3rd., members of the Zaloga Post family attended the quarterly Veterans' Volunteer Service meeting at the Stratton V.A. Medical Center. At that time, donations were given to help replenish the food pantry maintained there for needy veterans; specifically, our quarterly donation of $1,000, as well as $1,000 from Auxiliary BINGO snack bar workers, and a donation of over $1,100 from money raised by residents of the Peregrine Nursing Home who are Auxiliary members.

Volunteers

As mentioned in previous 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". The response for assistance at the various events held at the Post on Veterans' Day was gratifying and appreciated. However the need, throughout the coming year, still exists. Think about helping out and call Bob McGraw at (518) 265-6851.

SAL Corner

John Trong, Squadron Commander

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you enjoyed your holidays. The kid's Christmas party was a great success. I would like to thank Jim Prime, Emerson Kelly and Dave Kearsing for working the kitchen. The adult Christmas party was also a success with a great attendance.
Events happening in January include the Department Commander visitation on the 14th at the post and the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference at the Desmond on January 16-18.
Just a reminder the 2026 membership dues are now due. Please see Dave Bishop to renew. Congratulations to Debbie LaRose our 50/50 winner in December. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13th.
Please consider volunteering at any upcoming post events. New volunteers are needed. It's a fun way to be involved.
Stay safe. See you all soon.
Finally, and as always, God Bless America and God Bless the American Legion.

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
Herm Ungerman - Peregrine Nursing Home

"We remember our fallen comrades"

John K. Korzatkowski	**10/05/25**
John L. Lenne	**10/19/25**
Thomas A. Regan	**12/06/25**
Richard F. Volk	**12/06/25**

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 January 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm.** Please bring a favorite dessert to share. Thank you to all of the members that always help to set-up, clean up and close up after each meeting. I really appreciate it.

Membership: This time last year our Unit was at 87% in members paid. Right now we are at 70% paid. The Unit has 105 members that are in a delinquent state. We will be closing out membership for the 2026 year by January 31, 2026. Please, if you do not plan on renewing your dues for 2026, contact me at 518 522-9259 so that I may update our status. The cost remains at $35.00 for Seniors (18 years of age and older) and $8.00 for Juniors (under 18 years of age.) Make all checks payable to: A.L.A. Unit 1520 and mail to Pam Tracy, 111 Frederick Avenue, Albany, New York 12205. If you have paid your dues online, please let me know. I have your membership and key card..

Mid Winter Conference: The Conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel on Wolf Road. The dates are January 16th and 17th. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact me at 518 459 9259.

Holiday Decorating and Children's Holiday Party: Many of our Auxiliary members were very busy during the time frame of December 2nd – 7th. On the 2nd of December we wrapped presents for the children attending the Holiday Party. We also decorated the building for the upcoming festive time. On Sunday, December 7th, we hosted the Children's Holiday Party. This year we were fortunate to have students from the Colonie Central High School National Honor Society help us. They were Master Tattoo Artists for an hour. The children loved this project. Mr. and Mrs. Claus (you know who you are) made their very Special Appearance delivering gifts to all in attendance. Our Annual Chinese Auction and 50/50 drawing were a huge success. Congratulations to all of the winners. Thank you to John Trong, Jim Prime, Dave Kearsing (the Pizza Master) and Caitlin Pusz for handling all the refreshments that were served.

Please note, none of this is possible without the members and the dues that they contribute. Thank You so much to the following people: 8 year old Oliver Clas, Pat Eworonsky, Debbie Prime, Tara Francis, Ann Trong, Sonya LaBombard, Anna Kelly, Linda Loparco, Cheryl McMullin, Kim Aguado, Chris Perkinson, Tina Fountain, Claire Grant, Cindy Dott, Angela Schissler, Vicki Beckner, Brenda Selway, Terri Rourke, Candy Person, Joyce Martin, Mary Faulkner, Marilyn Ryan, Lori Peplowski, Tina Haskins, Wendy Natske, Alyssa Stringer, Denise Rozen, Pat Lito, Larry Schilling, Harvey Martel, Ron Fountain, Emerson Kelly, Bob Baldwin and Jim Rozen. Forgive me if I missed anyone.

Chaplains Corner: Get Well Cards were sent to: Carol Smith, Sheri Rockenstyre and Nancy Grace, Vito Zaccardo (Ann's Husband), Dan Holmes (Joanne's Husband). Latest report states that all are doing well. Condolences were sent to Virginia Volk on the passing of her husband Legionnaire Richard Volk. If you know of anyone that is ill, please contact Corresponding Chaplain Pat Lito at 518 459 3842. If you know of any member that has passed away please contact Chaplain Jo Grace at 518 573 3957.

The next County meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2025 at the J E Zaloga Post starting at 7:00pm.

Monthly 50/50 Drawing: The winner was Staci Ryan. She received $173.00. The new year is upon us and Bev Schilling continues to be as busy as ever with the monthly 50/50 drawing. If you are interested in becoming a part of this drawing, you can find Bev at bingo every Friday night. The cost is $1.00 per ticket per month. You may purchase more than one. You can also leave your payment (checks payable to: A.L.A. Unit 1520) in an envelope with the bartender. Make sure that that envelope is addressed to Beverly Schilling with your name and phone number on it. If you are mailing the payment, the address is J E Zaloga American Legion Post 1520, 4 Everett Road Extension, Albany, New York 12205, c/o of Beverly Schilling.

Winter is upon Us. Please dress warm, eat well and get your proper amount of rest. My doctor tells me this is a recipe for staying healthy.

Happy New Year to All.

Let's Hope that 2026 is filled with Love and Peace throughout the World.

For God and Country

President Pam

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

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Albany, NY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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-Jan. 3rd - Brian Zappel

Saturday-Jan. 10th - T.B.A.

Saturday-Jan. 17th - Sal Graziano

Saturday-Jan. 24th - T.B.A.

Saturday-Jan. 31st - Bill Perry

Coming Soon

Jan. 14th - Annual Dept. Commander's Visitation Dinner
Jan. 16th-18th - Mid Winter Conference
Feb. 8th - Super Bowl Party
Feb. 14th - Valentine's Day Party

WANT INFORMATION ON THE AMERICAN LEGION ?

Go to **www.legion.org**

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