The Zaloga Banner

The Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520

Serving Our Community, State and Nation since 1946

518-459-1520

John J. Thompson Jr., Commander

www.zalogapost1520.org

zal1520@nycap.rr.com

"For God and Country"

April, 2024

Executive Board: Will meet on Tuesday, **April 2nd** at **6:30PM.**

General Membership Meeting: The regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, **April 9th** at **7:00PM.**

Board of Trustees: Will meet on Tuesday **April 16th** at **6:30PM.**

Albany County American Legion: Will meet on Thursday, **April 25th** at the **Helderberg Post #977, Altamont** at **7:00 PM.**

The **Honor a Vet** will be held on Monday **April 1st** at **8:30AM** at the **J. E. Zaloga Post 1520.** This month's honoree will be **Vincent P. Loparco, U. S. Navy.** Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.

Membership

Our current membership is at 548 which represents 94% of our goal of 581. For those members who have not paid their 2024 dues, you are considered delinquent and by now you should have received a "past due notice" from National Headquarters. Also, your 2023 key card will no longer allow you access to the Post. You can pay your dues by sending a check for $40.00 to the Post at 4 Everett Rd. Extension, 12205 or you can pay on line at *nylegion.net,* select 'membership" and scroll down to "renew". If you have any questions regarding membership you may contact us at *membership@zalogapost1520.org* or call the Post at (518) 459-1520 and give the bartender your name and phone number and a member of the membership team will contact 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 27th** 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 be divided equally between the NYS VA Center Healthcare for Homeless Veterans and Hope for Warriors. If you are interested in donating to these programs, 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 from Joe. E. or Joann Flanagan.

2024/25 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.

Poppy Month

Poppy Chairman, Roger Gulley again reminds us that **May** is **Poppy month**. 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** and leave a message. Roger has various times and locations available to distribute Poppies so please consider donating some of your valuable time to help with this important endeavor.

Commander's Message

We have gotten through March and into April. Spring is here and additional projects are in the works. I hate to harp, but we really need members to provide some hours to keep the Post functioning. There are many options and if you can provide some help please contact Bob McGraw at (518) 265-6851. Some of the areas coming up in May: Poppies (Roger Gulley (518) 489-0331, Albany Rural Cemetery flags, and the Memorial Day Parade. Contact Bob McGraw.

April 1 Honor-A Vet ceremonies have restarted and our Historian, Gene Loparco's father will be the honoree. Hope to see a good turnout of Post members. Next general meeting is April 9th and Albany County meeting April 25th at the Helderberg Post in Altamont at 7 PM.

The April 9th General meeting: It is important for members to attend, as we are changing our By-Laws on the way we do election of officers. There will be a vote to get the members approval on these changes so it can move forward to County and Department approvals.

I want to thank Auxiliary President Pam Tracy and her members in providing a nice meal for the Legion Birthday celebration at March's General Meeting. Claire Grant was kind enough to be the chef. I believe everyone that attended enjoyed the food and desserts. Thanks again for all the Auxiliary does for Post 1520.

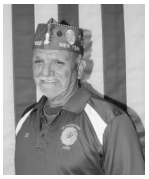
Over the years I have seen a lack of acknowledgment for the long term, continued faithful membership of many members. I have gone through our Post roster and have compiled a list of members who have 15 or more years of continued membership. However, I want to specifically note that currently we have 20 members who have 50 or more years of continued membership, a feat that is certainly noteworthy.. **Membership is important** and the more members the American Legion has, the better voice we have with congressional members of providing Veterans benefits.

Important Notice

Our current 1st Vice Commander, Ken Secor, who also serves as our Post Veteran Service Officer wants to alert all members that under no circumstances should you ever pay for the service of assisting you when filing a claim with the VA. Most, if not all Counties in New York State have certified Veteran Service Officers (**VSO**), like Ken, whose job it is to assist Veterans when dealing with the VA and the important thing to note is that that service is free of charge. In fact we have been notified that it is actually illegal for companies to charge for this service. If you have any questions regarding this matter, feel free to call the Post @ (518) 459-1520 and leave a message for Ken.

SAL Corner

Joe Eworonsky, Squadron Commander



Hello. I hope everyone is safe and healthy. Your dues are now delinquent. Just a friendly reminder to see Dave Bishop for any questions on membership and know that new members are always welcome. Poppies are on their way, if you can give a few hours at Sam's in Latham please see myself or Roger Gully. It would be appreciated. The Walk A Thon for homeless Vets will be in April at Cook Park. If interested in walking please see Dave Bishop. Our St. Patrick's celebration was a huge success as we sold out. Thanks for all that participated As always, God Bless America and God Bless the American Legion.

BINGO

Every Friday night BINGO 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 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.

Queen of Hearts

Our Queen of Hearts game continues to flourish with the drawing held every Friday during BINGO intermission. The growth of the jackpot depends on the sales both at BINGO and during the week in the DeMizio Lounge. The cost of a ticket is only $1.00 and the value of the Queen when found is 60% of all tickets sold during that particular cycle.

Sick Call

Dave Bernardi - Van Renns. Manor Nursing Home

"We remember our fallen comrades"

William C. Ingersoll 03/07/2024

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 regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **MONDAY, APRIL 8TH AT 7:00 pm. Please be aware of this day and date change.** We continue to welcome the variety of desserts that are shared every month. As always, coffee and tea will be served.

Membership: Renewals have come to a close for the 2024 year. Thank you to all that have rejoined our A.L.A. Family. A special "Welcome" goes out to the seventeen new members that have joined our organization. I will continue to take new members until April 30, 2024. Please remember that 2025 dues will be due no later than January 1, 2025, to remain in good standing. The dues fees will remain the same. They are $35.00 for Seniors (18 years of age and older) and $8.00 for Juniors (under 18 years of age). Any questions, please call Pam Tracy at 518-459-9259 or 518-522-9259.

50/50 Raffle: This raffle drawing takes place once a month. Anyone is eligible to participate in it. The cost is $1.00 per month ($9.00 for the remainder of the year). You can purchase as many chances as you would like. This raffle is a vital part of the Unit's operation. Please join in on this worthy program. Make your check out to ALA Unit 1520. In doing so, please enclose mailing labels for each monthly chance. You can mail your check to Beverly Schilling in care of the Post or you can see Bev every Friday night at Bingo. The winner of the March drawing was Donna Bennett. She received $138.00.

March /American Legion Birthday Month. As always, a delicious Meatloaf Dinner was prepared by Chef Claire Grant and her attending Line Chefs Deana Barna and Carol Smith. The meal and homemade desserts were served by a very impressive waitress staff consisting of Donna Salamida, Pat Eworonsky, Linda LoParco, Carol Smith and Pam Tracy.

The next Albany County meeting will be held at the Helderberg Unit in Altamont on April 23rd at 7:00 pm.

POPPY DISTRIBUTION: The 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.

Nomination of Officers: Committee Chairpersons Linda Loparco, Anne Throng and Carla Perry are seeking nomination of officers for the 2024 -2025 year. Anyone that is interested in holding the office of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer please contact Linda LoParco at 518-456-4667.

Dates to Remember: Election of Officers will be held at the May 20th meeting. Our Annual Memorial Service will also be held at this meeting. The End of the Year Dinner will be held on June 21st at 4:30. More info to follow on this event.

Sick Call: MaryAnn Davis, Nancy Jennings, Jeanne Mosely and Dolores Willey

Bereavement: Bertha (Thea) Bove, Marion Jones (Mother of Beverly Schilling) and Mary Paratore (Daughter of Sylvia McGahay).

Please contact Pam Tracy at 518-459-9259 or Judy Stoffels at 518-364-1449 with name(s) of any deceased members and contact Pat Lito at 518-459-3842 for any members that are sick or have been placed in nursing homes.

Spring has arrived in a strange sort of way. Be mindful of the weather and dress according to it. Let's work hard at feeling healthy and staying that way.

For God and Country,

Pamela Tracy, President

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

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 727
Albany, NY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Attention!!!

Department of New York website:

nylegion.net

Don't forget to contact Albany County Veteran's Service Bureau for the above card, if you have not already done so.

PLEASE

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

To view info and photos of events involving our post, go to *Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520* on Facebook or the internet.

Saturday Night Entertainment

Saturday-Apr. 6th - Brian Zapel

Saturday-Apr. 13th - Scott McNellis

Saturday-Apr. 20th - Kevin Pepe

Saturday-Apr. 27th - Bill Perry

Coming Soon

Apr. 1st - Honor a Vet @ J. E. Zaloga 1520
Apr. 11th - National Commander's Visitation Dinner, Saratoga, NY
Apr. 27th - SAL Walkathon, Cook Park, Colonie
May 19th - Flag Placement at Albany Rural Cemetery

WANT INFORMATION ON THE AMERICAN LEGION ?

Go to **www.legion.org**

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