



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

6630 Crain Highway, PO Box 441, La Plata, MD 20646

April 2026

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

Commander's Corner

Commander's Message:

By John Flatley, Commander, Post 82

Happy Spring!

As we step into April, there's a lot of positive momentum building around the Post. I'm happy to report that the HVAC system in the kitchen has been repaired—thanks to the generous financial support from the SAL, Auxiliary, and Riders, we are once again cooking with heat. We also identified and addressed a needed cleaning and pumping of the grease trap this week, helping ensure our kitchen stays in top working order for the long haul.

We've made several upgrades to improve your experience around the Post. Credit cards are now accepted in the Lounge, and members can run tabs with no additional cost for using a card. We've added Lottery Scratch-Offs in the Lounge. On the safety side, our updated security system is now fully operational. If you haven't already swapped out your old access card or fob, please see Shannon to get updated. There's also an option to add access directly to your phone—personally, I made the switch and have found it to work very well.

Looking ahead, we have a great opportunity to engage with our community. On April 29 from 6–8pm, Post 82 will partner with the Charles County Chamber of Commerce to host a Candidate Forum for Maryland Senator and Delegates. As members of the American Legion, we proudly support both the right and responsibility to vote,

What's Going on at the Post?

Good Friday, Apr 3 Steamed Shrimp Dinner
Members & Guests 5:00 PM – Until sold out

Wednesday, Apr 15 Game Night 6 – 8:00 PM

Friday, Apr 17 S.A.L. Rib Dinner 5 – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, Apr 21 Legion Orientation 6:00 PM

**Saturday, Apr 25 Member Appreciation/
Game Day Public Welcome 12 – 3:00 PM**

**Monday, Apr 27 Red Cross Blood Drive
UMCRMC Hosted 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM**
Appointments @ www.redcrossblood.org

EVERY WEDNESDAY S.A.L. Queen of Hearts
Drawing in the Lounge at 6:45 PM

EVERY THURSDAY Auxiliary BINGO
Doors open at 4:00 PM

Coming Up

**Apr 15th Application Deadline for
Department MD Scholarship**

**May 1st Application Deadlines for
Boys State and Girls State**

**Jun 26th Post 82 Golf Tournament Scramble
20th Annual Joe Williams Golf Tournament –
White Plains GC**

while remaining neutral in our support of individual candidates. I encourage you to attend, stay informed, and take part in the process.

We are also approaching the finish line for membership renewals. Currently, we stand at 90.19%—just 38 members shy of our 95% goal. If you haven't yet renewed for 2026, please take a moment to do so online, at the Post, or by mail. If something is standing in the way, whether personal or financial, please reach out to me or Jamie so we can work together on a solution. Finally, a big thank you to Adjutant Chris Zabriskie for organizing a first-class Oratorical Contest. Congratulations to Grace Hankinson, a sophomore at La Plata High School, who won at the District 6 level and placed 3rd at the Department—an impressive achievement with more opportunities ahead. Maryland Boys State registration is also open for current high school juniors. With ten applicants already from Charles County and room for more, I encourage you to spread the word—this is a fantastic opportunity, fully funded by local Posts, for young leaders interested in government or military service.

I look forward to seeing you at the Post!

John



johnflatleyjr@gmail.com

301.848.7664

Nominations Due to Nominating Committee

It's that time of year when Post elections are about to occur. Currently there is one opening for the position of Adjutant. Additionally, any member can nominate (or run) for any officer position. Nominations should be sent to a member of the nominating committee on or before the May meeting. The elections will be held at the June meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor as well. Members of the nominating committee are: Harry Tafe (240-925-4963), Bob Striegel (240-210-4775), and Ron Ansel (301-848-4379). Members submitting nominations or running for a position must be in good standing with dues current.

1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello, my fellow legionnaires!

Hope this newsletter finds you well as we enter the spring season. Our current membership status is 757 members renewed for a 94% membership rate, thank you to all that have renewed. For those that have yet to renew for the 2026 Legion year I ask for your assistance on behalf of Post 82, we are currently 45 members short of reaching our 100% goal. Our records show we have 77 members from 2025 that have not renewed for 2026 yet, and with these members we can easily reach our goals. We value you as members of our Post and do not wish to move forward without you. I have personally reached out via phone to complete buddy checks and to see if there are any needs the Post can assist with. You can renew online at www.mylegion.org or you can stop by Post 82 and drop off your renewal fee of \$45. We encourage you to complete this as soon as possible to keep your membership in good standing and maintain your active years of membership. You can also mail in your renewal to Post 82 PO Box 441, 6330 N. Crain Hwy, La Plata MD 20646.

We have member events coming up so I would like to invite all our members too.

On April 15th (yes Tax Day) we will have a Legion Member **GAME NIGHT** in the Lounge from 6 – 8:00 PM. Cards and games will be available but if you have a favorite game you would like to share, please bring it in. Thinking of trying out our new hotdog and popcorn machines, so please join us and we will see if this might be something we can do on a regular basis.



Get in on
GAME NIGHT
in the Members' Lounge!

April 15, 2026
(Wednesday)
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Join a game or bring your own!

Need more info?
Email 82postLaPlata@gmail.com
or call 301-934-8221

Brought to you by the
Post 82 Membership Committee

The flyer features a central graphic with a stack of wooden blocks, a red die, and several playing cards (Ace of Spades, King of Hearts, Queen of Clubs, Jack of Diamonds) scattered around it.

On April 21st at 6pm we conduct our second American Legion 101/ New Member Orientation where we will share information about the American Legion, Post 82, and the great programs we have going on and benefits we offer. This is open to all Post, Auxiliary, Son's, and anyone interested in joining the Post along with their families.

Lastly on April 25th we will have our **Member Appreciation/Game Day** in the hall from 1200-3pm. All members showing their 2026 membership cards will receive a free hotdog, chips, beans and water or soda. This includes Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Son's! Cost for family and non-members will be a low \$5, so come out and enjoy games, fellowship, and tasty food!

I look forward to seeing you at our next dinner or function. If you have any changes or updates to your address, phone, email or if you need assistance in renewing, please let us know.

Thank you,
Your 1st Vice Commander
Jamie Zayas -- Always Serving
82postlaplata@gmail.com
301-751-2822

AMERICAN LEGION GAMING

American Legion Gaming (ALG) is an initiative of the American Legion to engage members, families, and the community through gaming. This could include online computer-based gaming as well as more traditional board and/or card games. Right now ALG is open to legion members and non-members alike and supports goals of Comfort, Connection, and Careers. CALL TO ACTION: Post 82 is looking for one or two people to lead the effort to promote ALG at our post.

Post Adjutant
Chris Zabriskie
zabriskiect@gmail.com
240-320-6694



Chaplain's Corner

Happy Easter!

“He has risen!”

“He has risen indeed!”

As always, don't hesitate to contact me if there is something with which I may assist you.

Yours in Christ,
Paul Stockman, Chaplain
301-768-2514
papastockman@yahoo.com



Hello Twizzlers:

Goodness we are just about out of March and our year is coming to a close. If you wish to run for an office for the year 2026-2027 please contact Darlene Willett at 301-848-8219, Kathie Flanagan at 301-399-2610, or Janet Fogle at (301) 318-7775. The elections will be held at our May 12th meeting.

We will be hosting the District 6 meeting at our post on April 26th at 1pm. This meeting will have the Americanism essay contest winners. Please try to attend this meeting. If you are attending this meeting please bring a blind pig gift for the table.

We have a total of 12 girls to attend Girls State this year! Thank you Rita for all the hard work you have done with Girls State.

The Auxiliary donated \$500 to Gus Proctor for Easter Baskets thru the Sheriffs Department. This project is part of Life Styles.

A donation of \$5,000 was made to Quilts of Valor for material.

May 22nd is Poppy Day! Becky LaQuay will have a Poppy drive thru at the post at 1pm. If it rains the rain date is the 23rd.

Our BINGO chairman Cathy Grimm had surgery and is doing well. You can send a get well card to her at 7645 Annapolis Woods Road, Welcome, Maryland 26093. Mary Shaffer lost her sister Linda and you can send her a sympathy card at 132 Dulles Street, La Plata, MD 20646.

Our April meeting is on the 14th at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

For Service not Self,

Lesley Radcliff
Auxiliary Unit 82 President



S.A.L. Monthly Meetings are held the First Tuesday of Each Month at 1800hrs

At the regular monthly Squadron meeting on March 3, the members voted to donate \$300 to the La Plata High School (LPHS) Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) air rifle team, \$200 to the LPHS NJROTC color guard, and \$1,000 to the American Legion Post 82 baseball team. Don't forget, with the election of officers to be held at the May meeting, we will be starting to put together a slate of officers for the 2026-27 Administrative year. If you are interested becoming an officer, please let me know.

I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on March 23. Thirty seven residents attended. \$400 dollars were handed out in prizes.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Roy Yanosh, Lennie Lentz, Cindy Moruzzi, Carol Karpiaak, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Cathy Bryant, Kevin Bryant, Harry Lehman, Don Wamsley, John Earle, David Earle, Jill Williams, Brad Williams, and Matt Cox who volunteered at the fish fry on March 20. The next S.A.L. dinner, Baby Back ribs, will be on April 17. Check the flier on the website.
www.alpost82.org.

Thanks to Gale Willett and Gary Shupe who handled the registration and refreshment tables at the Squadron hosted American Red Cross (ARC) Blood Drive on March 23. Thirty eight units of "life saving" blood were collected.

As of the March 19 report, the Squadron 2026 membership is 210 which is 96.33% of our goal of 218. The renewal rate is 89.86%; Great job! If your card doesn't have 2026 at the top, please renew as soon as possible. Dues can be paid on-line at www.legion.org/sal-renew, by mail to PO Box 441, La Plata MD 20646, or in person by dropping it off at the Post. Please note, the on-line process is set up for renewals at the \$20 rate. Dual members and those under 21 should only use the mail or in person options.

Yours in Service,



Dave Tatman
Commander, Squadron 82
tatman_david@comcast.net
301-752-8273



**ALR Meetings are held the
Second Thursday of Each Month at 1800hrs**

The latest scoop from the Steel Pony Corral:

The Riders got off to a strong start after the snow cleared. They returned to Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on Saturday March 7, to clean up the wreaths that were placed in December. After the clean-up was done, the group enjoyed a nice lunch at Napoli's Restaurant in Waldorf.

A group of Riders met to put together the 2026 Ride Schedule which has been distributed to all members. Should you wish to plan or help plan with these rides please reach out to Road Captain Fred (Snake) Heppner to coordinate your efforts.

A group of Riders will be participating in The American Legion sponsored Sojourn 250 ride from Pittsburgh PA to Washington DC on July 4. They will be escorting the US Flag that has been flying over the graves and memorials of U.S. heroes buried in cemeteries under the American Battle Monuments Commission's care. This flag has traveled to 26 countries and will be presented during our nation's 250-year birthday.

Tickets have been distributed and the selling has commenced. We will only be selling 500 tickets for \$20 each with the winner receiving a choice of \$1000 cash or a Henry 45-70 Lever Action Rifle. The raffle drawing will be May 23, 2026, at the completion of our SMD Legacy Ride. If you wish to purchase tickets, please see any Rider at one of the Post events or Shannon at the bar. Also, if you want help with ticket sales, please get in touch with Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant

The Riders have started soliciting sponsors for Our 5th Annual SMD Legacy Ride. The ride will be held on May 23, 2026 with registration starting at 0830. This ride will help to fund The MD Legacy Run, Warfighter Advance, Vacations 4 Vets and other veterans and community causes throughout 2026. If you want to support either financially or volunteering to help, put on the event, please see Director Jeff Coombs. You can also register to ride the event online at our American Legion Riders Post 82 Public Facebook page. All bikes and cages are encouraged and welcome to ride.

Upcoming Rides and Events:

Thursday, April 9 - ALR Meeting @ 1800

Saturday, April 11 - State ALR Meeting @ 1200

**Saturday, April 18 – Capture the Flag
Ride @ TBD**

On behalf of Director Jeff Coombs, (Animal)
Kevin (BIG SEXY) Bryant

**“We ride In HONOR of those who have
served”**

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applications are due **April 15, 2026**

Scholarship Winners notified in **August 2026**

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant must: be a **child or a grandchild** of a veteran and be a Maryland resident.

- Not attained their 20th birthday by Jan 1, 2026
- Be a full-time student when he/she enters college (at least 12 credits per semester)

Applicants may complete the online version of the application at <https://mdlegion.org/formspace.htm>

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF VIETNAM VETERANS

Washington, D.C. - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is excited to announce the new Legacy Scholarship for the lineal descendants of Vietnam veterans. Applications are now open for the children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren and so on, aged 16-30, of U.S. military servicemembers who served in the Vietnam war.

Scholarships include up to ten (10) at \$2,000, two (2) at \$5,000 and one (1) at \$10,000 and are for students pursuing post-secondary education or career job training.

“We are proud to provide this opportunity to the descendants of our nation’s Vietnam veterans. Instead of the usual scholarship application where a student writes an essay about themselves, applicants are required to submit the stories about their Vietnam veteran so that we can preserve these stories of service for generations to come. We hope to gather the stories of as many Vietnam veterans as possible, while honoring their service by offering their descendants this scholarship opportunity,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF.

Selection for the scholarships will not be need-based or merit-based solely on academic achievement of the student applicant, but rather on a combination of the quality of the factual narrative of the Vietnam veteran while meeting minimal student qualifications. For living Vietnam veterans, the applicants must work with their veterans to collect their stories. For those on The Wall or those who passed after returning home, the applicants must interview family members or friends to collect their stories.

The application period is now open and the deadline to apply for a 2026 scholarship is **May 1, 2026**. Recipients will be announced on July 15, 2026. The application and details can be found here: www.vvmf.org/scholarship.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. in 1982. VVMF continues to lead the way in paying tribute to our nation’s Vietnam veterans and their families. VVMF’s mission is to honor and preserve the legacy of service in America and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era. To learn more about VVMF, visit www.vvmf.org.

Patriots on the Post 82 Memorials

S.A.L 1st Vice Commander Gale Willett brought up an idea to research and acknowledge the names on the Post memorials. Following is information about one of the individuals identified on the World War I memorial.

Joseph Dent Hungerford

Joseph Dent Hungerford was born in Marshall Hall on October 18, 1894. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hungerford. He graduated from St. John's College in Annapolis in 1916. He received a B.S. Degree from the University of Maryland the same year.

He volunteered in the United States Army in April 1917 and received his commission in September 1917. He quickly rose to the rank of Captain in Company C 10th Cavalry where he served from 1917 until he was killed in action in the Battle of Ambos Nogales in Nogales, Mexico, on August 27, 1918, at the age of 23. He is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery, Section 3, Site Lot 4041.



This isn't just another class—it's a powerful, 60-minute Zoom session that could help save a life.

Through this training you will learn how to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to recognize those at risk.
- Spot key risk factors and warning signs.
- Understand the types of suicidal ideation and four urgent behaviors that indicate imminent danger.
- Communicate with compassion and confidence when someone may be in crisis.

This opportunity is open to **everyone in the Legion Family—Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. Get more information and register for a session here**

<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

