



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Harry White Wilmer Post 82

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

February 2026

www.Alpost82.org

301-934-8221

What's Going on at the Post?

Friday, Feb 6 Steamed Shrimp Dinner

Members & Guests 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Volunteer Sign Up - <https://bit.ly/3MlovZc>

Saturday, Feb 7 - Wreaths Across America

Clean-up 10:00 AM

Sunday, Feb 8 Super Bowl LX Party

Tuesday, Feb 10 New Member Orientation

Friday, Feb 13 Banquet Hall Paint Prep

Saturday, Feb 14 Paint Hall Project 8:00 AM

Friday, Feb 20 S.A.L. Fish Fry Dinner

5 – 7:00 PM

Monday, Feb 23 UMCRMC Blood Drive

1:00 PM

Saturday, Feb 28 Oratorical Contest 10:00 AM

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

1st Vice Commander's Corner

Hello, my fellow legionnaires!

Hope this newsletter finds you well and you have survived our biggest snowstorm in years. Our current membership status is 717 members renewed for an 89% membership rate, thank you to all that have renewed. I would also like to welcome our newest Post members, I have recently completed nineteen transfers from Post 297, which is the holding Post for the State of Maryland. So, if you see fresh faces in the lounge, introduce yourself and welcome them into the Post.

For those who still have a 2025 membership card I am asking for your assistance to renew as soon as possible to help us reach our 100% goal with 95% renewal rate. With your help we can easily reach our goals. 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.

On February 10th we will be conducting our first American Legion 101/ New Member Orientation beginning at 5pm in the hall. This is also open to our long-standing members to answer any questions you may have. It is a way to share information about the American Legion, our Post 82, and the great programs we have going

on and benefits we offer. We are also completing a Buddy Check on our members, if there is anything you need, please always remember your American Legion Family is here to help.

I would also like to solicit ideas for membership appreciation. If you have something you would like to share with our membership committee, a function or get together you would like to see happen, something more we can do in the lounge or a family event, please send that to me via my contact information below. Also, if you would like to join our membership committee we would love to have you on the team.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me and leave a message. 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.

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

Adjutant's Corner

Oratorical Contest

American Legion Post 82 is excited to announce that our Oratorical Contest is on track to take place on **Saturday, February 28th at 10 a.m.** This important program encourages youth to develop a deeper knowledge of the **U.S. Constitution**, build confidence, and strengthen public speaking skills.

Contest Details:

- Each participant will deliver a prepared speech 8-10 minutes in length on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution.
- After the prepared speech, the contestants must speak extemporaneously on one of four randomly selected assigned topics related to the Constitution.

To support this even, **we need volunteers** – judges, timers, scorekeepers, room monitors and more. If you can help, please sign up.

The **deadline** for contestant applicants has been extended to **Friday, February 6th**. If you know a young person who would like to participate, please share the sign-up forms.

AMERICAN LEGION GAMING

American Legion Gaming (ALG) is a new national initiative of the American Legion that uses video games, board games, and card games to connect veterans, service members, families, and community members in a fun, supportive environment. It's built around three core ideas – **comfort, connection, and careers** – giving participants ways to find support, build friendships, and explore skills and opportunities in the gaming and tech world.

Recently, The American Legion has spotlighted this program at national events and community activities, showing how gaming can bring generations together and strengthen bonds. Gamers of all levels – from casual players to competitive enthusiasts – are finding shares purposes and connection through ALG.

At Post 82, we see ALG as one way we hope to **engage younger veterans, attract new members**, and create a welcoming activity for the broader community. Whether it's hosting casual game nights, friendly tournaments, or online meet-ups, this initiative can help our post stay connected and relevant for today's veteran generation.

We're looking for a member of Post 82 to volunteer as the American Legion Gaming Coordinator. If you're interested in helping launch and lead this effort – even if you're new to gaming or want to learn – please contact us!

Let's build something fun and meaningful together!

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.

American Legion Boys State

Post 82 is proud to promote Boys State, a premier leadership and citizenship program for **high school juniors (11th grade)** interested in government, public service, and leadership. Boys State gives students a hands-on experience with the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizenship by having them build and operate a mock city and state government, participate in elections, legislate, and engage in civic life – all under the guidance of veteran volunteers.

AMERICAN LEGION WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Save the Date: On Saturday, March 28th, the American Legion Southern Maryland Region Women's Veterans Committee will host Women's Veterans Appreciation Event. The event is open to all and will take place at 1 pm at AL Post 217 in College Park, MD, 9217 Baltimore Avenue.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGION

Do you want to learn more about what you pay your \$45 a year to support? Take American Legion's Basic Training. Commander Flatley has set a goal to increase the number of Post 82 members who are formally trained. You can knock it out in one afternoon, or over the course of several weeks. Sign up here
- <https://register.legion.org/alei>.

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



Chaplain's Corner

Post Everlasting

George David Christner, US Air Force, 58 years continuous American Legion membership.
March 25, 1938 – December 22, 2025.

Denise "Dee" Elizabeth Stockman, US Navy, March 10, 1958 – January 9, 2026. Beloved spouse of our Post Chaplain, Paul Stockman.

Readings for mourning loss of loved ones.

Psalm 34: 18: "The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Matthew 5:4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Psalm 147:3: "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."



Hello Twizzlers:

I hope everyone is staying warm with this cold weather! Valentines Day is coming up next month, so let's remember our Veterans. You can make or get cards and take them to Charlotte Hall for the veterans and also you can add a poppy to the card.

Since the weather is cold, you may wish to ask a veteran if they need to have groceries bought and delivered to them or in need of their medications to be picked up. A lot of people are unable to venture out in the cold so this would be a great way to help out the veterans and the community.

Please remember to send in your membership. We are hoping to make goal this year! If you know someone who is sick or has passed away, please let our Chaplain Mary Shaffer know. Her phone number is (301) 934-4372.

Bingo is doing great! We could still use some help in the kitchen and floor walkers. If you can spare a Thursday night come on out to the post. Bingo is how we make our money to help out the veterans and community with donations.

Our next meeting is February 10th at 6pm. Hope to see you!

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

I hope everyone enjoyed the snow. Thank goodness my snow blower worked.

At the regular monthly Squadron meeting on January 6, the members discussed plans for the fish fries scheduled for February 20 and March 20.

Gale Willett, Gary Shupe and I worked the floor at the Southern Maryland Region bingo at the CHVH on January 19. 42 residents attended. \$440 in prizes were handed out. It's always great to interact with the residents and staff.

Thanks to Gale Willett, Gary Shupe, Roy Yanosh, Alana Lentz, Lennie Lentz, Cindy Moruzzi, David Quade, Kathleen Quade, Cathy Bryant, and Harry Lehman who volunteered at the baby back rib dinner on January 16. During Lent, the Squadron will be hosting two fish fries. The first fish fry will be on February 20 and the second will be on March 20. The fish fries require a few more hands than the rib dinner, so if you have a few hours, come on out and lend a hand. Check the flier on the website, www.alpost82.org.

The Squadron hosted American Red Cross (ARC) Blood Drive on Monday, January 26th was cancelled because of the snow/ice storm. Thanks to some quick maneuvering by the ARC it was rescheduled for January 28. Gary Shupe and I worked the registration and refreshment tables. The results were better than could have been anticipated under the circumstances. 48 productive units were collected including five from first time donors. Thanks to everyone who made this happen.

As of the January 23 report, the Squadron 2026 membership is 193 which is 88.532% of our goal of 218. 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 want to wish their deepest sympathies and condolences to Paul Stockman and family whose wife passed away peacefully on Jan. 9, 2026. Denise Elizabeth (Dee) Stockman was a 15-year veteran of the US Navy where she was a

Petty Officer First Class. She served as a Certified Pharmacy Technician and Registered Nurse during her career. Paul was by her side till the end.

The Riders will be hosting a Dinner Night Out on Sat. Feb. 21 at 1700 for members and their wives and/or significant other. The dinner will be at Blue Dog Saloon in Port Tobacco. This is a well-attended event so don't forget to reserve your table early in the app sent out by Karen via the GroupMe app.

Our Polar Ride on Jan. 1 had 11 Riders and 10 motorcycles brave the 30-degree temps for a quick ride through the county. After lunch at United Seafood Buffet in Waldorf back home to get ready for the new year.

The Riders participated in a "Thank You for Your Service Ceremony" for our own Sgt. Bob Bradford. Bob had a brief hospital stay and then came home to Hospice Care. Please keep our Rider Sgt. Bob Bradford in your thoughts and prayers.

Hello Riders, it is that time of year for membership renewals. Riders, please renew your current memberships in the Legion, SAL, and The Auxiliary because this is mandatory for membership in the Riders. So far, we have just over 90% of our members have renewed their membership for 2026. Reminder- your 2026 dues are \$15 but if not renewed by 12/31/25 you will become inactive and not allowed to vote or participate in Rider events. So, save yourself some money and renew today. Also, the resources and time used to collect dues can be allocated to other worthwhile endeavors and our Treasurer will have one less item on his "To do list".

Upcoming Rides and Events:
Thursday, February 12 - ALR Meeting 1800
Saturday, February 21- ALR Dinner Night Out @ 1700

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 Jan1, 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/formspage.htm>



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>

