

Seeley B Parish 457



Post 457 In Action



2025 Ontario County Department Visitation



Commander's Message



Greetings everyone!

The first month of the New Year has come and gone. We had a pretty busy month across the country. Wild fires in California, new commander and chief of our country, blizzard like conditions in south. We had our New York Department visitation also this past month

Thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the wildfires in California. It is terrible to see a city destroyed by a natural disaster. Hats off to the first responders that put their all into taking control of the situation to control the fire and evacuate all in its way.

Blizzard-like conditions in the south, wow that is crazy. These conditions have created unsafe traveling and housing issues for many in their region. From deadly car crashes to thousands without power in freezing weather. Let's keep them in our thoughts as we continue on into the winter months.

This month we held the New York department visitation. It was a pleasure to have the event at our legion. Commander Keith Koster spoke on his "Be the One", and how we need to act if we see signs of suicide in our shipmates, family members, brothers, sister and friends.

Commander Koster also spoke on how the legion is trying to help with getting bills passed in congress. One specifically being how members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) do not get paid when the government shuts down. This is because USCG acts under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and not the Department of Defense (DOD). With that being said the USCG during the shut down of 2019 our Coast Guard members continued to do their mission even while missing out on three pay checks. This is something I personally saw, and had experienced. It becomes tough for families around the world with their spouse underway/ deployed, not always being able to reach out and explain why this is happening and they are not home. It is great to see this is something on his mind

Also a part I heard and read about was how our female veterans are not always given proper respect. They will be seen wearing a veterans cover or a veterans t-shirt and be asked "when did your husband serve?" This is very hard on our female veterans. What I want everyone to try and do is ask a female veteran about their time in the service. See what their experience was and start giving them the same level of respect that you would give to a male veteran.

If you want to read more on Commander Koster, Visit the NY department website. <https://nylegion.net/department/>

Make sure to check out the department section and news section.

I would to thank everyone for a great month once again. I can't wait to see our members at our next meeting!

Commander Matthew Heilmann
Post 457

Frozen Fingers
Horseshoe Tournament &
Chili Contest

Saturday, February 22nd
\$10 Entry Fee per Player
11:30 Blind Draw

Chili Contest - No Entry Fee
Crock Pots Must be at the Post by Noon



Auxiliary Message



Greetings all!

We hope this finds you, your family & friends in continued good health.

This is a reminder for all Legion Family members that if you have not paid your 2025 dues you are considered delinquent. We are requesting that you please pay them as soon as possible. You are the lifeblood of our organization, and we cannot continue as the great organization we are without you. You are important to our Veterans, our children and our community. Please check to see if you have a 2025 card in your possession. If you are an Auxiliary member and are not sure whether you paid your dues or have any questions on membership, please contact our Membership Chair, Cindy Atkinson at (315) 759-9570. According to reports issued by ALA Department of New York, our Auxiliary is currently at 92.08% with 232 paid members. Our goal is very attainable. Please help us get there by paying your 2025 dues now and helping us recruit new members. Together we can do this!

At our meeting the members voted to have Kim VanCamp give our donation to the President’s Project, “Homeward Bound” at the Department Visitation Dinner on January 27th. This money (1,800) collected was from the lottery raffle. “Homeward Bound” is a place in the Adirondacks for Veterans mental health. Thank you, Kim, for doing an outstanding job. We also voted to give the Department Commander (his project is “Be the one” for suicide prevention) and Department SAL Commander (Children & Youth) \$300 each for their projects.

I want to thank all those who helped make the Department Visitation great. Special thanks to Linda Lush, and Cindy Atkinson for ironing the tablecloths.

Thank you, thank you for helping our veterans and family members. We hope to see you at our February meeting. In the meantime, stay healthy, safe and most of all keep laughing and smiling! There are brighter days ahead!

President Barb





SAL Message



Scott received a certificate for completing the Detachment of NY Adjutant Class held at the 2025 American Legion Mid-Winter Conference.

Queen's Café Menu

Serving from 5-7 PM or
until **sold out**

- Feb 4th- SAL Steak Night **SOLD OUT**
- Feb 11th- Post Pizza Night
- Feb 18th -AUX Veteran Taco Tuesday
- Feb 25th- Grilled Chicken & Tater Tots

Congrats

alamy

SUPER BOWL
Sunday Party

Sun, February 9, 2025

Party starts at 4pm

Sergeant Major Dominick M. Valerio is a native of Phelps, New York. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on June 13th, 2006, attending Recruit Training at MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina. Upon completion of Recruit Training, he received training at the Infantry Training Battalion, Camp Geiger, North Carolina, to gain the primary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 0311 Infantry Rifleman. Sergeant Major Valerio continued his entry-level training, receiving a secondary MOS of 8152 Marine Security Force.

March 2007, Sergeant Major Valerio reported to the 3rd Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team, Camp Allen, Virginia. He deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom, Zamboanga City, Philippines during his tour. While deployed, he was selected to serve as Team Leader on a Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure Team under the 7th Fleet, USNS GySgt Fred W. Stockham.

In March of 2009, Sergeant Major Valerio received orders to 3rd Bn 7th Marines, Twentynine Palms, CA, and was assigned to Company K, 3rd Platoon. He was a squad leader and joint fires observer, deploying twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Sangin, Afghanistan. On April 2nd, 2010 Sergeant Major Valerio was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant.

In July 2012, Sergeant Major Valerio received orders to Marine Barracks Washington, Washington, D.C., and was assigned to Guard Company, 1st Platoon. He served as Platoon Sergeant before being meritoriously promoted to Staff Sergeant on April 2nd, 2013, and became the Platoon Commander for the 1st Platoon. During this time, he supported all physical security operations about the oldest post of the Marine Corps. In September 2013, Sergeant Major Valerio was hand-selected to serve as the Operations Chief of the White House Communications Agency, Marine Security Force, where he supported foreign travel missions for the President, Vice President, and the National Security Council.





Rider's Message



Welcome to the New Year 2025. I hope everybody had a good holiday. We have lots of plans for the New Year. If you would like to be a Riders member contact one of our officers. Our next Riders Café is February 25th from 5-7pm. We will be serving Grilled chicken and tater tots. Our next meeting is Monday March 3rd at 7pm.

Stay Safe and Ride Free

Steve VanCamp

Post 457 ALR Director



Upcoming Event's March

February

- 2/1- Auxiliary Breakfast -10am
- 2-3- Riders Mtg- 7pm
- 2/3- Euchre- 6:30pm
- 2/4- SAL Queens Café -5pm
- 2/5- Dominos- 9:30am
- 2/6- Aux. Soup & Sandwich- 5pm
- 2/9- Super Bowl Party- 4pm
- 2/10- Euchre- 6:30
- 2/11- Post Café- 5pm
- 2/11- Auxiliary Mtg- 7:30pm
- 2/12 Dominos- 9:30am
- 2/13- Board Mtg-7pm
- 2/15- Auxiliary Breakfast- 10am
- 2/17- Euchre- 6:30pm
- 2/18- Auxiliary Café- 5pm
- 2/19- Dominos- 9:30am
- 2/19- SAL Mtg- 7:30pm
- 2/20- Post Mtg 7:00pm
- 2/22- Frozen Fingers Horseshoe & Chili Cookoff- 12pm
- 2/24- Euchre- 6:30pm
- 2/25- Legion Riders Café- 5pm
- 2/26- Dominos- 9:30am

- 3/3- Riders Mtg 7pm
- 3/3-Euchre 6:30pm
- 3/4 SAL Café- 5pm
- 3/4- Fish Fry set up Noon
- 3/5- Dominos 9:30am
- 3/5 Ash Wednesday Fish Fry 5pm
- 3/6- Aux. Soup & Sandwich 5pm
- 3/9- Legion/SAL District Mtg Phelps 1pm
- 3/10- Euchre 6:30pm
- 3/11 Post Café- 5pm
- 3/11- Auxiliary Mtg 7:30pm
- 3/12- Dominos 9:30pm
- 3/13- Board Mtg 7pm
- 3/15 Auxiliary Breakfast 10am
- 3/17- Euchre 6:30pm
- 3/18- Auxiliary Café 5pm
- 3/18- Legion County Mtg Canandaigua
- 3/19- Dominos 9:30am
- 3/19- SAL Mtg 7:30pm
- 3/19 Auxiliary County Mtg 7pm Geneva
- 3/20Post Mtg 7pm
- 3/24- Euchre 6:30pm
- 3/24- SAL County Mtg Honeoye 7pm
- 3/25- Riders Café 5pm
- 3/26- Dominos 9:30am
- 3/28 SAL Cash Bash 6pm
- 3/29- Auxiliary Breakfast 10am
- 3/31- Euchre 6:30pm

Post 457 Family Membership

Post Membership: Dues are \$45 email Seeleymember@gmail.com for membership info.

Auxiliary Membership dues are \$35. Please notify Cindy Atkinson (315) 759-9570 or cindylatk@gmail.com of any updates to your personal information.

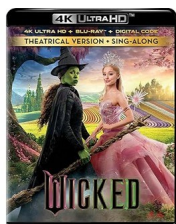
SAL Membership: dues are \$25 Please contact Jonathan Ruthven at (585) 474-2529 or ddruthven91@gmail.com for more information.

Rider Membership dues are \$20. Please contact Steve VanCamp at (315) 462-5271 for membership info.



As of 1/16/2025 Post 457 has 275 members paid out of our goal of 301 for a percentage paid of 91.36%.

Free Youth Movie & Pizza Party



Sunday, February 23rd
Pizza & Juice 1:00 PM
Movie & Pop Corn 2:00 PM

*Free & Open to
all Children!*

Wicked

Sponsored by: 

Super Bowl Tailgate Party



Sunday, February 9th
4:00 PM

Prayers for our Post 457 Family

Robert Maslyn



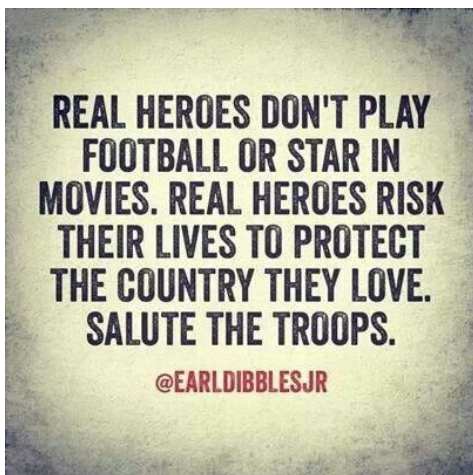
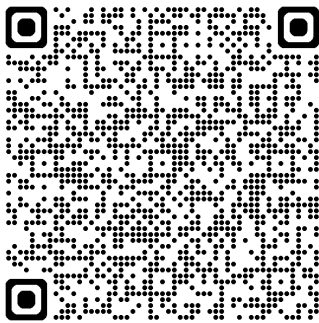
dreamstime.com ID 24650160 © Jeffrey Collingwood



If you have not seen it yet, we have a new Facebook page. Please like the new page to stay up to date with events, pictures, and more at our Post. Thanks!

Page Name: Phelps American Legion Post 457

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/people/PhelpsAmerican-Legion-Post457/61562517314347/?mibextid=LQOJ4d>



Disclaimer: The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnist, and are not necessarily those of the National, Department, District, County, or our American Legion Post.

Editor's: Tim & Barb Kesel

Deadline for articles is the 3rd Friday of the month!

Address / Email Delivery changes: Leave info in the newsletter mailbox at the Post or email: timkesel@gmail.com