



THE AMERICAN LEGION

UTICA POST 229

# FIRST CALL!

BILL SEQUIN, COMMANDER

FEBRUARY 2022

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP

## WE'RE AT 80% OF GOAL

Quota is 356; paid to date, 287, or 80%.

Did you renew for 2022? Now is the time to do it! Renew online; it's safe and FAST. If you were in the service and have an honorable discharge, you are eligible to join. If you are new to the area, why not come and check us out. We are a proud bunch and would be proud to have you join us!

-- Jack LaPaglia

### POST MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (Feb. 3)  
Dinner, 6; meeting, 6:30

COMMANDER  
Bill Sequin

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER  
Larry Weibel

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER  
Robert Stronach

ADJUTANT  
Len Lascala

TREASURER  
Robert Stronach

CHAPLAIN  
Paul Wojcik

HISTORIAN  
Connery Zaleski

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Stenson  
Stewart Bailey  
Ed Jackson  
Jack LaPaglia  
Vin Zaleski  
Doug Rocker

## ENJOY LIVE MUSIC



*Singer and songwriter Rick Adams will perform in the lounge at Utica Post on Feb. 25.*

Come and enjoy live music on Friday evening, Feb. 25. Local singer-songwriter Rick Adams will perform from 7 to 10 p.m. that Friday in the Lounge at Utica Post 229.

Rick, a four-time New York State vocalist champion in the Colgate Jimmy Dean Country Showdown, plays the guitar and harmonica.

"You say it and I play it, as my repertoire is the size of Texas," he quips.

Though his repertoire is extensive, he does love country music, even cutting a CD in 2003. It's the reason he adopted a stage name of Rick Adams. At the time,

he says, his real name, Richard Waskiewicz, didn't sound very country to him.

He began singing at age 14 and played the drums in high school (an all-star percussionist, Whitesboro class of 1984).

Today, when he's not performing, he teaches carpentry at Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES.

Rick is not new to The American Legion. He is a member of the Sons of the American Legion at Oriskany Post 1448 (his father was a marine in the Korean war), plus he is a charter member of Oriskany's American Legion Riders.



## COMMANDER'S CALL

BILL SEQUIN

### BINGO!

Bingo gets underway at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday, with doors opening a couple of hours earlier. Volunteers are needed; please consider helping out once or twice a month.

**Youth and energy.** That describes Connery

Zaleski, an army vet and one of our youngest members. He's not just our post historian. He has solved our computer and network issues, got our electronic bingo equipment up and operating, and volunteered to be bingo chair. Thank you, Connery!

# HEARTFELT THANKS FROM CIVIL AIR PATROL



Hello, Post 229! I am Captain Keith James, the commander of the Utica Cadet Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. I wanted to extend heartfelt thanks for hosting us. We just recently celebrated our 80th Anniversary as an organization and I am beyond happy to continue that long legacy with you!

Due to the onset of Covid restrictions two years ago, we lost our regular meeting place and most of our members and now in large part to meeting at the Legion, we are once again growing! In the interest of that growth, I'd like to invite you to come see what Civil Air Patrol is all about, but first, some highlights:

In a nutshell, The Civil Air Patrol is the official volunteer civilian Auxiliary of the Air Force and we cater to teens, seeking to transform them into dynamic Americans and aviation leaders.

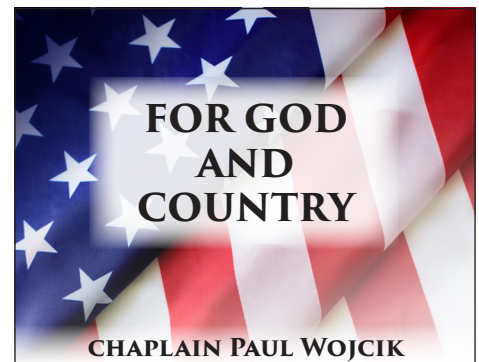
Our motto is 'saving lives, shaping futures and soaring to new heights,' and not only do we literally take our cadets to new heights in our airplanes, but we also teach them about leadership, aerospace, fitness and

character along the way.

Aside from performing 90% of the search-and-rescue missions in the U.S., our airplanes were some of the first in the skies over such domestic disasters as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the Kentucky Tornadoes, taking photos of the damage for ground crews to plan recovery efforts. Most recently, we've also been instrumental in the nationwide Covid vaccination effort, from flying vaccines where they need to go to helping direct traffic at vaccination clinics. Besides these more public missions, the real magic happens week-to-week at our meetings.

We are looking for interested teens to become cadets and adult volunteers to perform a variety of support roles for them. We meet Sunday afternoons at 1400 (2 p.m.) and I invite you to drop me a note at [kjames@cap.gov](mailto:kjames@cap.gov) or call or text at 315-732-5297 to let me know you're coming or to find out more.

You can also head to <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com> or visit us on social media to do some recon of your own. Whether we see you soon



God of power and might, thank You for the gift of love this Valentine's Day and for all the people whose love shines in my life. Continue to fill my heart with Your love and let me share that love with the world, this Valentines Day and always.

## REMEMBER

As long as you feel pain you are still alive. As long as you make mistakes you are still human. As long as you keep trying there is still hope.

## TIP TO REMEMBER

Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart to forgive the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God

## HOME COVID TEST

1. Open a can of beer and smell it.
2. If you can smell the beer, drink the beer and see if you can taste it.
3. If you can smell it and taste it, you don't have COVID.

Last night I did the test 19 times. All were negative. Tonight I'm going to take the test again. I woke up this morning with a headache and feel like I'm coming down with something.

or not, thanks for having us at the Legion Post. We look forward to a long and storied partnership with Post 229!





DOROTHY BAILEY, PRESIDENT

# AUXILIARY



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY BAILEY

Hi everyone!

I hoped everyone had time to relax, reflect, and reconnect with loved ones.

Our achievements were shared at the joint meeting on 1/6/22. Members personally and collectively helped and serviced our community, children and youth, and Veterans all year long. Here are the results that show off their efforts:

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Food, clothing, personal and household items collected for Thea Bowman House, Care Net, House of Good Shepherd, Rescue Mission.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH

- Children's Halloween and Christmas parties. Ten local businesses generously supported our requests. Committee members embraced the holiday spirit by donating their time and talents.

- Children's mitten/gloves project.

### VA&R

- Food, clothing, personal and household items to Feed Our Vets, Veterans Outreach.

- Participated in Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, POW/MIA events, funerals; cooked and cleaned up; sent cards and gifts; donated to the Christmas Gift Shop for Veterans.

Donations, value and services amounted to \$9,389 and 356 hours.

We are successful and always will be because of the Post 229 family. It shows what we can do when we work together.

We will continue to focus on helping and serving our Community, Children & Youth, Veterans, and each other.

*Yours in service.*



## 122 MEMBERS SO FAR

We have 122 members paid for 2022, with a quota of 171, so our percentage is 73%. Please note that as of January 31st, any member who has not paid dues for 2021 will not be able to access the post for any reason until dues are paid. That includes the lounge, renting the hall, or attending member events.

You can renew your Auxiliary membership in one of three ways: by going online, by phone or by mail.

- Go to [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org),
- Call National HQ (317) 569-4570, or
- Mail a check for \$25 to Utica Unit 229.

*-- Yours in service,  
Rosetta LaPaglia*

## READY TO SEEK NOMINATIONS

At our monthly unit meeting on Feb. 3rd, we will elect a Nominating Committee from the floor, of at least three members whose job it will be to nominate a slate of officers for 2022-23. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please come to our February meeting. If you or any member you know is interested in holding an office, please inform President Dorothy, another current officer, or come to our February meeting and let the Nominating Committee know. We encourage members to get involved in leadership, to present new ideas and ways to serve our veterans and families. Our past presidents and officers are always willing to mentor new officers and share our own knowledge and experience.

*-- Rosetta LaPaglia*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

THERESA JENSEN

A sweet blessing for the month of February. A heart full of love. Happy Valentine's to all.

•  
Our deepest sympathy to the family of deceased member Angela Hagg.

**Utica Post #229**  
**The American Legion**  
**409 Herkimer Rd.**  
**Utica, NY 13502**

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*Since its founding in Paris in 1919, The American Legion has been an advocate for America's veterans, a friend of the U.S. military, a sponsor of community-based programs for young people and a spokesman for patriotic values.*

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## 'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK

In an effort to extend its reach to members and the public, Utica Post has launched a new Facebook page, located at: [facebook.com/UticaPost229/](https://facebook.com/UticaPost229/)

You can help extend our impact by "liking" us (go to our Facebook page and select the "like" icon).

If you have a smartphone or other mobile device, simply scan this QR Code and it'll take you to our Facebook page.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

*By Barbara Chudy, 2nd vice president*

It's hard to believe, as we take stock of accomplishments, that another year has passed so successfully.

The Auxiliary's latest children's project in December was a donation of 100 gift bags with winter gloves and snacks. They were assembled by the helping hands of Ginger, Dorothy and Stewart. The children from day care to 4th grade at Thea Bowman House were delighted.

I very much appreciate all the time and help provided this past year. I enjoyed the experience of working with the members who gave so much of their enthusiastic energy and talent. It was a true team spirit accomplishing all the children's projects, and it was very rewarding.

May 2022 see growth in our committees. Stay healthy and happy.