



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

March 2020



A Message from the Commander

We began Sunday's membership meeting (2/16/20 @ 12:30 p.m.) in Scully Hall while several Limericks were still cleaning up the hall and kitchen following their annual mass at Sacred Heart, then post breakfast, a success by all accounts.

We started as always by saluting the colors, then reciting the "Pledge." When I first learned the Pledge of Allegiance as a youngster at PS 20, there was no "under God." That was a later addition. The adjutant then installed the POW-MIA device after which, acting as chaplain, I offered the standard Legion prayer for guidance during the meeting.

Finally, before addressing Post business, we recited the American Legion Preamble together.

Written after WWI by veterans of that terrible war, it is the statement of purpose of this organization and begins, "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America." Towards the end, we pledge, "to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy."

I write all this because I fear we are on the very precipice of losing our fragile democracy.

I've been reading this little handbook, published a couple years back, titled *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, written by Yale professor Timothy Snyder. In its prologue, he tells us that since our revolution, European history has seen three major democratic "moments:" after WWI in 1918, after WWII in 1945, and after the fall of communism in 1989. Many of these democracies failed, "in circumstances that in some important respects resemble our own."

Professor Snyder then sets out twenty brief and easy to read chapters, each with a maxim from the chapter's contents. A few examples:

- (1) **"Do not obey in advance.** Most of the power of authoritarianism is freely given."
- (2) **"Defend institutions.** They fall one after the other unless each is defended from the beginning."
- (10) **"Believe in truth.** To abandon facts is to abandon freedom. If nothing is true, then all is spectacle. The biggest wallet pays for the most blinding lights."
- (19) **"Be a patriot.** Set a good example of what America means for the generations to come. They will need it."
- (20) **"Be as courageous as you can.** If none of us is prepared to die for freedom, then all of us will die under tyranny."

This is an important book. If our preamble is to be more than lip service, then we must heed and act on the history lessons found in *On Tyranny*.



**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**

Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary had a very sad January with the loss of our friend and Unit secretary, Diane Maguire. We are regrouping for our upcoming activities and hope you will join us at our next meeting on March 3 at 7:00 p.m. We want to continue with our bingo for the veterans at Stratton VA and hope you will consider joining the group of members that do this event. Our next bingo date is March 16 at 2:00 p.m. Please contact President Judy (518-869-8668) if you can help. If we cannot get a couple of people to help, we will have to cancel this event entirely, which is sad because the hospitalized vets look forward to it every month.

We are also looking for a member to chair our Empire Girls State committee. For more info, just stop in to our next meeting (first Tuesday of each month).

The Veteran Walk-a-thon is planned for April 18 at Cook Park in Colonie. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. and Walk starts at noon. Hope many of you can make it this year. Call President Judy if you need any information. The County Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders are sponsoring it this year. Donations can be left at the bar with checks made out of NYS SAL. If you would like to help with the Walk planning, just give me a call.

Poppy distribution will begin in May and we will need as many volunteers as possible to make this go smoothly. Many dates and times will be available so you should be able to join us at your convenience. (You do not have to be an Auxiliary member to participate.) Contact Dorothy Curran at tomdor2000@yahoo.com or come to our March 3 or April 7 meeting.

If you can help with the corned beef dinner on Parade day, contact Mickey Ryan at the Post bar. There are many small jobs that will have to be done during and after the dinner.

I don't like to keep asking, but there are still several members that have not paid their 2020 dues. Your check for \$25 needs to be dropped off at the Post or mailed to Jan Precopia, 1160 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208. **If you do not pay, you are in jeopardy of losing your continuous years of service.** Jan's number is 518-489-1406.

Mid-Winter Conference for the Auxiliary was very interesting this year. We had the good

opportunity to meet our National President, Nicole Clapp, as well as get information from Chris Ford, CEO of Stop Soldier Suicide, our Dept President's project for this year.

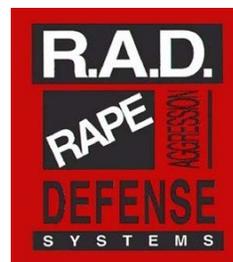
**Service Not Self,
Judy Benner
President**

Some Insight on Sight



Veterans who have been declared legally blind and are certified by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped are eligible for an annuity. Call the NYS Div. of Veterans Affairs at 518-486-3602 for an application form and more details. You will have to provide dates of military service, certificate of discharge, the number of the Certification of blindness, proof of residency, and the name and address of the physician providing evidence of the veteran's loss of sight.

Women's Self-Defense Course



Plans are under way to conduct a woman's self-defense class at our Post. Class will be offered free of charge and it is taught by Investigator Kayla Apple of the Albany Co. Sheriff's Department. We have a choice of a one (1) hour presentation or a 4-night commitment (Tuesday nights, in April) to attend the extensive R.A.D. Program. The R.A.D. Program is hands on and teaches women how to escape attackers and survive.

We are taking a poll of our members for the amount of interest in the full 4-night R.A.D. Program. If you or a family member or friend is interested in making the commitment to this opportunity, we can only offer the full program if we have enough participation. Please contact Sheila Savage at 518-221-3729. Thank you.

Chaplain's News

Deceased:

Daniel J. Ryan, Legion – January 26, 2020
Louis W. Graiff, Legion – February 8, 2020

If you know of anyone who is sick or has passed, please contact our Chaplains Charles Lossi at 518-438-6336 or JoAnn DeLisle at 518-426-8463 or jodee4444@hotmail.com or newsletter editor Gretchen Riley via ghodges220@yahoo.com or at 518-526-8753.



Your Commander is in desperate need of a Membership Chair.

We are also looking for a House Chairman for the Post. If interested in either of these positions, please contact Larry Wiest, our Post Commander at 518-434-6438.

The Post is still on the hunt for bartenders. If interested, please call Bar Chair Mick Ryan at 518-522-3486. Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SONs are all eligible to bartend. On-the-job training provided!

Note from Bar Chair

To Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Limericks, and Friends:

In order to meet the needs of ALL the groups wishing to use the Post meeting room, banquet room or pavilion, groups will need to schedule with the House Chairperson or the Bar Chairperson on a timely basis.

Reminder: All Legion functions come first. That being said:

Planning an event? Need a venue?

The Post banquet room, meeting room, and pavilion are available for meetings, family picnics/reunions, bridal showers, etc. To arrange an event, call the Post at 518-465-800 or 518-465-1402 or email nap1610@yahoo.com for availability.

25 Week Club

The next round of the 25 Week Club has begun. If you are interested in participating, stop in and see Kim Rice at the bar on Thursday nights or on Sundays. If you're not able to stop, you can contact Kim via email: kluvy14@aol.com. Even if you participated last time, you will still need to sign up for this round.

The first drawing for the 25 Week Club will be held on Thursday, April 2.

Limerick Dinner Dance

The Limerick Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, March 7 at the Post. Cocktails are at 5 p.m. with a roast pork dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. Music provided by DJ Bo Weidman from 7 p.m. to midnight.

For more information and tickets, contact:

Babe Scully, 518-605-9770

Theresa Jones, 518-421-9678



Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 8.



Contest

Did you know Post 1610 has a website? Have you visited the Post website? The Post is running a contest to get people to visit the website (<http://northalbanypost1610.com>). Winners will receive a free drink from the bar. One answer per person, please. Email your response to nap1610@yahoo.com no later than March 17.

Here are the five (5) things to look for on the Post website:

1. Name of a link to a document or other website
2. Number of names on the Post Everlasting page
3. Number of open officer positions and on what page
4. Find the typo on the Membership page
5. Furthest out event on Events page

Upcoming Events — Save the Date

Saturday, March 7: Limerick Dinner Dance, Cocktails: 5 p.m., Dinner: 7 p.m., Cost: \$30.00

Saturday, March 14: St. Patrick's Day Parades: North Albany – 12 p.m., Central Ave. – 2 p.m.

Friday, April 3: Wear purple to remind everyone about children issues

Saturday, April 18: Veteran Walk-a-thon: We Walk For Them, Cook Park. Walk starts at 12 p.m.

March Meeting Dates:

9th Ward/Post 1610 monthly meeting: Sunday, March 15, at 12:30 p.m.

Legion: Sunday, March 15, at 12:30 p.m. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

S.A.L.: TBD

Auxiliary: Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m.

Community Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, at 6 p.m. (for Legion, SONS, Auxiliary and Limericks).

Limericks: Thursdays, March 5, 12, and 19 (wrap-up meeting), at 7:00 p.m.

General Post Phone No.: (518) 465-4800 **Fax:** (518) 320-0586
Post Bar/General Information: (518) 465-1402 **Email:** nap1610@yahoo.com

Post

Commander: Lawrence Wiest

1st Vice Commander: Open

2nd Vice Commander: Open

Adjutant: John Sacca

Finance Officer: Thomas Tracy

Judge Advocate: Lawrence Wiest

Sergeants-at-Arms: Michael Ryan and William Ryan

Chaplain: Charles Lossi (518) 438-6336

Historian: Michael Ryan

Sons of the Legion

Acting Squadron Commander: Michael F. Connors, II

Auxiliary

President: Judy Benner (518) 817-1240 judybenner13@gmail.com

Vice President: Jan Precopia (518) 489-1406 janprecopia@nycap.rr.com

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Dorothy Curran (518) 786-1284 tomdor2000@yahoo.com

Chaplain: JoAnn DeLisle (518) 426-8463 jodee4444@hotmail.com

Editor for the Newsletter

Gretchen Riley (518) 526-8753 ghodges220@yahoo.com

Post website: <http://northalbanypost1610.com>

Note from the Editor

Would you like to know what is happening sooner rather than later? If yes, contact the editor to receive the newsletter electronically. Or, visit the Post website to read it there. Due to the logistics of putting the newsletter together, getting it printed and mailed, you may not always receive a copy in the mail before events take place.