



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

August 2020



A Message from the Commander

Satisfied with the socially distanced seating for our Sunday, July 19 membership meeting, I looked around our Scully Hall, counted heads, and declared a quorum. Given our record of attendance at these meetings the past several years, we've been socially distanced long before this pandemic. This was our first membership meeting since March 15, and we had initially planned to hold it in the open air of the pavilion; the promise of 100-degree weather, however, scotched that idea.

The meetings began with the 9th Ward meeting at 12:35 p.m. Fiscal Officer John Sacca gave a financial report indicating little change in that account. Mickey Ryan announced there would be no hall rentals accepted until at least January 2021. I advised those present that I had been in contact with Council 9's (painters' union) Lee Eck, who notified me that the union was still in a state of flux because of the pandemic and that a new class of apprentices had not even been formed yet. You'll remember that last year's class, under supervision, painted our Scully Hall. (A beautiful job – we supplied the paint, they painted!) This year the union, as an apprentice project, was to paint the Post exterior (I was thinking maybe a nice heliotrope) but, alas, that project is on hold. Next spring?

The membership meeting began, as always, with the pledge, a prayer, and the preamble. Jim Slivko then tried his hand at presenting the POW-MIA device, then retrieving it at meeting's end. There were no new members or guests present. Membership renewals for 2021 are well above average says John Sacca, who also brought in new post member Michelle DePuy, a transfer from Malone, NY, a math teacher at Albany High, and – get this – a bird colonel (O6) in the US Army Reserve (see picture on page 3).

In addition, speaking of Albany High, as of the July 19 meeting, MAJ Dave Erickson has yet to hear anything from the high school as to what's happening in September, and thus, is at a standstill in planning the JROTC program for the fall semester. How does one socially distance that program?

Towards meeting's end, Bill Gilheany strongly suggested we find alternate or additional ways of encouraging members to attend these meetings. This is a good idea. How about Bill or somebody sets up a phone tree?

At a Tri-county Council Vietnam Era Veterans board meeting held Tuesday morning, July 21 at 10:00 a.m. at Zaloga, the subject of the upcoming Albany Veterans Day parade and subsequent Gold Star Families luncheon came up. Parade organizer and Joint Veteran's Committee Treasurer

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Mark Rosenzweig informed us that letters he sent to Mayor Sheehan months ago inquiring into the status of these November 11 events have gone unanswered. You may remember the Tulip Fest Ball, the proceeds of which fund our two parades, the luncheon, and the Memorial Day graves decoration, was canceled this year due to the pandemic. In addition, many Gold Star parents haven't been out of the house since March. Also, will there be any high school/other bands? Also, social distancing. The prospect of a parade, or a luncheon, this Veterans Day looks bleak.

Our own Jack Mullin, WWII Navy vet and Grand Marshal of Albany's 2002 Veterans Day parade, took a spill at home and broke a forearm. After a stay at St. Peter's, he was recently sent to the Eddy in Troy for rehab. He might appreciate a call (518-274-9890) or a card/note sent to:

Jack Mullin
Eddy Memorial
The Courtyard
2256 Burdett Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

The Tri-county Council Vietnam Era Veterans annual raffle was supposed to have been drawn at China Beach (August 9). That event has been canceled. The drawing will now take place on Veterans Day: 1st prize \$5K; 2nd prize \$2.5K; and 4 (four) 3rd prizes \$500 each. Tickets are behind the bar, \$10. Proceeds benefit homeless/ destitute veterans of all eras and their families.



Lawrence Wiest
Commander

Membership News

To those members who have already paid their 2021 dues, thank you!!! As of Sunday, 19 July 2020, we have 40 paid members for 2021. This is a great start to our membership campaign.

Please mail in your 2021 dues of \$45.00 to the Post today. If you owe two years or more and can't afford the extra money, consider rejoining your Post as a new member. Just contact the Post Membership Chair. If you paid your 2021 dues, thank you!

Did you know that you can pay your dues online with a credit card? It's as easy as logging in to NYLEGION.NET, clicking on the red renew button, put in your name and American Legion ID number and follow the directions. This is a secure site.

Thank you again for being a member of the North Albany American Legion Post 1610, and thank you for your service to our great Nation. Through your Legion membership, you continue to serve! If you have any questions, please contact the Post Membership Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
John Sacca
Membership Chair and
Bookkeeper

Auxiliary News

I hope everyone is doing well and coping with all of the things going on at this time. Because not everything still has gone even close to normal (whatever that is these days), I am sad to announce that the Auxiliary has decided not to hold our Vendor/Craft Fair this year. Not knowing what is going to happen over the next couple of months we feel, to insure everyone's health and safety, it is best to cancel our plans for this year.

We will be starting to schedule our meetings for the upcoming 2020-2021 year very soon and will take everything slowly. I know everyone is anxious to resume our activities and, hopefully,

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we will be able to this fall. I am sure by now that you have all received your first reminder from National for paying dues. We have not received the new membership cards yet, but you can send your check to Jan Precopia, 1160 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208 now. Jan will forward your card to you as soon as she receives them. Dues are still \$25 for seniors and \$8 for juniors (18 and under). If you are not sure if your dues are current, or you have any questions, you can reach Jan at 518-489-1406.

I'd like to thank everyone that helped us with our two food drives in May and June for the food pantry at the Stratton VA. They were very appreciative for all that you did.

We had picked two girls from Colonie High to attend Empire Girls State this year and even though they could not hold the physical event at SUNY Brockport, they participated in a virtual Girls State. I am looking forward to hearing from them about how it was. It was a unique experience for them and, hopefully, next year's girls will be able to attend in person.

If any of you did and/or are continuing to do any volunteer work during the pandemic: making masks, delivering food to people, and donating to organizations helping during this time, please keep track of everything and send it to me. We can still report all you are doing. We are still accepting aluminum ring tabs, canceled stamps and greeting card fronts. Just hold on to them until our first meeting or drop-off at the Post at a time they are open.

If there are any members that have been shut-in, and you feel would like us to reach out to them, please let us know. If any have moved, it is very important we get this information so our membership roster is up-to-date.

**Service, Not Self,
Judy Benner
President**



June 2018: Awards and promotion ceremony conducted by the Henry Johnson Battalion, JROTC.

Cadet Nick Califano (left) is a cadet in the JROTC program at Albany High School, where Colonel DePuy teaches math. She is a Civil Affairs Officer in the United States Army Reserve and drills out of NYC. The Colonel transferred to Post 1610 last year after being recruited by MAJ Erickson. COL DePuy is the highest ranking military member in Post 1610 since COL Savage. Her commission is federal, while Colonel Savage held a state commission. (Note: Post 1610 had one other O6 - Colonel Charlie Johnson. He was a West Point graduate with a federal commission. COL DePuy is a very rare bird in the Legion.)

Chaplain's News

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.

Due to the continuing virus pandemic, as things change at Post 1610, we will send out updates via email as well as posting to the Post website. It is very important to let the Post know of any changes in a member's health, address or if they pass away. Updated information helps to keep our records up-to-date which in turn will help keep you informed. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the Post (518-465-4800). If there is anyone who could use a helping hand, a phone call, a visit (socially distanced, of course), a note, etc., please let the Post know. Let's stay connected.

2020 US Census

Have you completed your 2020 Census? If you haven't, it's not too late to do so. Visit my2020census.gov to begin. If responding online, you must complete in one sitting as you don't have the ability to save your progress.

Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.

- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

(Source: census.gov)

Post Summer hours

Summer hours* at the Post are as follows:

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday - Friday: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

*Hours subject to change.

Per Bar Chair Mickey Ryan, as things are in flux due to the virus, there are no hall rentals until January 2021. Of course, things change from day to day, sometimes hour to hour. It's best to call the Post with any questions.

Upcoming Meeting: Legion/9th Ward/Post 1610, Sunday, August 16, 12:30 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 (518) 434-6438
1st Vice Commander: Open
2nd Vice Commander: Open
Adjutant: John Sacca (518) 486-0528
Finance Officer: Open
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: Sheila Savage (518) 221-3729 sheilasavage1618@gmail.com
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>

25 Week Club

It's still not too late if you want to join the 25 Week Club. Participants are still being accepted. Now that the Post has reopened, you can drop off payment, together with your name and contact information, at the bar. Or, you can mail it to the Post. For information or questions, contact Kim Rice (kluvy14@aol.com).