



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

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April 2021



A Message from the Commander



Our March membership meeting (Sunday, March 21) was a memorable one thanks to Albany High's Major Dave Erickson, who dragooned a good number of his associates from hither and yon to show up in their capacity as prospective members, Sons, and a potential Auxiliary member, bringing the total number in attendance to nineteen! – including four via Zoom (compliments of John Sacca). In that crowd, Vietnam veteran John Mullen came over from Troy – independent of any urging by the Major – to join up as the post's newest member.

We discussed a little of the post's history, its importance to the city and the North Albany community, what the post has to offer its members, and what its members, Auxiliary, and Sons accomplish in service to the community.

We discussed the Limericks, how the pandemic has impacted the post, the problem of recruiting active membership, and how their joining up would be a good thing for both them and the post. We'll follow up and see what happens. Thank you, Dave.

March has been a busy month. You'll remember in the previous newsletter I wrote about the post being the site of a last minute COVID-19 vaccine event on February 9 for 26 people, most of whom were closed out of getting their first Pfizer shot several days previous at a South Albany event. You'll be happy to know they all got their second shots March 3 at our post thanks to Albany County legislator Wanda Willingham and Sheriff Craig Apple.

Well, didn't Wanda orchestrate another COVID vaccine event at the post on Sunday morning March 7, where more than 80 people got their first Pfizer shots, this time from the pros at Mohawk Ambulance along with a score of volunteers. After a 9:00 a.m. hiccup, the process moved along smooth as silk with the post cleared out by 10:15 a.m. By the time you read this message all parties concerned will have gotten their second shot on Palm Sunday morning.

Then there was Saturday the 17th. Sure there were no parades, either in North Albany or downtown, but there was a two-hour "virtual" parade at noon composed mostly of footage of the different divisions in past parades EXCEPT for the Limericks, who had 17 minutes of new footage prepared especially for this parade, all led by Marshal Wendy Kindlon, complete with a single bagpiper. Nicely done. The Limericks started straggling into the post sometime after 11:00 a.m., some after having attended the 10:00 a.m. mass at Blessed Sacrament across town. The bar was open early for them and the Limericks savored

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their first beer of the morning or their first Commander’s Bloody Mary concocted especially for the day.

In the next room, Limericks discovered and then enjoyed soda bread (compliments of Mike Conners), hard-boiled eggs (no drinking on an empty stomach!), coffee and OMG Sheila Savage’s homemade scones – what a treat! On the far side of the room, Sheila had also set up a magnificent display of all things Irish, in front of which one could pose for pictures (see page 4 for picture of display). Thank you, Sheila. And, the green carnations were there for all to share.

Around 2:00 p.m., some Limericks went out for a “walkabout,” but returned in short order as the weather turned a wee bit too brisk.

The two gnomes mysteriously placed behind the bar were later electrified by Tim Ryan and remain there still.

**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**

Mohawk Ambulance senior medical staff present at the COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the post, March 7. In all, Mohawk brought 40 medical/support personnel.



Present at the March 7 COVID-19 clinic were, from left, Dr. Brenda Robinson, Albany County Exec Dan McCoy, County Legislator Wanda Willingham, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, and Deputy County Exec Dan Lynch.

Auxiliary News

Our next meeting will be April 6 at the post. (Don't forget your mask!)

Our Empire Girls State Chair, Gretchen Riley, and myself interviewed candidates for this year's virtual Girls State program and have picked two girls from Colonie High. They are Kristine Kim and Maddy Norton. Albany Gold Star Mothers has offered to pay the tuition for one of our girls this year and we thank them for helping us out. Hopefully, next year we will be able to hold it at SUNY Brockport again so the girls can get the full experience!

Our Veteran Walk-A-Thon will again be virtual this year. Anyone interested in participating can do whatever type of event they would like. It can be walking (inside or outside), biking or any other way you decide. You can do with your friends, family or alone and just get donations from those willing to help. "Boots" are available for a donation, at the post bar. There is a Facebook page, walk-a-thon-NYS, that has been put online for questions, comments. Take a look! For forms for donations, go to [sonsdny.org](https://www.sonsdny.org) or the Auxiliary site, [deptny.org](https://www.deptny.org) and there will be a link to the Sons page.

I hope many of you have seen our Rada Cutlery fundraiser post on Facebook. You can shop, order and pay right online and your order will be shipped directly to you. I hope everyone can share the post and encourage your family and friends to support us too. We also have catalogs for those of you that like to browse. Just let me know or come to the April 6 meeting. I will have them there. COVID has really limited our fundraising and this is one way everyone can help us help our veterans.

We were told at the Albany County meeting that the convention in July will also be hybrid. It should be available online. I will keep you updated on how it will work.

We still have 16 people that have not paid their Auxiliary dues. Please send yours in if you

have not paid yet. We are running out of time to get them in for this year. Don't lose out on your continuous years of service and the other benefits that your membership gives you.

The Auxiliary has a new project. We have been contacted by the Maritime Ministry at the Port of Albany. They are in need of men's hats, scarves, mittens or gloves for sailors who have been at sea and are coming into the Port. Donated items (can be purchased or handmade) can be dropped off at the post. There will be a designated box for any items for the Maritime Ministry.

Lastly, Birthright, Inc. is still in need for diapers, baby wipes, baby rash ointment cream, etc. Donated items can be dropped off to the post in the box designated for Birthright.

For more information or if you have questions regarding either project: Maritime Ministry or Birthright, you may call Jan Precopia (518-573-5167).

The Auxiliary thanks you in advance for always being available to help them with the projects we present to you.

**For God and Country,
Judy Benner
President**

Chaplain's News

Deceased:

**Legion: Past Commander Joseph G. Ferraiolo,
February 14, 2021**

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.

Birthright Fundraiser

Susan Barry, Director of Birthright has announced that Birthright is partnering with Saratoga Candy Company on a new fundraiser. You can help support Birthright by purchasing a 1 lb. box of assorted milk and dark chocolate candy for \$20. Orders must be received by April 23 and will be available for pick-up during the week of May 2. For more information, email Birthright at birthrightofballstonspa@gmail.com. Order forms will also be at the post. Don't forget Mother's Day is coming up.

Reminder from the Editor

The weather is getting nicer. Between the availability of the COVID-19 vaccines and travel restrictions relaxing, people will begin to travel. If you spend the warmer months away from home and will temporarily be getting your mail there, please let the post know of the change of address. That way, if you receive a hard copy of the newsletter, you will continue to receive it. Otherwise, the Post Office will return the newsletter postage due to the post. You can also have the newsletter emailed to you. Having it emailed gets it to you sooner.



The tablecloth belonged to Sheila's mother, Sheila Kenny Savage of County Meath. The pictures on the table and board are of past Limerick marshals and parades past. Sheila's dad, Maurice Savage of County Kerry, was post commander in 1996--97.



Sheila got her scone recipe from her mom. She made five dozen for the post's St. Patrick's Day event. This year is the 70th anniversary of Albany's St. Patrick's Day parade. The Limericks organization was a charter member of the United Irish Societies, the original name of the Albany St. Patrick's Day parade committee. The first parade stepped off in 1951.

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