



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

November 2019



A Message from the Commander

I stopped down at the post today (10/21) to see how Jake Burnett and his excavating company were doing pulling up the almost 3,200 square feet of existing blacktop on our parking lot and 6" of dirt under that, leveling and stabilizing the dips and valleys, installing and tamping 6" of crushed rock, then blacktopping it all with a 2" top. They were off to a good start. Mickey Ryan had been there earlier taking pictures. It will take a few days, according to Jake, who was overseeing the project from his pickup; and he says the actual blacktopping is subcontracted out. Jake, a 1957 graduate of Philip Schuyler High School, always wanted to be a Navy Seabee or an Army engineer, but right after graduation, he was seriously injured in a car accident. After some months in the hospital (where he lost a lot of weight), he went to enlist, but no one would take him.

Later in the day, I stopped in at District Council 9, IUPAT, AFL-CIO (the painters' union) with offices right around the corner from us at 191 Broadway, Menands. I had gotten a call last week from Wanda Willingham, the post's county legislator, who urged me to look up Jeff Stark, the union's business development specialist who might be looking for a community service project to get his apprentices involved in. So I did, and he was, and the comeuppance of it all is business reps Ray (sorry, I didn't get his last name) and Lee Eck will meet me at the post Wednesday (10/23) to scope out Scully Hall for painting (starting with the ceiling, possibly November 7). Fingers crossed. Thank you, Wanda!

And thank all you volunteers who made our crafts fair on October 6 and the Honor a Vet ceremony for Vietnam vet and AFD Lieutenant Joseph Gary Rhatigan the next morning (10/7) successes. A special thanks to Kim Rice and Judy Benner, the Auxiliary, Dan Akins, and our team of Albany High JROTC cadets, who were there from early morning helping vendors set up, 'til late afternoon helping them break down – and then – setting up for the next morning's Honor a Vet.

Hopefully, you readers will get this newsletter ahead of the Sunday, November 3, 9:00 a.m. annual veterans memorial mass at Sacred Heart in memory of those post veterans we lost this past year, followed by the traditional \$5 post breakfast hosted by Mike Connors and his phantom Sons squadron. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations to our own John Sacca, who will be the recipient of the 2019 Veteran of the Year Award presented annually by the The Friends of the NYS Military Museum and the Capital District Chapter, Association of the US Army. The ceremony will be held on November 2 at the museum, 61 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, and will commence at 1:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after the 45-minute ceremony.

John is a Vietnam vet who served there with the 79th Maintenance Bn, then served the 1st Cavalry Div (Airmobile) C Troop, 1st Squadron, 9 Cav, as a Huey door gunner and infantry platoon RTO, from May '67 thru February '69. John has a long and distinguished military career in addition to his Vietnam tour. This designation is well deserved.



**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**

Auxiliary News

First of all, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY! We will be 100 years old on November 10! What an honor to be part of this historic organization. Don't you know someone that would like to join us and continue promoting our accomplishments in servicing our veterans and their families?

As our Auxiliary year begins, I encourage everyone to start thinking about the Auxiliary Santa and Mrs. Claus children's party on December 8. Please save the date and invite your friends with young children or grandchildren to come to the Post. We are planning on having the kids decorate Christmas cookies, play games, use the photo booth, get face painted by Honkers the Clown and tell Santa what they want for Christmas. Santa will give them a gift (if adult brings wrapped gift, same as last year). Reservations will be required. Watch for more details in December newsletter.

We are doing a Reverse Advent Calendar at our December meeting. Everyone is asked to bring food to donate to the food pantry at the Stratton VA Medical Center. The food items can be dropped off at the Post Bar in the designated box.

It is also time for the Toys for Tots campaign. Watch for box at the Post for new unwrapped toys. Please help us to make many kids have a nice Christmas!

Several of our members attended the 3rd District Fall Conference on October 16. We were able to hear about many ideas from our NYS Auxiliary officers. This year the Presidents' project is Stop Soldier Suicide. It is the first national, veteran founded and led, non-profit with free resources and support tailored to veterans' specific needs, whether past or present military and their families. Their website is stopsoldiersuicide.org. Did you know that 20 veterans and active duty service members take their lives every day? That is one suicide every 27 minutes.

Also, Holiday Gift Shop program at Stratton VA Medical Center will be held on Wednesday, December 4. We will meet on 7D in the Volunteer Service Office. If you are interested, be there at 10:00 a.m. Any question, just call Judy Benner at 518-817-1240.

I hope everyone will attend the Veterans

Day Parade in Albany on November 11. The parade steps off at 11:00 a.m. All Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary members are invited to walk with the Albany County Legion contingent.

Your dues for this 2019-2020 year are now due. We are hoping to meet our goal of 100% by December 1. In order to accomplish this, we are asking everyone to send in their check to Jan Precopia, 1160 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208, at your earliest opportunity, or send to the Post, 35 North First St., Albany, NY 12204. Dues are still \$25 and \$8 for junior members.

If you have questions about any of this information, just email me at judybenner13@gmail.com.

Judith Benner
President

Veterans Memorial Mass and Breakfast

The annual Veterans Memorial Mass will be held on Sunday, November 3, at 9 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Breakfast at the Post will follow Mass. The cost for breakfast is \$5.00.

Bingo at the VA

Bingo will be held at the Stratton VA Medical Center on Monday, November 18. It is held on the 9th floor and begins at 2:45 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact Diane Maguire at 518-209-0497 or via email, dmaguire520@nycap.rr.com.

Toys for Tots

The 2019 Toys for Tots Campaign has begun! The campaign will run to December 14. The Post will once again be a drop-off site. Two drop-off boxes will be at the Post. Please bring new, unwrapped toys. Let's all make this a great Christmas for the children of the Capital District. Please contact Kim Rice (518-465-1402) if you have questions about the campaign.

 MARINE CORPS RESERVE



Chaplain's News

Deceased:

Donald H. Sommers, Legion – June 2

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, 518-526-8753 or ghodges220@yahoo.com.

Care Packages to Service Members

Once again, the Auxiliary will be preparing to send domestic or international care packages to active duty service members. If you have a family member (or friend) or know of a family member who would like to request their loved one receive a package, please contact Sheila Savage at sheilasavage1618@gmail.com or (518) 221-3729. Thank you.

Election Day—Don't forget to Vote!

Election Day is November 5. Exercise your right to vote!



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!

Post Hours

Normal hours have resumed at the Post:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday through Friday: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Are You Ready for Some Football?



Football season has begun. Come hang out at the Post and watch some football games. Doors open at Noon.

Pictures from recent Post events





Dart League

The Dart League kicked off their season on September 27 at 7 p.m. The Dart League is looking for new members. If interested, sign up at the bar or call the bar at, 518-465-1402.

*** Reminder ***

The Post will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 3. Don't forget to turn your clocks back.

Upcoming Events — Save the Date

- Sunday, November 3: Veterans Memorial Mass, Sacred Heart Church, 9 a.m. followed by Breakfast at the Post
- Tuesday, November 5: Election Day
- Monday, November 11: Veterans Day Parade
- Sunday, December 8: Children's Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Sunday, December 15: Adult Christmas Party, 4-7 p.m.

November Meeting Dates:

- 9th Ward/Post 1610 monthly meeting: Sunday, November 17, at 12:30 p.m.
- Legion: Sunday, November 17, at 12:30 p.m. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- S.A.L: TBD
- Auxiliary: Tuesday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m.
- Community Meeting: Tuesday, November 5, at 6 p.m. (for Legion, SONS, Auxiliary and Limericks).
- Limerick: TBD

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: John Sacca
- 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: Open

****** Important Notice ******

It should be noted that we no longer have a P.O. Box. Everything should be sent to the Post physical address:

**35 North First St.
Albany, NY 12204**

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 janpre@nycap.rr.com
- Secretary: Diane Maguire (518) 813-4765 dmaguire520@nycap.rr.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>