



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

July 2020



A Message from the Commander

It's official. Effective noon Saturday, June 20, the Post is once again open. Bar Chair Mickey Ryan has, however, put in place the following protocols:

1. Everyone enters the post masked.
2. Everyone signs in at the bar entrance lectern (ideally with time in – and out on your departure). This facilitates the “tracing” process should that unfortunate need arise.
3. Everyone approaches the bartender to have his/her temperature checked.
4. Everyone observes the requisite six-foot (6') social distancing at all times.

We know that John Town was the first post member to enter and belly-up that Saturday (and again on Sunday!) because he's on record as being the first to sign in (after barkeeps Jim Slivko and Mickey Ryan) at noon exactly on both those days. John must have been waiting in the parking lot for the Post to open.

Congratulations, John Sacca, for bringing post membership up to 100% this year!

The Wednesday after Flag Day (Sunday, June 14) we commenced our bi-annual flag burn, scheduled for 4:00 p.m. behind the post pavilion. That's always a long, tedious dirty job that involves stripping the many, many smaller flags (most from past graves decorations) from their staffs and burning them in small batches with other flags of all sizes gotten from the jam-packed mailbox out front of the post.

When I got there at 4:08 p.m., the burning was well underway. Within minutes after my arrival, AFD firefighter Derek Rose, who had been driving on I-90, appeared to see what all the smoke was about. Now prior to the burn, Don Riley had called Albany Police to notify them, and APD said THEY would call AFD to alert them, but Rose said AFD got no such heads-up. He then inspected the process, agreed to have his picture taken with Don – then shut the burn down because it was too close to the pavilion. We briefly discussed alternatives; Rose called his superiors, then left.

A half-hour later an unhappy AFD Lieutenant Dan Willey appeared. Don showed him the hose and fire extinguisher at the ready and the thoroughly wetted down area surrounding the fire pit, and mentioned the Post had been burning flags at this very site for 50 years. Lt. Willey took note and suggested maybe something could be worked out, and he would call the next day. Which he did. Dan left me a message saying we can continue the burn as we have been, but notify him first and he would dispatch a firetruck to the post as standby during the burn. This will apparently be the new SOP. Thank you, Dan.

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Present this day were Don Riley, Tom Tracy, Auseklis Krumins, John Sacca, and yours truly.

Be advised that the Limericks' semi-annual North Albany Reunion, scheduled for July 18, and the Vietnam vets' China Beach, scheduled for August 9, have both been cancelled. The China Beach raffle drawing has been rescheduled for this Veterans Day. Tickets will be available soon at the post.



**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**

Time to Renew Legion Dues

The time has come to renew our annual membership dues. The 2020 – 2021 Membership Year will begin on 1 July 2020.

Membership dues for the Legion for 2021 are due between 01 July 2020 and 31 December 2020. Dues remain at \$45 per person, \$42 if retired and 62 years of age or older.

To renew your membership, dues can be dropped off at the Post or mailed to 35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204. You may also renew your membership online at www.legion.org/renew. This link is only for American Legion members.

Please, note that the next monthly meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 19.

If I might toot my own horn, the Post has reached 100% of its membership goal. This is very gratifying to me, as this is the reason I transferred to this post.

**Respectfully submitted,
John Sacca
Membership Chair and
Bookkeeper**

Auxiliary News

Our second VA Food Pantry food drive was just as successful as the first. Thanks to all that donated and helped.

Some of our members have asked if we will resume meeting soon. After asking some members, most have expressed concern about being together too soon. So unfortunately, I think to be safe we should wait a few more months.

We are currently thinking about going ahead with the Craft and Vendor Fair in October. If you or any of your friends are interested in reserving space, please contact me as soon as possible. Of course, we will adhere to all CDC guidelines in place at the time to keep all healthy.

It's time to renew membership for 2021. Membership dues remain the same as last year (\$25 seniors and \$8 juniors) and can be paid in July and August. Any dues not paid by December 31, 2019 are considered delinquent. This is necessary, if you wish to retain continuous years of service. There are currently 6 members who have not paid dues for 2020. If you are not sure if you did or not, please call Jan (518-489-1406). She'll help answer your question. Let's have 100% membership.

Maybe we could encourage members to consider signing up the kids or grandchildren to the Auxiliary and Sons. They would be considered junior members until their 18th birthdays. They can participate in some of our activities; walking in the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades, placing the flags at cemetery, distributing poppies, and many other events. What do you think? Send your thoughts and comments on this idea to me (judybenner13@gmail.com).

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

Sunday, May 24, 2020:
 Auxiliary President Judy Benner's grandchildren, Georgia and Hunter Benner, help decorate graves at St. Agnes Cemetery. Hunter and Georgia are junior members.



May 14 and 16, 2020: Food drive donations to benefit Stratton VA Food Pantry. Pictured: Gretchen Riley, Kim Rice, Dorothy Curran and ALA President Judy Benner.

May 26, 2020:
 Food drive donation dropped off to Stratton VA Volunteer Services. Pictured (L to R): Mike Fitzpatrick, ALA President Judy Benner and Jim Keller.



June 17 and 23, 2020: Food drive donations to benefit Stratton VA food pantry. Pictured (L to R): Gloria Knorr, ALA President Judy Benner and Dorothy Curran.

June 17, 2020:
 AFD firefighter Derek Rose, left, with our Don Riley, enjoying the flames and our company at the Post's June 17 flag burning before abruptly shutting us down.



June 20, 2020: First Day Open, Saturday afternoon, from left, Jim Slivko brandishing his thermometer, Larry Wiest, Dan Akins, and John Sacca, all observing proper social distancing. Mask removal is allowed to imbibe.

25 Week Club

It's 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).

Post has reopened!

After being closed since March due to the coronavirus pandemic, our Post has reopened. The Post will be opened under normal hours of operations and in accordance with CDC guidelines. Though Mickey Ryan, Bar Chairman, says hours may change for the summer.

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.

Veterans Crisis Hotline

Veterans, if you or someone you know, is in crisis, there is help. Call the **Veterans Crisis Hotline: 800-273-8255**. You are not alone.

Upcoming Meeting: Legion/9th Ward/Post 1610, Sunday, July 19, 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>

Post Website Contest Winners

There were two winners of the Post website contest which was held in March and April. They are **Sheila Savage** and **Kim Rice**. Sheila and Kim will each receive a free drink at the Post now that it has reopened. Congratulations to them both! Sheila and Kim, thank you also for participating in the contest. It was nice to know someone was looking at the website.

Again, congratulations!!