



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

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March 2021



A Message from the Commander



If you are in need of a COVID vaccination AND are enrolled in the VA system, call this number for an appointment: 518-626-7228 and press “Option 2.” County Commander Elmo Kearsing has done it and says it’s a great turnaround time (“a couple of days”). Piece of cake, right Judy?

As many of you know, thanks to editor Gretchen Riley’s email, the post is open again effective Tuesday, February 16. This means March (socially distanced) meetings are scheduled for the Auxiliary (Tuesday, 3/2 at 7:00 p.m.) and the membership meeting (Sunday 3/21 at 12:30 p.m.). In addition, the county membership meeting will be held at our post on Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. Attendance for this meeting will be limited to: the county commander and his officers and committee chairs, and two (2) representatives from each post.

The Albany St. Patrick’s Day parade is cancelled again this year. The Limericks have been participating in a series of meetings, putting together a “virtual” segment that will be part of the Albany St. Patrick’s Day Virtual Celebration. The Albany St. Patrick’s Day Virtual Celebration is a free online event on Facebook on Saturday, March 13 at 12:00 p.m. Our Limerick parade marshal remains Wendy Kindlon. There will be no “virtual” pork dinner the Thursday prior, nor will we be selling any “virtual” corned beef and cabbage dinners at the post on virtual parade day.

The Friday evening dart league has resumed play with the reopening of the post. Your contact person remains Mickey Ryan (518-465-4800).

On Saturday, February 6, the Albany Housing Authority and Mohawk Ambulance hosted a “pop-up” COVID vaccine event in South Albany. Our County Legislator Wanda Willingham (our post is in her district) brought a contingent of twenty of her constituents – who were all closed out because they ran out of vaccine! Sheriff Craig Apple promised Wanda the vaccinations for her people if she could find a site at which to administer them – which she did. On Tuesday afternoon, February 9, everyone got their shots at the North Albany American Legion Post, compliments of Wanda, the Albany County Sheriff’s Department, and us of course, Post 1610. They’ll be back on March 3 for shot number 2.

Congratulations to post member Colonel Michelle DePuy, USA Reserve, who was recently promoted as Brigade Commander of the 97th Training Brigade, Fort Sheridan, IL. COL DePuy has 36 years of service, including eight years on active duty. She and her husband Garth continue to live in the Albany area. She is a math teacher at Albany High.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

Lawrence Wiest, Commander

Auxiliary News

Please continue to send your volunteering reports to either me or Jan. Last time we heard from so many of you about what you have been able to accomplish in these limited times. Keep up the good work.

Jan did hear from a couple of members with their dues, but we still have several outstanding members. Don't lose your years, please send in dues for 2021 as soon as possible. Keep in mind that if anything happens now and your dues are unpaid, you would not be eligible for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant. This is a really good benefit that I would hate to see anyone not be able to use.

We are always looking for new members to join us. What a great way for your family to honor your veteran. Keep in mind that the Auxiliary now accepts men.

Now that the Post has reopened, we look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, March 2, or at the April 6 meeting.

For God and Country
Judy Benner
Auxiliary President

Auxiliary Committees

Happy New Year everyone! Please take a few minutes and send Judy or me anything you have to report before our first meeting of the year on March 2, 2021. Here are some suggestions for committees, but please report anything you feel should be reported and we'll be sure to put it into the correct committee!

AMERICANISM: Have you flown the flag, said the Pledge of Allegiance, sang the national anthem, retired a flag, or donated a flag? Have you paid your annual dues? (We need 87 members paid to reach our quota, but only have 64 paid to date.)

CHILDREN & YOUTH: Have you made any monetary donations to children of veterans?

Do you help with any Big brother/sister military mentoring programs? Have you donated any clothes for children, hats, mittens? We collect card fronts and cancelled stamps for St. Jude's Hospital. If you have any, please leave at the post for us. In addition, we are still collecting pop tops off soda/beer cans and they can also be left at the post.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Have you been involved in any homeless or other veteran activity, such as driving someone to a doctor's appointment or delivered meals to them? Have you donated any blood or platelets? Please let us know if you have donated to any organizations for veterans or cancer. Have you had a mammography or colonoscopy? Donated food to a food pantry or the VA Hospital? Have you done a buddy check on neighbors?

CHAPLAIN: Have you sent flowers to anyone, attended a Mass, wake or funeral, sent Mass or get well cards?

EDUCATION: Have you been involved in any ESL programs, assisted in a schoolroom, donated any school items?

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION: Have you sponsored Wounded Warriors?

For God and Country
Jan Precopia
Membership Chairperson

Chaplain's News

Deceased:

Legion: Past Commander Francis "Pat" Dolan, February 7, 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.