



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204
Office: 518.465.4800/Bar: 518.465.1402
Website: nap1610@yahoo.com

February 2022

A Message from the Commander



By the time, you read this message we'll be on the downward slope of winter. Remember, next month will come in like a lion, but go out like a lamb, and then . . . Spring.

You'll remember more than a year ago we had to close the post for several weeks because of COVID. Then we reopened, and the post hosted a series of "pop-up" COVID vaccine events, they being the inspiration of our county legislator Wanda Willingham. Thanks again to the Albany County Sheriffs and Mohawk Ambulance.

And while there was no St. Patrick's Day parade last March in downtown Albany, there was a virtual parade on the screens at the post bar, and the Limericks were there celebrating in force (socially distanced, of course). So far, there should be a parade this year.

There was no Albany Memorial Day parade either, but the Sunday wreath-layings at the post, PS 20, and St. Agnes Cemetery did take place. Grave decorations, under the supervision of Don Riley, did happen as did the reading of the names of our deceased members the next afternoon. Again, thanks to the Sons and Mike Conners for the wreaths and the use of his casket.

A highlight of last year's election of post officers was the election of Zaloga transfer and Navy vet Jacqueline "Jackie" Jones to the second vice commander position. She also agreed to be our house chair, a stroke of good fortune for the post.

The Limericks hosted a very well attended cocktail party in October; the Auxiliary held a delicious roast chicken (with all the fixin's) take-out dinner event the following day, both to benefit the post. Both were very successful. Can we make these twice-annual events? Again, thank you.

The first annual Hometown Heroes awards banquet was a lot of work for all involved (again, thank you each and every one) and a huge success. Congratulations once more to Terry Brown, the Anthony Schmitz family, and Chuck Lossi. A special thank you once again to John Mullen.

Then, that Sunday, Mike Conners and his Sons, volunteers, and AHS JROTC cadets provided the annual after Sacred Heart veterans' mass \$5.00 post breakfast, proceeds benefiting the post.

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Auxiliary News

Well, hopefully, this last surge is winding down (but we've heard that before) and things at the Post will start going in the right direction. Mid-Winter Conference in person was changed to virtual, but I hope some of you were able to enjoy the workshops and maybe learn a little about how the Auxiliary works.

Be advised, I have seen on Facebook an alert that there is a SCAM going around for paying your Auxiliary dues online. **WE** have never recommended this route, but **If** you must, make sure you are on National website "<https://www.ALAforveterans.org>." It would be easier to just drop a check in the mail to our membership chairperson, Jan Precopia, at 1160 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208. We still have about 10 members that have not sent in their dues for 2022. If you are not sure, call or text Jan at 518.573.5167.

Also, watch for an email from National with a member survey. If you have not received it by the beginning of February, go to the National website and confirm they have correct contact information for you. You can also email them at "membership@ALAforveterans.org." You will need your membership ID number so they can

confirm you are a member. All responses are anonymous and will help tailor programs and training, improve benefits and marketing as well as developing diversity, equity and inclusion training and awareness. This is also your opportunity to say what you like about the Auxiliary and what you think needs improving. Please take a few minutes and respond back. Information will be shared with all levels of the organization, not just at the National level.

Community projects coming up will be "Give 10 to Education" where we will be collecting school supplies, Box Tops for Education, hand sanitizer and gloves and mittens for a local school.

We have also been involved in the Albany Maritime Ministry looking for knit hats, gloves, warm socks, toiletries, just no candy, for seafarers coming into the Port of Albany ill-prepared for our cold weather.

All donations can be dropped off at the Post, or contact a member for pickup.

**Yours for the Auxiliary,
Judy Benner
President**

Unit 1610 Visits Christopher House

On Monday, December 20, Judy Benner, Auxiliary President and Auxiliary member Gretchen Riley visited Christopher House in South Troy. They were joined by Jo Grace, ALA Albany County President. They were given a tour of the house led by Col. (Ret.) Christine Rem, founder and executive director.

Unit 1610 donated 5 blankets and 5 alarm clocks for the residents of the house. A check in the amount of \$500.00 was also donated.

To learn more about Christopher House, visit website: <https://www.cdwv.org/cdwv-christopher-house.html>.



Monday, December 10, 2021: (L to R) ALA Albany County President Jo Grace; Unit 1610 member Gretchen Riley; Col. (Ret.) Christine Rem; and Unit 1610 President Judy Benner. Judy Benner presenting a check from North Albany American Legion Auxiliary 1610 to Christine Rem.

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That's some highlights of what we've done this past year after having risen from the COVID ashes. So what do we do now? What is our priority? In a word: membership. We are at a point now where every time an active member moves away, or has to step back due to serious illness, the lights in the post flicker. The very few active members remaining, that dwindling critical mass of veterans, devote all their energies to keeping 1610 upright. We can talk the occasional vet into giving up \$45 for membership, but getting him or her to be an active member is the trick. I think the challenge that is this post scares them.

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These are precarious times we are in right now. The future of our nation is uncertain. When the American Legion was formed in Paris in 1919, its founders were all veterans of a brutal, senseless war involving countries ruled by kings, a kaiser, and a tsar, the last removed by a revolution that gave rise to Communism. This is probably why the American Legion's preamble requires us "to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses." This is why that preamble requires us to ". . . defend the Constitution of the United States of America;" and "to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy." Yes, these are pretty strident words, unambiguous directives the preamble requires of us Legionnaires. The question is: does the American Legion, the veterans organization, stand idly by while our democracy is dismantled state by state?

Lawrence Wiest
Commander

"New year, new opportunities

"Be a part of The American Legion where you can continue your service, volunteering to improve the lives of veterans, their families and communities."
(Source: National American Legion home page <https://www.legion.org/>, January 2022)

Chaplain's News

Post Everlasting

Thomas Curran, 80, USAF, 9 December 2021, husband of Auxiliary member Dorothy Curran.

John "Jack" Egan, 79, USAR, 20 December 2021, husband of Auxiliary member Carole Egan and cousin of Auxiliary member Jan Precopia.

If you know of anyone who is sick or has passed, please contact our Chaplains Charles Lossi at 518.438.6336 or Peggy Hovish (518.785.3485 or phovish@nycap.rr.com) or Kathy Schmitz-Morfe (518.495.2955 or ksmorfe@gmail.com). Or, newsletter editor Gretchen Riley (ghodges220@yahoo.com or 518.526.8753).

Note from House Chair and Bar Chair

In order to meet the needs of ALL wishing to use the Post meeting room, banquet room or pavilion, groups will need to schedule with the House Chair or the Bar Chair on a timely basis.

That being said:

Planning an event? Need a venue?

The Post banquet room, meeting room, and pavilion are available for meetings, family picnics/reunions, bridal showers, etc. To arrange an event, call the Post at 518.465.4800 or email nap1610@yahoo.com for availability.

February Meetings

Auxiliary: Tuesday, February 1, 7 p.m.
Legion Membership: Tuesday, February 15, 7 p.m.
Limerick Meetings: Thursdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:30 p.m.

Limerick Breakfast at the Post

Sunday, February 20 following 9 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (33 Walter St., Albany). Tickets are still \$5.00 and are available at the door. For more information, contact Debbie Ryan-McMahon, 518.859.4225.

Save the Date!

Limerick Dinner Dance

The Limerick Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, March 5 at the Post. Cocktails are at 5 p.m. with a roast pork dinner at 6 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. Music provided by DJ Bo Weidman from 7 p.m. to midnight.

For more information and tickets, contact:

Dinner Chair Babe Scully
518.605.9770



General Post Phone No.: 518.465.4800

Post Bar/General Information: 518.465.1402

Email: nap1610@yahoo.com

Post website: <http://northalbanypost1610.com>

Post

Commander:	Lawrence Wiest	518.434.6438
1 st Vice Commander:	Open	
2 nd Vice Commander:	Jacqueline Jones	
Adjutant:	John Sacca	518.486.0528
Finance Officer:	Open	
Judge Advocate:	Lawrence Wiest	518.434.6438
Sergeants-at-Arms:	Michael Ryan & William Ryan	
Chaplain:	Charles Lossi	518.438.6336
Historian:	John Mullen	

Post Hours*

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday: 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

*Hours subject to change.

Sons of the Legion

Acting Squadron Commander: Michael F. Conners 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: Peggy Hovish	518.785.3485	phovish@nycap.rr.com
Chaplain: Kathy Schmitz-Morfe	518.495.2955	ksmorfe@gmail.com

Editor for the Newsletter

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