



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204
Office: 518.465.4800/Bar: 518.465.1402
Website: <https://northalbanypost1610.com>
Email: nap1610@yahoo.com

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A Message from the Commander

Last night we watched the Phillies lose game seven of the National League Championship Series (the pennant) to the Diamondbacks, a sad spectacle. Somewhere soon, in some remote and distant states, there'll be a World Series between Arizona and the Texas Rangers, but for these old baseball fans the season is over.

On Sunday morning October 15, I arrived at the post at 9:00 a.m. to continue prepping the pavilion for the Albany High JROTC annual picnic. Even with a new knee, the task seemed daunting. The floor had to be broomed down. Tables and chairs had to be unstacked, set in place, and wiped clean. All horizontal surfaces had to be wiped down. The unwieldy picnic tables had to be lugged out of the pavilion, set out on the grass, and cleaned.

Major Dave Erickson promised me an “advance party” an hour before start time and true to his word they showed up a dozen strong, moments after our own Don Riley appeared, surveyed the situation, and started issuing orders. Minutes before noon we were pretty much ready. And at noon, the cadets, many with family members in tow, started to make their appearance.

The families of many if not most of these cadets are immigrants from all over the world (Myanmar, Ecuador, Yemen, etc.) and each family brought a dish native to their home country to accompany the all-beef burgers and franks (and the occasional turkey burger) grilled by Don Riley with the assistance of cadet Raad Mohamed, who hones his culinary skills at his dad's deli in Menands.

After the cadets arrived, they were marched up to Mullen Field where a number of “company competitions” were held: volleyball, soccer, basketball (in the park across the street), culminating with a series of tug-of-war eliminations. I'm told Company A prevailed overall.

Sometime before 3:00 p.m. the now famished cadets were brought down from the field and let loose on the many family potluck dishes, burgers, and franks and a considerable amount of junk food and carbonated beverages. It all went, except for several packs of hot dogs and most all of the individual packages of Cheetos that no one touched (go figure).

At the close of the picnic, the cadets, on the command of Major Erickson, cleaned up the premises as they found it, and before departing most posed in front of the post for the commemorative picture. Thank

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you, Don Riley, for being there and making this event a success. Thank you also Third Vice Don Perry and his wife Bonnie for spending this same Sunday afternoon with us doing some much-needed housecleaning in the post.

Stand with Ukraine.

**Lawrence Wiest
Commander**



Auxiliary News

I can't believe time is moving so fast. The Fall Conference was well attended by five of our members, Judy, Jan, Dorothy, Gretchen, and Kathy. Many things were discussed by the State 1st VP, Kim Quick. Our Dept President's project is Hope for the Warriors which supplies physical and mental assistance to those returning home. The project also helps to prevent homelessness for them. Their website is ['hopeforthewarriors.org'](http://hopeforthewarriors.org) for you to learn more about them. National President's project is 'Be the One', asking everyone to aid in preventing suicide in our military and veterans.

Just another reminder to send in your dues to Jan Precopia, 1160 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208, \$35 for seniors and \$8 for juniors. Jan has reported that so far 43 members have sent in their dues out of 75 members. Keep in mind though, our quota for this year is 77 members so do not hesitate to ask your friends and family to consider joining us. Share with them why you joined the Auxiliary and why helping our veterans is important to you.

We will be helping the Maritime Ministry again this year by supplying small items to be included in Christmas bags/boxed for mariners in port and away from their families for the holidays. If anyone would like to put together a shoebox of

items, you are welcome to do so. Wrapped boxes should be brought to the December 5 meeting. There will be a letter from the Maritime Ministry listing suggestions at our November meeting. Gretchen will also email it to members. As always, thank you for your support!

We are still looking for red, white, and blue yarn to make afghans for Community Hospice and veterans staying at the Stratton Inn for treatment at the VA. If you can knit or crochet one, that is even better!

Gretchen Riley, newsletter editor, has emailed out information on a couple of events being held at the Post. Please support them if you can. Don't forget Veteran's Day on Saturday, November 11, starting with a parade at 11:00 a.m. If anyone is interested in marching, please let me know.

Stratton VA Food Pantry is always looking for donations of non-perishable food items. They are helping almost 100 vets a week with bags of food, so all help is greatly appreciated.

Our Empire Girls State candidate has plans to attend the Auxiliary County Meeting at our Post on Tuesday, November 28, to tell everyone about her time at SUNY Brockport with all the other EGS candidates. All are welcome to attend, starting at 7:00 p.m.

**A very proud ALA President,
Judy Benner**

Pictures from Albany High School

JROTC Picnic

Sunday, October 15, 2023



Don Riley grills countless cheeseburgers and franks with the able assistance of Cadet Raad Mohamed for the hungry hoards at the October 15 AHS JROTC picnic.



The final inter-company competitions at the JROTC picnic were the tug-of-war eliminations, the last of which is shown here. First SGT Allen Reome is shown at right officiating.



It seemed like an endless procession of hungry cadets coming down off Mullen Field at the close of the afternoon's competitions during the JROTC picnic.



The commemorative photo taken in front of the post at the close of the AHS SGT Henry Johnson JROTC annual picnic on 10/15/23.

Chaplain's News

Deceased:

Carole Egan, Auxiliary, October 26, 2023

Sick call:

- Don Perry, Legion
- Mickey Ryan, Legion
- Julie Severance, Auxiliary
- Shannon Lenet, Auxiliary
- Janis Sabatino, Auxiliary

November Calendar

Saturday, November 4, 5:00 p.m.

Limerick Fundraiser for Sacred Heart

Sunday, November 5, 10:00 till 11:30 a.m.

Sons' Squadron 1610 Veterans Breakfast

(After the 9:00 a.m. Mass @ Sacred Heart) – \$5.00

Saturday, November 11, 11:00 a.m.

Central Avenue & Partridge Street, Albany

Veterans Day Parade Steps Off



Hope for the Warriors supplies physical and mental assistance to those returning home. The project also helps to prevent homelessness for them.



If you're in crisis, call the new
Veterans Crisis Line number.

Dial 988 then Press 1.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

