



North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

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May 2024

A Message from the Past Commander



The agenda for last month's membership meeting (4.17.24) included the election of post officers for the 2024 -'25 term and included candidates nominated at the March meeting and several additional candidates nominated from the floor on election night. The meeting was well attended. There being no officer positions for which there was more than one nominee (i.e., contested), the post adjutant cast a single vote for each candidate nominated (and who in turn accepted that nomination) and the election of post officers was thus completed.

I then swore in my First Vice Commander Jackie Jones as the new post commander whereupon she, as the new post commander, swore in her "new" post officers for the upcoming year.

It has been an honor to serve as commander of the North American Legion Post 1610. I have every confidence that the post will flourish with Commander Jones at the helm.

At the beginning of every membership meeting we recite the American Legion Preamble, our introductory statement of purpose or mission. At the heart of the Preamble, we pledge "to safeguard . . . the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy." Democracy. Our nation is hurtling towards a moment of truth this November 5 when the question will be answered – can we keep this democracy we Legionnaires have pledged to safeguard? This question goes far beyond politics and thus far the American Legion remains silent on the subject. Is the Preamble just hollow lip service or do we members of the American Legion stand as one and be heard?

Stand with Ukraine.

**Lawrence Wiest
Past Commander**

A Message from the Commander



On behalf of the membership, I proffer a hand salute and thank you to past commander Larry Wiest for his good and honorable service to our post these past eight years. He has agreed to stay on as one of my officers.

Join us this Mother's Day afternoon, Sunday May 12 at the post for a delightful three-course meal served from 2 to 5 p.m. with live music. See our flyer in this newsletter for particulars.

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The County Legion Meeting will be held at our post on Thursday, 30 May at 7:00 p.m. followed by our traditional meal of scalloped potatoes and ham. Join me, fellow vets, at my first County Legion meeting as your commander. I would appreciate the company.

The month of May culminates with Memorial Day weekend. It begins for us with a series of three brief wreath-laying ceremonies the Sunday morning of May 26, in front of the post at 8:15 a.m., then in front of North Albany Academy (PS 20) at 8:35 a.m., and the third at St. Agnes Cemetery flagpole and memorial stone at 9:00 a.m. Again, this year, wreaths will be provided by the post's Sons squadron. After the final wreath-laying all members present, willing, and able along with our stalwart volunteers and a detail of Albany High's SGT Henry Johnson Bn JROTC, some 25 or so cadets strong, commence the decoration of the cemetery's military and veterans graves, a gesture of respect in keeping with the purpose of Memorial Day. After a "mission accomplished" (on or about 11:15 a.m.), we return to the post pavilion for lunch.

The next day, Memorial Day, at 1 p.m., post members, guests, and members of the Auxiliary will conduct a ceremony at our post that includes the reading of the names of our deceased post members and the placing of poppies for each name. You are invited (urged) to attend this ceremony.

I am honored to have been elected as your new commander and look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead.



Jackie Jones
Commander

Post Officers for 2024 – 2025

Post Commander – Jackie Jones

1st Vice Cdr – Don Perry

2nd Vice Cdr – Larry Wiest

3rd Vice Cdr – Osiris Baptiste

Post Adjutant – John Sacca

Sergeant-at-Arms – Annie Parsons

Finance Officer – Sheila Coleman Willingham

Judge Advocate – Larry Wiest

Post Historian – Kimberly Bobb (Appointed)

Post Chaplain – Chuck Lossi

Service Officer – Ron Wilson

Sergeant-at-Arms – Larry Turner (Appointed)



Wednesday 17 April 2024: Newly sworn 2024-2025 post officers, from left, Ron Wilson, Don Perry, Larry Wiest, Jackie Jones, John Sacca, Sheila Coleman Willingham, and Osiris Baptiste. Present but not pictured Annie Parsons. (Picture by Bonnie Sklar.)

Chaplain's News

Sick call:

- Larry Benner, Legion
- Don Perry, Legion
- Patrick Ellis, Legion
- Nancy Lucarelli, Auxiliary
- Michelle Perkinson, Auxiliary
- Susan Egan Rooney, Auxiliary
- Janis Sabatino, Auxiliary

Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary is preparing for our Memorial Service for past Treasurer Dorothy at our June 4 meeting. I hope many of you can attend. We will be having our usual potluck buffet at that meeting. Please contact me, Jan or Sheila by Thursday, May 30, to RSVP and let us know what you will be bringing to share.

April was National Children's Month so in honor of all of our children we have made a donation to the South End Children's Cafe for \$150.00.

Veteran Walk-A-Thon was held on Saturday, April 27 and turnout was really good. I am sure the sunshine helped. So far the total raised is just over \$3700. It is not too late to make a donation so you can make a check to NYS SAL and send to me at 13 Broderick St., Albany, NY 12205 and I will be sure it

is included in the Albany County total.

Sheila Savage has taken over coordinating the Poppy distribution at Price Chopper. If you can help with a couple of hours, please contact Sheila at 518-221-3729. There are still a couple of open time slots.

The baby shower held on Friday, March 29 at the VA Hospital for female veterans was a lovely affair. In attendance, were Gold Star Mothers, members from Albany County American Legion Auxiliary, members from our own Unit 1610, four expectant parents, and hospital staff. M&T Bank was the corporate sponsor and supplied many wonderful gifts for the moms-to-be. Additional baby gifts were provided by Auxiliary members, from Albany County, Zaloga Post and North Albany. The moms were very surprised and thrilled with the gifts.

**A very proud ALA President
Judy Benner**



Pictures top left to right: 1. Laundry baskets, diaper bags and Mary Kay gift bags given to expectant moms at the baby shower; 2. Crocheted baby sweaters given as shower gifts; 3. from bottom left: Unit 1610 Auxiliary President Judy Benner; Vice President Jan Precopia, Unit 1610; Auxiliary President Pam Tracy from Zaloga Post; Gretchen Riley, Unit 1610; Expectant Mom; Albany County Vice President Judy Stoffels; and Albany County President Marie Mock. Bottom picture: Group shot taken at start of the Veteran Walk-A-thon held on Saturday, April 27 at Cook Park, Colonie.



35 North First Street
Albany, NY 12204

The American Legion
North Albany Post 1610
Presents
MOTHER'S Day Dinner
Sunday
May 12, 2024
Live Music

RSVP: The American Legion
North Albany Post 1610
Jackie Jones/5381-368-7128 by May 7th

Doors open at 1:00pm.
Dinner will be available from 2pm til 5pm.

3 Course Meal
\$40 PP/\$25 Members
and Vets Only
Kids under 12 \$15

Starter:
Meat, Cheese, Veggie, Fruit
Charcuterie Board
Main:
Turkey & Ham, Lemon & Herb Salmon
Mashed Potatoes, Baked Mac & Cheese, Rice
Salads: Toss Salad, Mac salad w/ tuna
Asparagus, Green Beans, Cabbage
Dessert: Banana Pudding, Coconut Pineapple
Pound Cake

Thank You for supporting the
Building Fundraiser

This section reserved for mailing purposes.

SONS Squadron 1610 News

North Albany Post SONS Squadron 1610 presented Commander Wiest with a check for \$405.00 from the Annual North Albany Post Deceased Veterans Memorial Mass and Breakfast this past November. Thanks to Jeff Hunt, Mark Scully, Don McMahon, Brian Wilson, Glen Casey and many others, an outstanding breakfast was served up by the Auxiliary and friends of the Post. The \$5.00 ticket price has been subsidized by food gifts from Tim Mulligan and Eddie Shea along with an anonymous donation of over \$250.00 for other food stuffs. We will have to increase this year's ticket price to \$10.00. A special thanks to the Albany High School Henry Johnson Battalion Color Guard, Major Dave Erickson and Deacon Walter Ayers and Father Walsh for the Mass at Sacred Heart.

