



# North Albany Post 1610 American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, NY 12204

Apr 2026

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Post Hours: Thursday 2-6, Friday 4-8 pm, Saturday 12-4 pm

## A Message from the Commander

Greetings, Legionnaires



### WHERE DO WE STAND?

#### Strengthening Post 1610 Through the Four Pillars +1

As members of The American Legion, we are guided by the Four Pillars—Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth—along with our continued commitment to community service, our “+1.”

At American Legion Post 1610, we must ask ourselves: Where do we truly stand within these pillars—and how can we do more?

### What We're Already Doing Well

Supporting veterans and families in need  
Providing weekly fresh produce to address food insecurity  
Hosting youth and community outreach programs  
Partnering with organizations to expand our impact

### Where We Can Grow

Increasing member participation in veteran support initiatives  
Expanding youth mentorship and leadership programs  
Strengthening our presence in civic and patriotic events  
Building deeper partnerships that align with Legion priorities

**Call to Action:** Now is the time for each of us to step forward. Whether through volunteering, sharing ideas, or leading a program, your involvement strengthens our mission. Let's be intentional in aligning our efforts with the Four Pillars +1 and ensure that everything we do reflects the values of service, leadership, and community. Together, we don't just support the mission—we ARE the mission.

**Building the Foundation to Serve:** Our ability to live out the Four Pillars +1 depends on the strength of our Post home. Through our Raise the Roof Capital Campaign, we are working to preserve and improve our facility so we can continue serving veterans, youth, and families in our community. With \$10,000 already raised toward our \$350,000 goal, every contribution moves us closer to protecting and strengthening this vital space. This is more than a building—it's the foundation of our service.

#### THE FOUR PILLARS +1: Guiding Our Mission at Post 1610

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation:** Caring for those who served—healthcare, benefits, and support

**National Security:** Supporting a strong, prepared, and secure nation

**Americanism:** Promoting patriotism, citizenship, and pride in our country

**Children & Youth:** Investing in the next generation through mentorship and programs

**Community Service (“+1”):** Serving our neighbors through outreach, food programs, and support

Strong Pillars. Strong Post. Strong Community.

Jacqueline “Jackie” Jones, Commander

## Adjutant News

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 1610 - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

Thank you to those of you who have paid your membership for 2026. The National American Legion has identified an issue with the software used to update membership renewals paid by cash or check. National is working diligently to correct this situation. For those who have not renewed membership, but intend to, please, if possible, use a credit or debit card to do so. We apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced and thank you for your continued patience.

To streamline the renewal process, we strongly recommend renewing your membership electronically (<https://www.legion.org/member-services>). Online renewals allow for real-time updates, eliminating delays caused by paper submissions. This ensures our Post's membership numbers are accurately reflected without waiting for manual processing.

Your involvement is crucial! If you are willing to assist in the membership drive or need guidance on renewing online, please reach out to the Post. Together, we can continue to grow and strengthen our Legion family.



## Raise the Roof Fundraising Campaign & Building Improvements

**Raise the Roof.** Secure Our Future. Post 1610 is actively raising funds for a full roof replacement, one of the most critical investments in protecting our building and mission. A temporary repair addressed immediate concerns, but a permanent solution is needed to safeguard our Post for generations to come.

**How to Donate:** Make checks payable to: North Albany Post 1610 Include Roof Capital Campaign in the memo section. Mail to: NAP Post 1610 35 North First Street, Albany NY 12204 Your support big or small is greatly appreciated! Every dollar moves us closer to a safer, stronger Post.

**Building Improvements:** We are also working with Common Council Member Kelly Kimbrough to install historical signage recognizing North Albany Post 1610 as a historic landmark in Albany. We are also looking into painting the exterior of the building thru an Albany County Grant this spring!

**Thank You to the following who have donated so far!**

## Sons of North Albany American Legion News

The Sons of post 1610 had a great meeting on Wednesday April 1st. We had 3 new members that joined to make the total members now 18. We are looking to hit 100% by the end of the year, so if anyone looking to join the Sons @ post 1610 please have them contact Commander Skydell via email at [commandersm1610@gmail.com](mailto:commandersm1610@gmail.com).

## Auxiliary News

I hope everyone had a nice Easter or Passover. Perhaps Mother Nature will begin to send us Spring weather.

As our next Unit meeting is Tuesday, April 7, more than likely this newsletter will not arrive before then. At the recent Auxiliary County meeting on Tuesday, March 24, held at the Zaloga Post, Judy Benner gave an update on the baby shower for the Veteran moms-to-be. Judy said there were six moms and their families present. The shower was held at Albany Stratton VA Hospital on Tuesday, March 31. Marie Mock, Albany County ALA President, and Judy represented the American Legion Auxiliary. Carrie Farley, a member of our Unit and a Gold Star mother, and one other Gold Star mother represented the Gold Star Mothers. Everyone got a demonstration on infant and baby procedures on how to treat infants and babies if they are not breathing or are choking.

Marie mentioned that Spring Conference will be on Saturday, April 18, at Greenville Post 291, in Greenville, NY. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Conference convenes at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$15. It was mentioned there are plans in the works for a Veteran Stand Down in Colonie on October 17, 2026. More information to come. The American Legion 107<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated during the Auxiliary County meeting with a cake. Albany County American Legion Commander Leo Falconio was a guest at the meeting. The picture below shows Albany County American Legion Commander Leo Falconio and Albany County Albany Legion Auxiliary President Marie Mock cutting the birthday cake.

Other items mentioned at the County meeting: Fisher House needs bottled water, juices, and Gatorade; the women's "new" Wellness Clinic at the Stratton VA has had over 3,700 women Veterans getting services. It is a Model 3 Clinic solely dedicated to women; there is a free coffee cart on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor at the Albany Stratton VA. A unit or individual may sponsor it.

April is Month of the Military Child. I encourage everyone to wear purple on April 15 to show support for military children.

**Reminder:** The Veterans Walk-A-Thon is Saturday, April 25 at Cook Park in Colonie. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with the walk beginning at 12 noon. If you can, please join us. If you cannot make it, checks made payable to NYS SAL can be sent to Judy Benner at 13 Broderick St., Albany, NY 12205. Please call Judy at 518-817-1240 with any questions. Hope to see you there.

May is Poppy Month with May 22 National Poppy Day. A signup sheet will be at the April meeting. Sara Wiest will also have it at our May meeting. Sara has made arrangements at two local Price Choppers (Loudonville and Watervliet) where we can distribute poppies. I am asking all Legion Family members — Auxiliary, Legionnaires, and Sons — to help distribute poppies. Family members are also welcome to help. Poppies help Americans remember the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since WW I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It became the official flower of the American Legion Family on September 27, 1920, to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. [Read more about the poppy.](#)

Our prayers and deepest sympathies go out to our Auxiliary member (and my sister) Gail Riley on the sudden passing of her husband Don Riley. Don was a Legionnaire at Post 1610.

The next Albany County Auxiliary meeting is April 28 at the Helderberg #977 Post. Our next Unit meeting will be May 5 at 6:30 p.m. Nominations and elections will be held that night.

In closing a question: **Why did you join the North Albany American Legion Auxiliary?** This is the question Jan Precopia put on the Auxiliary's Facebook page. The following is an excerpt from her post: "We support many things for our Veteran community. Did you know a portion of our annual dues help us to provide services for our Veterans and family members? If you recall why you joined, but haven't paid your dues for 2026, please call to mind that reason and pay your dues now so we can continue to support our Veterans and military."

**In Service, Not Self**  
**Gretchen Riley, President**

*March 24, 2026 (L to R): Albany County American Legion Auxiliary President Marie Mock with Albany County American Legion Commander Leo Falconio at the Albany County ALA County meeting as they cut the birthday cake celebrating the 107<sup>th</sup> birthday of The American Legion.*



This section reserved for mailing purposes.

### Chaplain's News

#### Sick call:

- Marianne Bardin, Auxiliary
- Pat Boyd, Auxiliary
- Michelle Perkinson, Auxiliary

#### Post Everlasting/Passing:

- Donald Riley, Post 1610 Legionnaire

Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

### Important Updates

1. Monthly Legion Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the Month so the next meeting is **April 21st** at 7PM when **elections** will be held then **May 19th** for **installation** of new officers
2. Please join our new Facebook Page: North Albany American Legion Post 1610
3. Free Produce every Thursday 4-6! Please come and get what you need!
4. Remember to submit your membership dues today.



### The American Legion Family

The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.