



Art Semro Legion Family News



276 8th Ave NW, PO Box 904, Ephrata, WA 98823

Phone 509-754-2761

Serving Ephrata & Soap Lake Area Veterans and their Families since 1921

January 2026

Volume 26, Number 01

Post & Auxiliary Meetings

2nd Thursday 7PM

E-board 4th Thursday 7PM

Lounge Hours

Monday thru Saturday 12PM – 7PM

Sunday

9AM – 5PM

The Commander's Dispatch

What's New at Post 28

Post 28 is in the middle of a modernization effort focused on our internal systems and administrative workflows. The goal is simple: clearer records, stronger controls, and a smoother experience for members and guests. With any upgrade, there can be a learning curve—so if you encounter an unexpected delay or minor issue, we appreciate your patience as we finalize the transition and training.

Leadership Update: We are also pleased to announce **Deanna** as our new **General Manager**. Deanna has been a familiar face to many of you, and she is stepping into this role with a strong focus on service, consistency, and accountability. Please give her your full support as she gets settled and brings everything up to standard.

Crab Feed Update: Our Crab Feed is fast approaching. Due to rising crab costs and increased event overhead, we will be adjusting ticket prices this year. Even with the change, it remains an excellent value—so please plan to purchase tickets as soon as they become available.

Membership Update: Our 2026 membership goal is 227 paid-up members—and we are currently at 166. If you have not renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible. **Beginning January 1, 2026, membership cards will be checked** to confirm they are current. Thank you for helping Post 28 stay strong and mission-ready.

Member Reminder – Restricted Areas: For everyone's safety and to maintain compliance with state and local regulations, the **bar area and kitchen are off-limits** unless you are **scheduled and actively working** in that area and have the **required permits or licenses and approval** to be there. Please do not step behind the bar or into the kitchen to chat or "help out." This helps us avoid preventable violations, fines, or any risk to our operations. Thank you for respecting these boundaries.

How you can help right now:

- Be patient with temporary process changes (sign-ins, receipts, or administrative requests).
- If your contact info has changed, please update it with the Post.
- Consider volunteering for an event night—extra hands make a big difference.

Thank you for backing your Post and the mission we serve.

Yours in Service,
Alexander Duncan
Commander
The American Legion Art Semro Post 28



President's Message:

Dear Auxiliary Members,

As we reflect on this season and look ahead to the New Year, we want to take a moment to recognize the importance of membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Each member plays a vital role in supporting our mission. Your involvement allows us to continue serving our Veterans, strengthening our Post, and supporting programs that truly make a difference in our community.

At the heart of everything we do is our continued commitment to supporting our Veterans. Whether through events, outreach, youth programs, or behind-the-scenes support, our mission remains strong because of you. As we move into the New Year, we encourage everyone to consider finding a new way—big or small—to support our Post or the Veterans in our community. Every effort matters.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our recent events such a success. Thank you to all who supported the Kids Christmas Party—we had 14 children attend, along with parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. It was truly an amazing morning filled with joy, laughter, and holiday spirit.

Thank you as well to everyone who supported the Ugly Sweater Event and the Adult Christmas Party. The games, smiles, and laughter we saw were incredible, and it was wonderful to see our Legion family coming together to celebrate.

We do need to share an important reminder regarding the bar. When the Legion Hall is open, only employees are permitted behind the bar. This includes not going behind the bar to throw something away or for any reason, even briefly. If the liquor board were to observe someone behind the bar, even for a second, our Post could be cited for a violation. Thank you for helping protect our Post by following this policy.

and bring her own personal touch to the Post Home. If you have something you would like to discuss with her, please be sure to schedule time so she can give you her full attention. She wants to ensure she has sufficient time to listen and understand your needs.

Thank you for your continued dedication, support, and commitment to our Veterans, our Post, and our community.

In Service,



Sunshine Pray

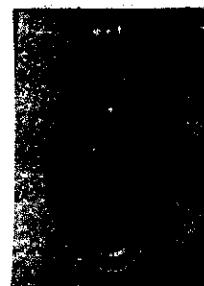
Tumbleweed Gallery

Handmade Sterling Silver Jewelry by Don
Agate Paintings by Arla

Don & Arla Deycous

**h. (509) 754-2946
c. (509) 750 7489
c. (509) 237-9418**

14467 Dodson Rd. Ephrata, WA arladon@nwit.net



Membership Renewals needed for 2026

The National Bylaws state that renewals for the ensuing year should be paid by October 20th of the current year. The reason for this is very simple, although the 2026 membership year doesn't start until January 1st the program year starts immediately following the National Convention. Which is around Labor Day. It takes funding to operate the Legion programs, so we ask our members to renew early.

The following members have yet to renew their membership for the 2026 American Legion year as of 20 December 2025. If you know one or more of these members, please encourage them to renew their membership soon. We encourage our members to renew prior to the end of the year in order to ensure that their benefits are not interrupted. I know that in these uncertain economic times \$55 may seem like a lot of money but if you compare it to the dues of any of the local fraternal organizations, you'll find it quite reasonable. I can also assure you that not one cent of your dues goes to support the post home or the lounge. Every cent goes to support American Legion programs. If somehow your name appears on this list in error, please let me know. You can also renew online at www.legion.org

Beierman, Thomas

Bepple, Martin

Blackman, Roger

Blue, Glenn

Bluhm, Bob

Bostedor, Hank

Bretches, Arthur

Brockman, Timothy

Bundy, Ronald

Carroll, Gary

Ciampi, Joseph

Cote, Antiono

Coulter, Gerald

Dillon, Jeremy

Farmer, Thomas

Flint, Thomas

Friend, John

Gallaway, Fred

Gamboa, Bruce

Gerdes, G

Ginder, Jay

Hall, Gerald

Hampton, Alan

Hatch, Harold

Hatchell, Ernest

Heflin, VCance

Hillard, Garrett

Johnson, Hoss

Latimer, Jory

Little, Patrick

Long, Clifford

MacNeil, Alan

McIntosh, Tom

Moseley, Diane

Moseley, Ken

Mueller, Adam

Nunamaker, Gary

Oaks, Ronald

Oneal, Michael

Pearce, Bruce

Potter, Tom

Quirin, Kenneth

Sadagur, Barry

Saum, Patrick

Scarington, Lee

Sermenio, Rafael

Severin, Henery

Snider, Kristina

Stocking, Daryl

Stoudt, Wallace

Taylor, Craig

Thomas, Robert

Tucker, John

Turner, Everett

Wallace, Andrew

Will, Byeon

Wilson, Geraldine

Neil, Gifford

Ottinger, Phillip

Owens, Edward

Parks, Carl

Petrik, Clarence

Quintero, Christian

Rollins, Michael

Ryckman, Thomas

Scholl, Clark

Shahan, Clint

Turner, Peggy

Turner, Ronnie

Wade, Jeffery

Wallen, Richard

Wellman, Howard

Whitby, Maribeth

Wilson, Mark

Wilson, Rebecca

American Legion Post 28, Annual Dues

Regular Members \$55

Active Duty, Guard and

Reserve Members \$43

please make checks

payable to:

TAL, Art Semro Post 28

'State of the art Hearing Aids' **Dan Morehouse, HIS**
at Old Fashion Prices' WA HA #926

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831 E. Colonial 207 W. Tacoma Ave. 21 W. 4th St.
Moses Lake, WA Ellensburg, WA Omak, WA
98837 98926 98841

THANK YOU*** to everyone who participated in the Christmas Pillowcases for CASA Kids.

Note: *Court Appointed Special Advocates = C.A.S.A.*



I really wish you all could have seen their little faces light up when Santa and his elves brought in all the pillowcases. Oh my gosh, it brought tears to my eyes and just melted my heart. This is where they get to see cousins and other siblings, have a fun-filled day of activities, and, of course, see their parents, as mom and dad are doing what the courts have ordered them to do to get their kids back.

So, all of you who helped me give these kids a fantastic Christmas, I do not know how to THANK YOU enough, except I appreciate you, and I know the kids would, if they could, come up to you all and give you the biggest hug and never let go. God bless you all.

 We do this every year for all the kids who are in the CASA program, which means these are kids (from birth all the way up to 18) who have been taken out of their home away from their parents due to

violence or drug abuse.



As Children and Youth Chairman, I would appreciate any ideas you might have on ways for us (American Legion Family of Post & Unit 28) to support families not just in need but also in upholding family values. Cause the family that plays together and communicates with each other will stay together and help each other.

Jane and I are going to put together a Family night – probably in early/mid-February so we have some time to get the word out; but we could really use some help and ideas on what to do. Please give us any suggestions you have. All will be so appreciated.

God Bless you all

Myra 509-398-4765 Jane 509-760-1433

Myra

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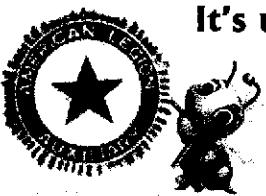
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It's unbelievable!! Yet it's sad but true Unit 28 has 64 who have not renewed for the 2025 Membership Year. PLEASE RENEW NOW

Anyone not renewed before 1 Jan 2026 loses all privileges of our Legion Hall – Lounge and Kitchen – nor will you have privileges at any other American Legion Hall or VFW. National considers those not renewed before the beginning of the calendar year (in this case 2026) “members not in good standing”; as such your record is marked with possibility of losing all the saving benefits issued by National. Information on these National Benefits were sent to you when you first joined, and up-dates are available on the National website ALAforVeterans.org . Of Course, the biggest loss is the financial support each renewal gives to our programs for veterans and scholarships for students. Then there's the loss of strength behind our leadership when they address Congress on behalf of the Legislative Priorities declared to benefit veterans and our military. . What do we need to do and/or say to impress upon everyone the need for renewals to be submitted before Veterans Day for the biggest positive impact? As the Membership Chairman for Unit 28, it's my responsibility to encourage renewals in as early in the term as possible, help members understand their benefits, and to also promote new member applications. Last month, as much as I didn't like doing it – those not renewed were listed in the newsletter in an effort to remind and to enlist the assistance of everybody in getting renewals paid. Help me please – – Membership is extremely important to our being successful in the mission of service for our veterans, military, and their families.

If you're one of those not renewed and can't renew right now, please contact me, Jane Montaney (509)760-1433; and, we'll work something out.

 American Legion Auxiliary, Art Semro Unit 28, membership is \$50 and \$13 for our Juniors (17 and under). The dues amount is more than made up by the savings available in our benefits. Please make checks payable to ALA, Unit 28. Renewals and/or applications can be left with the bartender at the Legion Hall; or, mailed to: Jane Montaney 204 Maringo Rd, Ephrata, WA 98823 If it's easier for you, renewals can also be paid directly to National online at www.ALAforVeterans.org. It takes several weeks before the unit is notified of your renewal; so, if you decide to pay directly to National please forward a copy of your confirmation to jmontaney@yahoo.com. When you notify me, I'll send you special thanks from your Unit 28 and update our files. **Yours in service & friendship for God and Country** *Jane Montaney*



Thank you to everyone who donated treats for the Bake Sale during the Bazaar. The response was incredible — the table was full, then another table was full, and before we knew it, the entire stage was covered with delicious donations. A special thank you to Billy for overseeing this project and keeping everything running smoothly. We are happy to report the Bake Sale raised an amazing **\$972**. Your generosity and support truly made this a huge success!

Reminder on our Americanism Essay contest – **judges are needed.**

Judging by Unit 28 is planned for an evening in February; date determined by a consensus of the volunteers who contact me (Jane Montaney 509-760-1433).



Judging essays can be a very rewarding experience; and, it's fairly easy to do. Unit 28 invited the Almira/Coulee/Hartline, Ephrata, Quincy, Soap Lake, and Wilson Creek School Districts as well as New Life Christian School, St Rose of Lima Catholic School, and any homeschoolers residing in those school districts to participate. The contest is for Grades 3-12 as well as a Special Needs class. The details were provided to each school and published in local newspapers last fall and a reminder sent out in December. This year's title is "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom." We've discovered in the past, no matter how much we do to get the information distributed in the schools and provided to the public – someone says, "didn't know anything about it". Please do what you can to encourage participation by sharing information on the contest with your friends and relatives. I'd be glad to give you copies of what was sent to the schools. If you have an email it would be very easy for me to just forward the info; all ya gotta do is ask. Thanks, Unit 28 Americanism Chrm, Jane Montaney 509-760-1433.



Oh, and another opportunity for judging could present itself if we get more than one applicant for a scholarship. Information on the National and Department of Washington Scholarships was distributed to the School Districts of Almira/Coulee/Hartline (ACH), Ephrata, Quincy, Soap Lake, and Wilson Creek last fall and a reminder on the deadline of March 1st sent out in December. Unit 28 has been blessed in the past with 4 people who've volunteered for Judging on both Unit applicants as well as those received for National and Department scholarships. Big Thank you to Judy, Sherry, and Roger!!!

Crab Feed February 28th

On Saturday February 28th Post 28 will be holding their biggest fundraiser of the year. As many of you know we hold several fundraisers thru the year. What you may not know is most of our fundraisers are for Legion programs and do not benefit the Post treasury. The annual Crab Feed is the only fundraiser that is specifically to benefit the Post.

As you know the price of everything is going up these days. That includes the price of Crab and Prime Rib. Not to mention potatoes, Cole slaw, and all the other things that go into making our Crab Feed special. Therefore, this year you will see an increase in our prices. Let's face it; in order to make a profit we need to charge more than the meal costs. Tickets will be available at the bar and from selected members in early January. If you want to participate you will need to purchase your ticket early, there will only be 175 tickets sold.

We are also looking for volunteers to help organize and work the Crab Feed. There will be an organizational meeting at the Post in mid to late January. The word on when will be passed at our January Post meeting on January 8th. Just remember there are a lot of moving parts in planning a dinner for 175 people and it takes volunteers.

January 2026

Monthly Planner

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