

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

December 2024

Volume 24, Number 12

Post & Auxiliary Meetings
2nd Thursday 7PM
E-board 4th Thursday 7PM

Lounge Hours
Monday thru Saturday 12PM – 8PM
Sunday 9AM – 7PM

From the Commander

There has been a terrible accident concerning a member of the Moncrief family, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We are still offering \$1 off a beverage in the lounge to every member who is at the General Meeting, this is to encourage participation.

The Post will be going back to the old hours. To help facilitate this we are transitioning to volunteers instead of paid employees. What this means is they will be relying on tips.

We still need your patronage, both with choosing the Post to eat, drink and play at as well as your support in serving as a volunteer.

Speaking of volunteers, Mike is looking for a new chairman to head up the Veterans Day parade for next year. Also, Color Guard is always looking for more people.

Pathfinders from Othello donated 2 copies of the book Hero of Hacksaw Ridge. They are in the office and can be checked out.

I welcome people to come to me to discuss concerns, ideas, or questions without fear of repercussion - an open-door policy. With that being said... I have become aware that members are frustrated about a few things, and I want to help. However, very few have actually discussed issues with me directly. Also, they don't want to take problems to the meetings for one reason or another. Nor do they feel like using the other option that is in the rules that complaints should be put in writing and signed. So, issues don't get addressed and that's disappointing. I am trying to save this post from closing and hopefully, eventually improve upon it making it more welcoming to younger veterans.

Alexander Duncan
Commander - Post 28
postcommander@ala-28.org

A bit of history: The Medal of Honor signed in to law on December 21, 1861, by Abraham Lincoln.
Total number of recipients: 3519 Total number of living recipients: 60

From the Editor

Our goal is to have your newsletter in your hands by the first of every month. In order to accomplish this goal, we have established a deadline of the 20th of the month for all input to be in the hands of the editor. This gives us time to write, assemble and prepare for mailing, so we can still have it in your hands before the 1st. The best way to get input to me is by E-mail. Please send it to www.Post28ALWanews@gmail.com. Otherwise, you can drop it off at the post home. If you change your mailing address, please let us know. Otherwise, your newsletter will be sent to your old address and not be forwarded. Thank You Post 28

MANAGER'S Message: BRRR it's cold outside! Bring on the soup!!!

By the time you get this Thanksgiving will be over, but I want to thank everyone who donated food, time, cleaned, cooked, and came for Rosie's Thanksgiving Dinner. Also, thank you to Steve Scott for bartending on Thanksgiving.

Thank you to our Commander, Alex, for volunteering on Mondays behind the bar and helping with lunch.

Congratulations to the winner of the Seahawks tickets which were donated by Phil and Margi Wick. Feel funny congratulating cause – IT'S ME. But turns out I can't go so will try to sell so I can donate money back to Post.

Please remember our bartenders and servers are now volunteers, still doing their best to serve you all. So please make sure you thank them for being there to help.

As soon as we hear from the Grant County Service Officer and the HUD-VASH Clinical Case Manager, we'll be putting up the angel tree for Christmas with the needs of our local vets. Please make sure to pull an ornament if you can help our vets.

We're still collecting Manufacturers' Coupons, Personal Hygiene Items, Sweatshirt & sweatpants sets, and Socks.

We will also be putting up stockings for members. This is a great way to make it fun for everyone who comes in. The stockings are available for you to put things like cards, candy, and Drink Chips in friends' stocking; and don't forget, we do a fundraiser for this as well. You can pay \$1 to hang your stocking on the fireplace mantle – maybe even pay the \$1 to put a friend's stocking on the mantle.

Our annual Christmas Bake Sale will be held 16-20 Dec. Please make a donation for items to purchase. You may also bring donations of goodies to put on the sales table.

We will be closing early, at 4pm, on Christmas Eve, Dec 24th (so no Burger Nite) and will remain closed on Dec 25th – Christmas.

Be sure to check out the calendar for other special happenings in Dec.

December Happy Birthdays




2nd Jay S; 3rd John A; 6th Cory Hendricks; 8th Michelle Hanson; 11th Sparky D. Mike K, & Miki Krausse; 14th JoAnn Wren & Carol Oaks; 17th Jody B & Tara Wallace; 21st Ted S. & Brittany P; 26th Carol Schutt; 28th Marv W. **And can't forget 25th – Jesus Christ**

Tumbleweed Gallery
Handmade Sterling Silver Jewelry by Don
Agate Paintings by Arla

Don & Arla Deycous
h. (509) 754-2946
e. (509) 750-7489
e. (509) 237-9418

14467 Dodson Rd. Ephrata, WA arladoo@awL.net




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Tom Moncrief
Owner/Broker
1075 Basin St. SW
Ephrata WA, 98823

Recently, I've been busy trying to make a booklet showing all the collectible cars the Auxiliary received to support the Gift Shops we do in Spokane. The Auxiliary was blessed by a gentleman who'd managed to build quite a collection of model cars, in that when he passed away, he left the wish for the collection go to support the Gift Shops. So, as a co-chairman of these Gift Shops, I got about 9 moving boxes full of model cars, most in their original packaging. We'd decided the best way for the cars to properly support, was to sell them. So, to help with the sale of these very special cars, we unpacked all the cars and proceeded to put them into categories and took pictures. The pictures with a little caption description are being compiled into a booklet which be used to take to different businesses and put out on the internet in hope to raise money to make purchases that will fill a need for veterans and their families.

While moving cars around and taking pictures a few of the members in the Post asked what I was doing. When I explained we were organizing so we could sell the cars in support of Gift Shops and Veterans' Christmas Program, I was really puzzled that most of these people said they didn't know what Gift Shop was. So, I thought I'd publish then article I wrote last year defining Gift Shop, Vet's Christmas Program, and our participation in the programs.

Gift Shop: Is a program going back to the very beginning of American Legion Auxiliary. In the 1920's, hospitalized veterans had no way to get a gift to give to their loved ones. The Auxiliary would set up a miniature Department Store in a spare room or similar space provided by the VA in the hospital. Then Auxiliary volunteers and/or hospital staff help the veterans in the "store" to pick out items for gifts to his/her loved ones. The Auxiliary wraps all the gifts and put a sticker on the gift indicating who it is for and from whom (one of the reasons we ask what the kids and grandkids call the vet - so the sticker is close to normal as possible). In the present day, people don't spend as much time hospitalized and there are websites galore with opportunities to buy gifts. However, the Auxiliary continues the tradition because Veterans with a disability either financial or physical still need the help. Unit 28 gives financial support, through Department, to three gift shops, two in Spokane and one in Walla Walla. And, a few members give items. The Gift Shops are only open for 2-3 days; but lots of volunteers are needed to help set up and assist veterans, shop, wrap presents, and prepare for mailing.

We also support the Christmas Program, another long-time program where a gift is given to a veteran. Our participation is mainly at Spokane VAMC & Vets Home, and our local vets/military (we learn of through the Grant County Service Officer and the VA Representative for Grant County). I hope to receive information on the needs of local veterans very soon. Once I have all the needs, we'll be putting special ornaments/tags on the little tree in the dining hall. No one will know the names of the individuals because I've asked the reps to assign a number to each vet and only the rep will know what number identifies which vet. We ask our members to please take a tag, purchase the item, wrap it and tape the tag on outside of the present. I'll have numbered totes by the service flags in the dining hall, the presents should be placed in the appropriate numbered tote before December 20th. If you live outside the area and wish to participate, just send a check payable to ALA Unit 28 with Veterans' Christmas Program on the memo line. Mail to me at 204 Maringo Rd Ephrata, WA 98823

Yours in service & friendship for God & Country - Notself, Jane Montaney

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President's Message: Honoring Our Veterans & Celebrating the Season of Gratitude



As the holiday season approaches, we reflect on the many blessings we have—our families, our communities, and the freedoms we hold dear. This season, the American Legion Auxiliary is especially mindful of those who have sacrificed so much for our country: our veterans. Their service and dedication deserve our utmost respect and gratitude, not just on Veterans Day, but every day. We are proud to continue our mission of supporting veterans and their families through service, advocacy, and community outreach. This holiday season, we have several special events planned to honor our veterans and celebrate the spirit of giving, family, and fellowship.

Upcoming Events

2pm Dec 8 - Kids Christmas Celebration Mark your calendars as we host our annual Kids Christmas Celebration! This joyful event will feature crafts, games, hot dogs & goodies and a visit from Santa Claus himself. It's a special day for children and their families, filled with fun, laughter, and holiday cheer. Volunteers are needed to help with event coordination, assist with crafts, and ensure every child has a memorable experience.

2pm Dec 15 - Adult Christmas Celebration We will host our Adult Christmas Celebration, a festive evening for all our members, their families, and friends. The event is Potluck – hors d'oeuvres, holiday treats, gift exchange (Please keep cost no more than \$15), games (this is new, just trying, if you want), and a chance to reflect on the year while spending time with loved ones. This is a time for camaraderie and community as we celebrate the season and look ahead to the new year. I encourage you to invite a veteran or two to attend this event with you.

10am January 11 - Auxiliary Programs We are excited to welcome Barb Rutherford to the Post Home for an upcoming session focused on increasing our knowledge about the various programs and resources available through the American Legion Auxiliary. Barb's expertise and experience will provide valuable insights into how we can better support our veterans and their families, as well as enhance our community outreach efforts. This is a wonderful opportunity for all members to learn more about the impactful programs we can be a part of, and we encourage everyone to attend & participate! We'll have coffee & breakfast snacks.

A Time for Gratitude The holidays are a time for reflection – we are so thankful for the support we receive from our members, volunteers, and the local community. As an Auxiliary, we remain committed to our mission of supporting veterans and their families—whether through service projects, fundraising efforts, or simply being there when needed most. This year, we encourage everyone to take a moment to consider how we can all make a difference in the lives of those who have served our country. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve alongside such dedicated individuals who share in our commitment to our veterans and their families. Together, we continue to make an impact, not just during the holidays, but every day of the year.

Wishing you all a wonderful and blessed holiday season!

Warm Regards, Sunshine Pray

American Legion Auxiliary, Art Semro Unit 28

We're very grateful to all who've renewed for the 2025 Membership Year.

Thanks to them, we were able to send in the donations listed in our budget, such as: Veterans' Homes; VA Medical Centers; Transitional Housing for vets in need of a fresh start; USOs, Fisher Houses (2 of em are on JBLM); Scholarships; etc. Without the help of our Early Birds we wouldn't have been able to send in our budgeted donation for Gift Shops in time to truly help. The

higher our numbers the better our National Auxiliary are able to negotiate good contracts on benefits we have such as: discounts on eyeglasses, prescriptions, insurance plans, travel, etc.

National sends out the renewal notices in September; and sometimes people set it aside to take care of later – then forget. Sometimes those who joined late spring or summer don't get a renewal notice; so, to be sure everyone's aware and to also remind those who haven't paid, to get their 2025 renewal paid, soon we're listing those not renewed as of 20 Nov 2024. To maintain your active status as a member, your renewal must be in and processed before Dec 15th to ensure enough time for full National processing. Anyone not renewed by Jan 1st loses all privileges of our Post Home (you can't even be signed in), and, if not paid by mid-January your benefits, discounts, etc. are stopped. The intent of printing names of our non-renewals is not to shame but to remind; so, if you see a friend's name please kindly remind – don't tease. If you're one of the ladies listed below, please send in your renewal right away. If for any reason you just can't renew right now, please contact me, and we'll work something out. Jane Montaney (509-760-1433) We have a staggering 57 Members still not renewed!

Terese Barta	Nancy Hawkins	Karen Patterson
Renee Bretches	Jaddean Hendricks	Brittany Pickens
Shirley Britton	Cynder Howard	Vicky Rutherford
Lisa Carlson	Cheryl Jackson	Beverly Schroeder
Penny Coble	"Scooter" Jacques	Rachel (Clark) Schuler
Pam Cook	Rebecca Kallstrom	Robin Seibold
Sheila Countryman	Judi Kanoff	Jeanette Shadwick
Sarah Cox	Patt Kauffman	Meghan Smith
Danica Dart – Jr	"Betty" Lohie	Marsha Staley
Samantha Dauenhauer	EmmaMae McCarty – Jr	Dianna Steele
Candy Erickson	Heidi McCarty	Jody Strickland
Kamela Farmer	Morgan McCarty	Sandy Stroup
Karen Gallaway	"Dani" McCrady	Marie Taylor
Pam Gomez	"Jackie" MacNeil	Delores Tritle
Chantell Graham	Janelle Manthey	Leslie Underwood-Hovland
Sarah Grimes	Tessa Marseilles	Betty Wasko
Jaime Halley	Edith Medrano	Jessika Wyman
Michelle Hanson	Dorothy Moore	Sherry Young
Paighton Hanway	Shelly Nelson	
	Madi Owens	

American Legion Auxiliary, Art Semro Unit 28, membership is \$50 and \$13 for our Juniors (young ladies 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 at the Post Home; or, mailed to: Jane Montaney 204 Maringo Road, 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

Membership Renewals needed for 2025

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 2025 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 2025 American Legion year as of 25 November 2024. 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

Amstutz, Patrick
Anderson, Phil
Appling, Larry
Barnett, Rex
Blagg, Duane
Bornong, Arthur
Bretches, Arthur
Britton, Dennis
Burk, Douglas
Butt, Robert
Byrd, Joseph
Carroll, Gary
Ciampi, Joseph
Clark, Preston
Clayton, Ralph
Collier, Ralph
Cook, J
Cote, Antonio
Daily, William
Devany, James
Dillon, Jeremy
Enlow, Robert
Falagan, Jacob
Farmer, Tomas
Gallaway, Fred
Gamboa, Bruce
Garcia, Charles
Gordon, Donald
Green, Jerry
Grove, James
Hampton, Alan
Hatch, Harold
Heflin, Vance
Hernandez, Romen
Hill, Roger
Hooyer, Dennis
Jackson, Noman

Jones, Curt
Jorgensen, Mark
Kahn, Erok
Kanoff, Bernard Jr.
Konshuk, Ralph
Kosa, David
Lee, Robert
Lessard, Keith
Lewis, Robert
Likes, John
Long, Clifford
Mathis, Partick
Matkin, Robert
McCarty, Patrick
Million, Tommy
Moncrief, Thomas
Mueller, Adam
Neill, Gofford
Oaks, Ronald
Oneal, Michael
Ottinger, Phillip
Owens, Edward
Petrik, Clarence
Quintero, Christian
Rollins, Michael
Ryckman, Thomas
Sanchez, Vicente
Saum, Patrick
Scholl, Clark
Scriven, Vernon
Sheppard, Kirk
Stierwalt, John
Stocking, Daryl
Tate, Gerry
Thomas, Kimberly
Turner, Peggy
Turner, Ronnie

Wade, Jeffery
Wallace, Andrew
Wallen, ichard
Whitby, Maibeth
Wilson, Mark
Wilson, Rebecca
Wimer, Vernon

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

This list is not meant to
embarrass anyone. It is
simply to remind our
members who haven't
renewed their membership.

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December 2024

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1	2 Chicken Noodle Soup Turkey Sandwich Special Pool League	3 Burger Night Chicken Noodle Ham Sandwich Special	4 Fire Roasted Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese Special	5 Tomato Soup & Sandwich Special	6 Fish Dinner & Clam Chowder	7																																																																																				
8 Kids Christmas Party 2PM Sunday Football \$ 50 off Drinks	9 Chili & Roast Beef Sandwich Special	10 Burger Night Chili & Roast Beef Sandwich Special Chili Burger Special	11 Broccoli Cheddar Soup & Turkey Sandwich Special	12 Broccoli Cheddar & Ham Sandwich Special Dinner Spaghetti Post & Aux meeting 7PM	13 Dinner Salisbury Steak w/onion gravy, mashed potatoes & Roll Potato Soup	14 Room Rental																																																																																				
15 Adult Christmas Party 2PM Pot Luck Christmas Tie \$ 50 off Drink	16 3 Bean & Ham & BLT Special Bake Sale Pool League	17 3 Bean & Ham & Ham Sandwich Special Bake Sale Burger Night Monster Burger & Fries	18 Bake Sale Beef Noodle & Grilled Cheese Special	19 Bake Sale Beef Noodle & Roast Beef Sandwich Special	20 Bake Sale No Dinner Swedish Meatball Noodle Soup Special	21 Christmas Dinner (Post) Ugly Sweater \$ 50 off Drinks																																																																																				
22 Football	23 No Pool Won Ton Soup & Turkey Sandwich Special	24 Closed @ 4PM Won Ton Soup	25 Closed	26 Eboard meeting 7PM No Dinner Seahawks Evening Game	27 Chicken Fajita Dinner Pot Pies	28																																																																																				
29	30 No Pool Taco Soup & BLT	31 French Dip Dinner & FF Happy New Year Taco Soup & Roast Beef Sandwich Special	<div> <div>Nov 2024</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Jan 2025</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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