



# Art Semro Legion Family News



276 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, PO Box 904, Ephrata, WA 98823

Phone 509-754-2761

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

January 2025

Volume 25, Number 01

### Post & Auxiliary Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7PM

- 8PM

E-board 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7PM

### Lounge Hours

Monday thru Saturday

12PM

Sunday

9AM - 7PM

### From the Commander

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! In December the post had 4 Christmas dinners/parties. I hope you had a chance to attend at-least one of them and enjoy the festivities.

I know everyone had a busy month, I know I still haven't had time to buy presents or decorate the tree yet! (as of Dec 21.) So, I know everyone is looking forward to a little time to relax. By the time you read this, hopefully you all had a chance to rest.

As we go into the New Year you may find it is a perfect time to reflect on the past, appreciate the present and look forward to the future.

Alexander Duncan/Commander - Post 28

[HYPERLINK "mailto:postcommander@ala-28.org"postcommander@ala-28.org](mailto:postcommander@ala-28.org)

Here is some history for January:

- January 1, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which made ending slavery a goal of the Civil War.
- January 25, 1866 Marines and sailors from the American sloop Decatur landed in Seattle, Washington to protect settlers from a local Native American attack. The Native Americans launched a seven-hour attack but were driven off, with only two civilian volunteers killed.
- January 16, 1991 Operation Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm, and the White House announced the liberation of Kuwait.
- January 10, 1995 The Pentagon announced that 2,600 US Marines would be deployed to Somalia for Operation United Shield.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. The best way to get input to me is by E-mail. Please send it to [HYPERLINK](mailto:HYPERLINK)

["http://www.Post28ALWanews@gmail.com"](http://www.Post28ALWanews@gmail.com) [www.Post28ALWanews@gmail.com](mailto: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 Editor

**Manager's Message:** Wow! how this year has flown by!! Recently, we made it through the hustle of Thanksgiving and (by the time you get this newsletter) Christmas.

I, again, want to thank everyone who donated their time, money, and energy over 2024. We have a lot of new members this year; and, look forward to seeing you all here at the home of Post and Unit 28 (we're also kind of a home away from home for Squadron 183 - Sons of the American Legion out of Quincy).

The staff here try hard to make everyone feel welcome. We invite you all to come see us here and give us some ideas on what you would like to see happen in this new year.

I also would like to personally invite members of the Moses Lake Post 209 Family to come on over and join us in some of our activities here at the Post Home. After all, we are all members of the 9th District American Legion Family. Those of you who see this newsletter article, please pass this invitation on to those who may not see it.

Things to look at for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2025 - Crab Feed (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in Feb.), St Patrick's Day (17 March), Girls and Boys States Dinner & Auction (15 March). We also are very honored to be hosting a visitation from our National American Legion Auxiliary President, Trish Ward on 15 March. She will be here to join in the festivities of our G&B States Dinner & Auction plus share a few words with us.

*Editor's note - a RSVP with the number in your party is always helpful for all activities: it allows for those planning things to ensure enough food is prepared and enough tables & chairs are set up prior to the event.*

**Happy Birthday to all born in January - no matter what year 🎂**



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### Santa's Helper

We would like to thank Frank Slaughter for assisting us as Santa during the children's Christmas Party. We only wish more members had brought their Kids and Grandkids.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The holiday season is always such a bustling time of year—Christmas cards to send, presents to wrap, cookies to bake, and parties to enjoy. As we step into 2025, I want to encourage you to take a moment to pause. Put your feet up, savor the love and laughter around you, and make memories that truly matter. Let the dishes wait—play a game with your family and cherish the joy of the season.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting event coming up on **January 11th!** Join us from **10:00AM to Noon** as we welcome **Barb Rutherford** for an informative session over coffee and snacks. She'll share insights about the programs the ALA supports and how we can contribute to their success. Following the meeting, we'll come together to assemble hygiene packs for homeless veterans. If you have any new toothbrushes, toothbrush covers, or travel-sized shampoo, conditioner, or soap, please bring them along!

Another important event on the horizon is the **Girls and Boys State Dinner & Auction**, happening on **March 15th**. This is a fantastic opportunity to raise funds to sponsor students for this impactful program. We need your help gathering auction items – consider reaching out to businesses you frequent to request a donation. The more items we collect, the more students we can support! Plus, we're thrilled to announce a very special guest will join us for the event. Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you for all you do; and, may this season fill your heart with peace and happiness. Let's make 2025 a year to remember!

### A Christmas Tribute to Veterans

Beneath the glow of Christmas lights,  
We pause to honor steadfast might,  
For those who've served with heart and hand,  
To guard the freedom of our land.  
Your courage shines, a guiding star,  
No matter where, no matter how far.

While carols fill the frosted air,  
We think of you with love and care,  
Through silent nights and battles long,  
You kept us safe, both brave and strong.  
Now peace adorns this season's grace,  
Because of sacrifices you embrace.

So as we gather, hearts sincere,  
To celebrate this joyful year,  
We send our thanks, a warm embrace,  
To those who serve in every place.  
May Christmas bring you peace and cheer,  
And blessings last throughout the year.

Sunshine Pray, President, Art Semro Unit 28



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**We still have 43 people who haven't renewed for the 2025 Membership Year – PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL NOW!!!!**



Anyone not renewed before 31 Dec 2024 for the 2025 Membership Year is considered delinquent and loses privileges of all Post Homes (American Legion & VFW). Last month we printed a list of non-renewed members in hopes to help remind them before they also lose the saving benefits obtained by National like discounts on eye glasses, prescriptions, insurance plans, car rental, travel, etc. Of course, the biggest loss is the financial support their renewal gives to our programs for veterans and the strength it gives to our leadership when they speak to Congress. Membership is extremely important to our being successful in the mission of service for our veterans, military, and their families. Frankly I'm really confused – of the 57 nonrenewed members this time last month, only 14 renewals were received. Please help me figure this out – is it something we're doing? Not doing? I can't fix what I don't know is broken. National considers those not renewed as "members not in good standing". If for any reason you can't renew right now please contact me, Jane Montaney (509)760-1433; and, we'll work something out.

Membership dues for American Legion Auxiliary, Art Semro Unit 28, are:

**Auxiliary (18 or older) \$50 Junior Auxiliary (17 or younger) \$13**

You can drop off your renewal at the Post Home or mail it to:

Jane Montaney 204 Maringo Rd, Ephrata, WA 98823

Please make checks payable to ALA, Unit 28.

If it's easier for you, renewals can also be paid directly to National online at [www.ALForVeterans.org](http://www.ALForVeterans.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](mailto:jmontaney@yahoo.com). When you notify me, I'll send you the special thank you from your Unit 28, your card, and update our files.



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

Judging by Unit 28 is planned for the evening of Feb 27<sup>th</sup>; if you can help please contact me.

It 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 home-schoolers 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.

This year's title is "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?" 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. Thanks, Unit 28 Americanism Chrm, Jane Montaney 509-760-1433.

## Membership Renewals needed for 2025

The National Bylaws state that renewals for the ensuing year should be paid by October 20<sup>th</sup> of the current year. The reason for this is very simple, although the 2025 membership year doesn't start until January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 20 December 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 @ [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

Amstutz, Patrick  
Anderson, Phil  
Appling, Larry  
Barnett, Rex  
Blagg, Duane  
Bornong, Arthur  
Bretches, Arthur  
Burk, Douglas  
Butt, Robert  
Byrd, Joseph  
Carroll, Gary  
Clark, Preston  
Clayton, Ralph  
Cote, Antonio  
Daily, William  
Devamy, James  
Dillon, Jeremy  
Enlow, Robert  
Falagan, Jacob  
Farmer, Tomas  
Galloway, Fred  
Gamboa, Bruce  
Garcia, Charles  
Gordon, Donald  
Grove, James  
Hatch, Harold  
Heflin, Vance  
Hemandes, Romen  
Hooyer, Dennis  
Jackson, Norman  
Jones, Curt  
Jorgensen, Mark  
Kahn, Erik  
Kunshuk, Ralph  
Kosa, David  
Lee, Robert  
Lessard, Keith

Long, Clifford  
Mathis, Partick  
Matkin, Robert  
Million, Tommy  
Mineller, Adam  
Neill, Gofford  
Oaks, Ronald  
Oneal, Michael  
Ottinger, Phillip  
Owens, Edward  
Petrik, Clarence  
Quintero, Christian  
Rollins, Michael  
Ryckman, Thomas  
Scholl, Clark  
Scriven, Vernon  
Sheppard, Kirk  
Stierwalt, John  
Stocking, Daryl  
Tate, Gerry  
Turner, Peggy  
Turner, Ronnie  
Wade, Jeffery  
Wallace, Andrew  
Wallen, ichard  
Whitby, Maibeth  
Wilson, Mark  
Wilson, Rebecca

The following have not renewed since 2023 & will be dropped if not paid by 1 February 2025.

Allen, Kyle  
Barstad, Richard  
Beakley, Thomas

Blue, Glenn  
Bolding, Russell  
Burkett, Bryan  
Debeaux, Steve  
Derington, Morgan  
Gaetner, Sidney  
Garnett, Richard  
Gunderson, Randy  
Gustafson, Brad  
Hamilton, Scott  
Hanford, Patrick  
Hayhurst, David  
Hilty, John  
Jackson, Corey  
Kuhn, Ron  
Major, Barry  
Miller, Zachary  
Million, Clifford  
Olson, Bernard  
Potter, Thomas  
Fairdan, Raymond  
Sayder, Paul  
Som, Ryan  
Sumbangh, Ronald  
Thompson, Frank  
Warbiany, Josh  
Wellman, Howard  
Wilson, Geraldine

**American Legion Post 23,  
Annual Dues  
Regular Members \$55  
Active Duty, Guard and  
Reserve Members \$43  
please make checks  
payable to:  
TAL, Art Semro Post 23**

## **Annual Crab Feed**

The American Legion Post 28 annual Crab Feed is coming up on Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The dinner will be served buffet style at 6PM as usual. It will be an all you can eat (on site) Crab dinner for \$40.00- or one-time thru Prime Rib for \$25.00. Some people want both so the price for that is \$65.00. Dinner will come with the usual sides of Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, rolls and various condiments.

Tickets will go on sale at the Bar and from selected members shortly after the new year. In past years we have sold 200 tickets and were overcrowded. So, last year we cut it down to 175, and although still crowded it was much more comfortable. So, this year we will stay at 175. So, buy your tickets early. When buying your tickets let the person you are buying from if you plan to sit with a group and identify the group.

As before we will be having a 50/50 raffle, and we plan to have a few auction items. Please remember this is the only fund raiser for the Post. So please be generous. All of our other fund raisers simply pass thru our hands and go to one of the Veteran related projects we support.

## **Thanks for the Aluminum Cans**

For years we have been recycling and giving the proceeds to the Boy Scout Troop we were sponsoring. Thru no fault of our own the Boy Scout Troop was disbanded. But we still collect aluminum cans. Now the proceeds go into the Post General fund to support other Legion programs, such as Boys State, Constitutional Speech Contest, Color Honor Guard and others.

Some of the cans come from our lounge but most are donated by our members. So to our members who bring in cans I ask two things. If it's not too much trouble pull off the "Pop Tabs" and drop them off at the bar. We donate them to Ronald McDonald House in Spokane. It would also be very helpful if you made sure the bags were tied securely. While loading the bags recently to take to the recycler several untied bags fell over spilling much of their contents. Anyway, we recently received \$164.00 for a load of cans. That may not seem like much but two loads that size is enough to send a young man to Boys State. On behalf of The Post membership and all of our programs we thank you.

# January 2025

## Monthly Planner

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Dec 2024						
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				

Feb 2025						
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	

**1**  
French Onion  
Soup

**2**  
French Onion  
Soup

**3**  
Fish Night Clam  
Chowder

**4**  
Clam Chowder

**5**  
Breakfast 9 to  
Noon

**6**  
Chili Soup  
Pool Night

**7**  
Ace of Hearts  
6PM  
Burger Night  
Chili Burger  
Chili Soup

**8**  
Lasagna Soup

**9**  
Lasagne Soup  
Meat Loaf  
Post & Auxiliary  
meeting 7PM

**10**  
Hamburger Stew  
Pot Pie

**11**  
Salisbury Steak &  
Potato

**12**  
Breakfast 9 to  
Noon

**13**  
Pool Night  
Potato Soup

**14**  
Ace of Hearts  
6PM  
Burger Night  
Potato Soup

**15**  
Tomato Soup &  
Grilled Cheese

**16**  
Tomato Soup &  
Grilled Cheese

**17**  
Lasagna @ 5PM

**18**

**19**  
Breakfast 9 to  
Noon

**20**  
Chicken Noodle  
Soup  
No Pool Night

**21**  
Ace of Hearts  
6PM  
BLT Special  
Burger Night  
Chicken Noodle  
Soup

**22**  
Taco Soup

**23**  
Eboard meeting  
7PM  
Taco Salad 5PM  
Taco Soup

**24**  
Beef Tip &  
Noodle @ 5PM  
Broccoli &  
Cheddar Soup

**25**  
Room Rental

**26**  
Breakfast 9 to  
Noon

**27**  
3 Bean & Ham  
Soup  
Pool Night

**28**  
3 Bean & Ham  
Soup  
Ace of Hearts  
6PM  
Burger Night

**29**  
Beef Noodle  
Soup

**30**  
Beef Noodle  
Soup

**31**  
Burgers @ 5PM