



# American Legion Auxiliary



Thanksgiving Greetings  
November 25, 2024

Dear Members of the American Legion Auxiliary,

At this special time of year when we bring our families and friends together to celebrate Thanksgiving it is important to recognize your selfless devotion to our Veterans, Military and their families at home and abroad.

Because of *YOU*, we are united in service to enhance their lives through the ALA's mission: *"For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security."*

During our Fall Workshop/Conferences we heard of the wonderful ways in which you were "working" the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. At the Area 3 Workshop (Districts 8 & 9) hosted by Post 157 in Electric City at the *Veterans Service Center* there was a spontaneous *Ways 'n Means 50/50 fundraiser* for the Department. Past Department President Jane Montaney, gave a short speech on the purpose of this essential category which provides funding to fill in gaps where allocated funding isn't sufficient to meet the demand. At the Area 1 Conference (Districts 1 & 2) hosted by Arlington Post 76, another *50/50 Ways 'n Means fundraiser* was held for the Department. District 2 voted to donate \$1,000 for the *Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)* to help those affected by hurricanes. Department AEF Chairman, Tina Loomer, will be issuing a challenge incentive appeal to all Units in our state for donations to *AEF*.

At the Area 4 Conference (District 12) hosted by Pasco-Kennewick Glenn M. Sickles Memorial Post 34 we heard how their American Legion Family is working together to support their community with holiday events. Unit 115 held a "Trunk or Treat" event and will be sponsoring an annual Christmas party for kids. Both Units support the Walla Walla Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Home and VAMC.

At the Area 2 Fall Workshop/Conferences hosted by Port Orchard Post 30 and Grant Hodge Post 17 in Centralia featured speakers included Past National Commander Charlie Schmitt from the *National Advisory Team*, Abuoh Neufville, *WDVA Assistant Director Veterans Services, Counseling and Wellness Programs*, Tony Morea, *Evergreen Boys State Program Chairman* and Terri Campbell, *Evergreen Girls State Director* and Chris Thomas, *Sons of the American Legion (SAL)* along with a special presentation by 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice Commander, Chris Bates, on *Executive Board General Liability and Board & Officers Insurance*.

Auxiliary Districts 5 and 6 met at Coy-Catlin Post 137 in Carson where representatives from Units 14, 25, 116, 122, 137, 155 and 175 shared news of their activities in the community. They voted collectively to create a *District Emergency Fund* and formed a committee to oversee it. Past Department President Janet Easley encouraged committee chairs to write about their programs and submit articles to the *Evergreen Online News*.

We also heard about a fire tragedy from Westport Unit 140 who lost their flags for parades and street colors, poppies, uniforms, signage for events, and all of their history books and

memorabilia. Fortunately, the membership chair had kept her own records for the past 30 years so some records can be reproduced. Here is a quote from her letter of thanks: “*We have received so many wonderful cards and letters since the fire - Benton City sent 400 poppies to replace what we had. What a great thing to do - words can't express.*”

Thank you all for your continued support of our Gift Shops at American Lake VAMC, Retsil (WDVA Washington Veterans Home), Spokane (WDVA & VAMC), and Walla Walla (WDVA & VAMC). The WDVA Orting Gift Shop will be “on hold” until further notice as it has not been successful in restarting since the pandemic.

Our National President Trish Ward will be visiting our state, **Saturday, March 15 through Tuesday, March 18, 2025**. She has requested to meet as many members as possible as her focus is to deliver a revitalizing, invigorating message of “enablement” to foster and build our organization from the “ground up!”

We look forward to seeing you at the **2025 DEC Mid-Winter Meeting on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at the Lacey Community Center**. There will be reports from Department Chairmen, special Evergreen Girls Nation Senator speakers, a Department 50/50 Fundraiser and award presentations from the National ALA. Registration materials will be posted soon on the Department’s Website: <https://walegion-aux.org/>

### ***A Volunteer’s Prayer***

*I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer – for the chance to serve another year.  
And to give of myself in some small way, to those not blessed as I each day.  
My thanks for health and mind and soul, to aid me ever toward my goal.  
For eyes to see the good in all, a hand to extend before a fall.  
For legs to go where the need is great, learning to love – forgetting to hate.  
For ears to hear and heart to care, when someone’s cross is hard to bear.  
A smile to show my affection true, with energy aplenty – the task to do.  
And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may – is to serve you better day by day.  
Anonymous Author - Contributed by Jane Montaney, PDP*

All the Best - Happy Thanksgiving!

*United in Service - Happy Trails!*



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