

ALA Post 272

May 2026 Newsletter

Did you see that our **newsletters** are now posted on the Legion's website under the ALA link? Check it out!

ALA Membership News: We now have 919 renewals out of 950 members which puts us at 96.76%. Make sure to contact Marilyn (717-678-2977) so we can get that total to 100%.

The Legion's **Pancake Breakfast fundraiser** for the Mount Union Legion building was able to donate \$1500 which included the breakfast and Lottery baskets profits plus a cash donation from the Sons. A big thanks to everyone who participated and to Michelle Zandome for organizing it.

Sharon has lottery-based tickets for \$5 each. Each ticket holds 2 numbers. If you have a direct hit on one of your numbers, you win \$1000. **PLUS** – if your ticket number is just one number away, you win \$125! Contact Sharon (717-418-8793) to track her down!!

The ALA voted to buy 2 bricks in the lobby: one for the ALA and one for the ALA Juniors. Be sure to look for them when installed.

The **ALA Tri-County Meeting** is this Saturday, **May 2, 2026**. So far, the committee has 23 baskets and about 10 envelopes with a combination of gift cards. All of these raffle items have a minimum value of **\$100** each. We are still in need of help for this **MAJOR** fundraiser that only becomes available to us once every 6 years. (We are expecting upwards of 125 attendees!!) Mostly, we will need help that day selling the fundraising raffle tickets for the Baskets, 50/50 drawing, Lotto Tree, and special large-item donations. (We've identified at least 8 different ticket drawings.) The setup and decorating takes place this Friday, May 1, at 6:00. Saturday goes from 7:30-2:30. **Please** consider helping out and contact Cristy Weigle (pabride@aol.com) for more information.

May 9 is the **ALA Yard Sale**. If you haven't gotten your space yet, contact either Barbara (717-512-0152) or Emily (614-218-5293). The Juniors are holding a **Bake Sale** that day and are looking for donations.

May 12 is the ALA's non-smoking **Tuesday** night bingo in the canteen. Proceeds will go to the TaTa Rebels. They are PA's only local non-profit resource helping breast cancer survivors with their post-treatment and recovery expenses. Ticket packets are \$25 and includes all of the regular games and specials with additional packets being \$12 each.

Single strips (for those who can't stay the entire night) will be \$1 for each Regular game, Specials will be \$2 each, and Black Out will be \$3 each (after playing at least 3 games prior to the Black Out game).

May 17 is the date for the Sunday non-smoking **Community Bingo** in the banquet room. Doors open at 11:30 and first number is called at 1:00. The adult cost is \$25 for the packet of tickets which covers all games and specials. Additional packets are \$12 each. Kids ticket packets (16 and under) are \$12. The Progressive Bingo was not hit in April so the pot will be over **\$300!!** It will continue to build at each monthly bingo until it is won. Cost to participate is \$1. We're always looking for players so make sure to attend with family, friends, and neighbors. **FYI** – proceeds from these monthly bingos are split between the Legion groups in an effort to recoup the monies lost from the cutback on the number of summer barbecues. Basket donations and baked goods are also welcomed.

May 23 at 10 am we will be placing **Memorial Day flags** at Shoop's Cemetery. The ground is hard so please bring a hammer and screwdriver to help with placing them in the ground. Contact Alan Smith (717-810-1844) for more details.

May 25 will be the annual **Memorial Day parade**. Please contact Sharon (717-418-8793) for how you can help.

May 30 is our first **BBQ** of the summer! It goes from 9:00 until sold out. Please consider helping out (it's easy work!) and/or bring your baked goods for sale. Please contact Sharon (717-418-8793) for how you can help.

May 31 – ALA meeting in the non-smoking dining room at 6:30. Come and join us!

The **Lebanon VA** still needs the following new (not used) items: Male scents for Deodorant, Lotion, Body wash, and 3-in-1 body wash. Men's 4X T-shirts, 4X underwear briefs, and medium T-shirts. Alcohol-free mouthwash, large nail clippers, large size baby powder, and Women's (size small) bras. **ALL ITEMS NEED TO BE NEW – NOT USED.** They would also appreciate adult activity and coloring books. Donations can be placed in the wooden box in the lobby.

If anyone is interested in running for **ALA President** next year, Sharon has assured us that she will be around to mentor and help you transition into the position.

Remember: Our mission is to serve those who protect our freedoms.

ANY QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS? Email/text our President, Sharon at 717-418-8793.

Gold Star Spouses and earned VA benefits

Each year on April 5, Gold Star Spouses Day, our nation honors the sacrifice, strength and resilience of the surviving spouses of fallen military service members. At VA, that recognition also means making sure surviving spouses know about the many benefits available to help them rebuild their lives.

Surviving spouses may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits based on their late spouse's service.

VA Home Loan Guaranty benefits

Home loans for surviving spouses: Many surviving spouses can use a VA-guaranteed loan to achieve home ownership and financial stability. Surviving spouses may be able to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) for the home loan benefit if at least one of the following applies to them:

- Un-remarried surviving spouses of Veterans who died in service (active, Reserve, or National Guard), or from service-connected cause(s) or,
- Surviving spouses who remarry after age 57 (on or after Dec. 16, 2003), or
- Certain surviving spouses of Veterans who were totally disabled at the time of death, even if their disability was not the cause of death (in certain situations), or
- Certain surviving spouses are eligible for or receive certain Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Pension and Fiduciary benefits

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC): A tax-free monthly monetary benefit for eligible surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty and the survivors of Veterans who died of a service-related injury or illness.

Survivors Pension: A tax-free monetary benefit payment for low-income, unremarried surviving spouses and/or eligible unmarried child(ren) of a deceased wartime Veteran whose death is not service-related.

Accrued Benefits: A one-time payment of benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran before their passing.

Month of Death (MOD): A one-time payment that is paid when a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away. This payment allows VA to pay the Veteran's last month of benefits to their surviving spouse.

Monetary Burial Allowances: Potential eligibility for burial benefits that may include allowances for a plot, transportation and burial based on the deceased Veteran's service-connected disability status.

Insurance benefits

Beneficiaries under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI), Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI), or Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) programs have access to free assistance to obtain independent financial advice on using insurance proceeds through the VA Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services. These beneficiaries are also eligible for Online Will Preparation Services to help them prepare a will without having to hire an attorney.

Education benefits

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA): This program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents (spouses and children) of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Beneficiaries can visit the Chapter 35 rates for survivors and dependents page to find current rates and learn how rates are calculated.

Transferred Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Benefits: Benefits may include tuition and fee payments, a monthly housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies. Surviving spouses may be eligible for a maximum of 36 months of benefits. The time limit for these benefits depends on when the service member died or separated from service.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship): This program provides education benefits to the children and spouses of service members who died in the line of duty after Sept. 10, 2001. It covers the cost of tuition and fees, a monthly housing allowance and a stipend for books and supplies.

Additional educational and career support:

- • Yellow Ribbon Program.
- • Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.

- • Educational and career counseling for family members.

During this difficult time, we know that surviving spouses may have questions about survivor benefits and how to obtain them. Visit va.gov for more information.