

# **ALA Post 272**

## **January 2026 Newsletter**

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoy keeping up with our upcoming and completed ALA volunteer and community activities in support of our veterans.

The first activity of ours from December included the ALA Tri-County meeting sponsored by Middletown Unit 594 on December 6, 2025. It was well attended with close to 75 ALA members from the surrounding area in attendance. What a fantastic way to make connections for exchanging successful fundraising and community outreach ideas! The next Tri-County event will be held at Enola Unit 751 on March 7, 2026. Consider attending to see the value provided at these meetings. Our Linglestown ALA unit will be hosting this meeting on May 2, 2026. With such a large number expected to attend, we will need quite a number of volunteers to help with this major fundraising effort. More details will follow in the coming months as they are finalized.

We hosted 9 veterans and their caregivers for the Lebanon VA Holiday dinner on December 8, 2025. The musical group, "Guitars for Vets", provided wonderful holiday music that got a lot of toes tapping and voices singing.

Christkindlemart on December 13 was a brisk day under the tent and the propane heaters made a huge difference in keeping us warm. Our Commander, Adrienne O'Brien, and Legionnaire Paul Yarnell headed this event as part of the Legion's support. Bill Dornsie represented the Honor Guard in raising the flag at the kickoff for Christkindlemart. Hot dogs, brats, sauerkraut, coffee, and hot chocolate were served by our ALA group. We were so popular that we sold out! Junior ALA member Mollie Gebhard and the chairwoman, Melissa Gebhard, were there to sell their handmade poppy ornaments for donations. Our past Commander, Ken Stambaugh, was in attendance and brought Representative Joe Kerwin and his wife over for a photo op! Thanks go out to the Sons who put up our tent and tables, Legionnaire Jonathan Hart who cooked over the grill and kept the front stocked, Frank Zandome who drove the Legion's van to transport workers to the event, and a number of Legion members who handled the grill, generators, heaters, food prep and set up. Many thanks to all volunteers that helped because we couldn't have pulled this off without you!

On December 13th, approximately 78 kids and 72 adults were welcomed at the American Legion Post 272 for a Breakfast with Santa. The families were graced with Santa and Mrs. Claus to join in on the celebration while they ate a hot breakfast, drank hot chocolate from a hot chocolate bar, and then got in line for pictures and presents from Santa himself. Throughout the morning, the children had various games and crafts

to participate in which included decorating their own cookies to take home and an indoor "snowball fight". Overall, the children and their families seemed very pleased to have attended one of the biggest Breakfast with Santa the legion has ever hosted. As the families were leaving and volunteers began to clean up, Mission BBQ came and very graciously set up a fully donated lunch for all of the legion volunteers and Katie Krupski who coordinated everything for a job well done!

Also on December 13, our Riders were joined by several ALA members in assisting with the placement of memorial wreathes on Veteran's gravesites. The Riders are in charge of handling a couple of cemetery sections at Fort Indiantown Gap for placing them. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to them.

Our Angel Tree ensured that 54 children enjoyed a joyous Christmas from the generosity of our Post members. Each child received more than what was requested and gifts were distributed between December 21 and 22. Diane Boyer and Ruth Jeannerat co-chaired with a special thanks given to Katie Krupski for coordinating with Dauphin County schools. We've already received thank you notes for our efforts. And we can't forget to thank Michelle Zandome for setting up the tree in the lobby after Thanksgiving.

Our December "Jingle Bingo" had a great turnout with plenty of well-behaved kids in attendance. The special kid-friendly menu was a huge success as was the kid-centered raffle baskets. One lucky someone hit the Progressive Bingo pot and took home \$288 just in time for Christmas! That pot will start over at \$100 for the January 18, 2026 community bingo and will continue to build at each monthly bingo. We're still looking for players so make sure to attend with family, friends, and neighbors to these community bingos. Maybe even help out for a bit!

Once a month, the ALA sponsors a fundraising bingo in the canteen at 7:00 on Tuesday evenings. Ticket packets are \$25 and cover all of the regular games and specials. An additional packet will be \$12 each. **HOWEVER....** Starting in January, we will be selling single strips for those who can't stay the entire night. Regular games will be \$1 each, specials will be \$2 each, and Black Out will be \$3 each (after playing at least 3 games prior to the Black Out game). Upcoming Tuesday night bingos:

January 6, 2026 – we are raising funds for Veterans Outreach (Tiny Homes). They help with housing and rehabilitating homeless veterans in our area.

February 10, 2026 – we are raising funds to help finance the costs for the ALA Tri-County Meeting we are hosting on May 2, 2026.

Upcoming ALA dates for February:

February 15 – Community bingo in the Banquet Room. Doors open at 11:30, first number called at 1:00.

February 22 – ALA Meeting in the Non-smoking Dining Room at 6:30