



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Another busy month down and we're full speed ahead to the warmer weather. With all the rain in the past weeks "Breakup" will be a gentle transition. The sunny days have been just perfect, but I won't hold my breath though, this is Seward after all! ☺

We just had our installation of the new officers of all our organizations on Saturday night and both the Post and Auxiliary officers were installed by PDC and Past Department President Sharon Cherrette! Thanks Sharon!!! ☺



We have a great slate of officers for the Post, Auxiliary, Sons and the Riders! We also had some great food - thanks to our talented volunteers! We are so fortunate to have the talent we have at Post 5, whether it is in the kitchen, on our board of officers in any of our organizations or just rolling in to volunteer during our events, we definitely have dedicated people who really care for our veterans and this community.

We also were privileged to have some of our community leaders in attendance including Mayor Dave Squires, Councilmembers Suzi Towsley And Sharyl Seese and our City Clerk Brenda Ballou who keeps things running! All of whom are members of our American Legion Family!!!



Each month the American Legion has programs that focus on veterans, their families, and the community for support and observance; April is the **Children and Youth Month**, which also happens to be one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion on which we stand as a service organization. We have many ways to get involved from simply making donations to child welfare organizations to active involvement in school programs that help in the areas of children's education, safety and health. As we know our youth is our future so we have an obligation to invest in our future for the benefit of all.



April is a good transition to better weather, and we have a few things planned to include our **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** on the 13th and of course our yummy **Easter Breakfast**. We also have our delegates attending the annual Department Convention in Anchorage. The purpose of the convention is to discuss issues and opportunities important to veterans in Alaska that need to be addressed either within the state or brought forward to the national level to be resolved. Additionally, committees are formed that work on topics such as Children and Youth programs, Veteran support, American Legion Baseball, election of new Department officers and of course recognizing posts that have achieved excellence in certain "competitive" areas.

As April progresses, we will be forming our scholarship committees and will be in receipt of scholarships from graduating seniors from Seward High School. Each of our organizations provide scholarships to select students to further their education and to recognize their scholastic excellence as well as their community service efforts. We look to reward those students who are well rounded and community minded in addition to performing well in school.



We are also looking forward to the onset of real spring weather and that will mean sprucing up at the post as well as the cemetery. As you know that is initially a lot of work but pays off throughout the good weather. We will also be preparing for our big events in May including the Armed Services Combat



Fishing Tournament support and Memorial Day ceremonies at the American Legion Cemetery. If you have time and want to help, give us a call at the post or look for my email to the membership, I usually send up a flare for help! ☺



It is now April and we are fully in the new membership year. We're getting close to our goal of 95% by April 10th, so if you have renewed - thank you for doing so. We need just 16 more members to renew or join to get us to 100% goal assigned by the Dept HQ. Your support and membership keeps us strong and allows us to continue to serve the our veterans and our community.

Thanks again to all who are members and those that volunteer at the post or simply stop by to visit with friends and family. Whatever your participation, everything helps and is truly appreciated.

April is Children and Youth Month

Children ... Our most precious natural resource is the American Legion's national theme for "April Is Children & Youth Month."

As Americans, we need to remember amid the problems we face daily with the environment, crime, unemployment and financial uncertainty; the one constant that will make or break this nation is our young people. They are our future. Our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow rest in their hands.

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1900s. In many instances, the American Legion has been the driving force on the federal, state and local levels representing their interests and voicing their concerns.

In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we urge each of you to show your community that The American Legion family is committed to Children... Our Most Precious Natural Resource!

The following numbers, gathered from the 2017-2018 Consolidated Post Report from all posts nationally, shows how Legion members and posts influenced the lives of children and youth in their community and beyond:

- \$5,146,325: invested in American Legion Baseball
- \$3,810,950: invested in Boys State
- \$1,040,889: raised for the Legacy Scholarship Program
- \$301,044: invested in Oratorical Competition
- \$4,274,643: invested in Scholarships
- \$1,782,128: invested in Scouting
- \$296,762: invested in Shooting Sports
- \$744,620: funds provided through the Temporary Financial Assistance program



American Legion Post 5 Family Officer Selections for 2019

POST OFFICERS

Commander:	Clare Sullivan
1 st Vice Commander:	Bobby Dunno
2 nd Vice Commander/	
Adjutant:	Michael Calhoon
Finance:	Melody Moline
Service Officer:	Blaine Sears
Judge Advocate:	John Moline
Chaplain:	Fr. William Hanrahan
Historian:	Clare Sullivan
Sgt-at-Arms:	David Joslin
Executive Board:	Daniel Oliver
	Christine Joslin



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President:	Deb VanTassel
1 st Vice President:	Michelle Oliver
2 nd Vice President:	Sharon Dillon
Secretary:	Lori Wolfe
Treasurer:	Susan St. Amand
Sgt-at-Arms:	Kathy Balcom
Executive Board:	LaNno Settles
	Joanne Frey



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander:	Randy Kockritz
1 st Vice Commander/	
Adjutant:	Michael Calhoon
2 nd Vice Commander:	Scott Wilde
Finance:	David Dieckgraeff
Sgt-at-Arms:	David Osborn
Chaplain:	Mike Mooter
Historian:	Bill Wolfe



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Director:	Bobby Dunno
Assistant Director:	Larry Gentry
Sergeant of Arms:	Terry Moon
Secretary:	Debra Dunno
Treasurer:	Mike Calhoon
Chaplain:	Larry Gentry



Congrats to the New & Returning Officers!!!!

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club!

Knock on wood, but it looks like spring break-up will go easy this year. Nice stretch of weather after all the rain.

Last month was quite busy for us. We had the USCGC Spar here until late March. We hosted the Celebration of Life for Don Lynch. We celebrated St Patrick's Day with great food and live music. We hosted the community breakfast and prepped breakfast for the Regional basketball Tournament. We had the installation of officers for all the organizations with great food and live music. Lots of Post 5 Family activities and more to come this month.

Also, as many have noticed, we installed new doors for the entry way and all exits at the Post. This was done with the help of Blaine Sears, David Osborn, David Joslin, and John Urogi. Dan Oliver and Clare Sullivan helped prep and paint the doors prior to installation. Great job all of you!!

This month will be a bit quieter activity wise. We will be hosting memorial services for Donald Martin, a Navy veteran, on April 6th at 1:00pm. We will also have our Easter breakfast on April 21st. We will be sending delegates from all organizations to the 100th Department Convention being held April 25-27 and hosted by Post 1 in Anchorage.

We will also be planning for and getting closer to putting on new roofing at the Post and doing some work at the cemetery. We will keep you all informed about those projects.

We are in the new 2019 Membership Year. Thanks to all who have renewed or joined, we are near 95% of our 2019 membership goal. Let's keep the momentum going and push on to reach our 100%. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. As we all know, membership is truly the cornerstone of the American Legion at all levels from the local posts to the national headquarters. We are working hard to turn around a nationally declining membership and it starts with all of us at the post level. If you know veterans who may be eligible for membership, bring them in for dinner and we can show them what we do for veterans and the community. They may think we are just a bar. Let's show them we are a veteran's service organization that donates about \$100,00.00 a year and we happen to have a nice social area where we can enjoy good food, good drinks, and great camaraderie.



Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 and we have food every night.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander!

Thanks to all Squadron members who gave their time and effort during March. Squadron 5 continues to support the Post 5 family activities and events and remains an integral part of the mission to take care of the veterans, the active duty personnel, and the community of Seward.

Last month we elected and installed the Squadron Officers for 2019-2020. Randy Kockritz is the Commander, Mike Calhoon is the First Vice Commander and Adjutant, Scott Wilde is the Second Vice Commander, David Dieckgraeff is the Finance Officer, Mike Mooter is the Chaplain, Bill Wolfe is the Historian, and David Osborn is the Sergeant at Arms.

This month the Post will be hosting **Easter Breakfast** on April 21st. Also, planning is underway to replace the roofing at the Post and beginning some work at the Legion cemetery. Once dates for these projects are known we will inform everyone and then get busy.

The Squadron is sending Randy Kockritz, Mike Mooter, and David Osborn to the Convention this month and I am sure they will come back with lots of great information to share with us all.

We are deep into the new membership year and I thank all those who have renewed their memberships and ask everyone else to consider doing so. Membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to continue to strive to be a strong and active part of the Post 5 family.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support of the Post 5 Family mission of service to the veterans and other community members in Seward.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post.





From the President's Desk....

By Debbie VanTassel, Unit #5 President

Wow! Here we are already $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way through 2019! It is amazing how fast time flies. Spring is here and summer is right around the corner (hopefully).

March was again a busy month for the Auxiliary. Election of officers was held during the monthly meeting. 2019-2020 officers are : President:-Debbie Van Tassel, 1st Vice President-Michelle Oliver, 2nd Vice President-Sharon Dillon, Secretary- Lori Wolfe, Treasurer- Susan St. Amand, Sgt. At Arms- Kathy Balcom, E-Board-LaNno Settles and Joanne Frey. Installation of officers was held on March 30th and they will officially take office after the Department Convention the last week of April.

Speaking of Department Convention we have several delegates planning to attend. This is a great time to meet with other delegates and exchange ideas on ways for us to achieve the mission and goals of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is also a time when we can reflect on what we have accomplished during the last year. I will be submitting year in reports by April 15th, so please if you have volunteer hours submit them to me so I can include them in the reports.

As an organization, it is through our volunteers and their dedication to serve, that we are able to accomplish our mission and goals. On April 13th, in conjunction with the rest of the Post family, we will recognize our many volunteers with dinner and celebration at the Post. Please come join us as we recognize all of our volunteers for the countless hours they contribute to make us the best Post family in the state!

Also, in April we will celebrate Easter on April 21 which also happens to be the 3rd Sunday breakfast. Be sure to come to the Post for a great breakfast- again prepared by our wonderful volunteers.

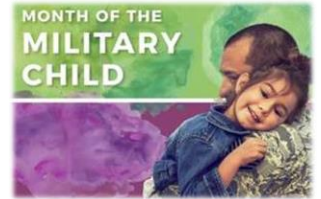
April is the month of the Military Child. This dedication was made to recognize the sacrifices and hardships experienced by the children in a military family. Some statistics about Military Children (from the Department of Defense website)

- Approximately 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 9/11
- There are currently 1.2 million military children of active duty members worldwide
- Nearly 80% of military children attend public schools throughout the United States
- The average military family moves 3 times more often than their civilian counterpart.

Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

"Purple Up! For Military Kids" is a day for DoDEA Communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

Wearing purple is a visible way to show support and thank military youth for their strength and sacrifices. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported; Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all thought to combine together as a single color, purple.



As an organization, what impact does the American Legion Auxiliary have on a national level? From the American Legion Auxiliary Blog on the ALA website:

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has three-quarters of a million members in over 8,000 communities. The American Legion Auxiliary has come a long way from "doing the activities more suitable for women" - in 2018, the organization's volunteer hours had an impact of over \$1 billion through services to service members, veterans and their families, and our communities.

Also, in 2018: over 4,000 scholarships were awarded; \$18 million was raised and spent on the ALA Girls State program; over \$82 million was raised/spent to benefit children; and 5.5 million poppies were distributed with nearly \$4.4 million raised. Over 3 million veterans were assisted, 356,000 military families were served, and \$189 million was spent on community service projects alone.

The American Legion Auxiliary has advocated for veterans' rights, including the GI Bill and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, and ending homelessness among veterans. The American Legion Auxiliary can still be seen baking pies and serving dinners to our many veterans as well as sending care packages to deployed troops and writing notes to wounded veterans in hospitals. Our membership makes a difference.


In our small community we also make a huge difference. In the May newsletter I will report what the Unit accomplished in 2018 once the year end reports have been completed. Hope you have a great April- enjoy the spring weather and get ready for a busy and productive summer

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APRIL 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	Mexican Martes 2	3	4	Steak Night 5	6
	BINGO!!! 6:30PM <u>Chili Dogs</u> April Fools' Day			ALR Meeting 7pm 		Donald Martin Memorial 1:00 pm
7	8	Mexican Martes 9	10	11	Steak Night 12	13
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Chili Dogs</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 95% Membership Target Date	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Volunteer Appreciation Dinner WE VOLUNTEERS
14	15	Mexican Martes 16	17	18	Steak Night 19	20
Palm Sunday <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM <u>Chili Dogs</u>				Good Friday Steak Night	Passover
21	22	Mexican Martes 23	24	25	Steak Night 26	27
Easter Breakfast 9:00am <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Chili Dogs</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM					
28	29	Mexican Martes 30	31	100th Department Convention at Jack Henry Post 1		
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM <u>Chili Dogs</u>					

Food is Served Every Night

We've gone to the Summer Schedule and will Resume our Nightly Games (Poker, Pool, etc.) after the Summer Season Ends!
Have a Great "Tourist Season!"

Thanks to all our amazing volunteers who kept things going in the slow Winter Months!