



# VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

## SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023  
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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

I think I am going to stop saying "what a busy month we've had," as it seems busy is our "normal" month! We have been fortunate that things are running pretty much as normal and that allows us to do "business as usual" - that is, with the caveat with all the snow we had! We managed to dig out of most of it, and it looks like things are warming up! Please let it not be another "False Spring!" - 😊 We're getting into tourist season with more folks coming into town as the visitors' industry gearing up so welcome the new faces! Now, onto accounting for the month of March and what we are planning beyond.

This past month we celebrated the 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the National organization of The American Legion. A great dinner and a yummy cake to celebrate!! WE also supported the Tsunami Science Bowl....pictures later in the newsletter! 😊



We also had good fun for Saint Patrick's Day with lots of good friends, good food and good drink! 😊 That Guinness Beer Stew and the corned beef and cabbage was a sure crowd pleaser and memorable!!! It was also birthday day too with several of our members celebrating their special day and "the wearing o' the green!" Busy times with good folks!!



As most know, our nightly meals are complementary and for donation except Steak Night. It really is a great deal, especially in this challenging time for all of us with all things continuing to get more expensive. Throughout the last year we reached out to ensure people who needed food were able to come and get a warm meal for dinner, especially on the holidays - many came on and shared in good food and good camaraderie. We've had some good chow these past

years...from Halibut Olympia to Burgers, Bacon Mac and Cheese, BBQ Ribs, Guest Chefs with enticing homemade flavors and other tasty surprises!!! We've been here to help others and of course have good food!!! 😊

As we closed out March, we had one last celebration for the month which was our new officer **Installation & Dinner**. We had a wonderful meal and then installed our officers for the 2023-2024 year. We look for some good things to happen in our new year!



I want to thank Department Adjutant Sharon Cherrette, SAL NEC David Dieckgraeff, Past ALR Director Mark Berg and Past Unit 5 President Sharon Dillon for taking time out and being our installing officers for all our organizations. A great time was had by all... Even the numerous camera-shy folks not in the photo!



We have a great slate of officers and I want to thank all who have risen to the challenge of serving our veterans and community!!!

So, as we enter April, I'd like to Remind you 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.

As April progresses, we will be forming our scholarship committees and will be reviewing the applications for 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.

## 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, inflation 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 1920s. 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.

Each year The American Legion Committee on Children & Youth focuses on three primary areas of concern, including:

### Child health

- Immunization
- School Nutrition
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention

### Child safety

- Child Pornography
- Drug Abuse Prevention
- Drug Trafficking
- Alcohol Abuse Prevention
- Child/Sexual Abuse and Neglect
- Teen Suicide Prevention
- Foster Care

### Family support

- National Family Week
- Day Care Safety
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Missing and Exploited Children

## American Legion Post 5 Family Officers for 2023 - 2024

### POST OFFICERS

Commander:	Clare Sullivan
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:	Bobby Dunno
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander/	
Adjutant:	Michael Calhoon
Finance:	Melody Moline
Service Officer:	David Walker
Judge Advocate:	Dave Squires
Chaplain:	Fr. William Hanrahan
Historian:	Clare Sullivan
Sgt-at-Arms:	Matt Stanley
Executive Board:	Daniel Oliver



### AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President:	Connie Kullander
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Michelle Oliver
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Deb VanTassel
Secretary:	Clare Sullivan
Treasurer:	Sharon Dillon
Chaplain:	Valerie Rose
Historian	Suzanne Towsley
Executive Board:	LaNno Settles
	Joanne Frey
	Marilyn Sutherland



### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander:	Mike Mooter
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander &	
Adjutant:	Michael Calhoon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:	Tyson Alderman
Finance:	Randy Kockritz
Chaplain:	Mike Little
Sgt-at-Arms	Zack Nowiki
Historian:	David Osborn



### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Director:	Bobby Dunno
Assistant Director	Larry Gentry
Sergeant at Arms:	Terry Moon
Secretary:	Debra Dunno
Treasurer:	Mike Calhoon
Chaplain:	Larry Gentry
Historian:	Clare Sullivan



## Congrats to New & Returning Officers!!!!



## 2nd Vice & Adjutant Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Spring is in the air. OK, maybe rain and snow are in the air, but Spring is coming!!!

I would like to thank all the great volunteers for their help this last month. The continued social area and kitchen help was exceptional, as usual. Special thanks to Connie Kullander, Charlie Jackson, Sharon Dillon, Michelle Oliver, Carol Souza, and James Natale for their help prior to, during and after the Installation Dinner. Food was great, decorations were great, gifts and gift baskets were marvelous. Thank you all!!!

This month we will have Easter breakfast on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the community breakfast on April 16<sup>th</sup>, we may be hosting the Coast Guard for dinner, and we plan to hold a Q&A session with the Homer Electric folks to get more information on the possible sale of the Electric Utility. Let me know if you can volunteer any time for these activities.



Pool league is going well, poker on Sundays has kicked in, and Bingo is going great on Mondays. Pool and Poker are Member only activities and Bingo is open to the community. We still serve food every night so come and enjoy some fun and some good food.

We currently are helping the SAL with a raffle for an I.R.B.I. knife valued at \$450.00. Tickets are \$10.00 each with 120 to be sold and the drawing will be held on April 22 here at the Post.

The 2023 membership year is rolling along. You can renew online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), by mail, or here at the Post. The dues remain \$60.00. Membership is the backbone of this organization, and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

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.

## "For God and Country"

### Sounding Off from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon



Wow!! Interesting start to Spring. Let's hope break-up goes quickly when the time comes.

I want to thank Squadron 5 members who have stepped up to take Officer positions for the next year. Commander Mike Mooter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Mike Calhoon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Tyson Alderman, Finance Officer Randy Kockritz, Sergeant at Arms Zach Nowiki, Chaplain Mike Little, Historian David Osborn. Congratulations and here's to a great year.

Thanks to the great volunteers who helped the Post with the March functions and activities. Your investment of time and energy is greatly appreciated.

This month the Post will need help with Easter breakfast on April 9<sup>th</sup>, the community breakfast on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and other activities that will surely pop up. Let me know if you would like to assist with any of the activities.

The Department of Alaska convention will be held April 27-29 at Post 33 in Peter's Creek.

The Squadron is holding a raffle this month for an I.R.B.I. knife with a value of \$450.00. The tickets are \$10.00 each with 120 to be sold and the drawing will be on April 22.

Join or Renew  
your membership

The 2023 Membership year is in full swing so please consider renewing your membership at any time. The Squadron is quickly approaching its goal for the 2023 membership year. The dues are \$35.00 for the 2023 year. Membership is the foundation for all the SAL programs.

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 when possible.

## MEMBERSHIP Notes!

It is now April, and we are fully in the 2023 membership year.

Unfortunately, we've fallen a bit short Of our membership goal, and for those of you have already renewed, Thank You for your renewal and membership. If you haven't, please consider doing so as we're here to support you and all in our membership and our community. Your continued membership tells us we're heading in the right direction and you're happy with our support to our veterans and our community. We will strive to serve and where possible do more where we can.



If you have had one of our complementary meals whether during the holidays or during the week, or had a child who received a scholarship, or a neighbor who received help in times of need, please know we can only do this due to having a strong and active membership and when you think about it, these kinds of support more than compensates annual dues. We, at Seward Post 5, are only as good as the strength of our members. With that strength it permits us to reach out and help others. We really have a great organization and have a solid group of folks dedicated to our veterans and our community!

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

## Director's Report

By Bobby Dunno



Who is happy to see March 2023 pass into history? Yea for those of us wanting, wishing for warmer temps coupled with a clear path from our dwellings to a stretch of clear highway we ended March with more ice in the driveway than when we started. But while that fact is enough to increase our aggravation level, the sun is shining for more hours than it is dark and inevitably this stuff will melt and we will get to enjoy that first spin around town and gingerly avoid all the gravel and residual effects of a long season of winter road travel and maintenance; yep, I am talking chuck holes and poorly patched areas of we call pavement! But I am sure that I do not stand alone when we say everyone is ready to break out a bike a go for a ride.

As for ALR business we have our new slate of officers installed and it should be not much of a surprise when I say nothing changed, as all our Officer maintained our position in Chapter 5, and we are happily looking forward to the summer of 2023.

Next up on our line of event is our April 6 Chapter meeting at the Post scheduled for 5:30 pm followed by our State ALR meetings hosted by Post 33 on the 26th of April all of which is scheduled for that afternoon and evening. I know it is my plan to ride to Convention, but I have to wonder what God's plan is, and if he is going to allow that 9 inches of ice in my driveway melt so I can safely get to the highway. 🙄🙄

But despite the way March has ended, it is now April and most of us will find our way onto the road sometime this month. So, it is time to plan that last minute polishing, lubrication, and checks because everyone is anxiously wait for the morning where we wake up find it sunny and dry enough to Get On Our Bikes and Ride!

## UAF Tsunami Ocean Science Bowl



As mentioned earlier, the 2023 Alaska Tsunami Ocean Bowl was held March 3-5 here in town and in this competition, Alaska high school students presented research papers and competed in an exciting, buzzer-style quiz bowl. This year's regional competition was sponsored by the [University of Alaska Fairbanks College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences](#) and we at Seward Post 5, started off their days (really early 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄) with a hearty breakfast to get things going!



## From the President's Desk

By Connie Kullander



Hi everyone, another month has gone by so fast and April flowers are next (we hope). First of all, I would like to thank everyone who came to our installation dinner. Thank you Sharon Dillon for being the one who installed the Auxiliary. We had a wonderful meal and great camaraderie.

Convention is April 20 - 23 if anyone wants to go at Post 33 in Chugiak. We will also be having two Sunday breakfasts this month. One being Easter Sunday the other being our third Sunday of the month breakfast. We need to support our vets and their families, so remember we have all kinds of programs to help do this.

April 1st is April Fool Day, National Card and Letter Writing Month, Kite Month, Welding Month, Poetry Month, and the most important is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We have a crisis facility here in town if you know anyone who needs help.

National Public Safety Telecommunication Week is April 9-15.

So, before closing let's hope we continue to have the calm before the storm (weather-wise that is...). ☺

I hope to see more new faces in and around the club and at our meetings. Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month with April 12<sup>th</sup> being the meeting for this month. Again, thank you everyone who helped with the installation dinner! It was fantastic.

## ALA Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.



## April is the Month of the Military Child & the American Legion's Children and Youth Month

The dedication of this month within the military was made to recognize the sacrifices and hardships experienced by the children in a military family.

For more than 80 years, the American Legion has supported today's young people as we observe April as **Children & Youth Month**. During this month of celebration, American Legion Family members are encouraged to show their local communities our dedication to young people by supporting youth activities or by becoming involved in programs and organizations that support our nation's youth.

### Some statistics about Military Children

(from [militarychild.org](http://militarychild.org))

- ✚ Approximately 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 9/11
- ✚ There are approximately one million military children of active-duty members worldwide
- ✚ There are over one million family members associated with the reserve component under 22 years old.
- ✚ Children from military families are 2x as likely to serve in the Armed Forces as adults.
- ✚ Over 80 percent of military kids are in public schools
- ✚ The average military family moves six to nine times during their K-12 education, that's 3x more than their civilian counterparts

Military children have a tough road to travel as an integral part of military readiness by moving approximately six to nine times in their lives. When their parents are deployed, children's milestones such as birthdays, the holidays and graduations are sometimes missed. These children who accompany them help with the change of station, as their parents wouldn't easily handle the important mission of serving their country if their children weren't with them. It is important to remember what military children's lives are like and how unique their challenges are. It's quite incredible when we think about the changes they go through that most children don't, and fortunately military children are so resilient through it all.

Purple is the color for the **Military Child Month** as it represents all services. Remember to wear purple to support the Month of the Military Child





## MEMBER BUSINESS ADVERTISING

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A FOUNDATION OF HOPE

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VETERANS & CHILDREN FOUNDATION

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Artist/Illustrator

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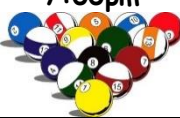
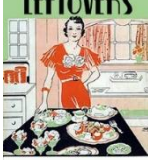























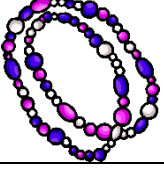





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# APRIL 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						<b>Pool League</b> 7:00pm 
2	Chili Dogs 3	Taco Tuesday 4	5	B, B, M&C 6	Steak Night 7	8
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b>  Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 		Jewelry Class with Carol 6:00 pm 	<b>American Legion Riders Meeting</b> 5:30 pm  Igloo #9 Monthly Meeting 6:30pm		<b>Pool League</b> 7:00pm 
9	Chili Dogs 10	Taco Tuesday 11	12	B, B, M&C 13	Steak Night 14	15
<b>Easter Breakfast</b> 9:00-11:00  <b>Luscious Leftovers</b> Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 	<b>Post Meeting</b> 5:30 pm 	<b>Auxiliary Meeting</b> 6:00pm  <b>Jewelry Class</b> 6:00 pm	<b>SAL Meeting</b> 7:00pm 	<b>Good Friday</b> 	<b>Pool League</b> 
16	Chili Dogs 17	Taco Tuesday 18	19	B, B, M&C 20	Steak Night 21	22
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b>  Poker 5:00 pm Community Breakfast 9:00 -11:00 am	Bingo 6:30 pm 		Jewelry Class with Carol 6:00 pm 			<b>Pool League</b> 
23	Chili Dogs 24	Taco Tuesday 25	26	B, B, M&C 27	Steak Night 28	29
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b>  Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 		Jewelry Class with Carol 6:00 pm 			<b>Pool League</b> 
30						
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b>  Poker 5:00 pm		<b>April is Children and Youth Month</b>				

**Thanks to all our amazing Volunteers who keep things going at Seward Post 5**