



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024
VOLUME 21, ISSUE 04

American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

We had a great March with lots of activities! And, as stated nearly every month, year in and year out, busy seems to be a common term for our "normal month!" We have been fortunate that things are running pretty smoothly and that allows us to do "business as usual" - that is, with the caveat with all the snow we had this year! We managed to dig out of most of it, and it looks like things are warming up, but we're still getting reminded that we live in Alaska! Please let it not be another "False Spring!" - 😊 We're getting into tourist season with more folks coming into town as the visitors industry is 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 Saint Patrick's Day in style with good food and fun Karaoke, thanks to our **KJ Suzi**, and we provided yummy breakfasts for the competing high school teams of the UAF's National Oceanic Science Bowl (NOSB)pictures later in the newsletter! 😊

Saint Patrick's Day was well attended 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!!



We followed up all the fun with **the NOSB breakfasts**, and huge kudos to all those who got up so early to feed these competitors at 0600 hours!!

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 2024-2025 year. We look for some good things to happen in our new year!

I want to thank Sharon Cherrette who drove through some really sloppy and treacherous roads to do our installation and share in some fun and good camaraderie with our American Legion Family. We took an innovative approach to getting all our organizations installed, and as crowded as it was, it was huge success and everyone was well fed too! 😊 We even managed to get most of "the family" together for a group photo - that is, "sans" those who are camera-shy! With that in mind, many of our camera-shy people are our best volunteers and, I want to thank all our volunteers - whether in the kitchen, behind the bar or decorating, you make it happen as this post is your "post home" and we all benefit when we all pitch in. We do make it a "family affair!" You guys rock!!!!



New Member Spotlight

Shawn and Cynthia George are the proud new owners of Bear Necessities Cottages. Some of you may know it as the former Camelot Cottages. They are currently in the middle of remodeling five cottages and a studio apartment to get ready for the upcoming season.



12375 Camelot Drive
Seward

bearnecessitiesalaska@gmail.com

www.bearnecessitiesalaska.com

907-422-7599

For the past six years, they have owned and operated Gecko's Island Adventures in sunny St Croix, USVI. Once they visited Seward, they knew they were going to trade in their flip flops for xtratufs. The plan was to move up and start an ATV business, but when they saw the property, they knew they had to buy it. After the 2024 season operating the cottages, they will add ATV Seward into the mix for the 2025 season. They have already secured the permits and are excited to bring a new tour to Seward.

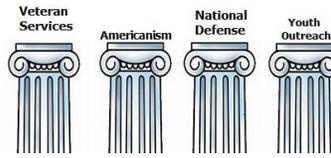


Shawn and Cynthia are high-school sweethearts that reconnected after divorces. They are originally from East Tennessee. Between them, they have four daughters. An adult daughter in Tennessee, one at LSU and two younger girls that will be spending their school breaks in Seward. Shawn served in the USMC.

Welcome Shawn, Cynthia, and your girls to Seward and to your new Post Home at Seward Post 5!



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 - 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 Members of The American Legion Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth have been entrusted with the responsibility of upholding the fourth pillar - the one that braces our nation's veterans by caring for their children, and our nation's children.

The purpose of the committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

American Legion Post 5 Family Officers for 2024 - 2025

POST OFFICERS

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Commander: | Clare Sullivan |
| 1 st Vice Commander: | Bobby Dunno |
| 2 nd Vice Commander & Adjutant: | Michael Calhoon |
| Finance: | Michael Calhoon |
| Service Officer: | David Walker |
| Judge Advocate: | Dave Squires |
| Chaplain: | Fr. William Hanrahan |
| Historian: | Susie Martin |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Matt Stanley |
| Executive Board: | Daniel Oliver |
| | Bill Chapman |



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| President: | Debbie VanTassel |
| 1 st Vice President: | Michelle Oliver |
| 2 nd Vice President: | Connie Kullander |
| Secretary: | Mashala Melvin |
| Treasurer: | Sharon Dillon |
| Chaplain: | Valerie Rose |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Athena Kershner |
| Historian: | Suzi Towsley |
| Executive Board: | LaNno Settles |
| | Marilyn Sutherland |



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Commander: | Mike Mooter |
| 1 st Vice Commander & Adjutant: | Michael Calhoon |
| 2 nd Vice Commander: | Tyson Alderman |
| Finance: | Randy Kockritz |
| Chaplain: | Mike Little |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Zack Nowicki |
| 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



Sounding Off from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

Spring has sprung, well it is at least trying. We all know how Seward weather can act this time of year, so we just need to be a little patient and we will be rewarded.

We had a very busy month at Post 5, and I want to thank all the great volunteers that rolled in and gave of their time and effort to help accomplish everything we did. I especially want to thank Sharon Dillon for all her help with the breakfasts for the National Ocean Science Bowl competitors. She was here at 5:00am each of the three mornings and kept the kids in a good mood and took great pictures.

This month we will be hosting the crew of the **USCGC Fir** for dinner on April 3rd, we will have the ALR breakfast on April 13th, the community breakfast on April 21st, and whatever else pops up.



Another raffle will be coming soon, and we will let you know when the tickets are available.

Members only Pool League, 7:00pm on Saturdays, and members only Poker, 5:00pm on Sundays, are both well underway so come have some fun. Also, Bingo is going strong at 6:30pm on Mondays.

I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food at the Post. We provide these meals as a benefit to our membership and would like to see as many members have had the opportunity to eat as possible. Please limit yourselves to one helping until it is apparent that most folks who want to have eaten. Thank you for your consideration.

There are three months left in the 2024 membership year.

2023 memberships have expired. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. You can renew your membership online at mylegion.org or at the Post, either in person or by mail.

Join or Renew
your membership

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.

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Early spring has been a bit chilly lately, but warmer weather is on the way. Good time to start prepping for the outdoor activities we all look forward to.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to support the Squadron and Post activities. March was particularly busy this year for the Post and your attendance and participation helped the Post complete its mission.



This month the Post will host the crew of the **USCGC Fir** for dinner on April 3rd, the American Legion Riders Pancake Breakfast on April 14th, and the community breakfast on April 21st. If you can assist with any of these, let me know if you can help with any of these functions and we will put you to work.

At our March meeting we elected Officers for the 2024-2025 year. The Officers are as follows:

Commander - Mike Mooter
1st Vice Cdr - Mike Calhoon
2nd Vice Cdr - Tyson Alderman
Finance Off - Randy Kockritz
Chaplain - Mike Little
Historian - David Osborn
Sergeant at Arms - Zach Nowicki
Adjutant - Mike Calhoon

We are closing in on the end of the end of the 2024 membership year so please consider renewing your membership. Dues are \$35.00. I think the online issue has been resolved but if you try to renew online and it says the dues are only \$16.00, please let me know and come into the Post to renew or mail in your \$35.00 to PO Box 3091. Remember, your membership helps us support the mission and goals of the Sons of American Legion and the Post 5 Family.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 907-224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 Family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post when possible.



Post MEMBERSHIP Notes!

It is now April, and we are fully in the 2024 membership year.

"We're in the Hunt," and "danger close" to our membership goal, and for those of you have already renewed, **Thank You** for your renewal and your 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!!!!

UAF Tsunami Ocean Science Bowl



As mentioned earlier, the 2024 Alaska Tsunami Ocean Bowl was held March 22-24 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!



Children and Youth Programs Con't from pg 3

Family Support Network - The family is the cornerstone of American society; however, modern society places demands on the family that didn't exist in years past. These challenges can chip away at family strength and unity. The family-emphasis programs of The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth aim to promote the importance of family strength and integrity.

Temporary Financial Assistance - Through TFA, an American Legion post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of children of active-duty servicemembers or American Legion members. Non-repayable grants are awarded to eligible families with a child in need when all other resources have been exhausted.

Child Safety - The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth believes that child safety is everyone's concern. Prevention through education remains the best way to keep children safe. To promote child safety, The American Legion publishes several useful brochures to educate children and parents and supports numerous national initiatives to keep children safe.

Child Welfare Foundation - The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation accomplishes these goals each year by awarding grants to nonprofit youth-serving organizations for disseminating information that conforms to the foundation's purpose. Since 1954, more than \$17 million has been granted to help deserving organizations produce and distribute current and valuable information.

Veterans and Children Foundation - The purpose is twofold: to fund service officer training and provide free assistance for disabled veterans and to extend a financial safety net for needy military and veteran families with children.

Children and Youth Month - Celebrated as "Children & Youth Month" since 1938, April is the perfect time of year for Legionnaires to demonstrate that the American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children.

From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel



First, I would like to congratulate all the new 2024-2025 Officers of the Unit 5 Auxiliary who were installed on March 30, 2024. I wish them all a productive year working toward the goals of the American Legion Auxiliary.

President- Debbie Van Tassel, 1st Vice President- Michelle Oliver, 2nd Vice President Connie Kullander, Secretary - Mashala Melvin, Treasurer- Sharon Dillon, Sgt at Arms-Athena Kershner, Chaplain- Valerie Rose, Historian- Susie Martin, E Board- Marilyn Sutherland, LaNno Settles and Suzie Towsley.

Thank you to Connie Kullander, outgoing President (2023-2024) for her service, guidance and hard work the past year in directing the Unit.

It was great to see so many members attend the March meeting. I encourage all members to attend meetings and become an active voice in the Unit. Speaking of members, our membership has reached 100% of our goal for the year. However, that doesn't mean that those who have not renewed yet don't need to. You need to renew every year to keep your membership active. IF you have not renewed for this year please do so!

The annual Department Convention will be held in Kenai on April 24-27. This is always a great source of information and opportunity to learn what is happening at the state and national level.

April is a very special month- it is the month of the Military Child. The entire month is dedicated to recognizing members of military families whose sacrifice is often overlooked. It is estimated that there are currently 1.2 million military children of active-duty members worldwide. These children often move from base to base, both stateside and overseas. While Military children are in school, they may attend anywhere from 4-12 different schools. Some children never attend a stateside K-12 school but instead attend Department of Defense schools on the base where their parents are stationed. Military children often endure long separations from one or both parents while they are deployed overseas.

While the whole month is dedicated to recognizing the Military Child, there a couple of specific dates to also remember. April 15 is PurpleUP! Day. This is a day that people can wear purple to show their support for the Military Child. Why Purple you may ask? Each branch of the



military has a distinct uniform color, the color purple is the blend of all uniform colors.

April 30th is National Military Brat Day. The term "Military Brat" has long been associated with the family members of those in the service.

So, during the month of April, give special recognition and thoughts to the children of our military service personnel. If you know a military child give them a thank you for their sacrifice. Often we see Military service members on the street, in the store and we say "Thank you for your service" but how many of us ever thank the military child?

Other important days in April

- ✚ April 5- Gold Star Spouses Day
- ✚ April 9- National Former POW Recognition Day
- ✚ April 14- Air Force Reserve Birthday
- ✚ April 23- Army Reserve Birthday.

Hope everyone has a wonderful month, and that spring does finally arrive sometime!



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 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. Take a look at the origins and growth of the American Legion's efforts to respond to children in need. Please see [Origins of April as Children and Youth Month](#).

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.

MEMBER BUSINESS ADVERTISING

ADVENTURE SIXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center
Seward, Alaska

907-224-2600



BRASS BONES

Sam Clemons-Owner/Jewelry Artist

Bear Necessities Cottages



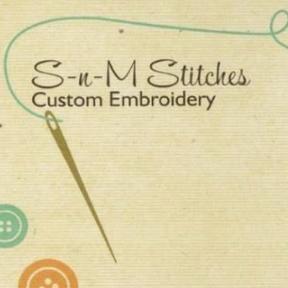
Shawn & Cynthia George
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12375 Camelot Dr
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www.bearnecessitiesalaska.com

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BUSINESS and PERSONAL INSURANCE



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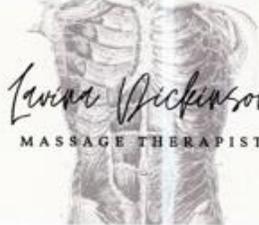
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VETERANS & CHILDREN FOUNDATION



Lavina Dickerson
MASSAGE THERAPIST

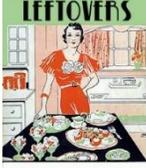
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VA Approved Provider

APRIL 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | Chili Dogs 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Steak Night 5 | 6 |
|  HAPPY EASTER | Bingo 6:30 pm  April Fools Day! | TACO TUESDAY  | USCGC Fir Crew Dinner  | American Legion Riders Meeting 5:30 pm  Igloo #9 Monthly Meeting 6:30pm |  | Pool League 7:00pm  |
| 7 | Chili Dogs 8 | Taco Tuesday 9 | 10 | B, B, M&C 11 | Steak Night 12 | 13 |
| Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00 pm | Bingo 6:30 pm  | <u>Post Meeting</u> 5:30 pm  | <u>Auxiliary Meeting</u> 6:00pm  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm | <u>SAL Meeting</u> 7:00pm  |  | Pool League 7:00pm  ALR Breakfast 9-11 |
| 14 | Chili Dogs 15 | Taco Tuesday 16 | 17 | B, B, M&C 18 | Steak Night 19 | 20 |
| Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00 pm | Bingo 6:30 pm  |  |  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm | MAC Cheese  |  | Pool League |
| 21 | Chili Dogs 22 | Taco Tuesday 23 | 24 | B, B, M&C 25 | Steak Night 26 | 27 |
| Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00 pm Community Breakfast 9:00 -11:00 am | Bingo 6:30 pm  |  taco tuesday! | Jewelry Class with Carol 6:00 pm  |  |  | Pool League  |
| 28 | Chili Dogs 29 | Taco Tuesday 30 | | | | |
| Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00 pm | Bingo 6:30 pm  | Taco Tuesday  | |  | |  |

April is Children and Youth Month

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