

For God and Country Seward Post 5 Newsletter

February 2023
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Well, we've had an excellent start to 2023! Polar Bear Jump Off Festival was a great way to start, and as always our Post 5 Family stepped up and made things happen! Thank you to all your support of the post and with all the Polar Bear events at the Post and around town! 😊

As we move into February we will remain busy with our regular activities including complementary nightly meals and weekly activities (Bingo, Pool League, Jewelry Class) all supported by our amazing volunteer bartenders who make a lively and welcoming place in our "Social Area!" Thank You for all you do "behind the plank" as well as supporting our American Legion programs! 🍷👏

Here we are in February, we stand ready to support where we can with food and any other help our veterans and their families in these days of high prices that are found everywhere and growing!!! 🙏🙏🙏

We have more things in the hopper but I'll let the The 2nd Vice give more details in his section. Also, make sure you take a look at the calendar for nightly activities and the yummy meals.

February is **Americanism Month**. Many may wonder what that means and essentially it is the month that we focus on one of "the Four Pillars" that make up the American Legion. In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth**. Each pillar encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.



At the national level and at varying levels at the posts, Americanism encompasses many of the following programs:

- Flag Education
- Immigration & Citizenship
- Voter Registration and Participation
- Scouting
- Scholarship Programs (Legacy, Oratorical, etc.)
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- American Legion Baseball
- Junior Shooting Programs

As you can see there is a lot to the American Legion, what it does and can do to be a vital part of a community; these programs are under only one pillar, there is so much more when you examine the other pillars and what is done in the community, state and nation.

February brings the "first call for officers" for the Post and Auxiliary; the Sons will have their "second call." All positions are up for consideration in all our organizations.



If you like what we are doing (or not) and want to get involved, this is a great way to do that. As you may already know we help many in our community and throughout the state by funding scholarships, supporting community events, helping those in need, honoring our patriotic holidays, and generally running an organization that positively impacts many in this community.

You may think it takes a lot of time, but not really. The way posts are organized the "division of labor" isn't overwhelming for one officer or position. We all pull together to make things successful. We are thrilled at whatever you are willing to do to help. Our decisions about our activities are made at our Post meetings. You can help guide what we do by coming in and offering your input, your "2 cents," and ideas. With this in mind, and in order to participate you need to be a current member, so drag out your card from your wallet and if it doesn't say 2023 - you need to renew (hint, hint 😊).

The History of the Four Chaplains



On **Feb. 3, 1943**, the United States Army Transport Dorchester - a converted luxury liner - was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester's starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester's three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

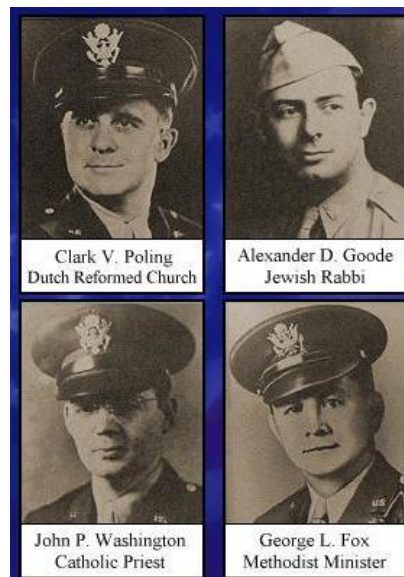
Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled. As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and the **Purple Heart**, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be **Four Chaplains Day**.



Because of the Medal of Honor's strict requirements of heroism under fire, Congress authorized a one-time **Chaplain's Medal for Heroism** on July 14, 1960. The award was presented to the chaplains' next of kin Jan. 18, 1961. On Feb. 3, 1951, President Truman dedicated a chapel in the chaplains' honor at Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia. When the building was sold, the chapel fell into disrepair, and the foundation overseeing the chapel moved it to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 2001. The chapel was repaired in 2004 and given the name Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

In 2006, at The American Legion's 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution that supported awarding the Chaplain Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington.



The Chaplain's Medal for Heroism is a decoration of the United States Congress which was authorized by an act of Congress on July 14, 1960. Known as the Chaplain's Medal of Honor and the Four Chaplains' Medal, the decoration commemorates the actions of the Four Chaplains who gave their lives in the line of duty on February 3, 1943. The medal was designed by Thomas Hudson Jones (1892-1969) of the United States Army Institute of Heraldry. It was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.



2nd Vice & Adjutant Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

Hope everyone has had a safe winter so far. Not too great for snow sports but maybe we can get some decent snow in the next period of time.

Thanks to all the great volunteers who helped out last month during Polar Bear Jump Off, for our community breakfast and during the week with normal social area activities with our daily food and beverage service. You all really keep it going here at Post 5.



This month our main activities will be the Super Bowl on Feb 12th and the community breakfast on Feb 19th. Also, we can always use help with Steak Night each Friday. We will also plan to install the new flooring in the meeting/bingo area and will let everyone know when that is scheduled.

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 have a gun raffle going for a double barrel pump 12ga shotgun and will continue to run a raffle at least once a month for more guns and other great items so watch for the info on those raffles.



The 2023 membership year is rolling along. You can renew online at 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.

Sounding Off from the Sons

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

What a mild winter we have had so far. Might have just jinxed us but we could use some nice snow.

Thanks to our Squadron 5 members who continue to support the Post and its activities. Scott Wilde, Cody Gilmore, and David Osborn all volunteered time this last month helping out during the Polar Bear Jump Off Festival and our community breakfast. Thanks to all for the good work.

This month the Post will need help for the Super Bowl Party, the community breakfast, and any Friday Night steak night. Let me know if you have time and desire to give a hand.

The 2023 Membership year is in full swing so please consider renewing your membership at any time. The dues will remain at \$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.



Excerpt from History.com, Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents' Day 2023 will occur this year on Monday, February 20th. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

From the President's Desk

By Sharon Dillon



Welcome to February - It is nice to see the days getting longer a sure sign that spring is around the corner. It has been a challenging winter so far with all the ice and wet, so please remember to check on friends, neighbors, and family to make sure they are doing alright.

Membership - the Auxiliary has been doing awesome on membership. We are currently at about 75% for our Unit. If you haven't renewed, please do so - membership dues are vital to support our programs at the Unit, State and National level. It would be amazing if we could reach 100% by the end of February so that we could have a good showing at the **Department Convention in April**.

Speaking of the Department Convention - The Auxiliary has received its Call to **Department Convention which will be held on April 26-29 at Post 33 in Chugiak**. If anyone is interested in attending the convention or running for a Department Office, please let one of the Unit officers know as we need to submit a letter of support. Also, if you're planning on attending please attend our regular meeting on February 8th so we can submit a roster of those planning to attend Department Convention.

Bingo is every Monday night, with doors opening at 6:00pm and games starting at 6:30pm. It is a fun way to get out of the house for a night and help support the Auxiliary and you may even win some cool cash!



Our **regular monthly meeting** will be held at 6 PM on February 8th. This will be our first call for officer nominations for the upcoming year. Come on down and help pave the future for this amazing organization.

I've also received some great information from our **Education Chair Samantha Funk** from Unit 3 in Ketchikan and the availability of the many scholarships offered throughout the state and

nationally; **timing is critical** as they will be reviewed among many others at the Department Convention. **Contact me for more information.**

February is the month we remember the Four Chaplains (see article on pg 2). **Marge Blankenship our Department Poppy Chairman** forwarded some special information on what happened on that fateful day and about these four chaplains who sacrificed their lives for their men. Please see Marge's info below.

On Friday, Feb. 3rd, 2023, **Wreaths Across America**



WREATHS across AMERICA

will honor the American heroes known as "The Four Chaplains" with a special live event at 1:00 pm EST, from the nondenominational Balsam Valley Chapel and balsam tip lands located in the Downeast Region of Maine. This event is open to the local public and will be streamed on the organization's Official Facebook Page and on Wreaths Across America Radio.

In summary, On January 23, 1943, the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* left New York harbor bound for *Greenland* carrying over 900 officers, servicemen and civilian workers. The ship was a coastal passenger steamship requisitioned and operated by the War Shipping Administration (WSA) for wartime use as a troop ship. The ship was transiting the Labrador Sea when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat (U-233) on February 3, 1943.

The ship sank and 675 people on board lost their lives. Amidst the chaos to save 230 lives four chaplains guided soldiers trapped below deck to escape hatches and gave away their life jackets to save others on that fateful day. When the chaplains had done all they could, they linked arms to pray and sing hymns as the *Dorchester* slipped beneath the waves.

Learn more at this event, and in the video in the comments.

If you have access to Facebook and have not joined the American Legion Auxiliary National page, please do so, it is well worth the visit!



Director's Notes...

By Bobby Dunno



Slowly but surely the days are getting longer, the sun will rise higher and motorcycle season will arrive. Just not soon enough. I know I t's been a while since I have taken the time to write an article for our Post 5 Newsletter,



but I will endeavor to improve upon that. The time is approaching when Chapter 5 emerges from our winter break with a meeting on the 2nd of March hopefully we will see all our membership in attendance.

News from what is currently in the planning stages as far as ALR Rides and events that are in the works.

Wednesday prior to the start of the Department Convention the ALRA will be conducting some training followed by our Convention Meeting which will of course include our State Officer Elections. At least one topic to be covered will be ALR Officer duties according to the new by-laws presented by yours truly. May 11 the ALR is being considered to present the National Colors for an Airman's Association function at the airport in Palmer, likely gathering at Post 1 for the ride. We did a similar thing a couple years ago for the Wings over Wasilla Air Show. It was real cool and a whole lot of fun.

Armed Forces Day is Saturday May 20th and we usually have our Bike Blessing that day. Starting on 22 June Post 1 is hosting the 2023 ALRA ROMP, with the "gathering" rides arriving the afternoon on the 21st. The preliminary plan is to have day rides each day returning to Post 1 that evening, rumor has it we may be riding to Sterling or



Seward as plans solidify, we will find out more. The South Peninsula ABATE, Salute to Vets (also a lot of fun) in Sterling is scheduled for July. So at least the first part of our upcoming summer has events being planned.

Personally, I am determined to get back to a better than 5000 mile riding season as I barely exceeded 1000 last year and I don't think I will settle for that this summer. I am thinking, we as a Chapter, should look forward to at least 2 ice cream runs to Millers in Houston. That is of course in addition of trips up to Wildman's and Hope in those moments we have a hankering to ride. I personally am looking forward to including Bill and Carol Lee Chapman

being back and riding with them again. If we can plan far enough in advance we might coordinate with other Chapters to join in either meeting up or falling in as we roll through.

The Chapter business we will be covering in our meeting in March will be information on a necessary Administrative update to our ALR bylaws directed by The Department Adjutant. The routine request for records to annually update of our Chapter records and of course the final nominations and vote for our Chapter Officers (like they might change). So I hope everyone is catching up on that maintenance and checklist getting ready to ride. I have my sidecar's exhaust in and it needs installation and in doing the checklist I have to replace seals in two front brake calipers (my stuff is getting old).... so the fun is starting already. 😊 If you can't ride 'em might as well work on them instead, beside we need them safe for when it is time to **Get On Your Bike and Ride!**



Raffles are Starting Up Again!!!

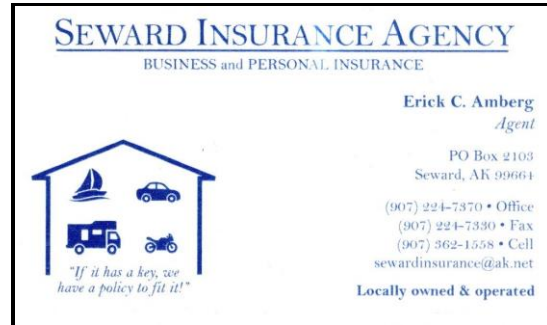
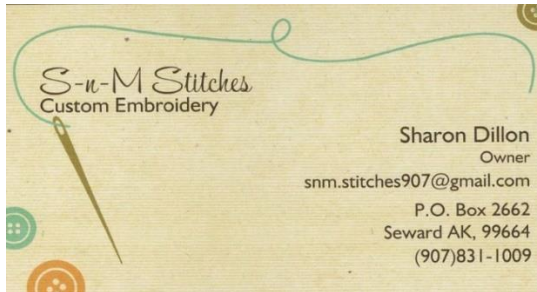
Happy February, and I'd like to announce the first raffle of the year is here! It is a double barrel shotgun and as you will see it can hold a variety of shells at the same time! Please see description. The tickets are only \$20 each and we will be selling only 120 of them; stop by the post to get your tickets or give a call to Mike at 907-224-5440. Oh, and the drawing is on Valentine's Day! 😊😊😊

Description: STA DP12 PUMP 12M/18MC
SYN 14R
Brand: Standard Mfg Co
Model: DP12
Type: Shotgun: Pump Action
Caliber: 12 Gauge
Finish: Black
Action: Pump Action
Stock: Synthetic
Sight: No Sights
Barrel Length: 18.78
Overall Length: 29.5
Weight: 9.12 lbs
Capacity: 14+2
Safety: Ambidextrous Manual
Receiver: Black Aluminum with Picatinny Rail
Chamber: 3
Chokes: Spreader, Tru-Choke Thread Pattern
Butt Plate: Black Rubber Recoil Pad
Features: Inline Shell Feeding, Co-Molded Non-Slip Rubber Grip; Ambidextrous Pump Slide Release, Syn. Vertical Grip



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

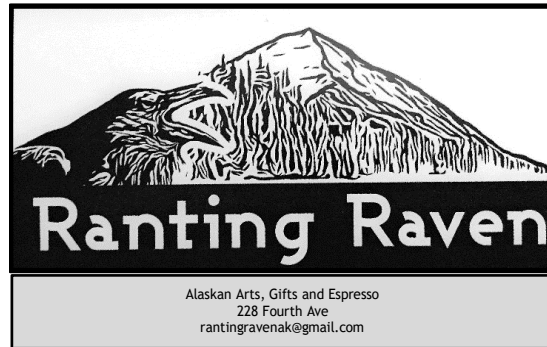
Business Card Size



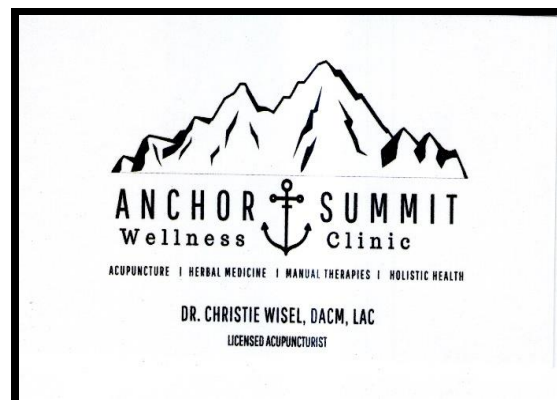
ADVENTURE SXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center
Seward, Alaska

907-224-2600



VA Approved Provider



VA Approved Provider



February 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	B, B, M&C 2	Steak Night 3	4
Americanism Month 			Jewelry Class with Carol Souza 6:00 pm 	 Igloo #9 Meeting 6:30 pm	Four Chaplains Day 	Pool League 
5	Chili Dogs 6	Mexican Martes 7	8	B, B, M&C 9	Steak Night 10	11
Luscious Leftovers Members Poker 5:00 pm	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 		Auxiliary Meeting 6pm  Jewelry Class with Carol Souza 6:00 pm	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Pool League 
12	Chili Dogs 13	Mexican Martes 14	15	B, B, M&C 16	Steak Night 17	18
Super Bowl Post opens at 1:30 pm  Luscious Leftovers Members Poker 5:00 pm	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 	Post Meeting 5:30pm  Happy Valentines Day	Jewelry Class with Carol Souza 6:00 pm 			Pool League 
19	Chili Dogs 20	Mexican Martes 21	22	B, B, M&C 23	Steak Night 24	25
Community Breakfast  Luscious Leftovers Members Poker 5:00 pm	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 		Jewelry Class with Carol Souza 6:00 pm 			Pool League 
26	Chili Dogs 27	Mexican Martes 28				
Luscious Leftovers Members Poker 5:00 pm	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					



Food Served Every Night at the Post!