



# FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

## SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018  
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American Legion Seward Post 5  
Webpage: [www.americanlegionpost5.com](http://www.americanlegionpost5.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionpostfive.sewardalaska>  
E-mail: [americanlegionpost5@pci.net](mailto:americanlegionpost5@pci.net)  
Phone: (907) 224-5440



### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Hey, we're on the fast track to Spring! Whew! It has been a long Winter and we're heading out of it soon, and what about the glorious days we've had lately!!! We've got lots of things planned for our membership and the community this month including our regular events including the yummy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Breakfast, evening meals and our nightly member events; and of course, we'll be doing our final run of officer elections and our yummy Installation Dinner at the end of the month. We'll also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> with a tasty traditional Irish meal and music provided by Chris Crain.

As you probably have seen in the last several years we have been quite active with fundraisers, hosting military, holiday celebrations and providing meals to our community - particularly on special holidays. We also have a lot of fun serving where we can, and it is so very heartwarming to see so many people step up to help when we have events that need bodies to help. Thank you all!!!

This is a special year for the American Legion and for our own post. Both are reaching their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we plan on celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> year of service this December. The National organization 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is March 15<sup>th</sup> and our Seward Post 5 is December 31<sup>st</sup>.

What a great day for celebration!

We'll start a new year and our second century of service! With this being the centennial year Post 5 is

committed to spreading the word about our amazing organization and helping people understand the programs of the American Legion, and that we're not just the bar down the street. This organization has so much more that can benefit our youth and our veterans, and I firmly believe what is needed is to get the word out about our organization and its programs. The programs are many and varied and I will spend some time and ink spreading the word! With that said, we can always use new and fresh input from positive people who are service oriented and want to contribute to our community and our youth if you're game to learn and help. If you are interested or have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at the post, we'd be more than happy to give you further info for any of the positions and what is involved.



I can't say it enough but I want to thank everyone who has supported the post over the years. Your support, whether it is just coming to the social area to spend time with other American Legion Family members or generously contributing hours of volunteer work to help us in our programs and celebrations, is so greatly appreciated. Whatever you have done you have contributed so much to our mission of supporting our veterans, active duty members, their families and the community. It has been a great time for everyone and I am particularly humbled by the incredible selflessness of so many who could be doing something else but choose to put others first. You folks are top notch and whatever your participation has been you have helped us move this wonderful organization forward and contributed to the lives of so many.

As with any organization that has members that are involved for years, for some - decades, we have to say goodbye, as our friends are transferred to "Post Everlasting." And, one I am sorry to report to our American Legion Family is Vern Heckel; he has made the last transfer. I have attached to the newsletter a brief synopsis prepared by Carol Souza of Vern who was a huge part of our American Legion Family. Vern, your good humor and kind nature will be missed; and Shirley, we send our most sincere condolences on the passing of such an honorable veteran and gentleman.

February was busy and March looks to be the same and we are very thankful for all our members who have stopped by and spent time with us during our daily and special events that makes our winter months speed by. We've also had some young blood here at the post over the last month or so which has been fun. We've welcomed the crew from the Cutter Spar, the ship repair crew of JAG who are across the bay working on some big projects for our state, and several Navy divers and surveyors who are reconning our shores for some possible future games! Bring 'em on, we're ready for ya! ☺

As a last topic, as this is the Centennial Year for the post I have been busily researching our post history and getting help from several at the Senior Center and combing through digital archives and microfilm. Whew! It's a lot of work, so if I come up to you with some crazy questions from "back in the day" or old photos bear with me as I hopefully will get some of our organization's background on paper to memorialize all the great stuff we've done over the last century!!!



## March is Community Service Month

**March 15-17** is the recognized anniversary period of the **founding of The American Legion**, and the official birthday of the national organization is the 15<sup>th</sup> and it will be 100 years old!!!! The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States.

Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in over 12,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, performed hundreds of thousands of hours of community service, and secured significant benefits (the GI Bill and drove the beginning of the VA) for veterans as well as putting in place many important programs for children and youth.

**Community service** is at the very heart of The American Legion's core beliefs and an integral part of the Preamble to the Constitutions of the American Legion, the Sons and the Auxiliary, *"...to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation..."*

The American Legion recognizes that the community is an integral part of our American way of life and in many communities similar to Seward, the post takes a leadership role in community betterment and service to others.

Many service programs start at the community level, engaging youth in such programs as American Legion Baseball, Scouting, Shooting Sports and flag education. Other examples of local programs may include teen center and park district activities such as hiking, concerts, street dances, festivals, fishing tournaments, ice skating, sledding, craft projects and bicycle safety programs.

Examples of community service and betterment could include installing and maintaining playground equipment, building and maintaining memorials, putting on holiday programs as we do at Post 5 for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day, as well as providing community meals at Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. All of these events and activities are carried out in service to our community for the betterment of Seward and its citizenry.

There is no greater way for any post to ensure its success and sustain its longevity in the community than being in service to the community. Many programs and events have a high success rate when properly planned and people are involved from all corners of community. It only takes one person to get things going, ask questions and see where we can help.

## American Legion Boys State Program



American Legion Boys State is one of the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction in our nation. It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of state governments, while imparting citizenship, leadership and character development through a non-partisan perspective.

Boys State has been a program of the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion since 1935. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but equal program for young women called Girls State.

City, county and state governments at Boys State are operated by students duly elected to various offices and appointed to office by its "citizens." Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, program assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments.

Young men who have completed their junior year of high school and receive a recommendation from school officials are interviewed and selected by American Legion posts to attend Boys State and the sponsoring post assumes the expenses of sending the selected student.

Two outstanding participants of each Boys State program are selected to attend American Legion Boys Nation in Washington D.C. Objectives are similar to Boys State, except the focus is the study of federal government.

## House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the House/2<sup>nd</sup> Vice!

I would like to thank all our great volunteers who continue to support the activities and events conducted by the Post 5 family.

A special thanks goes to the volunteers who assist, on an almost daily basis, with providing great service and food to those visiting our social area. How can we go wrong with bartenders like Sharon Dillon, Michelle Oliver, Dan Oliver, Suzi Towsley and kitchen help like David Osborn, Clare Sullivan, Debbie Van Tassel, Melody Moline, Kirsten Gray, Crystal Maddox, Susan St. Amand, Dan, Michelle, and Sharon. These members consistently work out front and behind the scenes to evening meals, beverages, and our monthly breakfasts.

This month the Post will have the St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 16<sup>th</sup> and will also have live music with Chris Crain that night.



The community breakfast will be on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Officer Installation Dinner will be on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Lots of opportunity to volunteer so let us know when and where you can help and we will put you to work.

We are in the new 2019 Membership Year. Thanks to all who have renewed or joined, we have reached 90% of our 2019 membership goal. Let's keep the momentum going and push on to reach our 100% goal. 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 poker is still scheduled for Sunday and Monday at 6:00pm. Come on in and enjoy some good food and fun.

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.

## From the ALR Director....

By Bobby Dunno



Is it me or has been a strange winter and when is this ice going to melt away! I usually manage to get one of the bikes out for a spin around town on some of the brighter and warmer days, but this year it is just too icy to get the bike to the Highway. Regardless riding season is just around the corner and it is time to make sure we get our bikes ready for spring when once again the rumble of our exhaust will sound out, wind will break across our handlebars, riders of all shapes and sizes will be smiling and all will be right in the world.

The Spring Ride Safety Checklist will once again be available at our Alaska ALR website at [alaskalegionriders.org](http://alaskalegionriders.org). There you can find a link under the "Home Link" and ALR Direct-ions. On the subject of getting our bikes ready for spring I am still putting my trike back together and whether or not it is ready when the ice clears is going to be a near thing if I make it ☺.

Our first ALR meeting will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March and being the first meeting there will be a lot to discuss. Some of the most important items on the agenda being Officer Elections and will we discuss dessert auctions since and see where we can improve participation and not rely so much on the AWESOME support from Pinky and her most impressive baked goods. We are also looking forward to the American Legion Department Convention. The ALR Alaska meeting will be held Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April at Post 1 at 8pm. I am hoping to ride over there (yea I know it is still chilly in The Pass in April but I intend to ride away) so if you want to ride along, I really would enjoy the company, riding with friends is always better than riding alone. There are a few topics for the ALR up for discussion with of course the all-important State ALR officer elections and it will also be time to update our records so bring your Valid Licenses and Proof of Insurance.



Regardless of what's going on the good news is the days are getting longer and sooner or later the roads will clear, so get on the prep work, make sure the plugs are not fowled, charge the batteries and warm them up 'cause we are counting down the days until we can all...

"Get On Our Bikes And Ride!"





## Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon



Thanks to all Squadron members who gave their time and effort during February. 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.

This month the Post will have St Patrick's Day dinner and music on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, Community breakfast on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and Officer Installation dinner on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Lots of opportunity to volunteer your time and effort to support these activities.

The Squadron 5 monthly meeting will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and we will elect officers for the 2019-2020 term. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings. Come and see what the Squadron is up to.

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



Hopefully everyone has been able to get out and enjoy the nice spring like weather we have had this last week- hopefully it stays with us and only gets nicer with longer days as we get closer to summertime.

Once again, February was a busy month for the Post 5 family. It has been a pleasure to have the USCG Spar crew in town while the ship is in dry dock and it has been wonderful to have them coming up to the Post throughout the month.

The end of the month found volunteers up early in the morning to cook breakfast for the National Ocean Science Bowl competitors. This is an annual event that we are

proud to support as a children and youth program. Again, a huge thank you to all the volunteers who help out with these events- without the volunteers we would not be able to do what we do.

Remember back in November when the elementary school children made all the cards for Operation Apple Pie? This week Post 5 Commander Clare Sullivan visited the school and presented Principal Alan Haskins with a plaque expressing our gratitude and appreciation for all the wonderful cards.



March is going to be another busy month with many activities going on at the Post. The monthly meeting will be held on March 13 at 6PM. At this meeting we will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final call for officers and then the election of officers for the next year. We will also be discussing changes to the Bylaws, Constitution and Standing Rules of the Department of Alaska which will be voted on at the Convention in April.

Happy  
St. Patrick's Day

Of course, we can't let March go by without a little green - in honor of St. Patrick's Day - Come on up to the Post for some good old Irish celebration!

Also, as we start preparing for the Department convention in April, we will be putting together our Unit Historian Book. Please if you have any pictures from Unit projects or programs this year that you think would be good to include, please email them to me. I know in today's world everything is digital, so I need to get them printed off (unfortunately the Historian book has to be hard copy).

Also, by the end of March I need everyone's volunteer hours - Even if you think it doesn't count... send the hours to me.

Have a wonderful March and hopefully Spring is here to stay.



During the month of March, we give a little extra attention to all the amazing accomplishments of strong, determined women. Since 1987, the United States has formally recognized March as National Women's History Month. Every woman has a

story to tell and gifts to share with the world. So, get ready, because this month is about honoring magnificent ladies, and we are ready to celebrate it to the fullest.

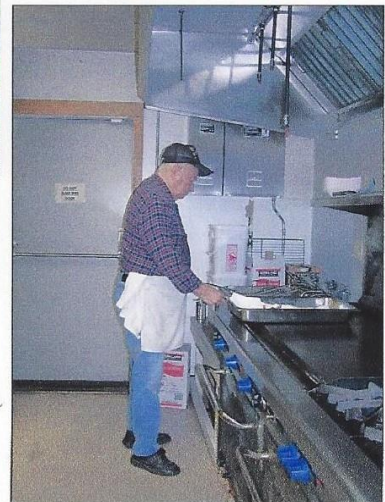
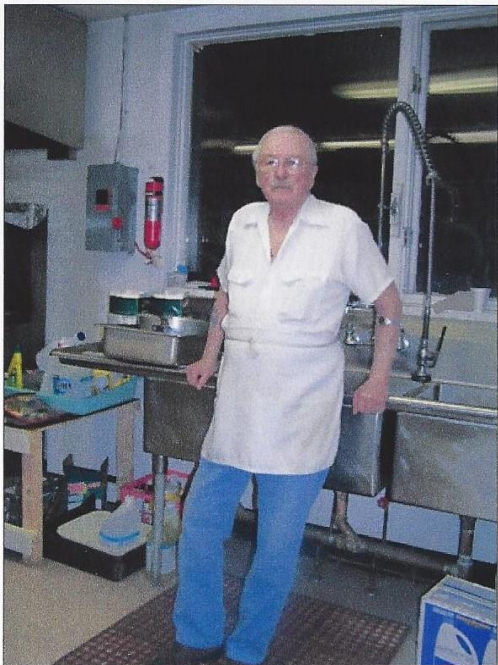
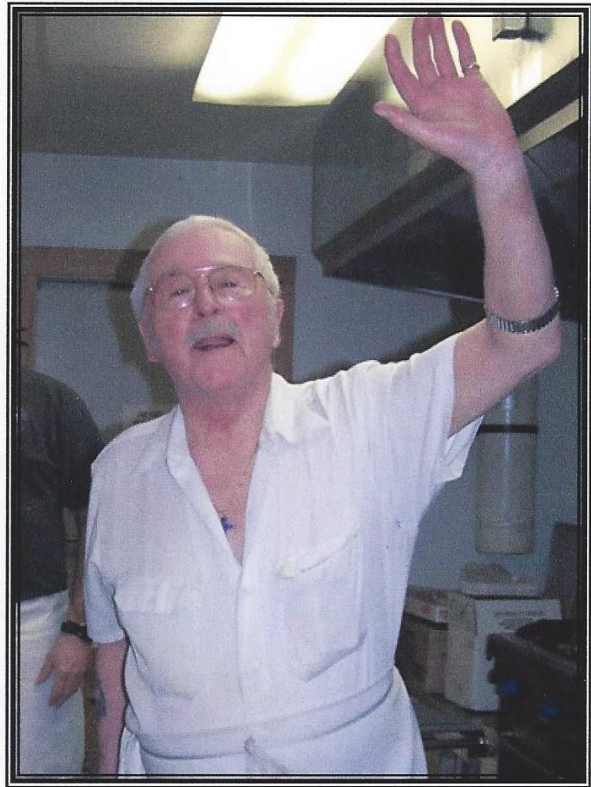
## Farewell to Vern Heckel

September 21, 1927

To

February 19, 2019

Long time Seward resident and Legion Post 5 member, Vern Heckel, spent his last few years in Nebraska, his old stomping grounds. Many of us at Post 5 will remember him down in the kitchen preparing great meals and parked at the end of the bar having a whiskey & water (his 'wikky'). He was an irascible old fart with an absolute heart of gold, and in his earlier years served in the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. His wife Shirley, a long time Post 5 Auxiliary member, still resides in Nebraska surrounded by family. Vern's daughter, Penny, lives in Seward.






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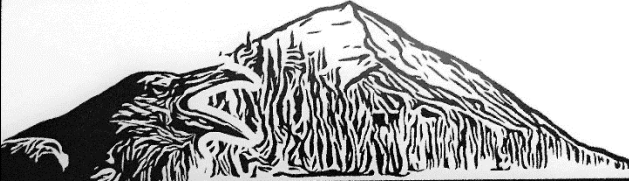
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# MARCH 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>Steak Night</b> 1	2
						<b>Pool League</b> 
3	4	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 5	6	7	<b>Steak Night</b> 8	9
"Texas Hold 'em" 6 PM  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<b>OMAHA POKER 6PM</b>  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>  <b>BINGO!!!!</b> 6:30PM		Ash Wednesday Lent begins	<u>ALR Meeting</u> 7pm 		<b>Pool League</b> 
10	11	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 12	13	14	<b>Steak Night</b> 15	16
"Texas Hold 'em" 6 PM  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> <b>Daylight Savings</b>	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b>  <b>OMAHA POKER 6PM</b>  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Post Meeting 7pm</u> 	<u>Auxiliary Meeting 6pm</u> 	<u>SAL Meeting 7pm</u> 	<b>American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday</b> 	<b>Irish Dinner</b>  <b>Music with Chris</b> Crain!
<b>St Patrick's Day 17</b>	18	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 19	20	21	<b>Steak Night</b> 22	23
<b>Community Breakfast</b>  "Texas Hold 'em" 6 PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<b>OMAHA POKER 6PM</b>  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>  <b>BINGO!!!!</b> 6:30PM		<i>Spring Begins</i> 			<b>Pool League</b> 
24	25	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 26	27	28	<b>Steak Night</b> 29	30
 "Texas Hold 'em" 6 PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b>  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> <b>OMAHA POKER 6PM</b> 					<b>Installation Dinner 6 pm</b> 
31						
 "Texas Hold 'em" 6 PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	 <div> <p>Happy Spring and we look forward to seeing you at the Installation Dinner to celebrate the new cadre of Post, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders Officers!!!</p> <p><b>Food Every Night at the Post!!!</b></p> </div>					

Happy St. Patrick's Day