



Veterans Strengthening America

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Wow! The Holidays have rolled in fast! We've just completed another community Thanksgiving dinner and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness!

We also had a wonderful Marine Corps Birthday Celebration and several Veterans Day celebrations at Seward Elementary School, the Senior Center and Seward Mountain Haven; all events were exceptionally well attended with lots of participation and fun by all. Thanks to all who remembered our veterans on this special day.



We had a good amount of folks (over 100) come to the post to celebrate with us and we had the opportunity to deliver a lot of yummy meals (about 80) to folks who were working or are not able to get out and spend time with family and friends. We hope we made everyone's Thanksgiving a bit warmer, tastier and more comforting. Our volunteer cooks, aka "the Kitchen Crew," really met the mission and made it happen, thanks too, to our decorators who made the post inviting; and of course, thanks to all the delivery drivers who got the meals delivered with "style" and timing! It was a great time serving our fellow veterans and the local community.

Okay, on to December, we all have a lot planned, not only in our own lives and jobs, but we have quite a few things planned at the post. It is of course, the holiday season and we will be having our Christmas dinner as usual, so plan on a big and delicious meal. 😊

Thanks too to the crew who made our Thanksgiving dinner a great success; it's like a well-oiled machine at this point. Thank you all for returning every year! And, a big thanks to all the folks who donated turkeys, pies, stuffing and all the help in the kitchen! We even had some new faces in the mix! I am always so humbled that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives during the holidays to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You Rock!

The Auxiliary has the Santa Parade planned with our Fire Departments, and with Santa and Mrs. Claus for the youngsters in town. The elves and Santa will be giving out gifts at the post to our local Seward kids on December 14th. It will be a "sure to please" good time!!!



We will also be finishing making up and mailing out our "Operation Apple Pie" packages to our local Seward young men and women who are in the military. So, if you know any active-duty military from Seward please let us know so we can get some nice Christmas packages out to them ASAP! 🍷 ❄️ 🍷 Tick Tok time is running....



We will still be having our monthly breakfasts this month with the Post's 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast and the ALR Breakfast, but it is moved up to the 7th this month so put it on your calendar! And, we will still be having all our weekly activities and nightly food for those hankering for something different or just tired from all the Christmas shopping! 😊

Another event in December is the **National Guard Birthday** which falls on Friday the 13th. This year the National Guard is 385 years old.

An interesting item to take note of is the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America and was established in 1636. These dedicated citizen soldiers leave their jobs and families when called to serve, so on the 13th of December, take the time to thank and honor our National Guard, many of whom live and work right here in our community.



I'd would also like to specifically acknowledge the Alaska National Guard's Honor Guard who participates in many of our ceremonies that provide the final respects to our members and other veterans who have passed to "Post Everlasting." The fine men and women of these organizations

demonstrate maturity and willingness to take time out of their busy lives to help the community where they currently serve and to honor deceased veterans and this great nation.

And finally, I'd like to thank our Firing Detail, all who are Post 9/11 members. Cody Gilmore, Brandon Mason, Nick Chapman, Jared Wallace, and Troy Staggs. This past year and in years past you have really stepped up to help at our Post Everlasting services at our Legion Cemetery. Your help gave families and friends a dignified memory as they said their final goodbye to their loved ones.



Now that we're at the beginning of the holidays, we're starting to get the post spiffed up for the season so come on by and see our progress. We like making the post a warm and inviting place for members to come and visit, celebrate the holidays and have a good time in a friendly place.

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2024 membership year and the start of the 2025 year. I sincerely appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable and growing post.

With good numbers of members at the local, state and national level it allows us to continue to have a strong voice regarding veterans' medical, rehabilitative and educational benefits. These collective voices from nearly 12,000 posts and close to two million members "volumes" and have influence on our law



DON'T DELAY, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and disabilities sustained while in the military. After all, one of the many roles of the American Legion posts is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And how better done than helping a vet get healthy and receive the benefits and education which will assist him/her to be productive and viable in our community. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, helping others, promote community involvement, patriotism and volunteerism. We have a good crew in our Post 5 Family and have many who are dedicated volunteers (and we can always use more 😊), so come on down and see what we do - we even manage to have a lot of fun helping others!

Speaking of getting involved...This is an invite to all in our Seward Legion Family to attend a hugely impactful information meeting regarding our community's Comprehensive Plan. This meeting will be on **Wednesday December 4th from 5:30-6:30pm.** The City of Seward is updating its Comprehensive Plan and is looking for feedback from the Seward Community to help draft the document which will chart the course where the city is going and to establish its priorities from the input we provide. This is where we, as citizens, can provide direct input by completing easy surveys regarding our town's direction for many years to come. **So...** Plan on coming, as it is important to us all. And, if by some strange reason you cannot make it, you can always access the survey online.... It is on this City of Seward website, and I've provided a link here [Comprehensive Plan Update](#). Just click on one of the four areas and you can begin providing simple and easy responses. You can even go back and do other areas when if you don't want to do the survey at one time. We'll also have a yummy dinner, so it is always well worth it. 😊

As we come to the close of 2024, I want to thank all in our Post 5 Family and our community of Seward for a good year of good deeds and good times. I look forward to another "outstanding" year of service and camaraderie as we continue in our **second century of service!** Soooo, come on down to the post; it is amazing how good it feels to be with like-minded people committed to service - doing good deeds to help others, especially your friends and neighbors.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Adjutant and Vice Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving, a good nap after dinner, and are now ready to tackle winter and the Christmas season.

November was a busy month with the ALR breakfast, Veterans Day, the Auxiliary's Toys for Tots auction, our community breakfast, and, of course, Thanksgiving meal. Too many great volunteers to name everyone, but just know how much we appreciate all of you and the great work you do for the Post family.



This month, we will be hosting the ALR breakfast on December 7th, The Auxiliary Santa Parade and gift giving on December 14th, our community breakfast on December 15th, and our community Christmas meal on December 25th. If you can spare some time and/or effort with these functions, please let us know and we will put you to work.



We will be starting some gun raffles this month so get ready to win a nice Christmas gift. Will let you all know when tickets go on sale.

Although it is quieting at the Post, I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food here. 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.

The 2025 membership year is underway. To renew for 2025, you can go to mylegion.org to renew online, you can mail your renewal when you receive it in the mail, or you can stop by the post, and we will get to see your smiling face. The dues have remained \$60.00 for Post members, \$40.00 for Auxiliary members, and \$35.00 for SAL members.

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



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Hope everyone enjoyed a great Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Now it's time to prepare for the Christmas season.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support of our Legion Family here at Post 5. The support you provide is very important in helping the Leion family carry out its mission for the veterans and community.

November was a busy month at the Post. The Post hosted the ALR and community breakfasts, celebrated Veterans Day, hosted the Auxiliary Unit 5 Toys for Tots auction and hosted a community meal for Thanksgiving. **I would like to thank Squadron members Scott Wilde and Randy Kockritz for their help with Thanksgiving meal prep and delivery and Rick Brown for his help with the community breakfast.**



This month the Post will host the ALR breakfast on December 7th, Auxiliary Santa Parade and gift giving on December 14th, the community breakfast on December 15th, of course, Christmas on December 25th, and New Years Eve on December 31st. Please let us know if you can help with any of these functions

The 2025 membership year has kicked off and the rollout of the new cards is here. Dues are \$35.00. You can renew online at mySAL.org, come to 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.

Our monthly meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month and all Squadron 5 members are invited to attend.

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.



Hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Bill of Rights Day 15 December 2024

As we celebrate the 233th anniversary of the Bill of Rights on December 15th- **Bill of Rights Day** we should look back at the origins and history of that day.

On December 15th 1791, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, later identified as the Bill of Rights, were ratified. James Madison was one of the original framers of the U.S. Constitution and our 4th President. He studied the shortfalls in the U.S. Constitution and authored many of these amendments to address them. Some of these amendments protect our most fundamental rights - freedom of speech, the freedom of protest and assembly and conscience, right to bear arms, freedom from search without warrant, the right to an attorney, the right not to testify against yourself and guarantees equal protection under the law. Most states embraced the Bill of Rights however, it is interesting to note that Massachusetts, Connecticut and Georgia did not ratify it until 1939.

It is interesting to look at the English Bill of Rights, from 1689, and to compare it to the U.S. Bill of Rights, created 100 years later.

The English Bill of Rights was an act of Parliament that guaranteed the right of British subjects to petition the king and to bear arms. It also



prohibited excessive bails, fines, and cruel and unusual punishment. The English Bill of Rights became part of the British Constitution and set a precedent upon which Enlightenment philosophers relied. Some of those philosophers lived in the American colonies, and they imported parts of the English Bill of Rights into the U.S. Constitution.

Madison's amendments were originally designed to extend the protection of some of the Bill of Rights to the States, however the amendments that were finally submitted for ratification applied only to the federal government. It wasn't until the 1860s that state governments benefitted, following ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection under the law). Since the early 20th century both federal and state courts have used the Fourteenth Amendment to apply portions of the Bill o and local governments.



In 1941, 150 years after the first 10 amendments were ratified, President Franklin Roosevelt declared December 15 "Bill of Rights Day."

Member Spotlight

We're thrilled to share some exciting news with our American Legion Post 5 family! Scotty Wilde, a proud member of the Sons of the American Legion, and his wife Jackie Wilde, a Unit 5 Auxiliary member, have launched Bee Wilde Candle Company—a heartfelt small business inspired by their shared love of candles and deep family traditions.



Bee Wilde Candles specializes in hand-poured soy candles, offering clean-burning and eco-friendly options for your home. Each candle is thoughtfully named with a bee-inspired theme, a creative touch Jackie added to honor cherished memories of her mother.

This venture began as a labor of love when Scotty surprised Jackie with the idea of making candles to celebrate her passion. Together, they've created a product that reflects their values, creativity, and connection to the community.

Bee Wilde Candles isn't just about candles; it's about creating warmth, comfort, and lasting memories. Whether you're looking for the perfect gift or something to brighten your space, we'd love for you to explore our creations.

As proud members of the Post 5 community, Scotty and Jackie value the camaraderie and support of their American Legion family. They're excited to share this new journey with all of you.

Thank you for supporting local businesses and helping Bee Wilde Candles grow! To learn more or place an order, visit <https://beewildecandleco.com> or connect with Scotty and Jackie at the next Post 5 event!

For your convenience, a QR code is included below for easy access to our website.



Warm regards,
Scotty & Jackie Wilde
Bee Wilde Candle Company



From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

Happy Holidays! Hope everyone is enjoying the Holiday Season.

Our Toys for Tots Santa Parade fundraiser was a HUGE success. I would like to thank all the volunteers that made the evening fun and successful. Second, I would like to thank everyone who donated items to be auctioned. Items provided by SCCC shop, Alaska Railroad, Current Affair Charters, Adventure 60 North, Brass Bones, Bee Wilde Candle Company, Southern Sun Tanning, Kenai Fjords Tours, 5th Avenue Bistro at Hotel Seward and many, many individuals that contributed items to be auctioned. Also huge Thank you to Dan Oliver for making the delicious baked spaghetti for dinner. 😊😊😊

Why did we host the fundraiser? Well, that is to support our Annual Toys for Tots Firetruck Parade with Santa! The children in the community love the chance to ride the Firetrucks

around town with sirens blaring and horns honking- Everyone knows Santa is in town when the Parade makes its way through downtown Seward. This year's event will be December 14, 2024 at 1100. After the parade, hot chocolate and snacks will be served while the children eagerly await Santa and Mrs. Claus and receive a



need volunteers to help with this event. Also watch for announcements as we will also need volunteers to be Santa's elves and help wrapping all the presents. Date to be announced!

Backtracking a little- I want to thank everyone that volunteered and helped the Post with the Annual Thanksgiving Day meal. As always, the meal was delicious and enjoyed by about 180 community members.

Currently our membership renewal is sitting about 70%. If you have not renewed for 2025, please do so soon. The 2024 cards expire at the end of December. It would be really great if we could reach the 100% mark by the end of the month. The membership dues help the Unit, Department and at the National level to support many of the programs that are so important to the Auxiliary.

BINGO- remember Bingo is held every Monday night downstairs in the Post building. Open to the Public come on down and bring a friend or two or three. It is a great way to get out of the house on a Monday night and supports the Unit 5 to raise funds for scholarships, community support and

other programs. Thank you to the volunteers that keep Bingo running.

December 1 is the Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday- Happy Birthday Civil Air Patrol

December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day- Just before 8 am on the morning of December 7, 1941, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes attacked Pearl Harbor Naval base in Hawaii. The attack was a complete surprise and lasted for over 2 hours. This attack on Pearl Harbor marked the beginning of the United States involvement in World War II. On December 8th, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan. On December 11, 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. A total of 2,402 Americans were killed and 1,178 were injured in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

December 13 is the US National Guard Birthday- Happy Birthday National Guard.

December 14- Toys for Tots Firetruck Parade with Santa.

December 25- CHRISTMAS- Hope everyone has a joyous and Merry Christmas. The Post will once again offer a full dinner for the community and deliver meals to those who can not come to the Post in person.

December 31- New Years Eve- the end to 2024 and the beginning of 2025. I hope 2024 was a great year for you. It has been a great year for the Seward Auxiliary Unit 5 and 2025 is looking bright and promising for another great year.

**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to All**

For God and Country




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Toys for Tots Firetruck Parade with Santa



Dress Appropriately for
Weather. Children will
be riding on top of the
Firetrucks

After the parade, hot chocolate
and snacks will be provided and
each children will get to meet
Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each
child will receive a present from
Santa



When: December 14, 2024

Time: 1100 AM

Where: American Legion Post 5
5th and Jefferson



December 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00pm	2 BINGO 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 	3 Mexican Martes 	4 Community Development Presentation on Comprehensive Plan 5:30pm Jewelry Class 5:00 pm	5 Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese  Pioneers Igloo #9 Meeting	6 Steak Night 	7 Pearl Harbor Day Fly Flags at Half Staff ALR Community Breakfast  Pool League 7:00 pm
8 Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00pm	9 BINGO 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 	10 Mexican Martes Post Meeting 5:30pm 	11 Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm  Jewelry Class 5:00 pm	12 Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese 	13 Steak Night  National Guard Birthday	14 Santa Parade and Gift Giving  Pool League 7:00 pm
15 Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00pm 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast 	16 BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 	17 Mexican Martes 	18  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	19 SAL Meeting 7:00 pm  Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese	20 Steak Night 	21 Pool League 7:00 pm 
22 Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00pm 	23 BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 	24 Mexican Martes 	25 Christmas Dinner 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm 	26 Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese 	27 Steak Night 	28 Pool League 7:00 pm 
29 Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00pm 	30 BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 	31 Mexican Martes New Year's Eve!! 			National PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY December 7 	



Food Served Every Night at the Post