



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022
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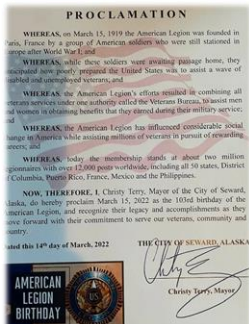


COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

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 in Seward with our town running pretty much as normal which allows us to do "business as usual." 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 month we celebrated the 103rd Birthday of the National organization of The American Legion and the City was kind enough to write a proclamation to recognize the national organization and our post! Thank You Mayor Terry, Council and City Administration!



We also had good fun for Saint Patrick's Day with good friends, good food and good drink! 😊 That Guinness Beer Stew was surely tasty and memorable!!! It was also birthday day too with several of our members celebrating their special day and "the wearing o' the green!"



As most know, our nightly meals are complimentary or for donation except Steak Night; it really is a great deal, especially in this challenging time for all of us with all things getting pricier and pricier. Throughout the last year we actively reached out to ensure that people in town who needed food were able to come and get a warm meal for

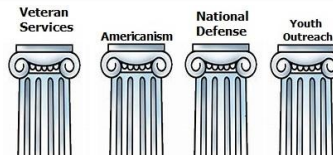
dinner and many came on and off throughout the week. We've had some good chow these past years...from Halibut Olympia to Burgers, Bacon Mac and Cheese, BBQ Ribs, Guest Chef surprises etc. We've been here to help and of course have good food!!! 😊

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 2022-2023 year. We look for some good things to happen in our new year! I want to thank Department Adjutant Sharon Cherrette and Pete Toloff for taking time out and being our installing officers for all our organizations. A great time was had by all... Even the several camera-shy folks not in the photo and one on the way to Ukraine but still wanted to be here and share in the fun by Facetime!



We have a great slate of officers who have rose to the mission during this "unique time" in the Post, Auxiliary, Sons and the Riders! We are so fortunate to have the talent we have at Seward Post 5. As we work toward our regular Spring-Summer schedule, I fully expect all these great folks to be back at it providing support to our veterans and those in need.

So, as we enter April, I'd like to let you know 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

Family support

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

Child safety

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

American Legion Post 5 Family Officers for 2022 - 2023

POST OFFICERS

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



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President:	Sharon Dillon
1 st Vice President:	Michelle Oliver
2 nd Vice President:	Deb VanTassel
Secretary:	Clare Sullivan
Treasurer:	Connie Kullander
Chaplain:	Valerie Rose
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:	Scott Wilde
Finance:	Randy Kockritz
Chaplain:	Mike Little
Sgt-at-Arms/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 the New & Returning Officers!!!!

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Spring Break-Up is happening and optimism for warmer weather is running high. Let's hope we are done with winter.

I want to thank all our members for their continued support of the Post and Club. Your dedication is an inspiration for us all. I especially want to thank Scott Wilde for assembling the new grills donated by Tripp LeBrake.



And, of course Tyson Alderman, Troy Staggs, James Natale, Scott Wilde, Eddie Treadway and David Osborn for the "heavy lift" in moving the old stoves and helping to install the new ones in our kitchen!



Also, a big thanks to Sharon Dillon, Charlie Jackson, Troy Staggs, Grace Broesamle, Marilyn Sutherland, Jackie Wilde and Clare Sullivan for their great help during preparing for and helping out during the **Installation Dinner and Saint Patrick's Day**. You help us provide all the benefits and services to our membership, veterans, and the Seward community. There are too many volunteers to try to name you all as I will surely forget someone. Just know how much I appreciate all the time and effort you have been putting in this winter.



This month the Post will be providing Easter breakfast on April 17th and other events that can pop up on short notice.

Tickets will be available on April 1st for our next raffle will include one for a \$500.00 gift certificate from CBK Arms and a \$500.00 gift certificate from Great Northern Guns.

The 2022 membership year is well underway, and the Post has achieved 100% of the membership goal set forth by the Department of Alaska. Membership is the backbone of your 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. So far, we have met or

exceeded all monthly membership goals so let's keep up the good work.

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.

We hope Spring has sprung. Guess we'll have to see if it is for real.

I want to thank all Squadron members who continue to volunteer their time and effort in support of the mission of the Post 5 family. Especially want to thank Scott Wilde for the time he put in to assemble the new grills donated to the Post by Tripp and coordinating transporting them to the Post. Great job!! 😊😊😊

This month's events and activities include the **Easter and Community Breakfast scheduled for April 17th** and possible dinners for visiting ships. We also have three delegates set to attend the **Department of Alaska 103rd Convention at Post 28 in Anchorage.**

The 2022 Membership year is in full swing, and the Squadron is approaching it's 100% goal for membership. We are just a few renewals or new members away. Thank you to all those that have already renewed their memberships and please consider renewing soon if you have not already done so. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs.

Join or Renew
your membership

Squadron officers were elected and installed in March and are as follows: Commander Mike Mooter, First Vice Mike Calhoon, Second Vice Scott Wilde, Finance Officer Randy Kockritz, Sergeant at Arms and Historian David Osborn, Chaplain Mike Little. Thanks to you all for stepping up to help direct the organization.

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.

Here's to a happy, safe, and prosperous new year for everyone.



MEMBERSHIP Notes!

It is now April and we are fully in the new membership year. We've achieved our goal of 100% for the post, ahead of schedule - Thank You for your membership. 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 free meals whether during the holidays or during the week, 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. We as 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.

Director's Report

By Bobby Dunno



OK it is supposed to be **spring** but yet the month of March, winter seemed to be unwilling to release Seward from its grip and getting out for an early ride or a spin around town was not often considered. I know that some of us took advantage of the few sunny days when the roads seemed to be dry, and I rode around downtown 3 times during lunch; but it wasn't enough to scratch that itch developed over the past winter season. So regardless of winters being stubborn, "riding season" is upon us and it's time to get the bikes prepped and ready to ride. I know for me I have some bikes ready others not so much ☺. So, if you have a bike and have not finished everything you wanted to do over the winter, or you are one of those that just parked it and plan on getting the oil changed before firing it up now is the time to get the fingernails dirty and get it done.

On that note we need to think about not just freshening up that coat of wax, (yea I know that's important too!) but every rider needs to check out the bike and make sure it is truly ready to carry our butts safely out for miles and miles of enjoyable riding. During storage tires lose air pressure, clutch plates and brakes bind up, cables and linkages start sticking, and that's just scratching the surface. If you are wondering what it is you should check, we have a check list available on our website alaskalegionriders.org. So please make use of it so

we don't forget anything in our excitement at getting out and on the road. And feel better having a sound ride under you without the doubts that you ignored or forgot something.

Our next ALR meeting is scheduled for the evening of the 7th of April followed by a meeting the 5th of May, and we have a lot to discuss. For starters, we will need to re-energize our fundraising efforts for Chapter 5 and the **Legacy Scholarship Fund**. We have relied on Dessert Auctions the past few years, but I would like to find a way to raise funds while we are in the saddle and the miles are passing beneath the wheels of our bikes. So, I will be resurrecting the mileage document as a fundraising tool. And, we are looking at a rise in the rides we have available since society has or seems to be putting the fear of a perceived pandemic behind us.

The first activity for the year is going to be the ALRA Convention meeting at 1730 hours on 20 April the day before the Department Convention begins on the 21st at Post 28, if you are a member of the ALR Executive Committee the ALRA(EC) will be meeting at 1630 hours. It is my wish that we get the ALRA by-laws through the last hurdle and approved during these meetings.

As usual the first organized event for **Chapter 5** will be our Blessing of the Bikes scheduled for Armed Forces Day on the 21st of May. Let's get the word out early and see if we can get our entire Chapter and few additional motorcycles or other 2 and 3 wheeled rides from the Seward area to attend. Of course, there will be the Memorial Day ride out to Byers Lake 28-30 May. The ALRA ROMP is scheduled for the June 24-26 (gathering 23 June) and will be hosted by Chapter 20 beginning in Sterling, we will ride and visit all the Post on the Kenai Peninsula finishing up at our own Post 5. The final currently scheduled event is the Southern Peninsula ABATE Salute to Vets also in Sterling on 22-24 July. So far, I have not heard about a ride "to do the loop" as a ride to visit the Post in Fairbanks and ALR Chapter 30, and if it comes to fruition I will pass that along also. But as riding season cranks up Chapter 5 will still have Ice Cream runs to Cooper Landing and rides to Hope for no reason at all. So if ya'll have the same itch to ride as I do, may I suggest you scratch it, get them bikes checked out, fuel them up and then **Get On Your Bike And Ride!**

For God and Country



From the President's Desk

By Sharon Dillon



Hello everyone, my name is Sharon Dillon, and I would like to say thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you as Auxiliary Unit 5 President. I've been in the Auxiliary for many years and have held many positions at the unit and am humbled by being selected as this year's president.



I would like to welcome all to a membership meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. As we start a new year, I look forward to seeing everyone at the post and would love feedback on what we're doing and how we can continue the great tradition of "Service, Not Self" for Unit 5.

I want to thank the previous officers that have "retired" from the board or have moved on to other activities. I sincerely appreciate all you have done and want you to know you have left our new officers in good shape to continue to serve as new unit officers and a hugely supportive part of the Post 5 Family. I know many of you will still be in the "neighborhood" and I value all your past (and ongoing 😊) efforts to continue moving Unit 5 forward in support of our veterans and the community.

I would also like to thank Debbie VanTassel, Dan and Michelle Oliver, Marilyn Sutherland, Joanne Frey and Kevin Lee for helping with Bingo; we could not do it without you. And as a PSA 😊, I just want to let everyone know you are all welcome to come to Bingo every Monday at 6 pm. It is a lot of fun, and it is a huge part of our fundraising efforts for all our charitable donations that we make throughout the year.

We will also be having Easter Breakfast on the 17th of April. And, I'm looking to have the Breakfast area all spiffed up for Easter and for good eats!



I look forward to a wonderful year with you all.



April is the Month of the Military Child

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

Some statistics about Military Children

(from 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

For nearly 40 years, April 1 has marked the Defense Department's kickoff for the Month of the Military Child. DOD is supporting this month with the theme of mental health and the overall well-being of all military children.

Military children have a tough road to travel as an integral part of DOD's 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 transitions 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

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.

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APRIL 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night 1	2
						
3	Chili Dogs 4	Taco Tuesday 5	6	B, B, M&C 7	Steak Night 8	9
Luscious Leftovers LEFTOVERS  Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 	<u>Cub Scout Meeting</u> 		<u>American Legion Riders Meeting</u> 5:30 pm  Igloo #9 Monthly Meeting 6:30pm		<u>Pool League</u> 7:00pm 
10	Chili Dogs 11	Taco Tuesday 12	13	B, B, M&C4	Steak Night 15	16
Luscious Leftovers LEFTOVERS  Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 	<u>Post Meeting</u> 5:30 pm 	<u>Auxiliary Meeting</u> 6:00pm 	<u>SAL Meeting</u> 7:00pm 	<u>Good Friday</u> 	<u>Pool League</u> 
17	Chili Dogs 18	Taco Tuesday 19	20	B, B, M&C 21	Steak Night 22	23
Easter Breakfast 9:00-11:00  Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 	<u>Cub Scout Meeting</u>  taco tuesday!	<u>Guest Chef Night</u> Salisbury Steak by Charlie Jackson 			<u>Pool League</u> 
24	Chili Dogs 25	Taco Tuesday 26	27	B, B, M&C 28	Steak Night 29	30
Luscious Leftovers  Leftovers Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 	<u>Cub Scout Meeting</u> 				<u>Pool League</u> 

Food is Served Every Night

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