



For God and Country Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5
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Commander's Comments

By Clare Sullivan

Happy New Year! What an amazing year we've had! It has been one that was exceptionally full and rewarding. We had the opportunity to help many in our community and our veterans in our Post 5 Family. I especially want to thank all our dedicated volunteers who took the time out of their busy lives to make things happen and make a difference for others. From building renovations to all the events we put on you rose to the challenge every time! We are so very fortunate to have the members who unselfishly volunteer their time to help our mission to serve others. We have some incredibly generous and talented people who help out wherever they can and even some who aren't members step up and help when we're helping others in need or to just deliver a warm meal during the holidays. You all make us what we are in Seward and it is a great feeling to know our town has so many generous and service-oriented people. We also even manage to have a bit of fun while we're working on our monthly projects and special events.



For a small post we accomplish quite a bit. I would like to highlight some of our events in 2018. We of course started the year with a New Year's Eve party at the post with entertainment provided by Chris Craine, this was closely followed with our support of the **Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival** where we helped the Polar Bear Jump-Off Committee with the weekend festivities.



Throughout the year, we also had nightly activities of poker and pool league, once again supported by incredible volunteers. And how can I not mention the fabulous meals provided on a nightly basis.

In early February we had our "Non" **Super Bowl Party** where we did not root for any NFL teams and had a wonderful **Valentines' Day Dinner** for our members and their sweethearts as well as **National Oceanic Science Bowl** support. In March we celebrated **St. Patrick's Day** where we all were Irish for the day! We also celebrated the **99th Birthday of the American Legion** and we installed our new officers at our **Installation Dinner**. Busy times!

In April, besides tax relief day ☺ we had a community **Easter Breakfast**, a yummy **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** and good representation at the annual **Department Convention** at Post 28 in Anchorage. We did amazingly well with all sorts of awards, particularly the coveted **Unity Award!** It was a proud day for all of us in our Post 5 American Legion Family!

We followed in May with our **Mother's Day Breakfast**, **Harbor Opening Weekend with Armed Forces Day** celebrations and the **YMCA's Armed Services Combat Fishing Tournament** support at the Cruise Ship Terminal and of course one of our most important weekends where we remember our departed military members who have gone to "Post Everlasting" - the **Memorial Day Weekend** ceremonies at our Post Cemetery. Although the month was soggy it cleared up perfectly for Memorial Day. It sure was a busy month but we got it all done! ☺

June really kicked off our summer and our long days, we celebrated **Flag Day** with a flag ceremony and we "retired" several flags that completed their service; we also celebrated the **US Army's Birthday** and we had a yummy **Father's Day Breakfast** to honor our dads! We also had the **Seward PD** provide a gun safety course just for the ladies. July's activities followed quickly with **4th of July** festivities where we marched and road motorcycles in the parade and served up the Post 5 "world famous ribs!" As always, we had a great representation by our **USCGC Mustang** crew in the parade. What a great honor to have these wonderful and patriotic folks representing our military in our town's parade!



In August we helped to celebrate the **Coast Guard Birthday** and said farewell to the **Mustang Commander Jaime Greendyk** and her husband **George** who both went on to their new duty stations in Kodiak, and we further said goodbye to our Post Historian - **Justin Olson** who moved with his job in the Park Service to the "Lower 48." We were sad to see them go but we wished them all the best on their new adventures!



We also were really busy with the arrival of the **Seward Silver Salmon Derby** and all the members who came to town, visited the post, and had a great time fishing. Good Times!!!! The Auxiliary also had a successful Toys for Tots Auction!

September, we had our Early Bird Dinner and it was a good turn out and a tasty meal for all as we looked to continue our membership drive. We also observed **Patriot Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day** and **American Legion Day**.

October brought brisk weather and we had a great time at our **Department Commander's Visitation Dinner**. We had the opportunity to meet and greet our Department leadership.



As we started looking toward the cooler weather we forged ahead with activities. In November we honored our veterans with **Veterans' Day** ceremonies and a dinner at the post. We also had a lively fundraising dinner and auction for needed repairs around the post. We also had our ever tasty



Thanksgiving Dinner where we fed many in the community on a truly American Holiday. As the year was winding down, we surely weren't We rolled right into December

which brought lots of activities including getting ready for the holidays. We sent out **Operation Apple Pie** packages to the servicemembers from the Seward and Moose Pass areas and we helped out with the Auxiliary's **Christmas Parade** wonderfully supported by the **Seward Fire**



Department. When the parade was done **Santa & Mrs. Claus** arrived at the post to pass out lots of wonderful gifts for the children in town.

It was a busy visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus but it was also a great visit with tasty snacks and warm refreshments!



We also welcomed the crew of the **USCGC Mustang** back into town after a lengthy absence with a dinner for the entire crew and their families. The crew was also benefitted by a visit by Santa to meet with the kids!



Later in the month we also prepared and fed many in town by delivering meals throughout town and welcomed folks coming to the post to a wonderful **Christmas Dinner**. And, to end the month we had a

fabulous **New Year's Eve** get together with our membership - we even had wonderful entertainment by some talented local musicians! Many thanks to Chris Crain for his fabulous entertainment to close out the year!!!!

Now I'd like to address something that is essential to our organization - **Membership**. I know we talk about how good it is to have a healthy membership and some may feel we "harp" on it too much but the reason we do this is that if we're healthy in membership then we are not able to help others in our community and of course our veterans. We don't generally advertise what we do in town, but your support and membership have allowed us to do some good work over the last year as in many years before. We as an American Legion Family have donated several thousand dollars in scholarships for graduating seniors and for veteran meals at the Senior Center, paid medical expenses, utility and heating bills, provided free holiday meals for many in the community, and have provided many gifts for children in town during the holidays. Our American Legion Family has donated well over \$90,000 to local causes and military support functions over the last year. As you can see with a strong and participatory membership we can help others and make a difference in people's lives.

We're all an important part of this town and we can positively affect those around us and influence all whom we come in contact with; after all, we are a service oriented group of people who are working together for the betterment of everyone in our community!

Now it is 2019 we'll be having the **election of new officers** in all our organizations in the next few months. The selection of new officers keeps the forward momentum of the organization and infuses new ideas with the participation of new people; new folks keep things fresh and exciting. Membership participation and the new and bright ideas from individuals who get involved energize all to do what we can in the areas of veteran support, child welfare and education, and community service right here in Seward.

The American Legion Family has been here for many years and has been a solid foundation as a service organization within the community, and a reliable source for assistance and camaraderie for veterans and many members in Seward. We have helped many people in the community over the decades and now we could use a little help too, so please consider your post, unit or squadron when you have some free time and know that your efforts will help not only a few but many throughout our community.



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club!

Winter has arrived and may be will have **Turkey Bowling** during the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival this year. Keep your fingers crossed.

I want to thank everyone for another great year at the Post and the Club. There are way too many volunteers for me to name everyone so, suffice it to say, you all know who you are and you are truly appreciated. The Post and the Club would not have been able to operate at the level it did this year, nor would we have been able to provide all the great activities, support, and benefits to our membership, our veterans and active duty personnel, and the community. The volunteers make it happen on a daily basis. Thank You!!



This month we will have a visit from the **USCGC Spar** beginning around the 8th of January for 2-3 months. Our community breakfast will be on January 20th, and we will have Polar Bear Jumpoff activities going on Jan 25-26.



There will be lots to do and we will need many volunteers to come and give a hand. We will continue with building maintenance projects throughout the winter and we will n those things are coming up.

We are in the 2019 membership year and I want to thank all of you who have renewed your memberships and helped us to reach our goal of 75% by Dec 12th. We are well on the way to reach our goal of 85% this month. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. If you know a veteran who may be eligible to join, bring them in to the Post and we can let them know what we do here for the veterans and community and see if they are interested in becoming part of the Post 5 family. Membership is the cornerstone of the American Legion from the Post level all the way up to the National level. We are striving to turn a declining national membership around and it starts with us at the Post. If we could all bring in one new member this year it will truly strengthen our organization and we will be able to support our veterans and their families in amazing ways.



Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30pm. Poker is still available on Sundays and Mondays at 6:00pm and Pool League is on Saturday at 7:00pm. Come on in and enjoy some fun and good food.



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!

Looks like winter has finally set in. Maybe we will have some good snow this year for all the winter sport enthusiasts

Squadron 5 can be very proud of the job it did in supporting the Sons of American Legion programs in 2018. The support given to the Post 5 family in support of our local programs was greatly needed and greatly appreciated. There are too many volunteers from the squadron to name everyone without leaving someone out so just know we are very thankful to all of you and we look forward to another great year in 2019.

This month the Post will have the community breakfast on January 20th and there will be activities for Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival on January 25-26.



The USCGC Spar from Kodiak will be in Seward for repairs from January 8th or 9th until late March or so. The Post will host the crew and there will be activities where volunteers are needed. I know Squadron 5 will step up, as always, and lend a hand when necessary. The Post will be continuing building repair and maintenance projects and we will let you know when those are happening in case you have the time to come and work on those projects.



We are now in the 2019 membership year and I thank those of you who have renewed your memberships. I ask those who have not to consider doing so as 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.

First call for Officer Nominations for 2019-2020 will take place at the Squadron meeting on January 10th at 7:00pm. All Squadron 5 members are welcome to attend the meetings. Come join us and get a first hand look at what we do.

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 Auxiliary President

By Debbie Van Tassel

2018 certainly was an interesting year in many ways. As we get ready to move into 2019, we can reflect back on the past year and be very proud of all the accomplishments of the ALA Unit 5. Through our dedicated volunteers we have been able to contribute so much towards the many ALA programs.



December was another month in which our volunteers really stepped up and shined with all the projects and programs.



We had volunteers step up to help decorate the post to make it bright and festive for the holiday season. Then



a troop of volunteers arrived to wrap over 140 presents in preparation for Santa's arrival on December 15th. I must say

I

was very impressed with how quickly those presents were wrapped and ready to go - The snowstorm on December 14 made it a little questionable about the Fire Truck parade but it all came together, and 116 local children got to ride the Fire trucks and take a parade around town. Refreshments were served while the families waited their turn to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus to receive a

present, gloves and knit cap. It was a great day with almost perfect weather for the parade and everyone had a great time.

Another of our annual projects is the food voucher program. This year we worked with Safeway and provided food baskets in place of gift cards. We were able to provide a hearty holiday meal to 13 families in need.

Also, with the crew of the USCG Cutter Mustang being our local military unit we contributed to their Christmas party with stockings filled with goodies including wonderful baked goods from Katherine Bleth (once again Thank you so much Pinkie!) and gift cards to thank them for their service to our country.



On December 18th, representatives from the Legion, the Auxiliary and the SAL went to the Seward Senior Center to present checks to provide for Veteran meals during the winter.



And the Christmas spirit was alive and well on Christmas day as volunteers helped to cook, serve and deliver a wonderful dinner to so many in the community. The American Legion Post 5 family does so much to help in the community and provide service to our community, youth, military families and veterans as 2018 gives way to 2019, we have so much to be proud of. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers!

As 2018 comes to an end, we also need to remind all members who have not renewed their **membership** they need to do this. Starting in January, the Post will require members to have their 2019 membership card to be able to come up to the club. One of the easiest ways to renew is online through the American Legion Auxiliary website, www.alaforveterans.org. You can come to the Post, visit with friends and renew at that time. If you are out of town, you can send your renewal to PO Box 706, Seward, AK. Dues are \$30.

Good-bye 2018 and welcome 2019! The first volunteer opportunity will be for Polar Bear weekend on the 25-26-27 of January. There will be numerous opportunities to volunteer and support this great event.


Hope you all have a wonderful prosperous New Year- full of joy and happiness.



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Here are a few little known facts about the US Constitution:

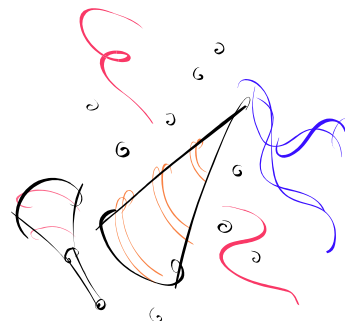
1. The Constitution contains 4,543 words, including the signatures and has four sheets, 28-3/4 inches by 23-5/8 inches each. It contains 7,591 words including the 27 amendments. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.

2. Thomas Jefferson did not sign the Constitution. He was in France during the Convention, where he served as the U.S. minister. John Adams, who at the time was serving as the U.S. minister to Great Britain during the Constitutional Convention, also did not attend the signing. The only men who both became presidents and signed the Constitution were George Washington and James Madison.

3. There was a proposal at the Constitutional Convention to limit the standing army for the country to 5,000 men. George Washington sarcastically agreed with this proposal as long as a stipulation was added that no invading army could number more than 3,000 troops.

4. The Constitution's iconic opening line was not included in early drafts of the document. The preamble originally started with individual states listed from north to south: "We the people of the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts..." et al. The five-person Committee of Style is considered to have been responsible for composing much of the final text, including the revised preamble.

5. More than 11,000 amendments have been introduced in Congress. There were no amendments added to the Constitution from 1804 to 1865. This was the longest period in American history in which there were no changes to our Constitution. (The first to come after that period was at the end of the Civil War the Thirteenth amendment, which abolished slavery.) Overall, the Constitution has only been changed by amendment seventeen times since 1791.



ADVENTURE SIXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center
Seward, Alaska



January 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	New Year's Eve!!!! 31	New Years Day 1	2	3	Steak Night 4	5
						Pool League Music with Chris Crain 7pm
6	7	Mexican Martes 8	9	10	Steak Night 11	12
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	OMAHA Hold 'em 6PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Pool League Music with Chris Crain 7pm
13	14	Mexican Martes 15	16	17	Steak Night 18	19
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA Hold 'em 6PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>					Pool League Music with Chris Crain 7pm
20	21	Mexican Martes 22	23	24	Steak Night 25	26
Community Breakfast "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	OMAHA Hold 'em 6PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 				Music with Chris Crain 8:30pm 	Lots of activities all day - check the Polar Bear Schedule!!!! 😊 Karaoke Contest
Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival						
27	28	Mexican Martes 29	30	31		
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA Hold em 6PM 					

Food Served Every Night at the Post

Stop on by for some good eats and good camaraderie!

Happy New Year to all at our Seward Post #5 American Legion Family!

