

# For God and Country

March 2016

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

American Legion Post 5

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Volume 13,

Issue 3

## Commander's Comments...

By: Clare Sullivan



Winter is nearly over, and I am not ever sure we had one. Did we even have a full week of winter weather? I know we had a lot of rain - no drought in Seward that is for sure!!!! The daylight is coming back fast, and we practically have no snow to melt off, break up should be a breeze. We're not out of it yet but at least we have some more sun and the good prospect of the summer and better weather bringing more outdoor activities. Start gearing up the bikes, fishing poles, motorcycles and get on planting the seeds for the summer flowers if you haven't already!!!!

This month we have some fun and important things planned including **Installation Dinner** at the end of the month for our new officers and to welcome our new members, we will also have our tasty **St Patrick's Day** celebration, **the American Legion Birthday** in the middle of the month and we'll announce other "special activities" as they crop up!



March 15 is the designated birthday of The American Legion. It is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. It was developed by veterans for veterans after the end of WWI. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4<sup>th</sup> - for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born - March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 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, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. We have an impressive legacy and have done some incredible things in our 97 year history, and we're still moving forward with our commitment to service to our individual veteran, community and country.



The American Legion, both locally and nationally work to support and continue to fight to keep our earned benefits and services that we gained through our honorable service of this great country. We as legionnaires continue to support not only veterans but all our active duty brothers and sisters in many areas including the following:

**Troop Support** in Conus and Oconus through sending items needed where they are and to let them know they are supported;

**Mental Health** services for those suffering from issues arising from significant service trauma and battlefield stress;

**Veterans Benefits Centers** who help veterans obtain services and support once returned to civilian life;

**Operation Comfort Warriors** where services and medical help is provided for those veterans who have undergone significant physical and mental trauma;

**Veterans Education** to help returning veterans in obtaining skills and education to allow them to get good work now they are civilians;

**Career Assistance** to get good jobs so veterans can support their families and be productive in society;

**Legislative** priorities to include increasing quality health care, helping veterans who want to engage in small business, increase services for women veterans and of course flag protection;

**National Security** actions to include the end sequestration and the eff etc. it has on U.S. military strength, properly fund the Department of Defense and military operations at a time of war, protect military benefits;

**Membership** efforts to enhance our presence as a unified voice on behalf of veterans to ensure continuity of benefits and services;

**American Legion Baseball** cultivates leaders, promotes good health and teamwork as do the other Legion programs such as...

**Youth Programs** that offer scholarships and citizenship and training including the Boys State/Nation, Oratorical competitions, Junior Shooting Sports and Junior Law Enforcement Cadets and of course Boy Scouts.

We strive to embody our obligation in service to "Community, State and Nation" as found in our preamble by assisting others in every community, to look out for and take care of veterans and young people, place flags on grave markers for Memorial Day, raise money to purchase necessary items for wounded warriors, provide support for children facing illnesses and difficulties, and offer guidance and support to younger veterans transitioning to civilian life. And as part of our work is a message to keep paying it forward by helping others. I believe we at Post 5 do a pretty good job of it and our whole Legion Family of (Post, Auxiliary, and Sons) are able to pull it together in service not only to our membership and local veterans but also throughout our Seward Community.

**MEMBERSHIP!!!!!!**We're working hard to hit our 90% mark for Membership for March, **and to those who have renewed thank you, thank you very much!!!!** Your membership continues to make us a strong organization with the ability to help others. Every membership makes us a stronger organization locally and through the national level. Our collective membership numbers are a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits. We have veterans throughout Seward ranging from WWII to veterans from the ongoing military conflicts in the Middle East and throughout the globe. We have a good representation in Seward, and are fortunate that we have many in our American Legion Family, encompassing Post, Auxiliary, and Sons who step up to the plate and help out. And for that I sincerely thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to be of service for our veterans and our community.

*Thank  
You*

All our members of Post 5 have served this nation or are still serving and all deserve positive consideration and respect due to their honorable service. The post is the starting point for veterans to learn what is being done regarding veterans' benefits and support and to learn how they can help others. As you probably have already figured it out, support can be found at all levels of this organization from one's home post to the national level, and with well over 2 million members nationwide we have a pretty good fighting force fighting for our veterans and their families!

All the best and *I'll see you at the post!*



*For God and Country!*

## House and Vice Reports...

By: Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

A huge thanks goes out to all the great volunteers who helped us get through Super Bowl, The Auxiliary's Valentine's Day Dinner (which was fabulous), our Community Breakfast, and



three mornings of NOSB breakfasts. You are all awesome and we could not do most things here without you!!

This month we will have **St Patrick's Day Dinner** on the

17<sup>th</sup>, our **Community Breakfast** on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and our **Officer Installation Dinner** on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a lot going on so if you are in the volunteer mood or just getting cabin fever and need to get out, come on down and we will gladly put you to work.

Our next monthly meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all interested members to come and participate at our meetings. These meetings are not just for Post Officers but are general membership meetings open to all members in good standing. Come and share your thoughts and ideas concerning the direction of the Post and the legion programs we support.

At the March meeting we will be electing new officers and selecting delegates to the State Convention being held April 21-24 and Post 35 in Wasilla. If you are interested in becoming more involved or just want to see how things work please plan to attend the meeting.

We still have poker on Sunday and Monday nights, Bingo on Monday night, Pool League on Saturday night, and of course food every night of the week. Lots of things happening every week so come on in and enjoy some good food, intelligent banter, and great comradery.

The 2016 membership year is in full swing and we thank everyone who has renewed their memberships and encourage others to renew if they have not done so. Remember, membership is vital for the accomplishment of all things the American Legion and the Post 5 family do for veterans, their families, and our community.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

## Salutations from the Sons!

By: Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander,

Feels like spring outside but we still have to get through March to be sure!

I would like to thank all Squadron 5 members who continually support the mission and goals of Post 5. Your dedication and giving spirits are an example for others to follow as we work to support our veterans and the community of Seward. The Post cannot achieve its goals without support from the entire Legion Family and Squadron 5 is a great example of that family support.

This month there will be plenty of opportunity to show that giving spirit. Check the calendar and if you see a spot where you can assist just give us a call or stop by and let us know. We will gladly put you to work!

I encourage all Squadron members to attend this month's meeting at 7:00pm on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be electing new officers and selecting delegates to attend the Convention at Post 35 in Wasilla on April 21-24, 2016. Whether you have an interest in becoming more involved or just want to see how things work I encourage you to come to the meeting and check it out.

Remember that the new membership year is in full swing and please consider renewing if you have not done so. Membership drives everything in the Legion so let's continue to move forward.

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.



For God and Country!

# Auxiliary Notes...

By: Clare Sullivan

As I research information for my input to the newsletter for the post I generally go through the Legion.org site and check into the Sons and the Auxiliary sites as well. As a "dual member" I figured I'd put in some interesting information about the Auxiliary that I believe not all know about.

The Auxiliary was also founded in 1919 just like the American Legion and has an impressive membership as the Auxiliary has nearly 1 million members from all walks of life. The Auxiliary nationally administers hundreds of volunteer programs, gives tens of thousands of hours to its communities and to veterans, and raises millions of dollars to support its own programs, as well as other worthwhile charities familiar to all Americans. The really fabulous point is they accomplish it all with volunteers! The national organization reflects all the efforts of the individual units nationwide. It is impressive for sure, and our Unit #5 right here in Seward keeps right up with all the others in their work of helping our veterans and the community - just on a slightly smaller scale.



Interesting fact about the Auxiliary is that while originally organized to assist The American Legion, the Auxiliary has achieved its own unique identity while working side-by-side with the veterans who belong to The American Legion. Like the Legion, the Auxiliary's interests have broadened to encompass the entire community. The Auxiliary over the years has grown into its own organization that can exist independent of a post and has evolved into its own growing service organization that does amazing work for veterans and communities nationwide.

The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. Through its nearly 10,500 units located in every state and some foreign countries, the Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace. Along with The American Legion, it solidly stands behind America and her ideals. The Auxiliary fosters personal growth, independence, and patriotism of its membership through good works and mentoring the young girls and young women in the Junior Auxiliary. These ladies grow and become confident and as they get old enough to be adult members, many are poised, positioned and practiced to effectively communicate and support worthwhile programs that help others throughout their communities. Their efforts reflect their motto of "Service not Self."

Unit #5 in Seward is an integral part of the American Legion Family at Post #5. Without this special group of ladies the post would have a much tougher time in its work to support the veterans and the community, and for that we at the post are grateful. These ladies are the means to many of our successes and as an American Legion Family we continue to move forward in our collective missions of service to "God and Country" motivated by the belief of "Service not Self."

Come on by the Post and see what the Auxiliary does and see where you can fit in. It is a fun group of folks who do some pretty amazing stuff for our community!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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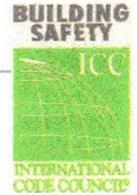
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MARCH 2016</b></p>		1 <i>Mexican Martes</i>	2	3 <i>ALR Meeting 7:00pm</i>	4 <i>Steak Night</i>	5 <i>Pool League 6:30pm SAL CDR Collier's Home Coming POST 1</i>
		8 <i>Texas Hold'em Poker after Game</i>	9 <i>Bingo at 6:30PM Omaha Hold'em 7:00PM</i>	10 <i>Mexican Martes Post Meeting 7:00pm</i>	11 <i>Auxiliary 5 Meeting 7:00pm</i>	12 <i>SAL Meeting 7:00pm</i>
13 <i>Texas Hold'em 6:30pm</i>	14 <i>Bingo at 6:30PM Omaha Hold'em 7:00PM</i>	15  <i>Mexican Martes American Legion's Birthday!!!</i>	16	17 <i>Saint Patrick's Day</i> 	18 <i>Steak Night</i>	19 <i>Pool League 6:30pm</i>
20 <i>Community Breakfast 9:30am Texas Hold'em 6:00pm</i>	21 <i>Bingo at 6:30PM Omaha Hold'em 7:00PM</i>	22 <i>Mexican Martes</i>	23	24	25 <i>Steak Night Good Friday</i> 	26 <i>New Officer Installation Dinner 6:30pm</i>
27 <i>Easter Breakfast</i> 	28 <i>Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm</i>	29 <i>Mexican Martes</i>	30	31		

**FOOD SERVED EVERY NIGHT!!!  
SEE YOU AT THE POST!**