



Veterans Strengthening America

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

January 2026
Volume 23, Issue 01

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Happy New Year!!! What a year it has been! 2025 was one that was event-filled and a lot of fun! The Seward Post 5 Family jumped right into the "swing of things" right at the start of the New Year, that is after we recovered from Christmas and



New Year celebrations. As our priority is to help many in our community and our veterans throughout the year, I especially want to thank all our amazing volunteers who took the time out of their busy lives to keep our post going in

service to others. It's amazing what we accomplish with nearly an *all-volunteer group* of folks that make such a difference in this town! We have some incredibly generous and talented people who help wherever they can.

We support our membership who keep the post fun and cheery and the amazing volunteers who show up for all our scheduled, and at times, spontaneous events. It is a great feeling to live in a place where people care for others and work to improve things for everyone. We also even manage to have a bit of fun while we're working to help others.



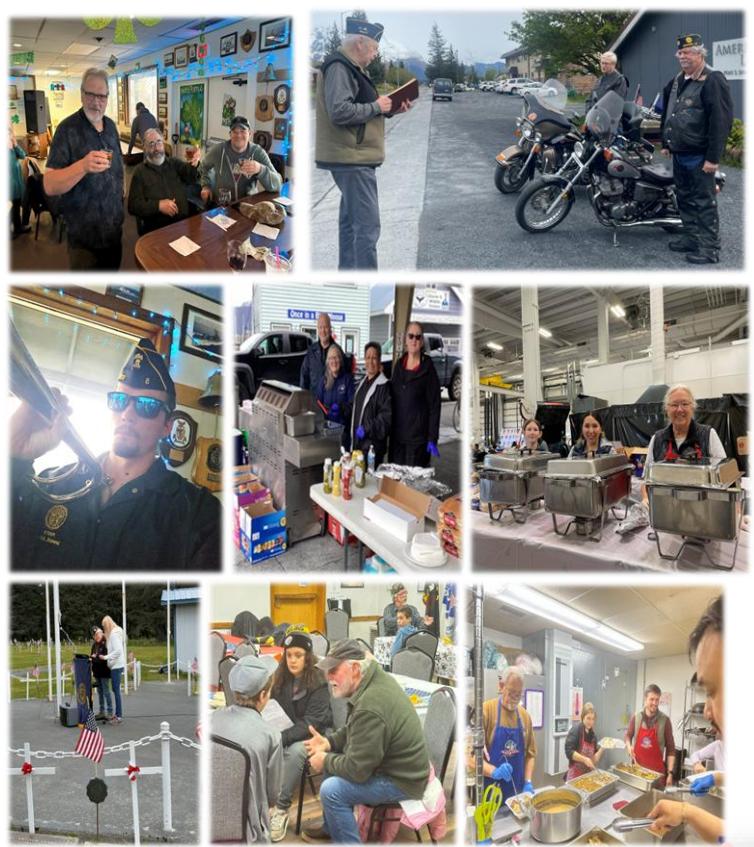
Following that busy start, how can I not mention the fabulous meals provided on a nightly basis throughout the year, plus weekly **Bingo and Jewelry classes, Saturday night Pool League and Sunday night Texas Hold 'em** and the yummy **ALR 2nd Saturday** and the Post's **3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfasts** for our membership and the community.

Ok, onto recounting our year....January 2025, a short two weeks after the new year, we were deep in the **Polar Bear Jump Off Festival** which is always a great event in town, the post and for fundraising for the American Cancer Society. Who can resist Karaoke and Turkey Bowling?!? 😊😊🤣😊😊

We move down the calendar, ticking off the months by celebrating Saint Patrick's Day, Installation Dinner, American Legion Day, Flag Day, our annual ALR Bike Blessing, Armed Forces Day, Armed Forces Combat Fishing Tournament, Memorial Day, Silver Salmon Derby, Commander's Visitation and Dinner, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Unit #5 Santa Parade and gift giving and the USCG Cutter Bailey Barco Christmas Party.... and of course, our community Christmas Dinner! We delivered a lot of cheer with good food and good camaraderie! We'll have some photos from some of these events at the end of the newsletter. We had all of this before we got to our "busy" holiday season!!! 😊



For a small post we accomplish quite a bit, and this is where I chronical and memorialize what we do. So, with that in mind, I would like to highlight some of our events in 2025.... We started out the beginning of 2025, of course, with a New Year's Eve gathering, where we watched the fireworks from the back deck and enjoyed the quietude of the **"Sanctuary of Sanity"** with fine food and drink.



As we started to get into the “ber” months we started in **September**. We celebrated **American Legion Day** and the **Early Bird Dinner** as well as **Constitution and Citizenship Day**, we remembered those lost on **Patriot Day** (9/11/01) and remembered those who fought for our country and never returned on **POW/MIA Recognition Day** on Sept 20th as well as participating in the Community’s Suicide Awareness Day with a yummy cookout!



October brought brisk weather, and we had a great time decorating the post having our **Early Bird Dinner** and enjoying the Fall and all October has to offer including a fun filled Halloween at the post with costumes and homemade goodies galore! 🎃 🎃 🎃



As we started looking toward the cooler weather, we forged ahead in **November** we honored our veterans, on **Veterans Day** with a yummy dinner at the post and we were honored with a Veterans Day visit and elementary school program at both the Post and the Senior Center!



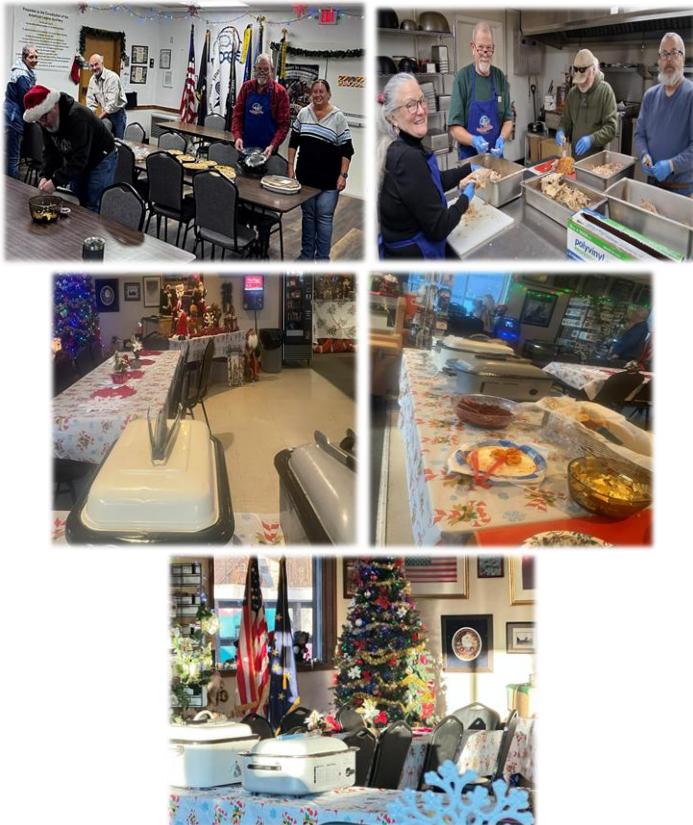
We of course moved right into **Thanksgiving** with our community dinner. The volunteers were “on it” with cooking and decorating for this event! We delivered about 90 dinners to people who were unable to come out and fed 96 at the post. Good times and good food!!!



December brought lots of activities including getting ready for the holidays. We sent out **Operation Apple Pie** packages to our local servicemembers from the Seward and Moose Pass areas and the Auxiliary had their **Christmas with Santa, Mrs. Claus & the elves** on December 13th to run a Christmas Firetruck Parade and pass out lots of wonderful gifts for the children in town. Although it was freezing and the kids rode inside the trucks, it was a fun visit with Santa and the crew!



Christmas Dinner, is a big one for us as we serve our membership and those in town needing a hearty meal. We prepared and delivered 98 meals and fed around 70 or so at the post. Good times and Kudos to "the Crew!"



And, to end the month we make it back to the beginning of this summary! We had a fabulous **New Year's Eve** get together with our membership! We had a good crowd as we rang in the end of an, oh so rewarding end of 2025 and our Post's 106th Birthday!

Thanks all for all you do!!!



Now, I'd like to mention something that is essential to our organization – **Membership**. We often discuss how good it is to have a healthy membership and the reason for that is if we have a good membership then we can help others in our community. We don't spend much time advertising what we do in the community, but with your support and membership you have allowed us to do some good work over the last year. And, as "big ticket items," we as an American Legion Family have donated several thousand dollars in post-secondary scholarships and technical school training. Also, we as an American Legion Family donated to numerous local charities that benefit our veterans and our community. Just know your participation has allowed us to donate around \$90,000+ from all our organizations to our community. Anything you do, whether volunteering, playing pull tabs at the post or at one of our vendors, or coming up for a meal or helping your neighbor, you are contributing to making our post and our town a better place - so thank you for all you do!!!

So..... If you're seeing this and you haven't renewed.... Your membership has expired! Uh oh... get your dues paid and help us reach our 100% goal! 😊

RENEW NOW! 😊

(PLEASE 😊)

Inasmuch as it is 2026, 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 from these 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 here in Seward. It is also a great way to make friends and good connections with quality people who make this community a better place for all to live.

Our American Legion Family has been here for many years (106 years now!!!! 😊) and it has been a solid foundation as a service organization and a good community partner. We're excited to continue in our second century of service. So why don't you check us out and invite others, we're a good place for positive camaraderie for veterans and many folks in Seward. So, if you like what we do, come on down and get more information - we look forward to "seeing you at the Post!"

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival Schedule



American
Cancer
Society

Seward
CHAMBER

Fundraisers support Kenai Peninsula families facing childhood cancer!

JANUARY 16-18TH

FRIDAY

16TH

Steak Night Fundraiser 4:00PM

Friday AND Saturday night at The American Legion. \$25 per person; all are welcome! | 402 Fifth Ave.

Annual Fundraiser Auction at Tony's Bar

- Silent Auction + Live Auction Registration 5:30 - 7:00PM
- Live Auction 7:15PM

Light snacks provided while they last! | 135 Fourth Ave.

DJ Hank Dance Party 9:30PM

Dance party begins when auction ends at Tony's Bar! | 135 Fourth Ave.

SATURDAY

17TH

Jumper Check-In at The Breeze Inn 8:00 - 11:00AM | 1313 Fourth Ave.

Polar Bear Festival Parade 11:30AM - 12:00PM

Starts at The Alaska Sealife Center parking lot (301 Railway Ave.) and ends at the Seward Harbor

The Jump! 12:30 - 1:30PM

Takes place in the Seward Harbor. Proceeds benefitting The American Cancer Society | 1300 Fourth Ave.

Polar Bear Carnival 1:00 - 4:00PM

AVTEC Gym. \$5 Entry Fee and includes 20 free tickets for carnival games! | 519 Fourth Ave.

Frozen Hair & Nails Party 2:00 - 6:00PM

Glitter, hair tinsel, nails and hot cocoa for kids 12 and under! Appointment required, contact Frozen Cactus at (907) 947- 2669 to book your slot. | 227 Fourth Ave.

Turkey Bowling 2:00PM *Weather Permitting!

Join us for frozen turkey bowling, weather permitting at The American Legion! | 402 Fifth Ave.

Polar Bear Jump Awards Ceremony 3:00 - 4:00PM

Awards given to jumpers who raised the most funds + best costumes! Rae Building | 125 Third Ave.

SUNDAY

18TH

Sunrise Luminary at Branson Pavilion 9:00AM

Sunrise luminary honoring those affected by cancer. Dedicate a luminary in honor of a loved one - supplies will be provided; donations accepted on site | Ballaine Blvd. next to waterfront playground



Adjutant & Vice Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

Hope you all had a very merry Christmas and a safe and fun New Year's Eve and Day. 2026 should be another great year as we celebrate our Country's 250th birthday.

Thanks to everyone who dedicated time and effort towards all our activities throughout 2025. There are too many members involved in all our activities for me to mention without forgetting someone, so just know how much we appreciate everyone. We could not accomplish what we do without the great volunteers. The Commander will expand on all the activities so I will not do that here. Whether you volunteer often or just occasionally, we truly appreciate it.



I do want to thank the great Club volunteers that give their time each week to keep the social area running and providing beverage and food service for all of you. Connie, Sharon, Dan, Michelle, Tyna, Suzi, and Charlie all stepped up to keep things running, not only when I was out, but on a daily basis.

Please remember, these folks do not get paid and work for tips only.

This month we will have the ALR breakfast on Jan 10th, the Polar Bear Jump-Off activities on Jan 16-17th, community breakfast on Jan 17th. Let me know if you would like to help with any of these activities.

We have started selling tickets for our next gun raffle which is for a Citadel side by side double barrel 12-gauge shotgun. \$20.00 per ticket with only 120 tickets to be sold and the drawing to be held on January 15th at 7:00pm.

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 new membership year of 2026 is in full swing. Your membership supports all the programs and activities of Post 5 and those of the Department of Alaska and the National Organization. You can renew your membership by going 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.

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.

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year celebration. Time to hit 2026 on the run.

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 Legion family carry out its mission for the veterans and community.

The Squadron's big project this year was to finish the cemetery flag stand with the installation of the flagpole for the **Legion Family flag**. They did a great job and will find another project for 2026.



Squadron 5 members were involved throughout the year with all the Post 5 Family functions and activities. There are way too many volunteers to mention here, I'm sure I'd forget some of you, so just accept my thanks and gratitude for all your volunteer time and effort.

This month the Post will host the ALR breakfast on Jan 10th, Polar Bear Jump-Off activities on Jan 16-17th, and the community breakfast on Jan 18th. If you would like to help with any of these activities, please contact us and we will put you to work.

The new membership year, 2026, is in full swing. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. Dues are \$35.00. You can renew online at mylegion.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.



From the President's Desk...

By Debbie VanTassel

Welcome to the New Year - 2026. Hope it will be joyous and prosperous for everyone. Looking back on 2025 it was a great year for the Auxiliary. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the President of the Auxiliary for the Past year. We have an incredible team of volunteers that always show up to help out with the events and programs. And it has been nice to see some new volunteers show up to help out. Volunteers are what makes the Auxiliary function.



As usual December was a busy month at the Post with the usual events- Bingo everyone Monday night at 6:00PM, members only pool on Saturday nights and members only Texas Hold Em Poker every Sunday night along with the 3rd Sunday breakfast on the 21st.



December 6th with decorating the Post for the Christmas Season and wrapping all the presents for Santa to deliver during the Santa Firetruck Parade and Toys for Tots program. Again, thank you to all the volunteers that came in to help wrap and decorate. The Post looks amazing and very festive for the Holiday season.

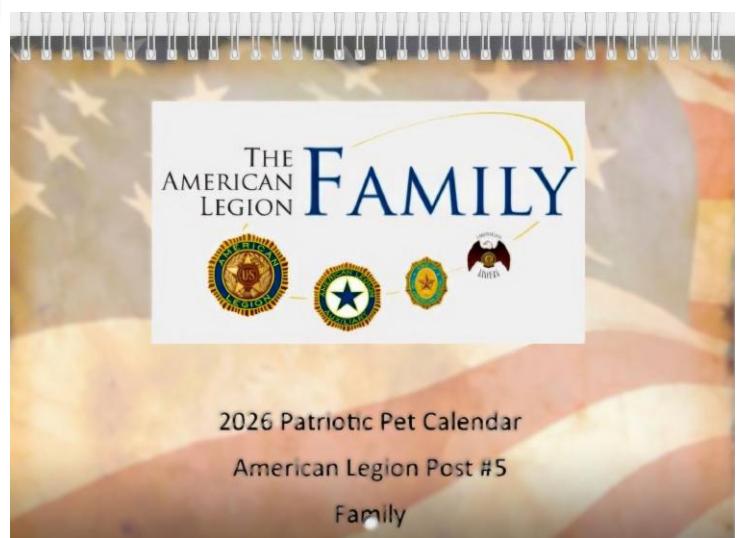


December 13th was chilly and windy for the Santa Firetruck Parade and Toys for Tots. We had to adapt to the wind chill for the Parade, but we still made it happen. A **HUGE** thank you to the Seward Fire Department, the Seward Police Department and the Bear Creek Fire Department for once again bringing the fire trucks out so that the children could ride them around town for the Parade. This year we were not able to put the children on top of the trucks as we have in past years, but instead put them inside the cabs where it was nice and warm.

The Fire Department made 3 trips around the Parade route to make sure all children that wanted to ride the Fire Trucks were able to do so. After the Parade, the children were treated to snacks and then a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus with each child receiving a gift. We had 101 children meet and greet Santa. Thank you to all the volunteers that made it a successful day especially our 3 Junior members who made excellent elves.



The Auxiliary 2026 Pet Calendars are still available! For those that have not seen them, they turned out really good. The calendars list important military dates for your reference.



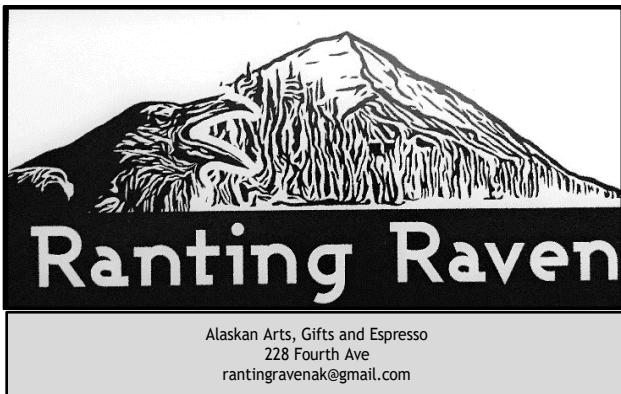
Christmas Day once again saw Post Volunteers step up to prepare and deliver a wonderful holiday meal out to those in the community that were working or could not get out to have a Holiday meal. There were 98 meals delivered and 64 served at the Post.



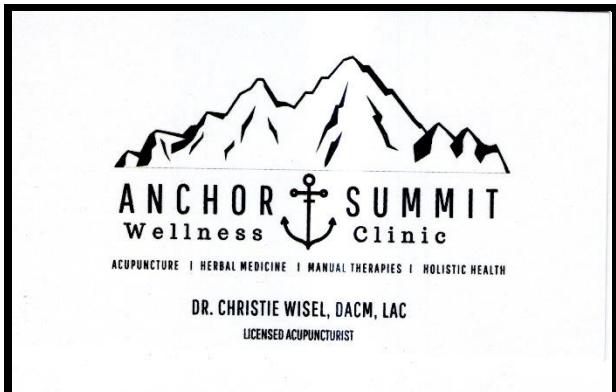
YOUR BUSINESS CARD SIZE AD HERE!



Sam Clemons Jewelry Artist/Owner



Alaskan Arts, Gifts and Espresso
228 Fourth Ave
rantingravenak@gmail.com

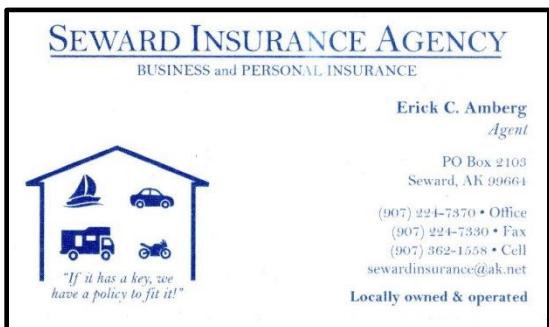


DR. CHRISTIE WISEL, DACM, LAC
LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST

VA Approved Provider



VA Approved Provider

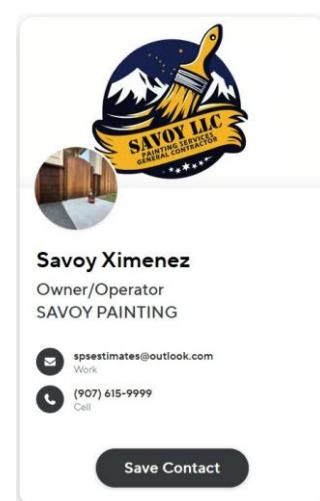


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Fond Memories in 2025



* TROOP 2568 SCOUTS



* SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



* INSTALLATION DINNER

* 4TH OF JULY

* FLAG DAY CEREMONY



* MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



* VETERANS DAY



* WINE TASTING



* COMBAT FISHING BANQUET



* ARMED FORCES DAY



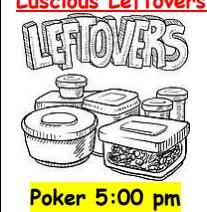
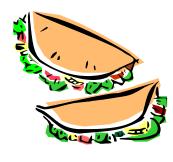
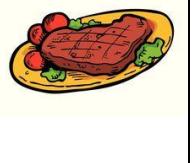
* BLESSING OF THE FLEET

* SEWARD POST #5 106TH BIRTHDAY

**WHAT A YEAR IT WAS AND A BIG THANKS TO ALL OUR
SEWARD POST 5 FAMILY FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!**



January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			31	B,B,M&C 1	Steak Night 2	3
						
4	Chili Dogs	5	Mexican Martes 6	7	B,B,M&C 8	Steak Night 9
			 Post Zoom Meeting with Senator Sullivan	 Jewelry Class 6:00pm		
11	Chili Dogs	12	Mexican Martes 13	14	B,B,M&C 15	Steak Night 16
		 Post Meeting 5:30pm	 Auxiliary Meeting 6pm			Polar Bear Jump-Off
18	Community Breakfast	19	Mexican Martes 20	21	B,B,M&C 22	Steak Night 23
			 Jewelry Class 6:00 pm			
25	Chili Dogs	26	Mexican Martes 27	28	B,B,M&C 29	Steak Night 30
			 Jewelry Class 6:00 pm			
31						

FOOD EVERY NIGHT AT THE POST!!!

