



# VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

## SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026  
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American Legion Seward Post 5

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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

We had a great March with lots of activities! And, as stated nearly every month, year in and year out, busy seems to be a common term for our "normal month!" We have been fortunate that things are running smoothly and that allows us to do "business as usual" - that is, with the strange nearly snowless winter, and it looks like things are warming up, but we're still getting reminded that we live in Alaska! Please let it not be another "False Spring!" - 😊 We're getting into tourist season with more folks coming into town as the visitors' industry is gearing up, so welcome the new faces! Now, onto accounting for the month of March and what we are planning beyond.

We started out early. With the visit of the USCGC Frederick Mann. This vessel will eventually come to Seward as a home port once they finish the dock on the other side of the bay. We are so thrilled to have met this crew and celebrated their visit and promotion party! They had some fun with yummy food and of course, karaoke! Big kudos to the Kitchen Crew and KJ Suzi!!!



Saint Patrick's Day was well attended with lots of good friends, good food and good drink! 😊 That Irish Stew, corned beef and cabbage, Irish Soda Bread and Guinness Cake with Irish Cream Frosting were a sure crowd pleaser and memorable!!!



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 2026-2027 year. We look for some good things to happen in our new year



*Thanks to everyone who made March a huge success!!!*

Thanks especially to our Kitchen Crew for the fabulous Prime Rib, veggies and garlic rice. They were working hard all day putting this amazing meal together. But also, we had a near dessert disaster with no cake!!! We always have cake!!! And so, an emergency call to Safeway in the morning of installation yielded a blanket canvas of cake! What to do?!!?? Fortunately, the artistic skills of one of our amazing Auxiliary members - Carol Souza gave it color and delectable "life!"



I want to thank National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Jim Pisa and Department Administrator Kelly Peterson who drove down from Anchorage to do our installation and share in some fun and good camaraderie with our American Legion Family. We took an innovative approach to getting all our organizations installed, and as crowded as it was, it was huge success and everyone was well fed too! 😊 I want to thank all our volunteers - whether in the kitchen, behind the bar or decorating, you make it happen, as this post is **your "post home"** and we all benefit when we all pitch in. We do make it a "family affair!" You guys rock!!!!

At the same time we were prepping for Installation we had three days with **the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB) competitors** in Seward and as always we give them a hearty start to their day with a yummy breakfast! And huge kudos to all those who got up so early to feed these many competitors at 0600 hours!!



### Post MEMBERSHIP Notes!



It is now April, and we are fully in the 2026 membership year.

"We're in the Hunt," and "danger close" to our membership goal, and for those of you have already renewed, **Thank You** for your renewal and your membership. If you haven't, please consider doing so as we're here to support you and all in our membership and our community.

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 complementary meals whether during the holidays or during the week, or 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; and when you think about it, these kinds of support more than compensates annual dues.

We, at the Seward Post 5 Family, 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. Thanks!!!!

**RENEW ONLINE NOW!**

Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!

Simply visit the web address shown below, and follow the easy instructions. You can renew your membership and even print out a temporary membership card. Quick and secure credit card payment.

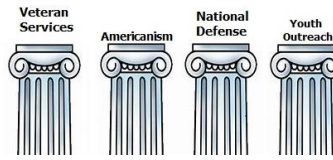
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[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)

# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



As we enter April, I'd like to Remind you 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 - 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 Members of The American Legion Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth have been entrusted with the responsibility of upholding the fourth pillar - the one that braces our nation's veterans by caring for their children, and our nation's children.

The purpose of the committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

## American Legion Post 5 Family Officers for 2026 - 2027

### POST OFFICERS

Commander:	Clare Sullivan
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:	Bobby Dunno
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:	Michael Calhoon
Adjutant/Finance	Michael Calhoon
Service Officer:	David Walker
Judge Advocate:	Dave Squires
Chaplain:	Larry Gentry
Historian:	Dave Johnson
Sgt-at-Arms:	Matt Stanley
Executive Board:	Daniel Oliver
	Bill Chapman



### AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President:	Debbie VanTassel
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Michelle Oliver
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Michael Calhoon
Secretary:	Clare Sullivan
Treasurer:	Tyna Siptrott
Chaplain:	Susie Martin
Historian:	Kathleen Christenson
Executive Board:	Connie Kullander
	Sharon Dillon



### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander:	Mike Mooter
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander & Adjutant:	Michael Calhoon
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:	Scott Wilde
Finance:	Randy Kockritz
Chaplain:	Mike Little
Sgt-at-Arms	Zack Nowicki
Historian:	Tyson Alderman



### 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 New & Returning Officers!!!!**

## 2nd Vice & Adjutant Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

It appears Spring is easing in and we can start planning warmer weather activities to come. Break-up should go fairly quickly as long as I didn't just jinx things.

Thanks to everyone who dedicated time and effort towards our March activities. We hosted the crew of the USCGC Frederick Mann for their "wetting down", we had our regular breakfasts, St Patrick's Day dinner, Officer Installation Dinner, and three breakfasts for the Tsunami Bowl.

As always, I do want to thank the great Club volunteers that give their time each week to keep the social area running while providing beverage and food service for all of you. Please remember, these folks do not get paid and work for tips only.

This month we will have Easter breakfast on April 5th, the ALR breakfast on April 11th, community breakfast on April 19th, and hosting the Marathon Wrestling Club fundraiser on April 21st. Let me know if you would like to help with any of these activities.

We have started selling tickets for the SAL Squadron 5 Charbroil 4 burner propane grill raffle. The tickets are \$10.00 each with only 100 tickets to be sold. The drawing will be held on April 24th at 7:00pm.

The Post held elections for Post officers and the results are listed in the Post Commander's comments.

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.

Join or Renew  
your membership

You can renew your membership by going to [mylegion.org](http://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.

Looks like Spring is upon us, at least it is teasing us about its arrival. Let's hope it holds.

Remember, as we roll through early 2026 your continued support of our Legion Family here at Post 5 is needed and appreciated. The support you provide is very important in helping the Legion family carry out its mission for our veterans and community.

Squadron 5 members continue to be involved with all the Post 5 Family functions and activities. Thank you for everything you do on a daily basis.

This month the Post will host the Easter breakfast on April 5th, the ALR breakfast on April 11th, the community breakfast on April 19th, and the Marathon Wrestling Club fundraiser on April 21st. 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 yet renewed, please consider doing so. Dues are \$35.00. You can renew online at [mySAL.org](http://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.

**Squadron 5 is running a raffle to win a Charbroil 4 burner propane grill. The tickets are \$10.00 each with only 100 tickets to be sold. The drawing will be held on April 24th.**

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

The Squadron held its elections for the Board Officers at the monthly meeting. The results are listed in the Post Commander's comments.

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.



### *Children and Youth Programs Con't from pg 3*

In the years after the American Legion's founding, members realized that neglect of family and child welfare problems affected disabled veterans' rehabilitation. Following a year of careful study, the organization adopted the American Legion Child Welfare program in 1924.

Established a year later, in 1925, the American Legion National Child Welfare Division put forward the "*Whole Child*" Plan, stating that the child of every veteran "should have a home ... health, education, character, and opportunity." The three principles found in Resolution No. 199 (Fall 1951) titled, "Re-Emphasize Three Major Principles of Child Welfare Programs of The American Legion," are:

- ✚ **Strengthen the family unit against the forces of a more complex society.** The American Legion recognizes that the optimal environment for children is at home with his or her own parents. Our efforts have always been directed toward keeping the family together.
- ✚ **Extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth.** The American Legion always acts in a supplementary capacity rather than duplicating the efforts of existing agencies.
- ✚ **Maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people.** This third principle provides elasticity to address all matters of child health and child welfare; and affirms The American Legion's commitment to all children.

While these principles are the heart of the "Whole Child" Plan, four methods are the muscle: **Education, Legislation, Material Aid and Prevention.** Further information can be found in the Children and Youth Department Program Guide.

In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis.

Over the decades, the development of new and improved public programs to provide economic security for children has made it possible for the Legion to focus on other problem areas. To date, no area of child welfare has gone untouched by the collective hand of The American Legion. The very program of Children & Youth itself is unique from any agency, governmental or private, in its ability to expand from every area of concern for child welfare and health.

**Temporary Financial Assistance** - Through TFA, an American Legion post can call upon the national organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of children of active-duty servicemembers or American Legion members. Non-

repayable grants are awarded to eligible families with a child in need when all other resources have been exhausted.

**Child Safety** - The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth believes that child safety is everyone's concern. Prevention through education remains the best way to keep children safe. To promote child safety, The American Legion publishes several useful brochures to educate children and parents and supports numerous national initiatives to keep children safe. Areas covered include: Child pornography • Drug abuse prevention • Drug trafficking • Alcohol abuse prevention • Child/sexual abuse and neglect • Teen suicide prevention

**Child Health** - the American Legion Child Health efforts on encouraging families to ensure children and youth are current with necessary vaccines and health concerns including: • Immunization programs • School nutrition programs • Teen pregnancy prevention programs

**Family Support** - The American Legion recognizes that families of active-duty and deployed military personnel face unique difficulties and hardships. With the help of the Family Support Network, these families do not have to shoulder this burden alone. They can connect with American Legion Family members by requesting assistance through the nationwide toll-free number or electronic application. Legionnaires at the post level then provide assistance such as performing minor household chores and repairs, completing a Temporary Financial Assistance application and connecting the family with local programs, this program which includes TFA focuses on the total family of active-duty military member and includes: National Family Week activities • Day care safety • Foster care • Missing and Exploited Children Awareness

**Child Well-Being Foundation** - The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation (formerly called the Child Welfare Foundation) accomplishes their goals each year by awarding grants to nonprofit youth-serving organizations for disseminating information that conforms to the foundation's purpose. Since 1954, more than \$17 million has been granted to help deserving organizations produce and distribute current and valuable information.

**Veterans and Children Foundation** - The purpose is twofold: to fund service officer training and provide free assistance for disabled veterans and to extend a financial safety net for needy military and veteran families with children.

 AMERICAN  
LEGION

Child Well-being  
Foundation

## From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel



With the arrival of April, it means that we had election of Unit 5 Officers for the year 2026-2027. Installation Ceremony was held on March 27<sup>th</sup> with Jim Pisa from Post 35 in Wasilla as the installing officer. Congratulations to the officers elected to serve for the upcoming year.

President- Debbie Van Tassel, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice- Michelle Oliver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Mike Calhoon, Secretary- Clare Sullivan, Treasurer- Tyna Siptrott, Chaplain- Susie Martin, Historian- Kathleen Christianson, E-Board- Connie Kullander and Sharon Dillon.

A special thank you to Jr. Auxiliary member Iris Crocker and her dad Taylor Crocker for remembering our POW/MIA Veterans with the POW/MIA Ceremony. This is always a moving memorial to those who are still missing in action or prisoners of war and cannot be present with us at these events.



Thank you to outgoing officer: LaNno Settles- E Board and Randy Kockritz- Sgt at Arms.

Before moving into the April events, the Post family ended March on a high note by hosting the participants in the National Ocean Science Bowl to breakfast during the competition. Thank you to Kathleen Christianson, Shannon Thorne, Dave Squires, Mike Calhoon and Debbie Van Tassel for helping out with this annual program. On Sunday, the students presented us with a Thank you Poster.



Department Convention will be held April 22-25, in Wasilla, AK at Post #35. Susie Martin, Kathleen Christianson and Debbie Van Tassel will be attending from Unit 5. Also attending as dual members will be Clare Sullivan and Randy Kockritz.

Congratulations to Clare Sullivan, she was selected Seward Unit #5 Member of the year. Clare was recognized for her continued contributions to the Post 5 family, her involvement in Community by serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the food bank and especially for her unwavering support of Veterans. Seward Unit 5 forwarded her nomination to the Department of Alaska for consideration as Department of Alaska Member of the Year.

Hopefully by the time Convention arrives- the Unit will achieve 100% for membership-If you have not renewed for the current year, this is a friendly reminder to send in those membership renewals!

**Scholarship applications** are available for graduating seniors. The applications were delivered to the High School and AVTEC. If you know of any deserving students make certain they submit an application by May 1<sup>st</sup> so they can be considered.

Remember Bingo is every Monday night. Doors open at 6 PM and games start promptly at 630 PM. Thank you to the volunteers who make this happen on a weekly basis. In April, the Post will host 3 different breakfasts. April 5<sup>th</sup> will be Easter Breakfast, April 11<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month breakfast provided by the ALR and last but certainly not least is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday breakfast on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Come on down to the Post and enjoy these great meals prepared by the awesome volunteers.

### Other Important Dates in April

April 5- Gold Star spouses Day

April 9- National Former POW Recognition Day

April 14- Air Force Reserve Birthday

April 23- Purple Up Day for Military Children- Wear purple to show support and thank the Military Children for their strength and sacrifices they endure while their parents are serving our country. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported. Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all are thought to combine together as a single color, purple.

April 23- Army Reserve Birthday

April 30- National Military Brats Day

The entire month of April is Month of the Military Child. April is designated as Month of the Military Child - a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas.

May is just around the corner and tends to be one of the busiest months for the Post. Stay tuned in for more information on opportunities to volunteer and become active in the Post and Unit.

MEMBER BUSINESS ADVERTISING

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 adventure60.com  
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 Seward, Alaska 99664

**BRASS BONES**  
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Erick C. Amberg  
 Agent

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**APRIL 2026**


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	B, B, M&C 2	Steak Night 3	4
			Jewelry Class 6:00 pm 	American Legion Riders Meeting 5:30 pm  Igloo #9 Monthly Meeting 6:30pm		Pool League 7:00pm 
5	Chili Dogs 6	Taco Tuesday 7	8	B, B, M&C 9	Steak Night 10	11
Easter Community Breakfast 9:00 -11:00am  Poker 5:00 pm Luscious Leftovers	Bingo 6:30 pm 		Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	SAL Meeting 7:00pm 		Pool League 7:00pm  ALR Breakfast 9-11am
12	Chili Dogs 13	Taco Tuesday 14	15	B, B, M&C 16	Steak Night 17	18
Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 	 Post Meeting 5:30 pm	 Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	Mac & Cheese 		Pool League 7:00pm 
19	Chili Dogs 20	Taco Tuesday 21	22	B, B, M&C 23	Steak Night 24	25
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast 9-11am Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 	Marathon Wrestling Fundraiser Auction	Jewelry Class 6:00 pm 			Pool League 7:00pm 
26	Chili Dogs 27	Taco Tuesday 28	29	B, B, M&C 30		
Luscious Leftovers  Poker 5:00 pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 		 Jewelry Class 6:00 pm			

**April is Children and Youth Month**

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