

# Veterans Strengthening America

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

October 2025  
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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

We've rolled into a wonderful Fall Season, and I can't complain about the summer either; overall we've had some great weather and saw many of our out-of-town members during this busy season. We had a great time meeting and re-connecting with other veterans from all over the country in our "social area." It was a lot of fun!

As the season has dwindled down to our "normal" pace, most of our members who survive on summer tourist businesses did great, as it was a busy summer, but I think they are very happy the season is over as it was a bit taxing keeping people happy!

As of this writing, I haven't seen any Termination Dust on Mount Marathon, maybe it's a sign of a "kinder and gentler" winter to come... 😊 (yeah, right... 😊)!

With the cooler weather we'll ease back into our winter activities, and we'll continue our fundraising events for our veteran and youth programs. And to start our Fall activities, we will have a tasty **Early Bird Dinner**, this Saturday October 4th. I am sure we will have a tasty dinner with a "bird" theme as it is an early bird dinner! 😊 As most our meals are for "donation only" it will be a special one for our members who recognize the value of early renewing! We've also started our Winter fun with Poker, Pool League, Jewelry and of course Bingo is going strong, and who knows what else will crop up!!!! 😊

The cooler months are a welcome and we've had some amazing aurora shows already to welcome us back to the cooler, quieter and most welcome calming times and reminds us why we live where we do.



Veterans' Day is right around the corner, followed by Thanksgiving to get us going into the Holiday Spirit. The Auxiliary will also be working toward hosting Santa and Mrs.

Claus in early December when they come to town and then give out gifts to all the kids who come and brave the elements to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and an elf or two! 😊

This month, in addition to the Early Bird dinner we will of course, get our post ready for the scary Halloween events in town which includes "Trunk or Treat" for the kids at the Military Resort, and it is open to all kids. We also have our ALR breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, the post breakfast is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, and for those who are interested in learning more about the Legion and its programs, the Fall Conference is at Post 57 in Fairbanks, October 17-19. We of course, will still have our nightly activities in the "social area" including good food and drink.



The post will also be starting to get the packages organized for our yearly **"Operation Apple Pie"** where we send out gift and care packages to our young service men and women from Seward who are serving our country and who are away from home. We like to let them know we're thinking of them and want to send them a reminder that we appreciate what they are doing for this great country by comforting and reminding them of home.

On **14 October** during our post meeting at 5:30pm, we will be having a presentation by the **Seward Education Advocates**. This group is a grassroots organization formed to advocate for increased educational opportunities in Seward. The stated mission is: **Advancing educational excellence in the Seward area through community collaboration, educator support, and place-based, culturally relevant learning opportunities.**

Their intent during this presentation is to raise awareness of the state of the schools locally and statewide and are looking for ways to collaborate with the community to enhance the opportunities Seward students have by providing more place-based educational opportunities. They are trying to reach out to all the non-profits and organizations to both provide information from the front lines of what is happening in the schools with continued budget uncertainty, and to seek input from the community on ways we can take some control of what is happening locally. They are looking to add to the group of advocates for Seward schools.

All members of our American Legion Family are encouraged and invited to attend this presentation.

## From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel



Fall has certainly had a beautiful start with the leaves changing, some awesome Aurora viewings and crisp cool mornings and the ability to slow down a little after the hectic summer months. Hope everyone is enjoying some of this beautiful fall weather- we know the white stuff and cold is coming soon.

October 4th, the Post will be hosting the Early Bird dinner. If you have not already renewed your membership for 2026 now is the time so you can partake in a wonderful dinner prepared by our fabulous Legion family volunteers. As I have commented numerous times, we would not be able to do any of the things we do without the help and support from our volunteers. These volunteers give thousands of hours of volunteer work to make the Post family projects a success. Thank you to all the volunteers!

October 17-19 is the annual **Fall Conference** being held at C. Russell Huber Post 57 in Fairbanks. This fall meeting is a great time to go meet others from around the state and learn about the mission and goals of the Auxiliary.

Another great resource is the American Legion Auxiliary website: <https://www.legion-aux.org>. This website has a wealth of information about the Auxiliary, who we are, how we serve, scholarships, upcoming events and how you can get involved. I encourage you during the slower winter months to use the websites and resources to learn more about the Auxiliary.

The **ALA Academy** is also a great way to learn about the Auxiliary. It is a self-paced online training program that you can do through the website. If you are interested in learning more about the Auxiliary, what we do or how you can become more involved these are some great resources.

Also, as we enter the fall months, a friendly reminder to get out and vote! Regardless of whether it is a city election, borough election, state or national election- it is important for you to vote. You may not think that your one vote matters much but if 600,000 or 1,000,000 people feel that same way it does make a difference, and you need to do your part in having your voice heard. If you won't be here on election day- you still have many options, you can apply for an absentee ballot, you can vote in person during early voting periods or you can vote on election day. The important thing is get out and VOTE.

**your VOTE  
is your VOICE**

As always, the Auxiliary will be hosting Bingo every Monday night. Doors open at 6 PM and games start promptly at 6:30. As we settle into the fall/winter, the members Pool League has started up again every Saturday night. Sunday night at 5 PM is the members only Texas Hold Em Poker game. These activities are a great way to get out of the house and enjoy and evening of comradery with other Legion Family members.



Mark your calendars for December 13. The Auxiliary will once again host the Santa Firetruck Parade and Toys for Tots program.

In the next couple of months there will be multiple opportunities for you to volunteer. From helping with breakfast, helping with Bingo, helping with the Santa parade or helping out with any of the Legion events, it is a great way to get out of the house during the cold dark winter months.

### Important Dates in October

**October** - Breast Cancer Awareness Month. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and like many such observances, military bases at home and overseas play host to a variety of events, activities, and awareness campaigns to fight breast cancer. VA efforts include articles and micro-sites at the VA official site promoting early detection and providing resource links to government sites such as the Centers for Disease Control and Cancer.gov.

**October 1-** Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is the day of atonement following the Jewish New Year, [Rosh Hashanah](#). It involves followers of the Jewish faith asking God to forgive their sins.

**October 13-** U.S. Navy Birthday. The US Navy was established on Oct 13, 1775 and was originally called the Continental Navy. It was a small fleet of ships with its main purpose to intercept ships sent to resupply the British forces.

**October 26-** Day of the Deployed is a day to honor our deployed troops and their families for their bravery and the sacrifices they are making for our country.

**October 31-** Halloween! Hope everyone has a Happy Halloween and don't run into too many ghosts and goblins!



## 2nd Vice & "Adj" Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant.

The Fall season is here, and Seward is quieting down a bit. Time to finish up those outdoor projects and get ready for the cooler weather.

Thanks to everyone who dedicated time and effort towards our September activities. We could not accomplish what we do without the great volunteers. Whether you volunteer often or just occasionally, we truly appreciate it.

I want to thank the great Club volunteers that all stepped up and worked overtime while I was on vacation. **Connie, Sharon, Dan, Michelle and Tyna** helped keep the Club running smoothly with food and beverage service. **Please remember, these folks do not get paid and work for tips only.** Also, a big shout out to **Susie Martin and Randy Kockritz** for taking on the food preparation for the **Suicide Prevention Walk**.

THANK  
YOU!

This month we will have the Early Bird Dinner on October 4<sup>th</sup>, ALR breakfast on October 11<sup>th</sup> and the community breakfast on October 19<sup>th</sup>. As other activities come up, we will let you know.

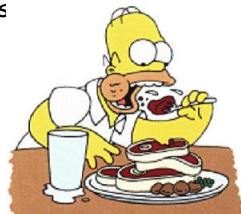


Saturday pool league and Sunday poker have begun so check out the calendar for the dates and remember, these are members only activities.



We will be starting another gun raffle early this month so watch for the start of ticket sales

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 has begun. 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](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

The visitor season has been winding down and town is getting back to normal. Time to get ready for winter and the holiday season. 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.

Our great SAL volunteers continue to support the goals and mission of SAL Squadron 5. I want to thank the Squadron members that helped with the ALR breakfast and Randy Kockritz for his help with the Suicide Prevention Walk.

This month the Post will host the Early Bird Dinner on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the ALR breakfast on October 11<sup>th</sup>, and the community breakfast on October 19<sup>th</sup>. If you want to help with any of these activities, please let us know and we will gladly put you to work.

The new membership year, 2026, has begun. 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.

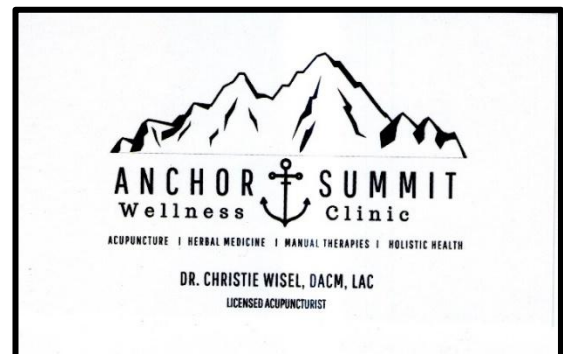
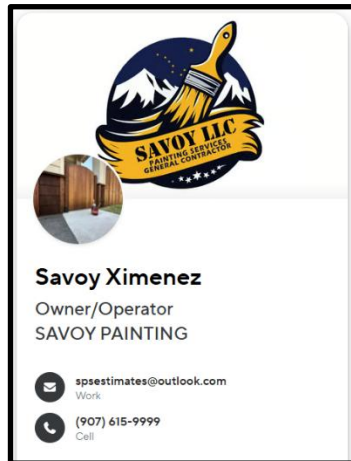
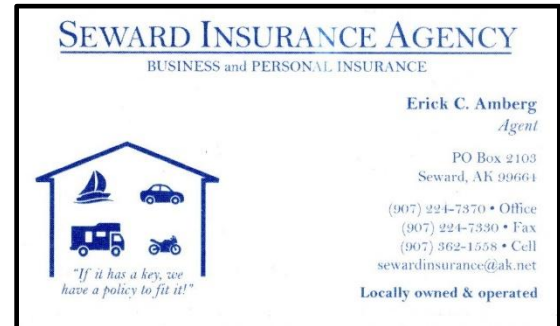
JOIN OR  
**RENEW**  
TODAY

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.

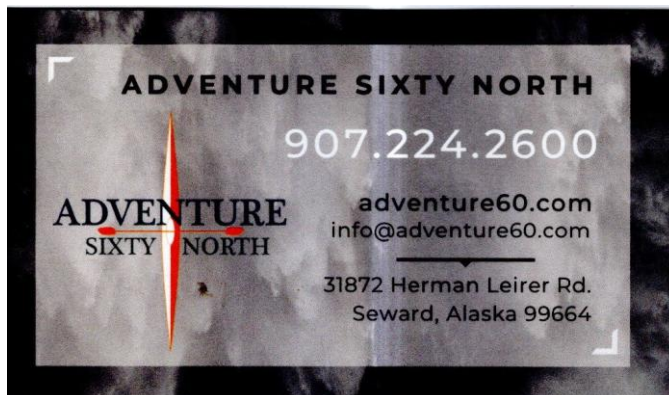




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October 2025



| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                                | TUESDAY                     | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY         | SATURDAY  |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------|---|
|   |                                       |                             | 1  | 2  | Steak Night 3  | Early Bird Dinner4  |
|   |                                       |                             | Jewelry Class<br>6:00 pm<br>                             | B,B,M&C<br><br>ALR Meeting<br>5:30pm<br>Pioneers Meeting<br>6:30pm |                | Pool League<br>7:00 pm<br><br>Halloween Decorating at<br>the Post 12pm                  |
| 5   | 6                                     | Mexican Martes 7            | 8  | 9  | Steak Night 10 | 11  |
| Luscious<br>Leftovers<br><br>Texas Hold'em Poker<br>5:00 pm   | BINGO 6:30PM<br><br>Chili Dogs        | Voting Day in<br>Seward<br> | Auxiliary<br>Meeting 6pm<br><br>Jewelry Class<br>6:00 pm | SAL Meeting<br>7pm<br><br>B,B,M&C                                  |                | Halloween Decorating at<br>the Post 12pm<br><br>Pool League<br>7:00 pm<br>ALR Breakfast |
| 12  | 13                                    | Mexican Martes 14           | 15   | 16   | Steak Night 17 | 18  |
| Luscious Leftovers<br><br>Texas Hold'em Poker<br>5:00 pm  | BINGO!!! 6:30PM<br><br>Chili Dogs     | Post Meeting<br>5:30 pm<br> | Jewelry Class<br>6:00 pm<br>                             | B,B,M&C<br>  |                | Halloween Decorating at<br>the Post 12pm<br><br>Pool League<br>7:00pm                   |
| 19  | 20                                    | Mexican Martes 21           | 22   | 23   | Steak Night 24 | 25  |
| Luscious<br>Leftovers<br><br>3rd Sunday of the<br>Month Breakfast<br>Texas Hold'em Poker<br>5:00 pm | BINGO!!!!<br>6:30PM<br><br>Chili Dogs |                             | Jewelry Class<br>6:00 pm<br>                             | <br>B,B,M&C  |                | Halloween Decorating at<br>the Post 12pm<br><br>Pool League<br>7:00 pm                  |
| 26  | 27                                    | Mexican Martes 28           | 29   | 30   | Halloween 31   |   |
| Luscious<br>Leftovers<br><br>Texas Hold'em Poker<br>5:00 pm   | BINGO!!! 6:30PM<br><br>Chili Dogs     |                             | Jewelry Class<br>6:00 pm<br>                             | <br>B,B,M&C  |                |   |



Food Every Night at the Post