Another successful year for Boys State. With only 24 young men attending this year, there is ample room for additions however, at the opening of the Department Convention in April there were only 9 registered at that time. For those of you who have not been involved with Boys State, if nothing more, you should take a few minutes and see what is involved for these young men during their adventure. One of the main events is the Retirement Ceremonies for the Colors, even Susitna Valley Post 35 provided a Color Guard.

Evidently there has been some interest in reinstating the former “Zone 1” breakfast for those in the Anchorage bowl area. One suggestion was maybe having it every other month rather than every month and hopefully there would be more in attendance and some new faces. Of course the first item would be to see if the Posts in the area are agreeable to this. Your comments are welcome.

The American Legion Riders are off to a good start this year with a “ROMP” up the road to the Fairbanks area.

June 30 is the end of our (Department) fiscal year. This means closing everything out, waiting for final reports from our programs, i.e. Sons of The American Legion, Boys State, American Legion Riders, etc., compiling all necessary reports, registering the attendees for the National Convention, and working out the Commander’s travel schedule for his visitations. In addition we will receive our final membership goal from National 30 days prior to the National Convention. You can see it is “hurry up and wait”. 1 Adjuntant Cont on Page 2
### THE ALASKA LEGIONNAIRE

**June/August 2013**

**THE ALASKA LEGIONNAIRE**

**OFFICIAL BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF The American Legion, Department of Alaska 1550 Charter Circle Anchorage, Alaska 99508 Member of The National American Legion Press Association W.E. "Gene" Franks, Managing Editor Peggy S. Bateman, Editor**

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**Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Alaska Legionnaire, 1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

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### DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2012-2013

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**From the Desk of the Second Vice Commander**

By Bob Edwards

**2nd Vice Commander**

I would like to thank everyone for supporting me in the election for the office of Second Vice Commander for the Department of Alaska at the 2013-14 convention in April.

I had the pleasure of greeting a group of American Legion Riders on Flag Day, June 14 in my hometown of Delta Junction.

As we look forward to the Fourth of July holiday and all the fun activities such as picnics and parades, take a few moments to remember why we celebrate the day.

July 4, 1776 was the date the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress, although we had been fighting the British for more than a year.

The Declaration signers risked being hung for treason. The long war that followed secured our freedom. We should never take these sacrifices for granted.

Always keep our veterans in mind no matter what conflict or era they served in. They made our country what it is today.

---

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Using this form, provide new address, attach entire address label from recent paper, and mail to:

**Alaska Legionnaire**

1550 Charter Circle

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**Name**

**New Address**

City, State, Zip

***Attach Old Address Label Here***

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### Adjoint Cont from Page 1

know you won’t believe this, but we do have a few folk that say, why should I send it in, it is not due until next month.

Although your Post does not have their membership goals as of yet, don’t let this hinder you from renewing your membership.

**HAVE A SAFE, SANE, AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES COAST GUARD 4 AUGUST 1790**

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### Adjoint Cont from Page 1

who will be the next champion to go on and play in the Northwestern Finals?? So if you are interested and have the time to go to a game or two and watch how each team advances to the finals, this would be a great way to show your support for your team or that member of your family playing on that team and cheer them on. Heck if anything, go out and enjoy the summer weather and visit with the other legion families.

Well I do hope that every post is keeping track of the time, because soon it will be that time of the year for the 4th of July parades and other local festivities in which some of us participate with a Color Guard and Rifle Team. Log your numbers down for the next 2013-2014 Consolidated Post reports and try to have them returned on time for that Vice Commander to do his reports so any, and all deserving post receives awards. I am sure that all of our post has completed and sent them in to the Department office.

Well right after July some of us will have to start gearing up for the upcoming 2013 American Legion National Convention which will be conducted in Houston, Texas. I hear that it will be hot weather there so I hope that our Alaska summer will give us a little pre-conditioning sun tan for those who will be attending. If you have never been to a Legion National Convention, it is one that you should experience at least once. It is an eye opener and gives a lot of detailed information on what the American Legion Family does on a national scale, and to see all of the attending members and hear the speeches and reports from the Stage, it is really mind boggling.

So sooner as I return to Alaska, I am sure that I will be on my way to make some of the visitation request at one post or another. I am sure that in the time between now and then we will continue to do our steady form of operation, as in looking for new members and keep doing what we do best. Supporting the American Legion Foundation, Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security which are the Four Pillar in which the American Legion is built on and each of us is charged to uphold. So until I have a chance to talk with you, may each of you have a safe and terrific summer and a fun time enjoying our Great State of Alaska.
Happy 4th of July to all American Legion family. I hope everyone has a safe and great weekend.

The month of July brings our Great Alaskan 100% membership race to the starting line. This will be the warm up lap (month) to see how our well-tuned membership team is going to run. If you are wondering who the membership team is, “It’s You.” Our team consists of “593+” members, that’s right each and every one of you is a recruiter. Just think if everyone signed up one new member our total membership in the Department of Alaska would be 11,586 members. By now your Post Adjutant should have the 2014 membership cards on hand. If not it’s probably because they have not sent in your Post Certification of Officers. Be an Early Bird and renew your membership now. Remember our goal is to finish in the “TOP 10” National Departments.

I would like to take this time to say thanks to all the Post that achieved 100% membership for 2012 - 2013. There were many Posts that were very close to reaching the ultimate goal, and I’m hoping for a stronger run in the 2013 - 2014 race. Remember that membership in The American Legion. If you have a son, daughter, niece, nephew, family member or neighbor who is eligible, sign them up. It makes a great gift for any occasion and makes them a member of the World’s Largest Veterans Organization. If you are unsure of the eligibility dates check the back of your membership card.

We only need 139 to reach 100% for 2012-2013 year. If you haven’t paid your 2013 dues yet please do so, you can go to http://www.legion.org/renew and pay on line. Remember: It’s not the price you pay to join, it’s the price you pay to be eligible.

Baseball News

By Van Williams
Alliance Media Coordinator

Johnny Meszaros of Anchorage drafted by MLB’s Tampa Bay Rays

The Major League Baseball draft is based mostly on potential and Anchorage’s Johnny Meszaros looks to be the complete package. The 6-foot-3, 215-pound 18-year-old right-handed pitcher was picked by the Tampa Bay Rays in the 39th round of the first-year player draft. He was the only Alaska player drafted this year.

“ Feel really good,” he said. “It’s been cool, especially since I’ve never been drafted before … definitely different. It’s nice to know you have professional potential and they see something in you.”

Meszaros said his fastball has been clocked at 88 to 92 mph. The Service High all-conference pitcher has been lights-out in his past two starts, throwing 13 scoreless innings while striking out 27. He threw a 1-hitter with 17 Ks to clinch the CityC pennant for the Cougars. Scouts like his size, his mechanics and his fastball.

“They say I have a good frame and a good, clean arm action,” he said. “They say I have a lot more in the tank.”

Meszaros has committed to Central Arizona to play college baseball this fall. It was in Arizona where he made his name when he played with a Canadian travel team in the spring and faced professional hitters. He also pitched well in the prestigious Area Codes.

Since then he’s been a different pitcher.

“Actually something just clicked,” he said. “When I got back from Area Codes, it was a big eye-opener for me. It was huge. They just threw me into that situation and it just opened my eyes. It was like, ‘This is what I hate to do to get to these guys’ level. Let’s do it.’

“I’m here now.”

Meszaros will play this summer in the Alaska Baseball League with the Mat-Su Miners. The Alliance for Support of American Legion Baseball in Alaska is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of players, teams and coaches in the state.

5th Annual Wiseman Arctic Fest
July 6th, 2013
Music, Food, Beverages, Tent Space
Bring Your Musical Instruments and Play Along!
All People, Kids and Pets Welcome

Annual Meeting of American Legion Post #9
To be Held Around Noon
For Information - 907-322-8870
Donations Graciously Accepted

Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508 or call (907) 278-8598 or email us at legion@anch.net. Please request a return receipt for any emails you send to us, in order to verify that it was received.
Let us recall a scene from the Constitutional Convention that met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1787. Benjamin Franklin, the oldest member of the group, was making one of the greatest speeches of his lifetime. He was saying, “I have lived sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth; that God governs in the affairs of men...We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that ‘except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that built it’.” “I firmly believe this,” said Franklin, “and also I believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.” It is this same observation that has caused the great American Legion to reemphasize the spiritual foundations upon which our Nation rests. For this is the day when Americans must be spiritually strong, if America is to live. It is the aim and objective of this American Legion program, : Service to God and Country,” to bring God to the foreground in American life, not merely the religious life, but the social, economical and political life as well. God is an essential

By Tim Clarke
Department Chaplain

Harold Bacon Post 11
William Barry Post 7
John Sullivan Post 33
Joyce Eischen Post 75

Gibson Hocker Post 77
D. Kimbrell Post 20
Edward Martin Post 75
Ronald Peltellet Post 11

Lawrence Rogers Post 16
David Smith Post 35
Rudd Smith Post 3
Lorne Strom Post 2

It took a while but we are riding in the warm sunshine of the Alaska Summer! God blessed us with these glorious days and it was great to get out and enjoy all the activities that go with it. Some American Legion Riders representing Post 5, 30 and 35 made the Memorial Day Weekend Ride to Trapper Creek and Beyer’s Lake for the Memorial Days activities at the Alaska State War Memorial. The weather was warm and road conditions were perfect, with not a cloud in the sky. Denali was out for all to see. To say we had an enjoyable ride over the weekend would be like saying fish enjoy the water. It would be great if the American Legion Riders could increase our presence at this ceremony but with many Legionnaire’s having Memorial Day responsibilities at their Post make this a difficult expectation to meet. The Memorial Day ceremonies were outstanding as usual with an estimated 195 bikes making the trip and participating in the ride to the memorial. Lisa Morkowski was once again the guest speaker and this time she participated in the Flag Ceremony also. The somber ceremony of remembrance ended with the laying of wreaths and we placed three wreaths one for the Alaska ALR and others for the Legion Riders of Post 5 and 30. With no local Post to gather at we rode to Talkeetna and visited the local VFW. Memorial Day was spent packing and saying goodbye to ALR Members from around the state and we all rode off toward our separate towns and homes knowing we will see each other soon and the ALR R.O.M.P. 1st Annual American Legion Riders R.O.M.P. (Riders On motorcycles Parade) was held on the 14-16 of June and hosted by Post 30 in North Pole. Just to bring everyone up to date the R.O.M.P. came about replacing the Annual A.L.R Convention held every June since the ALR now participates with the rest of the Legion Family at the Department Convention held in April. Many of us took advantage of the ride that far North to “do the loop” and then there was the Parks Highway but returning by the Richardson Highway. Once again the weather was incredible. Let me say Lisa, Vicki, Darren, Russ along with everyone else in the Legion Family in North Pole did an excellent job playing host, organizing and making everyone feel at home. I felt so comfortable there were a few people actually came up and ask me questions about the area I had no hope in answering. “Vicki’s Mom” and gang served an awesome Steak and Crab cookout and it was meal that will set a standard for all the future Post’s that hope to host the Legion Riders R.O.M.P. Shelly and George the two lovely ladies who were running the club all weekend were priceless and always seemed to be in constant motion. I have rarely seen two people busier and seemingly happy too that day.

The rides and bike games were fun and the ice cream was way too tasty. Getting excited at seeing bugs crash themselves against my windshield was never something I thought I would do. The ride and meal in Chatanika was the true highlight of the weekend and the Folks at the lodge were Awesome! The greatest thing that came from the R.O.M.P. and what should be the main focus of all Alaska’s American Legion Riders is the funds raised for the The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, a fund that ensures children of veterans of their service on the war with secondary education.

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Boys State News
By Bill Jacobi, Director

Alaska Boys State for 2013 was held at Meier Lake Conference Center June 8-14, 2013. The week actually began Friday afternoon, June 7, at SAM’s where Bill met Kevin and Chef Sue to get groceries for the week. After a couple more stops we ended up at the lake to unload and put groceries away. Saturday morning after picking up Jacob at the airport and running errands we headed to Wasilla. By 1 PM other staff members arrived and we got ready for the Boys State Citizens to arrive. By dinner time all had made it to the camp and the week began.

The week went well and the boys were really getting into their tasks at hand; elect city officials, organize their parties, organize the House and Senate. Austin J Ramsay (Ketchikan High) was elected Speaker of the House and Jacob RW Guenther (Ketchikan High) was elected President of the Senate. After the Primary Election the stage was set for the General Election on Friday. Final results of the election was announced at the Graduation Ceremony with the following results: Governor Taylor D Holthouse (Eagle River High), Lt. Governor Nels Ure (Kodiak High), U.S. Senators Christian Boleter (Chugiak High) and Samuel Erickson (Eagle River High), U.S. Representative Benjamin Jungries (West High), Attorney General Layne M MacClarence (Palmer High), Adjutant General Edson J Tung (Dimond High), and Chief Justice Ethan Fuller (Home School). The Josh Boycott Scholarship was awarded to Edson J Tung and the SAMSUNG Scholarship was awarded to Kelsey P Nore (North Pole). Samuel Erickson and Taylor D Holthouse were selected at the 2 Boys Nation Senators; Edson J Tung and Jacob O Owens (Holy Rosery Academy) were selected as alternates. It was a very successful week and on a positive note we had an increase in participation. We need to continue this trend which means we all have to be on the lookout for Boys Staters city officials or parties. We want to thank all the folks that helped with our program this year and hope you will continue your support next year.

FREE REPORT
On avoiding Annuity Mistakes Many annuity owners are not aware of the 6 most common mistakes that are made and how to avoid them For a free report, call The Benefit Institute
907-563-5122
2013 Calendar of Events

July/August

• July 4 Independence Day
• Check with your local Post for activities
• Department Offices Will be closed
• July 19 - 27 American Legion Boys Nation
• August 2 - 4 National Membership Workshop - Indianapolis
• August 6 - 11 23rd Annual Jr Shooting National Championship - Colorado Springs, CO
• August 7 - 12 American Legion Baseball Regional • Tournaments •
• August 16 - 22 87th American Legion Baseball World Series - • Shelby, NC
• August 17 - 22 American Legion Legacy Run •
• August 23 - 29 95th American Legion National Convention - • Houston, TX •
• Jack Henry Post / Unit 1 Strictly Swing Brought to you by Back 2 Basics Dance Company Every 3rd Friday of the Month 7 pm for lesson and 8 - 11 pm for open dance $5 for the lesson and/or dance Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are fee just show your card.
• Seward Post 5 Taco Tuesday Friday Night Steaks Food served most nights at Post • Matauska Valley Post 15 Taco Monday Friday Night Steak • General Buckner Post 16 Family 1st Saturday Auxiliary Dinner 6 pm Taco Tues 5 pm Friday Burger & Brew 6 - 8 PM 3rd Friday Steak night 6 PM • Post 20 Sunday Breakfast 10 - 1 Sunday Football Every Friday is Steak night with an added Special Dish 6 pm to 8 pm Every Sunday Breakfast menu dishes 10 am to 1 pm Every Friday Aux. Unit 20 sponsors the Friday Night Raffle 12 pm to 8 pm Post 20 drawing (sign up once a day to enter) every Saturday must be present 4 pm Post 20 membership drawing (no sign ups) every Sunday must be present 2 pm • Spendar Post 28 Monday night food 6 PM Wednesday Burgers, Chicken, Tacos 6 - 9 PM Thursday Red Solo Cup Night 9 PM Friday Steak and Seafood 6 - 8:30 PM Saturday Night Food 6 - 9 PM Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday Karaoke with James 9 PM • Muldoon Post 29 Sunday Brunch 11 - 1 Wednesday Karaoke and Food Friday Night Steak 6 - 9 with DJ Rico • Chappie James Post 34 Friday Socials 6 PM with Buffet. Pinoche, Dominos, Music Saturday Dinners 3 PM - 8 PM Catfish, BBQ Ribs, Fried Chicken. Pkr Steak, Pigs Feet • By Jim Pisa National Executive Committeeman National Emergency Fund (NEF) and Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA): Within the pass month the mid-west, more so Oklahoma, has been hit with severe tornados causing mass destruction. The American Legion’s NEF and TFA have been put to the test in assisting our Legion Family. The TFA program has been assisting veterans and their children affected by the disasters in Oklahoma. As of 05 June, 2013 TFA has assisted 131 veterans and their children with $151,000.00 in grants to assist with temporary housing, food, clothing and other emergency needs. The TFA program has provided over $930,000.00 to assist minor children of veterans in 47 departments during the 2012 – 2013 program year. The TFA is made possible through the generosity of Legionnaires and the American Legion Endowment Fund. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) has processed 59 NEF grants totaling $53,500.00. For all the tornados that have hit the mid-west the NEF has processed 149 claims and paid out $139,000.00. In 2013, the NEF has processed 486 applications and paid out $460,000.00. As Alaskans we are no strangers to Natural Disasters, flooding, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and fire. If this were to happen to you the legionnaire, you would be able you submit a request through department for assistance. With the heavy use of the TFA and NEF so far this year and hurricane season hasn’t arrived, the funds are getting low. Any Post or individual can make a donation to either by doing so online at www.legion.org or by mailing in your donation to The American Legion National HQ in Indianapolis. Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW): During the spring meeting in Indianapolis, National Commander Koutz increased his goal from $500,000.00 to $750,000.00. To date the total amount collected is 600,000.00. All the money donated will be used to purchase items requested by our wounded warriors, who are recuperating from their wounds at military hospitals throughout the world. American Legion Baseball: “PLAY BALL.” Baseball season is already underway. If your Post is sponsoring a team in The American Legion Baseball program, get out to the ball field and support your team. We have teams in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Kenai, Seward, Palmer, Eagle River, Chugiak and Juneau. Check the Department website for game schedules, times and field location.

Susitna Valley Post 35
Friday Night Steak Nights 6-8:30 pm Legion Riders Sunday Pancake Breakfast 10 am - 2pm Senior’s Dance Last Thursday of the month 2 PM - 4 PM Everyone invited. Come enjoy, dance and sing meet new and old friends.

“From the Doghouse”
“Operation Honor Flight” The Honor Flight just returned from a trip to Washington D.C. with four Veterans. Reports that I have heard is that all went well and Honor Flight is looking forward to their next trip to Washington D.C. For more information contact Ron Travis at ron.travis@tllhonorflight.org. Or call at 1-877-560-8542. Donations are always welcomed.

Alaska Legion Riders: The Alaska Legion riders just held their first ROMP at Con Miller Post 30 in North Pole. Approximately 15 riders were in attendance from all the chapters.

On Friday June 14th, with kickstands up at 11:00 am and the sun shining, the riders were off to Delta Junction for a bug fun run, lunch and a meeting with Department 2nd Vice Commander Bob Edwards. And of course on the return trip a stop for ice cream. Back to Post 30 for burgers and dogs.

On Saturday, with kickstands up at 10:00 am and the first leg of the poker run. The first stop was the Outpost in Fairbanks, from there it was off to Hot Licks ice cream. Stop #3 was at the Cha-tanka Lodge. Our host Russ, the owner, put on a super lunch for us that included BBQ chicken, salads, and many other picnic items. Stop #4 was Dorman Baker Post 11 in Fairbanks for you guessed it more ice cream. The final leg of the run was the return trip to Con Miller Post 30. The final cards were drawn and the winner of the Poker run was Jim Petino from Chapter 35 in Wasilla.

I would like to say “THANK YOU” to Con Miller Post 30 and Chapter 30 for hosting a super 1st annual ROMP. It was a great success; weather was super and the comradeship was above and beyond. For those of you that are members of the Riders, you missed it. You need to plan on next year’s 2nd annual ROMP that will be held in Seward. For those of you that are not members of the Riders and would like to be, contact one of the local chapters and sign up. If you are Post is interested in staging a chapter , contact the Riders State Director, Bobby Dunnio of Chapter 5 in Seward.

National Convention: Just around the corner. If you are planning on attending you need to touch base with Adjutant Gene in Department ASAP. This year it will be held in Houston, TX. When you march in the parade you will need to have the Department shirt. Shirts can be ordered through Kevin Collier. Cost is approximately $30.00 per shirt and you can order with Legion, Auxiliary, Son’s or Riders logo on it.

“For the Riders State Director, Bobby Dunnio of Chapter 5 in Seward.”

National Convention
By Humphrey Stephens
Detachment Commander

Welcome everyone to the new year of the Department of Alaska! Congratulations to all the new Department, Auxiliary, and Detachment Officers. I am at once proud and humbled by my election to this office and will strive to make you proud of me.

Fathers Day, Flag Day, and the Fourth of July are past us and I look forward to the best part of Commandership, the visitation season! These holidays are a great time to show what Americaism is all about. Before you know it, the School Buses will be out in full force so it’s never too early to contact the schools in your area about flags, scholarships, and membership! All of us Sons know someone in elementary to high school, we just need to find out if they are eligible for and ask them to be a Son of the American Legion. Go strait for the Guidance counselors, they have a good idea who is into what. Wear your Legion affiliation to PTA meetings and school sports practice, someone may ask you! Soccer Mom’s and Hockey Dad’s love to talk about the kids. Some of you will be heading to National Convention before next issue so have a great trip there and back, and an even better time while there. Enjoy the best part of living in ALASKA, the Summer! I look forward to visiting you, For God and Country.

Sons of The American Legion

By Kevin Collier, Sons of The American Legion Detachment Adjutant

Fellow S.A.L. members
July 4th – On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from Britain and Democracy was born. Not only does it represent our Independence, it also represents freedom, liberty and justice for all citizens of this great country. Every day thousands leave their homeland to come to the “land of the free and the home of the brave” so they can begin their American Dream by becoming a United States Citizen. Independence Day honors the birth day of the United States of America and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Each year on July 4, we celebrate that freedom and independence with fireworks, parades, barbecues, pic nics, carnivals, fairs, concerts, baseball games, political speeches and ceremonies, family gatherings and various other public and private events celebrating our freedoms.

July 4th is more than just a reason to fly the American flag; it is the most patriotic day where we show what Americaism and Independence means to us. We should always remember to demonstration our belief in what Americaism is 365 day a year not just talk about it on patriotic holidays.

There are a lot of sons at your Squads that still have not taken the opportunity to turn in their Certification of Officers, please do so as soon as possible. This helps the Detachment Commander, Humphrey Stephens and myself in having points of view.

There are several Squads that have not sent in their Consolidated Squadron Report Form. Please send them to the Detachment Headquarters at 1550 Char ter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. The goal is to have 100% Squads reporting this year. (The Reporting year is from Detachment Convention to Detachment Convention.)

The “Consolidated Squadron Report Form” is perhaps the most important document your Squadron can complete. The information on the form is combined with that of all of the other Squads and reported to the American Legion to show what we have done and accomplished through out the year. The American Legion subsequently sends this on to Congress to show what the American Legion Family has done through out our Communities, our State and the Nation. All this information of what we do as a Family helps maintain our non-profit status.

As we start a new year remember to gather all of the information from the appropriate sources such as from your membership for hours, returned checks or bank statements for the donations so that next years Consolidated Squadron Report Form is easier to fill out and perhaps more detailed on what you actually accomplished through out the year.

The 2014 Membership Goals – Every year someone asks how the membership goals are set each year. The goal for Detachment is 100% of our current membership year plus 1 member. This extra member is given to the Squadron that the Detachment Commander is a member of. So right now your Squadron’s goal for 2014 is what you have currently transmitted for 2013. Both your Squadron’s goal and the Detachment goal for 2014 will increase as more members are transmitted for 2013 up until December 31, 2013.

As information comes out on the National Membership Theme we will make sure to get it out to you. Let us all aim for 100% membership and 100% renewal as soon as possible. The earlier we start the easier it will be.

For the 2014 Membership year the Target Dates have been set follows:

- 10% September 10, 2013
- 25% October 09, 2013
- 35% November 14, 2013
- 45% December 11, 2013
- 60% January 15, 2014
- 75% February 12, 2014
- 80% March 12, 2014
- 90% April 09, 2014
- 100% May 14, 2014
- 105% July 23, 2014

The first Membership Postcard Re sendal is combined with that of all of the other Squads and reported to The American Legion to show what we have done and accomplished through out the year. The American Legion subsequently sends this on to Congress to show what the American Legion Family has done through out our Communities, our State and the Nation. All this information of what we do as a Family helps maintain our non-profit status.

If there is anything that any of your Detachment Officers can do to assist you or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. My email is kcollier@alaska.net. Hope to hear from you soon.

By Jimmy Moran and Tara Boknell
Community and Veterans Organizations

American Legion Post 12 is working with assisted living professionals to build a new veterans housing facility in Southeast Alaska. The new facility will be a 100% Energy Star certified building, but there are still some details to be worked out. The first step is to get the project built. "We need a veterans assisted living facility for veterans in Haines is a first-of-its-kind concept in Alaska, with funding from private, public and state sources. It is projected to be built by Haines Assisted Living, Inc. over the next two years with 11 housing units for veterans and 10,000 square feet of office space for healthcare support organizations.

"If the men and women who sacrificed for us are ignored, then our town is just a hollow shell," said Haines Assisted Living President Janis Stanley at the facility's groundbreaking ceremony in late April. "At best, we can only attempt to repay the debt to these friends among us by at least making sure they have a safe, decent home in their own community."

The Veterans Village is named for Tlingit elder Dr. Walter Soboleff, who passed away in 2011, and CMS Howard McRae, Haines' highest decorated military veteran. It is designed to provide permanent, income-based housing and on-site supportive services to any veteran, from any branch of service, and of any age.

I don't want to die away from Southeast," said Soboleff early in the project. "We need a veterans home here for all the folks of our region who have served their country."

In 2012, the State of Alaska approved $6.1 million for the construction of a building with high energy efficiency standards and incorporates a management system that ensures self-sufficiency and sustainability with no recurring public subsidies. The American-

Building Veterans Housing in Alaska

Cont Housing on page 8
From the Desk of the Auxiliary President

By: Marge Blankenship
Department President

Department Convention is behind us. Thank you to Post/Aux/SAL. The first ever DNLC (Department National Leadership Conference) in Indianapolis was fantastic. It brought the current National Officers and Chairman together with the incoming leading National President Candidate together to show us the continuity of goals and programs.

I am looking forward to visitations with our Units around the state. I will be sharing with you the theme of the upcoming National President and benefits for Auxiliary members.

I am excited about the upcoming year but want to remind you that this is still President Beverly Eads year. We have met our 85% membership goal and are moving up fast to 100%. Let’s do this for President Eads so she can walk across the stage to receive the Membership Certificate for the Department of Alaska.

Remember to keep checking out our Department webpage www.alaska legionaryauxiliary.org and the National webpage at www.alavar veter ans.org. You do not have to be “just” an officer to use these sites. This is for ALL members and even potential members. An educated member is an excited member.

From the SECRETARY’S DESK

By Linda Schmitt, Auxiliary Secretary

Here it is the middle of June already and National Convention is only 9 ½ weeks away. Remember that the cut-off date for purposes of voting strength at National is July 27th, which means that you membership chairman must have all transmissions into me at Department by July 25th in order for them to count toward our 100% goal. Please, please, please, keep that membership coming in – even if you only have one or two members to transmit; transmit them immediately – do not “hold” any membership.

I have not received the 2014 Membership Cards yet, but when I do – you will receive yours if I have received your COMPLETE Officer Contact Information for 2013-2014. This means: Mailing Addresses, Phone Numbers and e-mail addresses for your Unit President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary and Membership Chairman.

NO CONTACT INFORMATION, NO 2014 MEMBERSHIP CARDS. Following is the list of Units I still need information for:

Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Geo. H. Plumley Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34

By the time you read this Girls State will be over for another year. At this moment we are in the middle of the program and we have 35 girls attending this year. By all reports I’ve received, we have a really good group this year (we do every year) and the selection process is expected to be very difficult. The new location is fantastic and appears to be working very well.

Congratulations to Barby Rice of Jack Henry Unit 1 for being selected as one of National President Peggy Thomas’ “Volunteer Angels.” National is sending a videographer to Alaska at the end of June to interview and film Barby in action serving our veterans. Barby’s is only one of many stories we can be proud of when it comes to serving our veterans – Alaska has an abundance of dedicated hard working volunteers and it’s wonderful when they get the recognition they deserve. So once again, congratulations Barby and keep up the good work – you truly are an “Angel Among Us!”

It won’t be very long and it will be time for Incoming President Marge Blankenship to begin her Unit visitations. If your Unit has not yet scheduled a visitation please do so soon so you can have your pick of times. Confer with the leadership of your Post to find out if they are scheduling a visitation so your Unit visitation can coincide with theirs, or schedule a different time and event for Marge to come visit you, i.e. one of your Unit meetings, a Saturday afternoon tea, whatever you prefer, just please schedule a visitation this year. There is so much information that your President has to share – like chairmanships and reporting, we really need to focus on this topic for this coming year.

That’s it for this article – remember to get me your contact information ASAP so I can get the 2013-2014 Unit Directory ready for distribution. Have a wonderful summer!

The American Legion Auxiliary has come a long way since its beginnings in 1919. Just imagine the communicator we took to get the organization started as phones were very limited in the communities and mail sure didn’t travel at the speed it does today.

Please continue to support this great organization so we can continue our support to the military, veterans, and their families. We also have programs that are supported and supported by the American Legion Auxiliary (Girls State, Creative Arts Festival, scholarship programs, and others).

Please check out National’s and Department’s web sites for more information about what the American Legion Auxiliary does. National’s web site is http://www.alavar veterans.org/; Department’s web site is http://www.alaska legionaryauxiliary.org/

Thank you for your continued membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for your support of the programs (not only to the Auxiliary programs, but also to the Legion programs—as many units do). Thank you for assisting (volunteering) whenever possible. You do make a difference to this organization.

Membership Chairman by 2nd Vice President Sharon Cherrette

As we begin to transition into next year’s membership drive in September, here is something for you to ponder. Why do we keep asking you to renew your dues? Is your membership worth the cost? Your continued membership is vital to the American Legion Auxiliary’s existence. The larger our numbers, it is all about the numbers to our Congressional leaders in Washington DC; the stronger our voice is heard on Capitol Hill. The American Legion Auxiliary, along with the Legion and Sons, presents issues to our legislatures that are of great concern to the military now serving, the military of the future, veterans, and their family members of our great Nation.

What would happen if no one joined a veteran’s organization? Who would stand up to Congress to ensure military members, veterans, and their families receive their military medical, and education benefits? Who would reach out a helping hand during deployment to those left behind, disasters, and emergencies? Many people don’t realize the trials and tribulations a military family goes through unless they have been there themselves. The Legion family has been there for these families and will continue to do so into the future.

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The Last Frontier Honor Flight

By Ron Travis

As you have noticed Jim Pisa, Service Officer for the American Legion has mentioned the Last Frontier Honor Flight in his articles, This is a new program in Alaska flying WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans to Washington D.C. at no cost to them, to visit the memorials built in their honor.

On April 17th my wife Lynda and I had the opportunity to travel as guardians on a flight originating from Fairbanks sponsored by the Honor Flight Golden Heart. This program is also new and is spearheaded by Julie Jones. She arranged the trip to partner with Honor Flight Southern Oregon. This was intended to be a training run for us, as we are planning a flight in October.

The flight had a total of 25 men and women veterans, most from southern Oregon. Each had a guardian, some were family members, this was really special for them. Many said they heard stories that they had never heard before.

We had six Alaskan veterans, two from Fairbanks, two from Anchorage and two from the Soldotna, Kenai area. The average age was 90 years old. The oldest was a female, at 96 she is the oldest female veteran in the state, the youngest a 82 year old Korean war Vet. The trip was a wonderful experience, 5 days 4 nights, steadily on the move seeing all the sights, WWII Memorial, the Korean War and Vietnam Memorial, Iwo Jima and the Woman’s Memorial, the very humbling changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery ceremony, also the Smithsonian Aero space museum. The WWII exhibit of the aircraft was a special, the Enola Gay was on display, this was the game changer of the war and was appreciated by the vets all felt it was special for them.

Each of these stops brought out emotions, stories and feelings that I’m not sure anyone expected. I know it had a effect on me and I will never forget it. My wife Lynda has expressed the same feeling.

It all started, when we arrived in Washington D.C. at Regan International Airport, the flight was three hours late, the Air Force Band greeted the vets, people were lined up, TSA, Police, Firefighters, people waiting for other flights, saw them a hero’s welcome, shaking hands and thanking the vets for their service.

After our whirlwind tour of D.C. we left Regan, the vets all got together and sang God Bless America at the gate thanking those that had a part in this great flight.

As we returned to Alaska by the 2nd Vice President Sharon Cherrette
Haines Assisted Living are working to raise the remainder of necessary funds to ensure the building’s self-sustainability through a grassroots fundraising effort. That money will make up a permanent fund that will cover operational costs for the building inhabitants in perpetuity. “We are a small community that wants to show the world a way to take care of our treasured citizens,” said Studley. “We are making it happen through contributions from people everywhere who want to see this idea work.” Contributions, including donations in memory or in honor of a loved one, can be made to the project through the Veterans Village’s website www.HainesVeteransVillage.org or checks to the Veterans Village can be mailed with the following form to Post 916, Haines, AK, 99827.

Haines Alaska Delegation for The Honor Flight

Our Alaska Delegation for The Honor Flight

The Last Frontier Honor Flight is now in the process of planning our first flight. We have set the date for October 21, 2013, we have the vets, now we have to raise the money. Hopefully people will continue to be generous and help us. It’s a life changing experience for the veterans and the Guardians, if you want to do something that really counts let your post adopt a vet, sign on as a guardian, take a flight, you will never be sorry. If passion could charter a plane, our small group could have a 747, but unfortunately it takes money. Hopefully people will step up and help. As we plan the flight, we will report as we work out the details, this should be a lot of fun. If you have any questions about how to help, let me know we would gladly to come to your post and present a short program detailing all the facets of the program. The Last Frontier Honor Flight

Big Lake Alaska 907-892-5007