Adjutant’s Corner

By W.E. “Gene” Franks
Department Adjutant

As usual, we are running out of time. At the time of this article, the Department of Alaska has made all of our assigned membership goals, some of them just under the wire, and we are now in the process of “scraping” enough together for our next goal which will be 90% by March 13, 2013.

This past year you have signed up 718 new members for The American Legion. This is very commendable, however the disappointing news is that for the past couple of years we have 998 members with six (6) years or more that HAVE NOT renewed their membership. This is very disappointing. Why haven’t they renewed, forgot, lost interest, financial, thought the wife paid for him, or maybe they just needed a call from you. If you had the time to recommend a veteran to become a member of The American Legion, then you should have time to make sure they “stay around” for awhile.

They say that competition is good for the soul. Well now is the time to find out. The packets/information has been forwarded to your Post for the upcoming Department Convention. I know that each of you would like to nominate someone from your Post as either the Commander, Adjutant, or Legionnaire of the year. And there is even the educator of the year. There just has to be someone out there doing an outstanding job. These nominees must be into Department prior to convening of the Department Convention. Let’s have a free-for-all, let’s have every Post forward a name of a worthy Legionnaire for one of these “HONORS”.

Commander’s Corner

By Steven L. Huisman
Department Commander

By the time you read this my year as your Department Commander will be just about over and the Department Convention will be coming up at Spenard Post 28 in Anchorage. It seems like just yesterday that we were all in Palmer and I was elected as the new Commander with all of the time in the world ahead of me, and then the world wind began, and here I am an almost has been.

At this time you should be preparing to hold your Post elections and sending in the certification of officers of those members elected. Remember that the new membership cards cannot be forwarded without the certification turned in.

Just as a reminder the Consolidated Reports will be due shortly and this is the way to showoff what your Post has done over the past year. It is also important to know that these reports are then forwarded to American Legion Headquarters so the National Commander has the ammunition that he needs when he goes before Congress, to show all of the good the Legion is doing for the Country, and to reiterate that the membership numbers with dollar amounts open the eyes of elected officials.

You all need to remember that the American Legion Birthday is March 15-17, 1919. March is also the month of the return of Daylight Savings time, St. Patrick’s Day, and Easter. April is Children and Youth Month, with April 10, 1919 being the Birthday of the American Legion.

Well I hope to see all of you at the Department Convention being held in Anchorage at Spenard Post 28 on April 25-27, 2013.
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2012-13

Commander.........................Steve Huisman......................4700 Rivers Street, North Pole, AK 99705
First Vice Commander...........Alvin Diaz..........................1112 Walnut Ave., Kenai, AK 99611
Second Vice Commander.........Ernest L. King Sr.,......................P.O. Box 141332, Anchorage, AK 99514
Adjutant-Finance Officer.......Gene Franks........................1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, AK 99508
Service Officer.....................Jim Pisa.............................1201 North Muldoon Rd., Anchorage, AK 99504
Sergeant-At-Arms...............Greg Kovatch..........................1628 Adonis Dr., Anchorage, AK 99515
Chaplain............................Elezanderia Carr.....................4300 Amberl Cir., Anchorage, AK 99504
Historian..........................Tim Clarke............................P.O Box 472, Homer, AK 99603
Judge Advocate....................Wv Shae..............................1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, AK 99508.
Executive Committeeeman......Hunter Davis.........................P.O Box 23470, Ketchikan, AK 99901
Executive Committeeeman......Bob Edwards..........................P.O Box 71, Delta Junction, AK 99737
Executive Committeeeman......Clare Sullivan.......................P.O Box 2089, Seward, AK 99664

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

NEC Committeeeman..............Jim Pisa..........................1201 North Muldoon Rd., Anchorage, AK 99504
Alternate Committeeeman......Harry Lawson.........................1150 Crowberry Cir., Anchorage, AK 99515

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER’S AIDES

Dorman H. Baker Post 11........Dave Kent...........................1434 Lathrop St., Fairbanks, AK 99701
Ninilchik Post 18................Don Risd..............................P.O. Box 74, Homer, AK 99603
Ketchikan Post 3..................James Boyd..........................2417 Tongass Ave Ste 111-238, Ketchikan, AK 99901
Susitna Valley Post 3............Matt Larson..........................P.O Box 870491, Wasilla, AK 99687

Baseball News

No matter the sport, no matter the destination, nobody covers the state like Alaska Airlines.

Flying is the preferred choice of transportation in The Last Frontier, the country’s largest state in size with the smallest density in population.

“In the Lower 48 kids go to games on a school bus. In parts of Alaska kids go to their tournaments on Alaska Airlines,” said the company’s marketing director Scott Habberstad. “We are the school bus for Alaska.”

Alaska Airlines donates more than $250,000 each year in airline tickets between high school, college and youth sports as well as other events.

“When you look at the company, we really take a close look at what we sponsor and where we contribute, and always to the top of the list, not only from an external standpoint but our employees as well, is youth,” said regional vice president Marilyn Romano. “We believe anything that we can do to support athletics and education will be for the betterment of the community.”

At Alaska Airlines, the employees make it a point to get involved with kids sports. Of the 1,700 people that work for the airline around the state, Romano estimated the majority of them have had some involvement in local activities like American Legion baseball.

It’s a standard that starts at the top, where company leaders practice what they preach in terms of community participation.

When it comes to the Alaska Airlines Tournament Tour, the annual event wouldn’t happen without the airline’s sponsorship, including free tickets to visiting Lower 48 teams that travel here to play in tournaments in Fairbanks, Kenai, Wasilla and Anchorage.

“We live in a real special place and we like to share that,” said Tim Thompson, manager of public affairs.

Last year, the Alaska Airlines Tournament Tour featured teams from Castroville, Texas; Strongsville, Ohio and Columbia, Tennessee.

This year the field includes Outside teams from Napolen, Ohio; Seattle, Washington and Texarkana, Texas.

The marquee event of the tournament series is the BP Invitational, which...

From the desk of the Second Vice Commander

By Ernest L. King Sr.
Department 2nd Vice Commander

Department tells me that it is that time of year when Posts should be getting all their financial and volunteer information together for the Consolidated Post Report.

Membership, is due into Department bi-weekly, per the Dept By-Laws. Please do not sit on any membership even if you have only 1 get it in to weekly to Dept. If there is any questions about that call Gene or Peggy at Dept. The By-Laws are on the Dept Website at www.alaskalegion.org.

If you have done any volunteer work this past year please get the hours into your Post Adjutant so it can be counted on the Consolidated Post Report.

Some upcoming dates for March and April are as follows:

March 3 Missouri Compromise
March 4 U.S. Constitution went into effect
March 5 anniversary of the Boston Massacre
March 10 Salvation Army started in the U.S.
March 12 Girls Scouts founded
March 14 was the invention of the Cotton Gin
March 15 Birthday of The American Legion
March 17 St. Patrick’s Day
March 31 “Star Bangled Banner” declared National Anthem
April 2 Establishment of the United States Mint
April 3 Pone Express started
April 6 United Stated declared war on Germany
April 10 Arbor Day
April 12 Fort Sumter attacked - Civil War
April 17 patriotism’s Day (Ride...
VA Expands Dates of Agent Orange Exposure in Korea: Veterans who served along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea during the Vietnam War now have an easier path to access health care and benefits. If you served in Korea along the DMZ from April 1, 1968 to August 31, 1971, and served in a unit determined by the VA and the Department of Defense to have operated in an area of the DMZ where Agent Orange or other herbicides were applied. VA now presumes exposure to Agent Orange.

This presumptive simplifies and speeds the application process for Veterans who served in Korea. VA encourages Veterans who believe they have health problems related to Agent Orange to submit their application for VA health care disabilities and compensation benefits. Veterans who served along the Korean DMZ may also be eligible for a free Agent Orange Registry health evaluation.

Greetings,
The time has passed us by very quickly not to say much about this weather and the recent snow fall. It is almost time for us to look forward to our gathering at the next American Legion 2013 Department Convention at Spenard Post 28 in Anchorage. Can you believe that it is almost that time of the year once again? February had our membership target to be at 85% and I believe that our Dept. did make this goal, and now we are looking for the March target of 90% on our membership. Now there are a few of our post that did not reach their goal and if not for those post that had a few extra members the department would have not made that 85% target. Now if you haven’t renewed your membership for 2013 by now, when you do pay your dues for this membership year it is your general membership will have to reforge for your membership acceptance into your post. All of our post needs to mail their dues and cards to the office at department on a more frequent time and day so that we can add them together and update our Alaskan membership and then send them to the national headquarters to be counted towards our membership quota. If you did not make the February cutoff date there is a chance that you missed your continuous year as a legion member. This is why it is so imperative for us to renew our membership and find a way for us to keep our new members retained with the Legion Family so that our organization will keep our four pillars operating strong for our veterans.

There are ways to maybe get some of your membership back up for your post. One way is to have a phone tag day for a few members to get together and get some phone numbers off a roster of those members that are now delinquent, and give them a call and get them reenergized and interested in the Legion and your post so they renew their dues. Another way is if your post can maybe accommodate those members that are under the weather and find themselves to be a little financially short and cover the dues to the Department and National so then they can be current. There is also a way to maybe covering a lapsed member, is by offering to pay their membership dues if they are to do some post housekeeping chores around your post to fix improve the post building or property. So you see there are ways to get membership up and all we have to do is use our imagination and try one or two different ideas.

During the days of March 15-17, it is the recognized anniversary period as the founding of The American Legion Organization. All levels of our post legion family leadership should constantly focus on projecting the proper image of The American Legion within the community, in the programs sponsored and services provided, and also on the appearance of each post home and their surrounding grounds. The Post home appearance can be perceived as a reflection of the attitude, the initiative and the civic awareness of the post family and their membership. The post reflects the outward image of the whole organization of The American Legion to the citizens in their community. A lot of this information is in the Post Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies and if you do not have a copy you can find this at; http://www.legion.org and go to media then to the publications section. There is a lot of good and helpful information that you can research.

By Mitch Pea,
Department Service Officer

The President has signed Public Law 112-154, which requires VA to provide health care to Veterans and Eligible Family members for one or more of 15 specified illnesses or conditions due to contaminated water. To be eligible for care, the Veteran or family member must have served to on active duty or resided in Camp Lejeune (North Carolina) for fewer than 30 days between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1987. For more information, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/

Presumption Available to All Veterans for “Lou Gehrig’s Disease” (VA promises that Lou Gehrig’s Disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS) diagnosed in a veteran from “ANY ERA” is related to their military service, as long as they served on active duty for at least 90 continuous days.

Presumption Available to All Vietnam Veterans: VA presumes service connection for non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma occurring in Veterans who served in Vietnam as well as “Blue Water Veterans” who served on its offshore waters; these veterans do not need to prove connection between their disease and military service to be eligible to receive VA disability compensation.

All this information can be found on the internet at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange or you can subscribe to the Agent Orange Review at: Agent Orange Review, Department of Veteran Affairs, ATC- ATTN: Mailing List update (32B), 1615 Woodward St, Austin, TX. 78772

Cont Baseball on page 2

For the May/June issue of the “Alaska Legionnaire” April 15th is the deadline for all stories and/or photos to be submitted. All material must be into Department Headquarters no later than 5:00 pm. Please be reminded that only those articles that are typed, preferably sent via e-mail or provided on a diskette will be considered for publication. Faxed articles will not be considered. As always, the editorial staff can edit all submissions. Photos are also being sought for publication. They should be clearly marked and must be originals for good quality camera reproductions. Anyone interested in submitting an article and/or photo, or anyone interested in advertising in an upcoming issue contact the Alaska Legionnaire office at 1550 Charter 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.
By Bill Jacobi, Director
Boys State News
Page 4 Alaska Legionnaire Mar/April 2013

and returned prior to Boys State. with required forms to be completed the application from the post, I send date for the program. Once I receive application to Boys State as a candi- area so they can set up an interview. and submit them to the Post in their complete the application and the Notice org. The directions there are to com- information is on the Department of to your schools. The application and fully you have been able to get them
This is Alaska Boys State’s 50th Anniversary and we hope we will have a good representation from the current junior class. I mailed the Post Packets out mid-January and hopefully you have been able to get them to your schools. The application and information is on the Department of Alaska web site www.alaskalegion.org. The directions there are to complete the application and the Notice and submit them to the Post in their area so they can set up an interview. It is the Post’s decision to submit the application to Boys State as a candi-date for the program. Once I receive the application from the post, I send the candidate a Registration Packet with required forms to be completed and returned prior to Boys State.

With this be-ing our 50th An-niversary we need volunteer staff to participate in the program. Our ur-gent need is City Counselors and administrative staff to work with us. Any interested Legionnaires or Sons of Legionnaires can contact me for information on Boys State and what would be expected of them. Some of us are getting older and a younger presence would help continue this educational program. For the last few years we have had graduates return as junior counselors to supplement the senior ones and also help bridge the age gap with the Boys State citizens.

We at Boys State appreciate the support we have received in the past first for providing the boys to partici-pate and the support of water, soda pop and help with special activities like Flag Retirement. As I have said in the past any one is welcome to come to Boys State during the week to see what we are about. I ask that if you want to visit, let me know in advance so I can be available to show you around. My contact infor-mation is: 907 723 8028 E-Mail BJacobi680@aol.com

Taps
George Baker Post 25
Robert Bennett Post 28
High Cumnins Post 17
Erika Forton Post 35
Richard Frank Post 17
Fred Hammond Post 20
Basil Harrington Post 11
Norman Horner Post 11
Elmer Japp Post 15
Arthur Kacalski Post 17
Michael Patterson Post 6

By Jan Scott
Department Chair
Contestants have been happening all around the state. Posts have held contest. Their winners have moved up to the next level. Now we have the names of the young people that will compete at the Department of Alaska contest on March 2, 2013. They are as follows:

Joanna Daniels
Victoria Joslin
Eugene Shestakov
Haines
Anchorage
Delta Junction

I would like to congratualte each of this year’s contestants on their ability to make it to the Department level.

I also want to thank each volunteer who organized or worked the contest held at the different levels. If it wasn’t for your commitment to this program, many students would not have the opportunity to participate in this program which makes the U.S. Constitution alive in their lives.

Watch for the results in the next Legionnaire.

ORATORICAL NEWS
By Don Ridl, ALRA State Director
By the time you have read this most of you will have had your election for your new officers, now all you have to do is send a list of officers off to Department. Remember, you must have all of your officers seated before the Department Convention in April. While on this election subject, those of you that are planning on running for state office, make sure you follow the correct procedure. For information needed, the best thing to do is to get with your American Legion Adjutant. If there are any chairs that are not filled for the ALRA, nominations may come right off of the Convention floor. More about this will be discussed at our meeting during the convention.

I am assuming by now that every one knows that ALRA is having the state convention in April, the same time of the Department of Alaska is having theirs. Now think about how great this is because of the price for one convention you will have attended two. Saving money in this economy is the name of the game. I am going to try and get our time slot for ALRA on Friday from about 2-4 p.m. Now those of you that are a little disappointed about hav-ing our state convention in April, because we still can’t ride our scooters, have no fear! We will be having our 1st Annual fun and games event (called R.O.M.P.) at Chapter 30 in North Pole in June, more about this will at our convention. Another subject for discussion at convention will be to standardize our ALRA mem-ber-ship cards.

Now this is the time for you to start working plans for the ride to the Alaska Veterans Memorial at mile 147 of the Parks Highway. For those of you that haven’t ever attended this even I can tell you right now you probably won’t want to miss another one. You will see approximately in excess of 300 bikes of all models and makes (especially stratoliners).

Hey Russ and Darrel how about planning another ride up to Chata-nika at our R.O.M.P in June. Also the time is getting close for the new riding season to begin. So as a reminder make sure you take care of all of the safety checks you must do, before throwing your leg over your bike and rumbling down the boulevard. So in closing I would like to see as many of you as possible at convention in April. A turn out like we had at Post 1 in November would be great and that goes for all of our supporters that belong to ALR- we showed them! On a side note: Please Stand up for Your Second Amendment Rights!

ALERT!

April 30 Louisiana Purchase (1803)
Have a Happy Easter!

Adjutant Cont from Page 1

ing the Convention, made sure that your name is on the list of Delegates/Alternates from your Post. If not then you have no say, no vote.

At this time we do have confirmation that our National Commander James Kouz will be in attendance, and reliable sources say that both the Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, and President of the Auxiliary will also be in attendance

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEABEES 5 MARCH 1942
HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUXILIARY APRIL 10, 1919.

In the last issue of the Alaska Legionnaire, even Bill Sheldon, Post 16 Homer, didn’t recognize himself.

2nd Vice Cont From Page 2

of Paul Revere
April 25 War with Spain (1898)
April 30 George Washington In- augurated (1789)
Calendar of Events

Mar/April

April is Children & Youth Month
- Eagle Scout Applications are due at Dept.
- March 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 13 90% membership Target Date
- March 15 American Legion Birthday
  - March 17 St. Patricks Day
  - March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 25 Dept Certification of Oratorical Contest Winner due at National
- March 29 Good Friday, Department Offices are Closed
  - March 31 Easter
- April 1 Eagle Scout Applications are due at National
- April 7 American Legion Child Welfare foundation Week
- April 10 American Legion Auxiliary Birthday
  - April 10 95% Membership Due
- April 15 American legion Legacy Scholarship Applications Due to National Headquarters
- April 19 - 21 76th Annual High School Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis, IN
  - Jack Henry Post / Unit 1
    - Tuesday Night Auxiliary Meals 6 - 7:30
    - Wednesday Taco’s 5:30 - 7:30
  - Friday night Steak 5:30 - 8:00
    - Strictly Swing
    - Brought to you by Back 2 Basics Dance Company
  - Every 3rd Friday of the Month $5 for the lesson and/or dance
  - Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are fee just show your card.
  - Seward Post 7
    - Taco Tuesday
  - Friday Night Steaks
  - Food served most nights at Post
- Matanuska 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 PM
  - Sunday Football
  - Every Friday is Night Steak 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
  - March post activities
    - Sunday 10th The Post 20 Dart Pool and Shuffle Board Triathlon (w/pot luck) starting at 1 pm
    - Sunday 17th St. Patrick Day w/ Corn beef and Cabbage & all the fix-ins sponsored by Post @ 2 pm
    - Saturday 23rd the Senior Easter Dinner by Aux. Unit 20 Call for information & time
    - Sunday 31st is the Easter Sunday w/ a Special Easter Breakfast sponsored by Post 10 am until 2 pm

- General meetings
  - Post 25th at 6:00 pm
  - 22nd at 6:00 pm
- S.A.L.
  - 17th at 2:00 pm
  - 21st at 2:00 pm
- Aux.
  - 25th at 4:30 pm
  - 22nd at 4:30 pm

National Executive Committee

By Jim Pisa
National Executive Committee

“From the Doghouse”

WANTED: World War II Veterans

Last Frontier Honor Flight: A new program has been established in the Anchorage Bowl Area, it is the Honor Flight Program and the Legionnaire that has taken point on this project is Ron Travis from Susitna Valley Post 35 in Wasilla.

The Honor Flight is a program that will fly World War II Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial and other sites built in their honor. This is a no cost to the Veteran and is a growing program in the lower 48.

If you know of a World War II veteran that would be interested in taking part in this worthy program, you can contact Ron Travis via e-mail at ron.travis@flighthonorflight.org or go to the honor flight website at www.honorflight.org.

The Last Frontier Honor Flight is in search of WWII veterans, so if you can assist in the search and provide names and contact numbers or would like to volunteer contact Ron Travis. Let’s honor “The Greatest Generation” and get them to Washington D.C. to see their Memorial built in their honor.

Alaska Department Convention: The annual convention is fast approaching. The convention awards packets have been sent out for the following awards, Legionnaire of the Year, Cal Andres Adjutant of the Year and Post Commander of the Year. If your post has any candidates for the awards, fill out the appropriate packet and send it in to Department before the Convention. This year’s convention will be held at Spenard Post 28 in Anchorage.

If you are planning on running for a Department Office, now is the time to get your post to endorse you and get your letter of endorsement. This should also be done prior to the convention.

We will have several National and Foreign Dignitaries attending. In attendance will be our National Commander Jim Kouzts from Indiana, and Candidate for National Commander 2014 -2015, Mike Helms from Nebraska.

Also in attendance will be, from the Veterans Affairs Commission of Republic of China (Taiwan), Minister General Tseng Jing-Jing (Ret).

Post and Department Elections: By now everybody should be having or have had post elections for new officers. Remember, once your post has completed elections, you need to send in your Certification of Officers to department. If you do not, your...
The Detachment is holding a Money Raffle this year. Proceeds will be used for Children & Youth Programs. 300 tickets sold at $20.00 each. The Drawing will be held at the State Convention/Detachment/Department Convention in Palmer. See your local Detachment Officer for your ticket today before they are all gone!!

March is National Community Service Month! Be sure to start planning your community service activities for your Post, Unit and Squadron. There are many different activities you can do, remember that the way to success is through preparation. Some suggested programs are blood-drives, Boy Scouts, adopt-a-highway programs, community food drives, working within the schools and many more. It is never too early to start organizing your activities.

The American Legion was formed in the spring of 1919 between March 15th–17th. Hopefully everyone will help his or her Post celebrate the 94th Birthday of The American Legion.

April is Children & Youth Month! Be sure to start planning your Children & Youth activities for your Post, Unit and Squadron. In your plans, don’t forget that The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation week is April 7th – 13th. In addition to your normal activities, remember to plan for the American Legion Youth Sports Safety Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. There are several different activities that you can do, just remember the way to success is through preparation. It is never too early to start organizing your activities.

The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana April 19th –21st. Hopefully our Department Oratorical finalist will win in this National competition. If you or a member of your family or a friend of the family is just completing your Junior year in High School and you are interested in learning more about the basic principles involved in a successful management of a democratic society like America, then we have a program for you. It is The American Legion Boys State Program and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program. These programs are a unique summertime educational program that does not emphasize classroom lectures and textbook learning. Instead, they focus on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governing bodies and elected public officials. They are designed to mirror the structure and operations of our own government. Hopefully you receive the information packet on how you can attend this 1-week long Government Study program see your High School Career Counselor or local American Legion Boys State Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Chairman. It is a week that everyone enjoys and you will leave with friendships that will stand the test of time.

The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State truly is a Week That Changes a Life Time.

As you go into elections for this upcoming year and select your Squadron Officers it would be greatly appreciated if you would take the opportunity to turn in your Certification of Officers. Please do so as soon as possible after your elections. This helps the Detachment Commander, and myself in having points of contact at your Squadron.

It is also time to start thinking about running for an Office either at the Detachment level. If you are interested in running please be sure to get the support of your Squadron and Post and send a copy of your letter of intent and support to the Detachment Commander as soon as possible. The address is 1550 Charter Circle Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. The letters of intent for Detachment need to be received no later then 5:00 pm Monday March 11, 2013.

Conventions are a great way to learn not only what is going on in the state but also the nation as far as The American Legion Family goes. You also get the opportunity to see some of your long time friends and to meet new ones. Hopefully you will be able to attend at least one of these Conventions and we will see you there. We are looking forward to having the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion – Chris Huntington, out of Pennsylvania at the Detachment Convention in Anchorage.

The Detachment as a whole has 1053 members transmitted out of our year-end goal of 1490. This is equivalent to 70.67% of our goal. Remember that membership is everyone’s responsibility! Keep up the great job.

As of writing this article we have had a total of seventeen of the nineteen Squadrons turn in membership so far for the 2013 Membership year.

If you have not turned in any membership later; maybe then on your “Sons Bandwagon” have been frozen or you have been snowed in out on the tundra of Alaska. You will have to send in the heat (your membership team) to un-thaw un-paid members and get them on the Membership Bandwagon.

If the membership team is stuck in a snow bank or just plain frozen at the gate and the snow is too deep then you might want to switch over to the Membership Sled. Remember The drive is on, so rev up your engines and lets get those Sons Bandwagons rolling….

By being a member of the Sons of The American Legion and also being a top recruiter we will succeed in reaching all our goals and honor our Veteran’s Service whom our membership eligibility came under.

The 2013 Membership year the remaining Target Dates are as follows: 80% March 13, 2013 90% April 10, 2013 100% May 8, 2013 105% July 24, 2013

Remember we need your cards into Detachment Headquarters about 1 week prior to the Target Dates in order to get them processed and into national in time to count as reaching the goal.

It time to start making calls and visiting with our membership so that we can achieve our 100% goal by the Detachment Convention. We only need 437 more members to be transmitted to achieve our 100% goal. Remember that membership is everyone’s responsibility! Keep up the great job and lets getter done.

Honor our Veteran’s Service whom our membership eligibility came under by renewing your dues or if you are eligible to become a member of the Sons of The American Legion and have not joined – join the SONS and honor the service of the veteran who has sacrificed so much to protect this great country.

Remember it’s Cool to be Dual!! Who will be our Top Recruiter for the 2013 Membership Year?? Will it be you??

We all need to work on being our top recruiter. This will assist us succeed in reaching all our goals and the 105% challenge that Detachment Commander David Dieckgraef has posted.

National Commander Chris Huntington has asked every Detachment to work on the “Triple Nickel” – to push membership to retain at least 85% of their current members, reach 105% by National Convention next year (2014) and charter at least 5 new Squadrons. If your Post does not have a Squadron – Let talk about how we can get one started.

If we are successful and complete the “Triple Nickel” by July 1st we will have both our National Emblem Sales report and National Recognition.

Again this year we will have a Consolidated Squadron Report Form, there will be some changes on the form from last year and will be coming out sometime in March. As soon as I receive them I will be sending them out to the Squadrons. In the mean time remember to keep track and record everything that you do so it can all be put on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention. If you want to preview this three (3) part carbonless form it can be found on the web page www.sal legion.org. Let see if the Detachment of Alaska can get 100% reporting this year. We almost made it last year.

We should everyday pay tribute to our veterans by celebrating our freedom and the men and women who fought for our country. Always remember that with out the sacrifice of our veterans our freedom would not be the great Nation that it is. They have given of themselves so that we all may live in peace and enjoy all the rights and privileges we have being an American Citizen. All veterans gave something of themselves; some even gave all to ensure our blessings of life, liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. Take a moment out of your day to say “Thank You!” to our veterans.

Keep up the great job you are doing in membership. Remember the three “R’s” “Renew”, “Recruit” and “Reinstate”. Do not just sit on it! Keep it rolling in.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of the veterans for their service and sacrifices that they made. God Bless you and God Bless America!!

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

I hope everybody's New Year is starting off great. I apologize in advance for this being a short letter, but I recently returned from a trip to Disney Land with the grandchildren and I'm still adjusting to being back in the real world. I just want to remind everyone to get your packets turned in for the upcoming Convention on April 25. If you did not receive a packet please contact Kevin Collier at Post 1 in Anchorage. Also wanted to thank Post 28 for sponsoring the Steak Feed; it was another great event that was enjoyed by all.

Also, please remember to send in your membership, and don't forget to send in the list of your new officers after your elections.

Until next time please volunteer and visit a Vet, it is through their selfless service that we enjoy the freedoms that we have today.
From the Desk of the Auxiliary President

By: Beverly Eads
Department President
“Angels All Around You”

February is “Americanism” month. Please take this opportunity to spread the good that we do and teaching the youth and adults about the true meaning of liberty and freedom. Thanking our service people for preserving our rights in this great country through their sacrifices they give for us. Strengthening our relationship to the school in the education of proper flag etiquette, patriotism and to be sure and thank a Veteran for all they do and have done!

March is dedicated to “Community Service Month” this is the perfect time to show what we are all about reaching out to our Veterans and the community. Helping with chores around their homes to shopping for the needy, let your Unit brainstorm the ideas. There are always projects to be done and ways to help military families, senior citizens, youth organizations, women shelters and please don’t forget the homeless Veterans. These hours can be reported. It is time to be filling out your year end reports and sending them to the department chairman. If you have any questions please contact your chairman or myself. I am truly looking forward to all the wonderful things you have done until then KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!

By Darlene Sheldon
Community Service Chairman

March is Community Service Month, but I am sure many of you have been busy this past year to date on many projects that fall under the heading “community service”. Veterans and families are our goal and there are many ways you can help in your communities to help Veterans. Community service - not on a one on one basis – but in the community at large. Volunteer at food pantries, community health fairs, getting veterans involved in parades, schools, plan a Veteran family day at the local ski area or skating rink. Thank your Veterans with flowers and cookies at the local Veteran’s Clinic for Valentine’s Day and Easter or just because. A Thank you for the Veterans and the Clinic Staff for taking great care of our Veterans. Post scholarships that are available for Veterans Children at college, libraries, maybe employment agencies – put announcement in local newspapers about scholarships and where they are available.

Report time (year-end) is just around the corner. I would like to have all the Units reports by March 31, 2013. I want to Thank all the Units that sent a mid-year report.

By Beth Anderson
C & Y Chairman

Springtime greetings! Many of you know that April is Children and Youth month.

Now is a great time to be planning parties and activities. With a little fore thought and a few determined women and Jrs. You can have a very successful function. Most of us are familiar with the importance and large scope that Children and Youth encompass. Recently we have put more emphasis on not only the fun activities, but the mental and physical health of our military children and families. Many of the programs that The American Legion are support- ing or endorsing or the American Legion Auxiliary participate in, are focused on helping the family unit reconnect with each other when the active duty parent returns home.

So keep this in mind when planning your Easter party? Bowling adventure? Scavenger hunt? Let’s get back to quality family time.

I realize that you have been working hard all year, not just in April for our youth, so…let’s start collecting your hours and dollar figures. Report time is every one favorite time— I know, but if we go into this thinking “Wow my time was/is worth something to people!” it may be easier to get those hours turned in to your proper chairman. I know that I won’t be the only one asking.

Remember that we have the Youth Hero award and the Good deed award and the qualifications and applications are available online at alaskaforveterans.org. There are definitely children in your community worthy of these awards so let give them the recognition and appreciation they deserve. May you have good health and happiness!

By Carolyn Null
Pictured: Left to Right
Marge Blackenship, Unit 29 President, Department 1st Vice President, VA Chairwoman
Susan Waldhaus, Unit 28, Past Unit President
Eva Aulston, Unit 1, Past Department President, Department Leadership Chairwoman
Carolyn Null, Unit 28 PUP, Past Department President, Home Services Chairwoman

Thanks to these ladies and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska. We provided and delivered Christmas cheer and gifts to Elmdorf Hospital Patients, Providence Extended Care Patients and the Fisher House occupants. A special thank you goes to a special member of Unit 28, June Christian, for all the hand knitted blanket throws, baby blankets and scarves and caps. Over 700 hours of Home Service with over $500.00 of donated material. Nice work.

Community Service News

Can you believe it – Department Convention is only ten weeks away!! I know that may sound far, far off but believe me its closer than you think. So, if anyone has any- thing they need to put on the agenda, be sure to give me a call and let me know. National President Peggy Thomas will be in attendance at our Department Convention this year. Also, don’t forget that April is Chil- dren and Youth month.

Membership is moving along. We did not make our 70% goal (we came close with 68.38%) by Febru- ary 14th. Our next goal is 85% by Armed Forces Day which is May 17, 2013, so let’s make a big effort to reach that one. I’m going to dedicate the majority of this article to my VAVS Chairmanship this month. Past President Lind- da Gunvalson and I just finished our two day orientation at the VA so that we can volunteer there. We will be assigned to the information desk but I’m sure there will be other assign- ments as well. The VA is changing all the time and it seems as though there are tons of things to be done and few bodies to do get it all done. If you would be interested in volun- teering at the VA, give me a call at 907-688-0241, we can certainly use more bodies and it is for our Veterans after all. I’m also going to begin adding the Needs List we receive at our VAVS meeting to this article every other month. Following are the things current- needed:

Donations: Coffee Program – Cans of coffee, sugar, creamer, cups, etc.

Donations for Bus Passes for Domiciliary residents
Donations for Taxi vouchers for Veteran patients in CBOCs
Social Work Service Bus and Taxi Vouchers
Social Work Veteran Assistance for Low Income Veterans
Women Veterans Program
Fishier House – Gift Cards

Homeless Veterans Domiciliary Resident Recreation Fund
Volunteer Opportunities:
Greeter Volunteers – Front Door Assistance for Veterans
Volunteer Drivers for Wheelchair Vans
Volunteer Drivers for Fairbanks, Kenai, Gatenallen and Wasilla
Office Assistants
Pharmacy Clerk
Espec/Information Volunteers
Shuttle Drivers for VA Parking Lot
If you can help out with any of these things don’t hesitate to call and thank you in advance. Until next newsletter have a great rest of the winter and the next time you hear from me it will be just before Department Convention and spring will be here!! Yeah!!!

Children & Youth News

From the SECRETARY’S DESK

By Linda Schmitt, Auxiliary Secretary
Ketchikan Post 3
Meet every Monday, 7pm
327 E. Broadway
Ketchikan, AK 99901
224-0125, FAX 224-0126
info@ketchikanpost3.com
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm

SEWARD POST 5
Meets 2nd Thursday
Alaska Legion Post 5, P.O. Box 306
Seward, AK 99664
374-2490
info@sewardpost5.com
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Thursday, 7pm

Harleys Alaska Post 12
1540 College St.
Anchorage, AK 99509
343-2272
info@harleyspost12.com
Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7pm

Matsunaka Valley Post 15
Meet 3rd Saturday
7001 Brayton Drive
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-344-3841
info@matsunaka-valley.org
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm

Seward Post 28
Commander
Edgar Kirk
1st Vice
Bill Stein
2nd Vice
Phillip Martin
Adjutant
Gary Spalding
Finance
Deborah Schrager
Chaplain
Dave Shandy
Historian
Richard Spalding

Executive Committee
- Second Vice - Wayne Streets
- First Vice - Bill McRoberts
- DG “John” Christensen
- Sergeant-At-Arms - Rick Riker
- Adjutant - Greg Kowatch
- Service Officer - Tim Benintendi
- Historian - Jeff White
- Service Officer - Dave Kent
- Sergeant-At-Arms - Pat Murphy
- Adjutant - Darrell Peterson
- Finance - Betty Randall
- Chaplain - Ken Jacobus
- Adjutant - Rick Riker
- Vice - Lesa Willet
- Secretary - Peg Bateman
- Treasurer - Kathy Belcher
- Commander - James Grant
- Adjutant - Rick Riker
- Service Officer - Darrell Peterson
- Secretary - Sue Storm
- Treasurer - Cheryl Handy
- Commander - Bob Egan
- Adjutant - Bill伐n
- Service Officer - Darrell Peterson
- Secretary - Linda Brown
- Treasurer - Betty Randall
- Commander - Bob Egan
- Adjutant - Bill Van
- Service Officer - Darrell Peterson
- Secretary - Linda Brown
- Treasurer - Betty Randall

Legionnaires should contact their Department Commander or Adjutant for more information on the details of the program.

Cont NEC from page 5 will not receive the 2014 membership cards. As far as department elections, if you are thinking of running for an office you need to be nominated at the post level and a letter of recommendation sent to department. This is a big step for a legonnaire to take in their legon career. Don’t forget about Legionnaire of the Year Award, Cal Andres Adjutant of the Year Award, and Post Commander of the Year Award. A letter of Nomination for any of the awards is all it takes.

Legion Riders: Almost that time to break-out from the winter blues and start shining the chrome on the bikes. Spring is just around the corner and riding season will soon be here. If your chapter is holding a fund raiser, get the word out to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. Please Note: Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of SAL members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for their respective incentive programs.

Visit us on the web at http://www.mat-valleypost15.org

FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Post of The American Legion): Check out the new website at www. legion.org. Find out what’s going on with The American Legion around the world.

Support Our TROOPS & VETERANS

40 & 8 Grand du Alaska

April the 6th the 40 & 8 will hold their Grand Promenade at Kenai American Legion Post 20. Registration will be starting at 4:00 pm Friday the 5th until 8:00 pm. The Grand du Alaska Promenade will start at 10:00 am Saturday morning to conduct business until all is completed. Official Dinner banquet from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, following the Dinner business will continue down in the Post lounge. On Sunday the Post will be open for breakfast to serve from their Breakfast menu as priced. Thank you for your support and participation. To all have a Safe and Journey Home!

NATIONAL COMMANDER INCENTIVE PIN AWARD

Cont from page 5