Adjutant’s Corner

By W.E. “Gene” Franks
Department Adjutant

Now that the National Convention is over, we can officially state that our own Kevin Collier is a leading candidate for the position of National Commander for the Sons of The American Legion. So, in a couple of years the Department of Alaska will have another National Commander. It has been a long road for Kevin and it will be a well deserved and earned position for him, congratulations Kevin.

Thanks to Jack Henry Post 1 for hosting our second annual Fall Workshop. As with any “get together” the attendance could have been better, but there were some very good presentations especially from Matt Herndon, Deputy Director for Membership from our National Headquarters, as well as words of wisdom from our National Vice Commander Doug Wooddell, from Colorado.

Since this will be our November/December issue of the Legionnaire, guess it is not too early to start reminding everyone of your upcoming events. As you know our membership dues should be paid by October 20 and the majority of our Posts will have or have had their early bird dinners and of course I know that everyone showed up to pay their dues. So with that being said I know that we will shoot to the top of the National Barometer rather than being in the 52-54th place as we were. Your first call for elections should be in January, which means now would be a good time to start thinking about your future leaders of your Post. And of course there is the Commander, Adjutant and Legionnaire of the year along with our Oratorical contest, Boys State, Educator, Law Officer and Fireman of the year. These are a few items that should be addressed at your Post meeting.

Commander’s Corner

By Alvin Diaz Department Commander

Happy Holidays!!

Well if you are reading this you survived the Halloween weekend and the scary part, The Government Shut Down. I am hoping that by the time this paper is published that our Washington officials have resolved it all.

Anyway we are headed into another winter season and it is time to get ready for whatever comes our way, be it the weather or the holiday season. This is the time for each post to think about our service men and women that are not home with their families. It is the four pillars that we as legionaries, need to remind each other of the foundation of the American legion. There is National Security, Children and Youth, Americanism and Veteran’s Affairs/ rehabilitation, and all of this pretty much concerns our service personal and their families. The American Legion post are there not only for our members to use as a meeting spot, but each post is a point for us to gather as the legion family with the Sons, Auxiliary, Legion riders, so that we can combine our ideas to better help our veterans and their families and our community. There seems to be a loss of pride with some people within our society and I feel that they need a little help, rebooting their patriotic ideas on how the American legion organization operates for the support of our troops.

Since my last letter I have made visitations to a few posts. Post 17 in Kodiak was ready for me to show up as they wondered if the planes were going to land due to the weather. Going into Kodiak was good, but the flights on the day we were going to leave were all cancelled, so we spent another night on the windy Emerald Island. Jim Pisa gave me a tour to the Missile site and after that we then drove in the opposite direction until we ran out of road. At Post 16 in Homer everyone who attended the visitation were all cancelled, so we spent another night on the windy Emerald Island. Jim Pisa gave me a tour to the Missile site and after that we then drove in the opposite direction until we ran out of road. At Post 16 in Homer everyone who attended the visitation was that chicken good!! During the visit at post 18 in Ninilchik they served deep fried Salmon and Halibut. There was a volcano with a display of cooked shrimp as the lava exploding out and down the side of the sculpture that was a Great way to serve shrimp.

Happy Holidays
Baseball News

By Van Williams
Alliance Media Coordinator

Brandon Mahle of Kenai Post 20 has been one of the best starting pitchers in Alaska over the last two seasons, winning 9 of 12 decisions.

In the classroom, though, he’s been even better. Mahle, a 2013 graduate of Kodiak High School, finished with a 4.0 GPA to help him win a $500 Alaska State National Scholarship and is now eligible to claim other scholarships at the Northwest Regional [$2,500] and National World Series [$5,000] levels.

Mahle used in Colorado and at the National level.

“Math has always been the easiest for me. I was always at the top of my class.”

When he grows up, he could see himself teaching and coaching. “I like working with people,” Mahle said. “I just try to play as much as possible.”

He plans to continue his education at Washington State University in Spokane, Wash., where he plans to try out for the team Sept. 16. He would be the only Alaska player on the roster.

Mahle plans to major in Engineering in college. “I’m good at math,” Mahle said. “I think I will play a coach, too.”

From the Desk of the Second Vice Commander

By Bob Edwards
Department, 2nd Vice Commander

It was good to see everyone at the Fall workshop on October 5. Many thanks to Jack Henry Post 1 for the hospitality!

Veterans Day is coming up on November 11; it was first observed in 1919. Back then, it was called Armistice Day because World War I hostilities ended with the signing of an armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. In 1938, it became a legal holiday and in 1954 was renamed Veterans Day by Congress to honor all veterans.

Thanksgiving is November 28 this year, followed closely by Christmas (Dec. 25) and New Year’s Eve. Whatever your plans are, I hope your holidays are happy and safe. Stay warm!

ORATORICAL NEWS

By Jan Scott
Department Oratorical Chairman

Exciting news!!!

This Year the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest” in Alaska will have a new format. Each post will have the opportunity to send one contestant to the Department level contest. This is the same format used in Colorado and at the National level.

The Department of Alaska will hold the contest on March 1, 2014 in Anchorage at Central Middle School, 1405 E Street, at 8:00am. Contestants will arrive on February 28, 2014 by 7:00 pm for walk through of respective contest facility and to check acoustics. The winners of the morning rounds will advance to the finals which will be held in the afternoon.

This winner will then represent Alaska at National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 5-6, 2014.

Participating post will need to send me the names and speech titles of their winner in advance so I can be prepared for the contest. Post will be responsible for making the arrangements and the expenses to get their contestant to the department level contest.

This program benefits young people by giving them an opportunity to develop their speaking skills as well as gain knowledge about our Constitution. Please consider volunteering as an individual to help with this event even if your post is not participating. The contest needs escorts, ushers, timers, room monitors and contest moderators.

If you want more information contact me.

Jan Scott
907-460-6707
JanScott1@alaska.net
We did not make our 55%. Now it's onto the next goal of 65% by November 14th.

Membership the Backbone of The American Legion. When you recruit a new member, you explain to them all the programs that The American Legion has to offer. But do you tell them that by being a member, that our strength in Congress increases and gains the attention of your Senators and Congressmen. Strength in numbers is what gets Veterans the benefits that we all have earned.

There are many posts within just a few percentage points of being in the top ten, but we still have 7 posts that have not got off the starting line and are well below the 40% membership mark. National standings have not improved with Alaska in the 51st position. It's time to get out and pound the pavement and sign up new members. With all the active duty military, National Guard and retirees in Alaska, we should not have a problem with every post achieving 100%. Our next goal to meet or beat for National is 65% by Veterans Day. This is an excellent time to recruit new members during this special time of the year for all veterans.

Remember: It's not the price you pay to join; It's the price you paid to be eligible.

Service Office News

By Jim Pisa, Department Service Officer

I know everybody is tired hearing about the Affordable Healthcare Act. We will touch on it just clear up some questions that you all might have. The VA recently sent out a flyer explaining Healthcare and how it will affect you. If you did not get a copy, let the service office know and we will send you a copy. So here we go.

1: VA wants all Veterans to get health care that improves their health and wellbeing.
2: If you are enrolled in VA health care, “YOU” do not need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards.
3: The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans out-of-pocket cost.
4: If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time. Call your Service Office for assistance or information at 907-257-4802.

What are the benefits of enrollment in VA health care? Means you have Medicare, immediate benefits of health care coverage, no enrollment fee, monthly premiums or deductibles. More than 1,400 places available to get care.

This is just the Readers Digest version on Affordable Healthcare and VA Health Care. For more information call your local service office or go to the VA website at www.va.gov or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), WE encourage all Veterans to apply for VA HealthCare.

Women Veterans Health Care Information: The American Legion has issued a report on the quality of health care for women veterans. And many VA medical centers lack long term health care plans for women veterans. Some of the challenges from the Legion’s report include:

1: Women veterans do not identify themselves as Veterans and/or do not know what benefits they are eligible for.
2: Women Veterans do not receive their mammograms results in a timely manner.
3: Many VA facilities do not offer impatient/residential mental health programs for women veterans.
4: Child care for veterans with small children. Remember that women make up 15% of active duty service members in todays military.
5: Connection due to injury caused by treatment in the VA health care system. If the veteran is injured because of VA hospitalization, treatment rehab or therapy that is not the fault of the veteran, and the injury is treated as SC.

All the information can be found at the following websites, www.va.gov, www.legion.org, or by calling your local Service Office at 907-257-4802. Also some of this information is in the monthly National Legion Magazine.

For the Jan/Feb issue of the “Alaska Legionnaire” Dec 16th 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. Fax-ed 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.

Monday, December 16th is the deadline.
The movement of The American Legion is not religion itself, for that is a personal relationship between an individual and his/her God. However, the objectives of organized religion in this instance and those of Americanism coincide. Thus, The American Legion and the organized religious bodies walk side by side in promoting the public worship of God, The author of all rights and liberties.

The Last Frontier Honor Flight

Now that the summer is coming to a close, and all the busy community and post activities are beginning to transition to a quieter time here in Seward I figured I could contribute an article or two to our department's paper since being appointed as Department Historian at the convention at Post 28. I also just happened to receive an email from Peggy looking for articles for the Alaska Legionnaire so there was a big impetus for me to consider submitting something of interest which may start others looking at their post’s history as well. Being from Post 5, I figured I'd start there with one of our more celebrated members which may start others looking at their post’s history as well. Being from Post 5, I figured I'd start there with one of our more celebrated members.

Department Historian News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS NOVEMBER 10, 1775

By Ron Travis
Since the last issue of the Legionnaire the honor flight team has been very busy trying to get the word out and to continue our search for our WWII, Korean and Territorial Guard veterans.

The fourth of July we entered a WWII 6X6, decorated with our signs in the parade in Wasilla, we had a lot of comments about our “Kilroy was here” poster on the side of the truck. The younger generation wanted to know what that was about, we advised them to ask “grandpa”. We even got a white ribbon for our efforts.

The last publication we were looking forward to the Luau and silent auction, we are happy to report that it was successful. We also hosted our first annual golf tournament. This was held at the Fishhook Golf Course in Palmer, we had 8 teams and we had a hole in one contest, beverage cart, door prizes, closest to the hole and most accurate drive. We are looking forward to our second annual next year.

We assisted Performance Yamhaha in Wasilla in their customer appreciation day. We ran the fun run for them, 20 dollar entrance fee, with a split the pot day. We ran the fun run for them, 20 dollar entrance fee, with a split the pot day. We ran the fun run for them, 20 dollar entrance fee, with a split the pot day.

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Wednesday, September 4th was the 16th Annual Native American Heritage Day and Boys State, should be submitted to the awards committee prior to the convening of the Department Convention. Commander Diaz has completed most of his visitations with just a few to go that being the Silver Tea, November 2nd, Muldoon Post 29 also on the evening of the 2nd, Domicili-
November/December
Membership Retention Month

- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Check with your Local Post for Activities
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving
  Nov 28 - 29 Department offices are Closed
- Dec 23 - 25 Department Offices are Closed
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Check with your Local Post for activities
- Dec 30 - Jan 1 Department Offices are Closed

- Jan 1, 2014 New Year’s Day
- 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 free just show your card.
Nov 2 - 5 50th Annual Silver Tea 11-4
• Seward Post 5
  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
  2nd 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

Spenard 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

Peters Creek Post 33
Nov 9 - Early Bird Dinner
5 pm - 8 pm
Prime Rib

• Chappie James Post 34
  Friday Socials 6 PM with Buffet.
  Pinochle, Dominos, Music

Sunday Dinners 3 PM - 8 PM
Catfish, BBQ Ribs, Fried Chicken, Pkr Steak, Pigs Feet

By Jim Pisa
National Executive Committeeman

“BUILDING FOR TOMORROW TODAY”
NEF fundraising goal: 1 million dollars. Commander Dan Dellinger has put the challenge out to The American Legion members to raise $1,000,000.00 for the National emergency Fund.

You may ask what is the NEF? The NEF was set up to assist American Legion members when natural disasters, such as floods, wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes strike. The NEF swiftly delivers needed money to veterans in the community to help them start getting their lives back in order.

For example, from September 2012 through August 2013, there were 793 NEF grants handed out to Legion Family members and 18 to post totaling over $750,000.00. With the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma and the wildfires throughout the Western states, the fund has been stretched to the limit.

This year the Department of Alaska’s goal for NEF is $3100.00. This breaks down to just $50 (cents) per member. Donations can be made by going on line at www.legion.org/NEF or send it to Department HQ and we will make the presentation to the National Commander at the National Convention in Charlotte in 2014.

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIOR: Past National Commander Jim Koutz project during his tenure as National Commander was the OCW. His original goal of $500,000.00 was raised and the goal was raised to $750,000.00. Well we are proud to say that at the National Convention in Houston, over 1.1 million dollars was raised for OCW. This means that our wounded warriors will have the comfort items they need to help in their recovery. Some of the items purchased are fish, photography, work out and music equipment. “Thank You” for all your donations. Remember you can still donate, by going to www.legion.org/ocw.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship:
The 8th American Legion Riders Legacy Scholarship Run was a huge success raising over $760,000.00 during the 1500 mile ride from Indianapolis to Houston. The riders raised $450,000.00 through donations on the road trip and another $300,000.00 at the convention. Riders from Alaska that made the ride were Jim “Scotty Dog” Scott from Chapter 30 in North Pole and Jay Cole who now lives in Nebraska, but still has deep roots and many friends in the Department.

The Alaska Legion Riders this year made a donation of $7500.00 “BRACH ZULU” to our riders from Alaska.

Presenting the check to National Commander Koutz were Department Commander Alvin Diaz, Maurice (Mo) Burum Chapter 17 Rider and NEC Jim Pisa. I’m sure that the riders have a bigger goal for donations next year in Charlotte. Donations can still be made by going to www.legion.org/riders.

Fall Conference: Thank You to Jack Henry Post 1 for hosting the annual Department of Alaska Fall Conference. The attendance was small, but the information passed was very good. The roundtable session was good with several ideas being talked about on how to improve the Department of Alaska vision in the community, state and nation.

A huge “Thanks” go out to National Vice Commander Doug Wooddell and Matt Herndon from National HQ membership in Indianapolis for attending. Matt’s presentation on membership was very informative and hopefully all we picked up some ideals on the “how to” for maintaining membership.

If you missed this year’s conference, you should plan on attending next year’s conference.

Remember: VETERANS DAY, November 11. It’s our day to be recognized and honored. Also remember our Fallen Comrades and our active duty troops.
By Humphrey Stephens
Detachment Commander

Brothers and Sisters, We had a wonderful VISIT at 16 and 18. The whole Family was in there together and meet those that weren't able to make it to one. And visit with all of them about the things that keep the journey going. Any and all donations will greatly assist Alaska American Legion Family to my Homecoming.

It is my promise to represent the entire Alaska American Legion Family to my Loves ones. This is also a time when we need to take the time to attend one of these programs and remember the sacrifices and the effect that time to attend one of these programs and remember that fateful day of entertainment throughout my stay. And then up the road in Ninilchik, in the newest post home I’ve been in, they really put out a spread. Volcano and all! The best thing about it is still the chance to ‘visit’ the home of the people you meet at a convention and meet those that weren’t able to make it to one. And visit with all of them about the things that keep us post alive and growing. I gave out two membership apps, three counting the one for the Aux., I hope they get back to you. The Fall Workshop was better this year for the Sons while not as together as the Ladies, with time and an effort by all of we can get there. We need to remember what we’ve all been saying, to exchange information, and being Sons we are at the forefront of the youth movement within the post family. As this goes to print the Dept. Commiteers Officers Homecoming is this Friday and graduated old 5# on Saturday, and then the Silver Tea and Muldoon two weeks later. I am looking forward to being in a Post near you in the near future. Hope to see you there so we can visit

Keep up the great job you are doing in membership. Remember the three “R’s” - “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 Officers can do to assist you or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. My email is kcollor(1).alaska.net. Hope to hear from you soon.

On behalf of the Detachment Officers and myself, I would like to wish you and your families a Happy New Year. God Bless each and everyone of you. May all your dreams and wishes come true throughout the ensuing year.

Fellow S.A.L. members

Sons of The American Legion - under the “Good of the Sons of The American Legion” when Doug Bible (PNC), chairman on the National Sons of The American Legion Advisory Committee announced that Kevin Collier (AK) is the Second Leading Candidate for National Commander.

I would like to first say “Thank You!!” for the continued support and all the support you have given over the past years. It is my promise to represent the entire Alaska American Legion Family to my very best. As we continue on this journey, you will find that we will be doing a lot of raffles, dinners and other fund raising activities throughout the Department to run the journey through to completion. Any and all donations will greatly assist in our endeavors

Remember November 11th we all need to stop and pay tribute to our Veterans by celebrating our freedom and the men and women who fought for country. Out with the sacrifices of our veterans this country 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.

Most of the Post will be giving out Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Baskets. If you get the opportunity to deliver one of these to a needy family it will not only melt your heart but give you even more reason to be thankful for all your many blessings, of health, family and friends. Please remember to be sure to take the time to count your many blessings even those that we usually take for granted, for there is always someone with far less.

Remember Pearl Harbor Day is December 7th. Several of the Post will be holding programs to remember that fateful day in 1941. We almost made that stop and take time to attend one of these programs and remember the sacrifices and the effect that day had on this nation.

December is the time that we celebrate the holidays with our families and friends. This is also a time when we need to take the time to remember those who don’t have the simple pleasure of spending time with their loved ones.

Open up your heart during this time of giving. Visit a child or a person in a long term care facility and watch their faces light up as someone cared enough to take the time to wish them a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or Happy Kwanzaa.

Please visit the Domiciliary as they do the Christmas gift-wrap on Saturday December 7th at 10:00a.m. The Veterans that are staying there have the given the opportunity to send gifts to their loved ones, some they have not been in contact with for several years, as of writing this article we have had a total of eleven Squadrons turn in membership so far for the 2014 Membership year, the other six Squadrons are still at the starting point of ground zero.

The Detachment as a whole has 342 members turned out of our year-end goal of 1477 (so far). This is equivalent to 23.16% of our goal. Remember that membership is everyone’s responsibility! Keep up the great job.

The National Membership Theme is called “Shooting for The Moon in Membership”. While this year’s program will focus on the 3 R’s – RECRUIT, RECRUIT AND RECRUIT, the main focus is for 100% Renewal Rate. Let’s all aim for 100% membership and 100% renewal as soon as possible. The earlier we start the easier it will be. Remember that membership is everyone’s responsibility!

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 DAD!!

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 somewhere around February or 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 if you can be put on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention. Let see if the Detachment of Alaska can get 100% reporting this year.

By Bobby Dunno

No way is it nearing the end of October already! Of course along with October nature brings the colder winds and the slippery white stuff that puts an end to our riding season. I know I was depresed storing my Bikes for the winter, especially when we had three straight days of sunshine right until the day I did it! But I always try to make the best out of a bad situation and with the bright side of things and now I have time to work on the bikes and fix all those annoying items and address maintenance items like brake pads, fork seal and fluid changes, you know all the things we didn’t have time for while we were riding. Remember Christmas is coming and it is a perfect time to ask Santa for all the stuff you need your bike. (Russ, I am talking about parts not a whole new bike:)) Can you say Honey I want … for Christmas. All the normal stuff like new helmet, thesponds, leather chaps and soft warm riding gloves make great Christmas Gifts.

In other ALR news, I attended American Legion Conference at Post 1 in Anchorage. It was nice to see the whole of the American Legion Family from the entire state gathered in a common meeting space. It would have been nice to see more Legion Riders in attendance, but since there was only 7 ALR members in attendance we deferred having a ALR meeting so our next official ALR meeting will be at the Department Convention next spring at Post 20.

If you have not heard Lisa has our new National Legion Riders Alaska website up and running along with our own Book-Face (Facebook) Page. The web site is found at www. alaskalegionriders.org. It has links to all the National and State American Legion web sites. There is also a link to the Director and I have an article there where you can link to a Winter Storage Checklist and Spring Ride Safety Checklist. While I know most of us don’t need a checklist to take care of our bikes, it is still nice to have something to reference in case we do forget something. If you read it and see something I may have forgoten let me know so we can update it. For those of you who didn’t participate in any of the ride events this summer you should take a look at the website or Facebook page and see what fun you missed because we did have a good time.

If you have a motorcycle and are interested in joining the American Legion Riders you can contact me to join or I will give you the information to your local chapter so you can become a member. We don’t have a Chapter in Anchorage as of yet but we can enroll you in a chapter until we can get a chapter started in Alaska’s largest community. You can find

Cont Riders from page 8
From the Desk of the Auxiliary President

By: Margie Blankenship

Department President

The Fall Workshop and DEC has come and gone. If you were not able to attend and someone from your Unit did trust they will be sharing what they learned. Check out the National web page www.alafورvets.org or the Department webpage at www.alaskalegationauxiliary.org. Become an informed Auxiliary member.

What you do might be as simple as driving a veteran to the store or a doctor appointment. It might be helping your Unit to plan a child’s party. Perhaps you help with special meals at your Post or you deliver a meal to a shut in. Maybe you knit or crochet for donation. Have you helped at Stand down or the Auxiliary Dom Gift Shop? We all do something in our own way. Perhaps you keep our members and family in prayer in their time of need, make phone calls to check on a member, a veteran, a military person or their family. Send a note of cheer or sympathy. All of these things are important to our mission as American Legion Auxiliary. Be proud of who you are and what you do for our veterans, the military and the families. It is time to turn in what you have done since April 1, 2013. The hours spent doing it, funds expended. Take time to write it down on even a scrap piece of paper and hand it in to your Unit President or Secretary. If you are not able to attend meetings, or live out of the area/state you can mail this in or send it via email to your Unit. Our Department Chairman need to know this information by December 1 so they can turn in this information to the Western Division Program Chairman. Unit Secretaries/President the Unit Tracking form can be found on the Department webpage under report forms. By turning this information in you are helping a veteran, the military and their families when totals are brought before Congress by the American Legion National Commander in addressing issues that affect those we serve. It validates what we do.

Take time to stop by the VA Domiciliary on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed to assist veterans in picking out gifts for family members, wrapping presents, packing boxes for mailing and manning the coffee/goodies and card tables. To help hand out stock- ings at the JBER Hospital and the Fisher House in December please contact Carolynn Null PDP/ Home Service Chairman.

Let’s make this a banner year in re- porting what we do. Numbers count and writing a narrative about it is even better. Pictures always tell the story.

Membership Chairman

by 2nd Vice President Sharon Cherrette

Who else but another veteran and his/her family will speak on behalf of our military men and women who have given so much for many years and years to come? Thank you so much for becoming a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Please continue your support of this great organization. PASS IT ON

Anchorage Gift Shop News

By Peggy Bateman, Anchorage Gift Shop Chairman

The Anchorage Gift Shop will be Dec 7, 2013 at the Domiciliary, 3001 C St., at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help with shopping and gift wrapping, etc. This is a Legion Family event and is attended by Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. members from all over the Department.

It cost around $4,000.00 to put this on so donations to ALA Department are encouraged for this great function. We also do Christmas stockings each year to hand out to the Veterans that attend.

I am in need of 60 of each of the following items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, AA batteries, lotion, socks, chap stick. If you or your Unit, Post or Squadron would like to donate any of the above items please contact me at 727-9230. I need the items no later than Dec 4th, or you can send money to ALA Dept for me to purchase these items. I look forward to seeing you all there.

From the SECRETARY’S DESK

By Linda Schmitt, Auxiliary Secretary

My, oh my, October already – the Holidays are just around the corner, where has this year gone! We’ve just finished up with our 7th Annual Fall Workshop and DEC Meeting on October 5-6 and I was very happy with the turnout although it would sure be wonderful to have more. We encourage all to attend this event as it is geared toward everyone. Especially those officers and members that would like to learn more about the Auxiliary programs and chairmanships. Our programs and chairmanships are after all, how we help our veterans, their families and our communities. If you missed this event and would like some of the information presented this year let me know and I will provide you with what I can.

If your Unit was NOT represented at the Workshop this year, you will be receiving a letter from me shortly regarding the Impact Statement that I am required by National to file by June 7th of 2014. This Impact Statement is all numbers, dollars and hours that individual members volunteer in aid to our mission – our Veterans. The member keeps track of their hours and dollars and reports them to their Unit at designated times agreed to by their Unit leaders, and in turn the Unit reports them to me here at Department so that I can report them to National. This is extremely important you ask? Because these dollars and hours are all combined with all of the other Department by National; National Headquarters in turn report them to the American Legion who reports them to Congress who determines what kind, how much and how many benefits our Veterans are entitled to. As an Auxiliary member each and every one of you should be running over the top of each other to get your hours and dollars reported on this Impact Statement! If you are really serious about wanting to help your members you would knock your selves out making sure your volunteerism dollars and hours are counted. This is the time where I can truly say if you’re going to talk the talk then you should be willing to walk the talk. Your Veterans did for you – can’t you, won’t you, at least do this much for them? National President Nancy Brown-Parks theme this year is “Pass It On”, here you go, your opportunity to participate – Pass On your time and donations to help your veterans, report your dollars and hours spent, “It’s not so much of service not self, for our veterans, God and country!”

Don’t forget that the Domiciliary Gift Shop is on Saturday, December 7th. This is a Legion Family event and is an event that is attended by Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. members from all over the Department. Many years ago, the Silver Tea was held in November of each year at Jack Henry Unit 1 and ALL of the donations collected at this event were designated for the Gift Shops (we have a gift shop in Anchorage at the Domiciliary and a gift shop in Fairbanks at the Rescue Mission). A few years ago, Unit 1 decided that they wanted to make the Silver Tea a fundraising event for their Unit and determined that they would designate a PERCENTAGE of the donations to the gift shops with the rest of the donations collected going to their other veterans programs. Department is now left to fund the Gift Shops on its own with the advent of this change. This year, it is estimated that the two gift shops will cost Department approximately $7,000.00 - $8,000.00. If you, your Unit or your organization would like to donate to the Gift Shop, please send your donations to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, P.O. Box 670750, Chugiak, AK 99567. Every penny of your donations will be used for the Gift Shops.

Finally, don’t forget that November 11th is Veterans Day. Remember to thank a veteran on that day of all days for their sacrifice for you and your families. Also, the Auxiliary 11th is also the first goal of 55% in membership for 2014. Keep that membership coming in – you’re all doing a wonderful job!
Ketchikan Post 3
Meets every Monday, 7pm
Postmark every 3rd Saturday
Deborah Davis, Commander
Jim Van Horn, Adjutant
Helen Davis, Service Officer
225-2021, P.O. Box 5121
Ketchikan, AK 99901
www.alaskalegionpost3.org

SEWARD POST 5
Meets 2nd Tuesday 7pm
Clare Sullivan
Commander
Vernon Willett
Adjutant
DG John Christiansen
Service Officer
Taco Tuesday 6pm
Steak night Friday 6pm
P.O. Box 306
Seward, AK 99664

Dorman H. Baker
Post 11
Dave Kent
Commander
Richard Drinkman
Adjutant
Rick Brown
Service Officer
Pull tab sales at the club
452-2228, 129 First Ave.

Haines Alaska Post 12
Commander
Mike Case
First Vice - John Newton
Second Vice - Henry Wong
Finance Officer - Tom Quinlan
Adjutant - Phil Benner

Matanuska Valley Post 15
Jesse Sawyer
Commander
Craig Christiansen
Adjutant
Club Manager
Meets 1st & 3rd Mon., 6 p.m.
P.O. Box 114E, Palmer, AK 99646
745-4440

Susitna Valley Post 35
Commander James Pettio
Adjutant Todd Wills
Service Officer James Frances
MONTHLY MEETINGS, 1st and 3rd Tuesday’s @ 6:30 PM
Friday Night Steak 6:00 - 8:30 PM
P.O. Box 870370
Waikiki, AK 99687

General Buckner Post 16 Family
Richard Turner
Commander
Chip Dugan
SAL Commander
Dorothy Anderson
President
Meetings - 6PM
Sal - 2nd Monday
Legion - 3rd Wednesday
Aux - 3rd Thursday
Come Play Pull Tabs!
Robert G. Blair
Post 17
Mike Nichols
Commander
Tom Saunders
Adjutant
Robert Lachowsky
Service Officer
318 Custer Ave.,
Kodiak, AK 99615
Office: 463-3238/Ext 486-5757

NINILECK POST & UNIT 18
Gary Jackinsky
Commander
Dave Shandy
Adjutant
President
Kirsten Lewis
Sec/Treas
Betty Randall
Mile 136.5 Sterling Hwy
Phone 567-3918

George H. Plumley Memorial
Post 20
Gary Fischer Commander
At Diz, Adjutant
Herb Sletter, Service Officer
283-3222, 902 Cook St.
Kiona, AK 99611

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For those that didn’t attend this year’s Fall Workshop, well let’s just say that there was enough information shared that could help each member gain new ideas to find members. We had the National Vice Commander Douglas Woodwell up from Colorado to spread his words of wisdom. And Matt Herndon the Deputy Director Membership and is on the National Staff for The American Legion Post Revitalization. Matt had a great presentation for all of the members at the workshop, and a lot of information went back and forth with them to their post. Remember like the say when looking out for new members, “just ask”. Well, just ask one of them who was attended and listened to Matt speak on the post membership and the revitalization techniques. It charged us up!

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my contact information on the Alaska Legion Riders website. We are planning more good times with motorcycles and good company next summer and hope everyone will Get On Your Bikes and Ride!

HEALTHCARE PARTNERS JOIN HAINES VETERAN PROJECT
By Jim Moran and Tara Bicknell
Prominent health and wellness organizations are joining a veteran housing project in Southeast Alaska, bringing a community of healthcare services closer to veterans.

The Sobolef-McRae Veterans Village and Wellness Center announces ground floor occupants for the two-story building, now under construction in Haines. Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) physical therapy, Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), Lynn Canal Counseling Services (LCCS), Hospice of Haines, Community and Veterans Organization (CAVO), Cornerstone Home Care and Haines Assisted Living, Inc. (HAL) each signed agreements with managing organization HAL indicating their intention to occupy the new Center.

“We’re proud to welcome such valued community services into one cohesive location,” says HAL Board President James Shadley. “Having these resources working together close to Main Street and veteran and elder housing will streamline the good work these groups are doing.”

The project is the first state-funded private veterans housing facility in Alaska, and will be built over the next year and a half with 11 housing units for veterans of any background upstairs and 10,000 square feet of office space downstairs for healthcare support organizations.

The facility is named for Tingelt Elder Dr. Walter Soboleff and CSM Howard McRae, Haines’ highestdecorated military veteran. It is designed to provide permanent affordable housing and on-site supportive services to veterans, elders and the greater community.

The building site is located on block from Haines’ Main Street, on Dalton Street and Second Avenue. It is situated in a complex of buildings that includes an assisted living facility and independent senior living apartments, each built and managed by HAL. The design consolidates many of Haines’ healthcare offices into one building.

Community and Veterans Organization’s Jim Moran believes the design will improve the services offered in Haines. “Being in the same building with other health groups will improve our efficiency,” says Jim Moran. “If a client comes to me for help, it’s most productive to collaborate with groups just down the hall to figure out a solution.”

In 2012, the State of Alaska approved $6.1 million for the construction of a building with high-energy-efficiency standards and incorporating a management system that ensures self-sufficiency and sustainability with no recurring public subsidies. The estimated project budget is $8.2 million and HAL is raising the remainder of necessary funds through private donations, grants and community fundraisers.

Contributions can be made to the project through the Veterans Village web site, www.HainesWellnessCenter.org.

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Well with the holidays fast approaching remember to spend and use you time wisely, cause next thing you know it will be the new year and we will have to start it all over again. Like the Boys and Girls State, we will have to start looking for those who would like to participate in that program and at the same time look for competitors for the oratorical contest will come too soon. And let’s not forget all of the forms for Awards and the Consolidated Report at the end before the department convention in Kenai April 24th to the 26th. So find those students and fill out the forms because you can’t win if you don’t enter. So I hope to see you soon here or there and if I don’t, have great holidays, be safe, oh yeah click or ticket! If I don’t see you have a happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.