



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

American Legion Post 5
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Commanders Comments

By Clare Sullivan

March has flown by, and we're rapidly heading into April and into the time of much longer days. Winter was pretty underwhelming and we'll have nothing for "break up." The crocuses are peeking out and soon we'll start to see the buds on the trees signaling we're heading into spring. Even though it was a gentle winter, we will need some rain to make up for the lack of snow. When we get the heat of the sun for as many hours as we do, our landscape will be vulnerable to fires so watch out and be careful when you are out and about.



We just had our installation of the new officers of all our organizations on Saturday night and once again we have a great slate of officers for the Post, Auxiliary, Sons and the Riders! We also had some really great food - thanks to our consistently great volunteers! We are so fortunate to have the talent we have at Post 5, whether it is in the kitchen, on our board of officers in any of our organizations, or just rolling in to volunteer during our special events - we definitely have dedicated members who really care for our veterans and this community. Some of our officers are new, some have come back to once again serve, whatever their motivation, I'd like to thank all who have stepped up to help others.

Each month the American Legion has a mission that focuses on veterans, their families, and the community for

support and observance; April is the **Children and Youth Month**, which also happens to reflect one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion on which we stand as a service organization. We have many ways to get involved from simply making donations to child welfare organizations to active involvement in school programs that help in the areas of children's education, safety and health. As we know our youth is our future so we have an obligation to invest in our future for the benefit of all.



April is a good transition to better weather and at this point we are planning our annual Easter breakfast for the community and are getting geared up for all our May activities. We are also full speed ahead in preparation for Department Convention that will be held here 23-25 April. It is a big deal and we will be having Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, SAL members and Riders all coming to town to participate in the convention. Each post in the state will have selected delegates who will represent each organizations for the work at the convention. The purpose of the convention is to discuss the important issues that affect veterans in Alaska or if necessary bring them forward to the national level for resolution. We will also work in committees to discuss and develop resolutions on topics affecting Children and Youth programs, select awards for posts that have achieved excellence in certain areas, discuss veteran rehabilitation and benefits concerns, and hear informative presentations by other agencies that assist veterans and our youth.

As April progresses we will be forming our

scholarship committee and will choose scholarships for graduating

seniors. Each of our organizations will provide scholarships to these students to further their education and to recognize their scholastic excellence, as well as their community service efforts. We look to reward those students who are well rounded and community minded, in addition to performing well in school.

We are also looking forward to the onset of real spring weather and that will mean sprucing up at the post as well as the cemetery. As you know cleaning up after a long winter initially is a lot of work but it pays off all summer long.



We will also be preparing for our big events in May including the **Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament** support and **Memorial Day** ceremonies at the American Legion Cemetery. If you have time, and want to help, give us a call at the post or email us. We always welcome a helping hand. We'll be setting up days and times to work on these projects after the convention is over - so stay tuned!



It is now April and we are fully in the new membership year. We're creeping up to our goal of 95% by April 14th but we still need about 10 to get there, so if you have renewed, thank you for doing so. Your support and membership keeps us strong and allows us to continue to serve our veterans and our community. If you have not renewed, please consider doing so. Not only does your renewal help us help others it permits you to have continued access to the activities and privileges that go along with being a member.

Thanks again to all who are members and those that volunteer at the post. Whatever your participation, everything helps and is truly appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you at the post!

House and Vice Report...

By Mike Calhoon, 2nd Vice Cdr

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Spring has sprung and with that comes the really busy time of year for us. Hope all of you great volunteers are ready to roll!!!

A great big Thank You to all the folks who donated their time and effort this last month. We have the best volunteer corps here at Post 5!!

The bathroom remodeling on the main floor is done. Tremendous job done by John Christensen, Dieter, and John Moline.

April brings Easter on the 5th, breakfast again on the 19th, and the 96th Department Convention on Apr 22nd thru Apr 25th with another breakfast on the 26th. We need lots of folks to help make this event a success so let us know when you might be able to give an hour or 12!!

The crew of the USCGC Mustang will be in charge of Easter Breakfast so come on in and see what they have prepared for you.

We will be doing some Post clean-up in mid-April before the convention with time and date TBA. It will be a thorough cleaning in and out so uncover your rakes and gloves.

We still have poker on Sunday night, and Bingo and poker on Monday nights. Come have some fun, watch a game on the TV and enjoy some good food.

Our membership for 2015 is doing very well. We are over 90% and our goal is to be at 100% by convention. If you know of an eligible veteran who is not a member bring them in for an introduction and to see what Post 5 is all about. Membership drives the train for the American Legion and is the foundation for all we do. Thanks to everyone for supporting the Post and the Club. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 224-5440/362-2029.

Salutations from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon, 1st Vice Commander

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

We are cruising into spring and April will prove to be very busy for us all.

First I would like to congratulate the SAL Officers for this year as follows:

Commander	Alan Dykstra
1 st Vice Commander	Mike Calhoon
2 nd Vice Commander	Scott Wilde
Finance Officer	Dave Dieckgraeff
Chaplain	Vernon Willet
Historian	Mike Mooter
Sergeant at Arms	David Osborn

Thank you all for taking on the responsibility of helping to guide SAL Squadron 5.

Thanks to Dave Dieckgraeff from METCO for leveling out the parking lot and getting rid of what little piles of gravel we had plus the ditch on the south side. It is really nice driving in now.

Convention will be held at Post 5 April 22-25. We will need lots of volunteers from early morning to late at night or really early morning again!!!! Please let me know if you can help.

Squadron 5 membership is on track to reach 100% by convention so if you know of anyone who may be eligible to join bring them around for an introduction to the Post 5 family.

I thank all of the SAL Squadron 5 members for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the Post.

For God and Country

From The Director

By: Bobby Dunno

Well here comes April and are we going to be busy....ready or not! Of course everyone is talking about the upcoming convention and all the tasks we still have to do in preparation for a successful weekend starting on the 23rd of April. The ALRA meeting will actually kick off the Convention the evening of the 22nd when we gather to take care of all the Rider business. We have more than a few items to be decided and our State Officers elections to take care of so it is going to be a busy couple of hours.



March we have had our own Officer Elections and the results found that I will continue to fill the role of Director while Dave Squires accepted the office of Assistant Director. Mike Calhoon graciously accepted the duties as the ALR Secretary and Don Sutherland will be continuing as our Treasurer. We do have two new officers filling positions in Post 5's Chapter of the ALR that is Terry Moon assuming the responsibilities of our Sargent at Arms and Vernon Willet will be blessing our meetings as the Chapters Chaplin. I should note for future reference that Don and I have both stated that this will be our last year holding our current Chapter offices in the ALR.



We also announced some dates for some of our traditional rides that we take every year. The Blessing of the Bikes is scheduled for the 16th of May with our annual trek to Trapper Creek following shortly after during Memorial Day weekend. The ROMP is tentatively scheduled for the 12 thru the 14 of June with that Date to be decided at Convention. As then we have a fun day riding in the 4th of July Parade. Also yet to be scheduled but we eagerly anticipate rides in the 2nd Annual Ride for Respect and Jack Henry Post 1 is planning a ALR Promotional Ride/Poker Run and BBQ with the date yet to be determined but I would figure that to happen the end of July or early August. Of course there will be Ice Cream runs and hopefully a run to Hope for pie!



Most of us have yet to get our favorite rides out and break a hole in the wind for ever so many reasons but with weather improving and the roads a drying it is time to get them running polish the shiny stuff and Get On Our Bikes and Ride!

Auxiliary Notes

By: Nancy Perea, President

Spring is here and I couldn't be more excited! New life is emerging all over town, and we have more and more daylight every day. People are out walking their dogs, gardeners are prepping for this year's crop, the parks are full of children that have been freed from their winter wear and the air smells fresh and clean. My Iris and my Lilacs have started budding already! Times like these I am thankful to live in our beautiful little town on the bay.

With the coming of spring, we set our clocks ahead (spring forward) one hour and as we do this, we should be changing the batteries in our smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. I'm betting you changed your clock but did you change your batteries as well? While Seward is equipped with a mighty fine fire department, a working fire/carbon monoxide detector is one of your first defenses against a house fire.

The Auxiliary has been busy these past few months with our call for officers. On March 28th, we installed our newest Officers. We had a sumptuous dinner with a choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Prime Rib, with twice baked potatoes, mixed veggies and salad. Susan Willett made and decorated a beautiful patriotic Chocolate cake for dessert that melted in your mouth with every bite. After our great meal, our newly elected officers were installed.

Results:

President - Nancy Perea

1st Vice President - Suzi Towsley

2nd Vice President - Michelle Swartz

Secretary - Rebecca Brinkley

Treasurer - JoAnne Frey

Chaplain - Susan Willett

Sergeant-at-Arms - Susan St. Amand

Historian - Carla Norman

E-Board - Claire Glotfelty, Jackie Wilde,
Susie Martin, Joanne Hoogland

I cannot leave out our Connie Kullander or Sharon Dillon who play a large role in our Auxiliary. These ladies are consistently at each meeting, give endless hours of service to our club and deserve recognition. Sharon and Connie, you Ladies help our club shine and we couldn't do

this without you!

Last month Connie cooked up a superb St. Patrick's Day meal that consisted of Corned Beef with cabbage, potatoes and carrots, soda bread and a delicious Irish Stew. Topping that off was the most decadent chocolate dream cake that I've ever tasted by our own Claire Glotfelty. The staff at Post 5 sure can cook up a meal! I've you haven't been by for dinner, make time and stop in. There is always something tasty on the menu.



Can you believe that Convention is just a few weeks away? The opening ceremony will begin Thursday morning, April 23rd at 9am. We will be busy providing food, transportation, classes and entertainment for the weekend. On both Thursday and Friday nights there will be a special members only performance from Blackwater Railroad. This is one show you won't want to miss.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help with the convention, be sure to stop in and let Mike Calhoon know. There are several committees and with convention just a few weeks away, we can sure use the extra hands.

I need to send a special shout out of Thanks to Jackie, Scott and Veronica Wilde and Diane Hunt who fluffed poppies for us. Poppies will be ready to be distributed around town soon. Keep in mind that next month is Memorial Day and we can use help with preparing the cemetery to honor those who served our great county.

The scholarship committee has delivered their 2015-2016 scholarship applications to the High School.

Funds are running low this year so we need to help boost the numbers. How can you assist do you ask? **Bingo** is one! Come play Bingo with us Monday nights, the doors open at 6:00pm and play begins at 6:30pm. This is a friendly non-smoking environment where members and non-members alike can enjoy a fun game, while sup-

porting a great cause.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the Ladies of the Auxiliary who elected me as President. I am very excited to take on this responsibility and look forward to leading this great team of wonderful, selfless women.

Yours in Service and Americanism,
Nancy Perea

April is Children and Youth Month

Children ... Our most precious natural resource is the American Legion's national theme for "April Is Children & Youth Month."

As Americans, we need to remember amid the problems we face daily with the environment, crime, unemployment and financial uncertainty, the one constant that will make or break this nation is our young people. They are our future. Our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow rest in their hands.

Today's young people face an array of societal pressures. The dissolution of the traditional American family, illegal drug use, TV shows and movies filled with obscenities and indecencies. There is an alarming increase in bullying, aided by the spread of smart phones and social media.

Gone are the care-free days when children spent their summers playing baseball on vacant lots, lounging in tree houses and riding bikes around town. The American Legion's National Commission on Children & Youth is guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, work with quality organizations that provide services for children and provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the needs of young people.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provides grants each year to nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of young people. Such grants have benefited organ-donor campaigns, supported efforts to help military children cope with deployments or loss of a parent, and funded projects that increased public awareness of Huntington's disease, autism, Reyes syndrome, meningitis, spina bifida, diabetes, cancer and other debilitating conditions.

Since its founding in 1919, The American Legion has been a staunch supporter of children and youth. The National Commission on Children & Youth continues that commitment today, as it seeks to improve the well-being of all children. The key to the future of a free and prosperous country, expressed by every generation of veterans, is held by the children and youth of today. The Legion strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development. While there is no way of knowing what issues will face our youth tomorrow, our survival may well depend on the quality of care, education and training that we, as parents and citizens, provide for the young people of today.

The American Legion's Children & Youth pillar's most critical issues are:

Child Pornography. The Legion opposes any attempts to weaken U.S. laws governing production, sale and distribution of pornographic materials.

Catastrophic Illness. The American Legion supports legislation to provide financial assistance to families with children who suffer catastrophic illnesses.

Intellectual Disabilities. The Legion supports research, and early intervention efforts, to prevent intellectual disabilities, to include research on the development and function of the nervous system, fetal treatments, and gene therapy to correct abnormalities from defective genes; and early intervention programs with high-risk infants and kids.

Immunization for Needy Children. The Legion urges federal funding for state and local health agencies to insure that medically indigent children are afforded the opportunity to receive needed vaccines and treatment.

Family Integrity. The Legion promotes the family as the cornerstone of society and supports National Family Week each November. The Legion further recognizes that the natural family is a fundamental unit, inscribed in human nature and centered on the voluntary union of a man and woman in a lifelong covenant of marriage.

Media Violence. The American Legion supports appropriate state and federal legislation to restrict the excessive use of violence, vulgarity and

immoral expressions in movies, television programs, news broadcasts, video games and the Internet.

Drug Abuse. The American Legion fully supports adequate funding for border, state, federal and military drug-trafficking prevention programs to keep illegal substances from reaching our nation's youth. **Child Sexual Exploitation.** The Legion supports appropriate laws aimed at the prevention, investigation and prosecution of child sexual exploitation, and seeks to empower the public to take urgent and direct action to enforce a zero-tolerance policy. - See more at: <http://www.legion.org/pillars/211657/pillar-4-children-and-youth#sthash.GOL3WZOW.dpuf>

American Legion Post 5 Family Officer Selections for 2015

POST OFFICERS

Commander:	Clare Sullivan
1 st Vice Commander:	Bobby Dunno
2 nd Vice Commander:	Michael Calhoon
Adjutant:	Michael Calhoon
Finance:	Melody Moline
Service Officer:	John Christensen
Judge Advocate:	WC Casey
Chaplain:	Vernon Willet
Historian:	Bobby Dunno
Sgt-at-Arms:	Patrick Burnett
Members at Large	Ronald Buckley Matthew Brinkley



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander:	Al Dykstra
1 st Vice Commander:	Michael Calhoon
2 nd Vice Commander:	Scott Wilde
Finance:	David Dieckgraeff
Sgt-at-Arms	David Osborn
Chaplain:	Vernon Willet
Historian:	Michael Mooter



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President:	Nancy Perea
1 st Vice President:	Suzi Towsley
2 nd Vice President:	Michelle Swartz
Secretary:	Rebecca Brinkley
Treasurer:	JoAnne Frey
Chaplain:	Susan Willett
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Susan St. Amand
Historian:	Carla Norman
E-Board:	Claire Glotfelty, Jackie Wilde, Susie Martin, Joanne Hoogland



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Director:	Bobby Dunno
Assistant Director	Dave Squires
Sergeant of Arms:	Terry Moon
Historian:	Bobby Dunno
Secretary:	Michael Calhoon
Treasurer:	Don Sutherland
Chaplain:	Vernon Willet



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Rates are \$5 per month or \$50 per year BUSINESS CARDS ONLY, PLEASE!



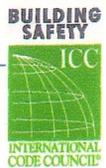
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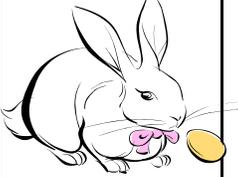
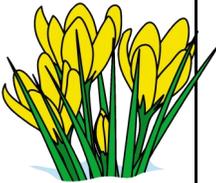
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April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1 Convention meeting 6:30pm	2 ALR meeting 7:00pm	3 Steak Night	4 Pool League 6:30pm	
5 Easter Breakfast Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	6 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	7 Mexican Mar- tes	8 Convention meeting 6:15pm Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm	9 SAL Squadron 5 Meeting 7:00pm	10 Steak Night	11 Pool League 6:30pm	
12 Texas Hold'em Poker 6:30pm	13 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	14 Mexican Mar- tes Post meeting 7:00pm	15 Convention meeting 6:30pm	16 	17 Steak Night	18 Pool League 6:30pm	
19 Community breakfast Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	20 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	21 Mexican Mar- tes	96th Annual Department Convention				22
26 Convention Breakfast Texas Hold'em 6:00pm	27 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	28 Mexican Mar- tes	29	30			

Food Available Every Night at the Club!