First Vice’s Notes...
By: Clare Sullivan

Wow where has the year gone?!?!?? March has really flown by, and we’re rapidly heading into the time of much warmer and longer days, and if the summer and spring are anything like the past years we’re in store for some great weather!

As we have just gone through installation of our new officers I just want to thank everyone for all the years of their support while I had the privilege of being the Post 5 Commander. We accomplished a lot, had a lot of fun and helped many in our town and we are so fortunate to have a new slate of officers who will continue moving the post forward in our efforts to help our veterans and our community! Thanks for everything!!!

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 again 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. We are also full speed ahead in preparation for Department Convention that will be held at Post #35 on 21-24 April. It is a big deal and we will be having Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, SAL members and Riders all coming to Wasilla 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 a bit behind on our goal of 95% by mid-April, 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 Reports...

By: Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Looks like we made it through winter, or whatever you call the last 5 months. We can now start preparing for the summer and all the activities that go hand in hand with it.

I would like to thank all the great volunteers that helped us with the March activities. As always, without you we would not be able to have the activities nor help the community like we do. Volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization and we have great volunteers.

This month we have our community breakfast on April 17th. We will also be having our Post Spring Cleaning and will begin work on cleaning up the cemetery but those dates have not been set yet. We will let all of you know when we have those dates in place.

We still have poker on Sunday and Monday nights, Bingo on Monday nights, pool league on Saturday nights, and other fun stuff as it comes up. We have four televisions for sports, news, and just plain entertainment so stop by, check out your Post, enjoy some lively conversation, sports events, or use the free for members WiFi.

The 2016 membership year is in full swing and we thank everyone who has renewed their memberships and encourage others to renew if they have not done so. Remember, membership is vital for the accomplishment of all things the American Legion and the Post 5 family do for veterans, their families, and our community.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Salutations from the Sons!

By: Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander,

Spring has sprung and summer is not too far away!

I would like to thank all Squadron 5 members who continually support the mission and goals of Post 5. Your dedication and giving spirits are an example for others to follow as we work to support our veterans and the community of Seward. The Post cannot achieve its goals without support from the entire Legion Family and Squadron 5 is a great example of that family support.

We installed the Squadron Officers for this year with Al Dykstra as Commander, Mike Calhoon as First Vice Commander, Randy Kockritz as Second Vice Commander, David Dieckgraef as Finance Officer, David Osborn as Sergeant at Arms, Mike Mooter as Chaplain, and Ozzie Walters as historian. Mike Calhoon was also appointed as the Adjutant.

I encourage all members to attend the monthly meetings which are held on the second Thursday each month at 7:00pm. We are always looking for new ideas to improve how we can support the Post and the community of Seward.

The Post will have its monthly community breakfast on April 17th and Post clean-up will be in late April or early May. We will let you know when dates are solidified.

Remember that the new membership year is in full swing and please consider renewing if you have not done so. Membership drives everything in the Legion so let’s continue to move forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post.

For God and Country!
Auxiliary Notes...

By: Benjamin Stapleton

The Auxiliary mission has been about “service not self” for the American veterans and active members. The Auxiliary is unique, in the fact, that it is the biggest all women patriotic service organization. Each member should be proud that they are apart of this rich history! Almost a million members strong formed from Grandmothers, Mothers, Daughters, and service member whom serve during good times and bad. That’s what makes Auxiliary one of the supports for 8,600 communities around the United States of America. Around this great country, the Auxiliary has single handily donated over $2,000,000 to scholarships for our future leaders, collected over $5,000,000 from the poppy program, and has donated over 3,000,000 hours volunteering.

Locally is no different. The women that serve our Seward branch are nothing short of extraordinary. Clare Sullivan believes, “Unit #5 in Seward is an integral part of the American Legion Family at Post #5. Without this special group of ladies the post would have a much tougher time in its work to support the veterans and the community, and for that we at the post are grateful.” Year after year these fine women help with Christmas Parade and the Children’s Party. This year the Auxiliary went a step further to fill a much needed void. The women provided a safe and secure environment for our special needs children to meet the one and only Mr. and Mrs. Claus. This isn't the only extraordinary accomplishments that these local women perform. They host Valentines dinners, and other special occasions, toys for tots, and Bingo most Mondays.

Former President Nancy Pena said it best, “We meet once a month and many positions take only a few hours of your time. It is such a good feeling to be able to help our community in such a great way. We can always use fresh ideas and extra volunteers.” You too can join these extraordinary ladies and continue to make a difference for the Seward Community and the Post. These Auxiliary ladies could use fresh ideas and extra help that one of you can provide. Please think about volunteering today! Congratulations to the new officer and enjoy the long outstanding traditions and volunteerism from ladies past and present.

AUXILIARY:
President: Michelle Swartz
1st Vice President: Lori Wolfe
Secretary/Treasurer: Peggy Hamner
Chaplain: Sharon Dillon
Sgt-at-Arms: Misha Johnson Gray
E-Board: Debbie Van Tassel

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OFFICERS:
President: Kyrsten Johnson Gray
Secretary: Billy Wolfe
Treasurer: Elena Hamner
From the ALR Director...

By: Larry Gentry

April is here and are we going to be busy! Of course everyone is talking about the upcoming convention at Post 35. As usual the ALRA meeting will be before the Convention the evening of the 20th. We will gather to take care of all the Alaska American Legion Rider business. Mark Berg will have a few items that need to be discussed and decided on. We will have our State officers election to take care of so it is going to be a busy couple of hours.

March we had our own ALR Officer Elections and there have been changes. I am the new Director, the Assistant Director is Bobby Dunno, and Mike Calhoon will continue to fill the role of ALR Secretary as well as graciously accepted the duties of the ALR Treasurer. Terry Moon will continue as Sargent at Arms and Vernon Willet will continue as the Chapter Chaplin.

Soon we well be starting our Dessert Auctions and the ALR well be looking for anyone handy with making a Dessert to help raise money for the American Legion Legacy Run. The American Legion Legacy Run wants to ensure higher education is a possibility for children whose parents have been killed while serving our country since the event of 9-11.

Things that are upcoming besides convention is the ALRA R.O.M.P. It is scheduled for the 24-26 of June. But that is still a long way off and there is a lot of riding and ice cream runs to be done before then. **Before we get on the bikes remember to go through our safety checklist.** On that note we need to think about not just freshening up that coat of wax, (yea I know that's

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important) but every rider needs to check out the bike and make sure it is truly ready to carry our butts safely out for the miles and miles of enjoyable riding. During storage tires tend to lose air pressure, clutch plates and brakes bind up, cables and linkages start sticking, and that's just scratching the surface. If you are wondering what it is you should check, there is a checklist on line at alaskalegionriders.org. Once we are out and on our way we need to be aware of those people who are still traveling around in cages. They have not had to look for a motorcycle in months and watch out for wildlife. Be safe out there and have good time!
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Food Served Every Night!!!
See you at the Post!