COMMANDER’S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

You know I usually start this paragraph with “what a busy month we’ve had.” We’ve been busy in some ways, and have come to a complete stop in others. Our “Last Hurrah” was our Saint Patrick’s Day party. Mike and Ozzie cooked up some fabulous Irish fare for our membership and of course our own Pinky Bleth outdid herself with the fabulous desserts!

On the afternoon of St. Pat’s we had the Coronavirus dictate from the state government that we all “self isolate.” Which we followed the order and in some cases caused us to come to a screeching halt at the post for most of our daily activities. Even with that, we haven’t completely stopped trying to do our bit in service! We had some wonderful volunteers (David Osborn and Sharon Dillon) step up to help us do our nightly “curbside service” for meals. As most know our nightly meals are for donation only except Steak Night so it really is a great deal, especially in this challenging time for all of us. We ensured to follow all precautions for social distancing and sanitization and still managed to provide some yummy and warm dishes – from Halibut Olympia to Bacon Mac and Cheese…. We’re here to please!!!! 😊

The Post, Auxiliary and the Sons just had their installations following the new state mandated guidelines of separation and it sure was an experience! As many of you know we usually have a big dinner with dignitaries and lots of "pomp and circumstance" but this year… Not so much! 😊 We scheduled times for the organizations and had the new officers come in, stand at least six feet apart in the room and we installed them in our meeting room. Following that we celebrated with a hearty cup of coffee and went on our way… all maintaining appropriate distancing!

We have a great slate of officers who have adapted during this "unique time" in the Post, Auxiliary, Sons and the Riders! We are so fortunate to have the talent we have at Post 5, and once this crisis is over, I will bet, whether it is in the kitchen, on our board of officers in any of our organizations or just rolling in to volunteer during our events, we will definitely see once again the dedicated people who really care for our veterans and this community return and pitch in at the post. And, huge kudos to all who are helping their neighbors outside of the post - a good volunteer won't stop just because the schedule has been interrupted!

So, as we enter April, I’d like to let you know each month the American Legion has programs that focus on veterans, their families, and the community for support and observance; April is the Children and Youth Month, which also happens to be 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 (when they start again) 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.

As April progresses, we will be forming our scholarship committees (telephonically) and will be in receipt of scholarships from graduating seniors from Seward High School. Each of our organizations provide scholarships to select 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.
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.

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, the American Legion has been the driving force on the federal, state and local levels representing their interests and voicing their concerns.

In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we urge each of you to show your community that The American Legion Family is committed to Children... Our Most Precious Natural Resource!

The following numbers, gathered from the American Legion Annual Report 2019 shows how Legion members and posts influenced not only the lives of veterans but our children and youth in their community and beyond:

- Overseas Graves Decoration Fund: $953,471
- Samsung scholarship: $1,658,791
- American Legacy Fund: $14,425,418
- National Emergency Fund: $6,146,647
- Boy Scouts: $467,899
- Operation Comfort Warrior: $3,270,363
- John DeVore: $319,164
- Edwin J. Dentz VA Boy's State: $617,244
- Samsung American Legion Alumni Association: $89,235
- Others: $152,540
- Total with specific purpose: $28,100,772

In perpetuity
- Samsung scholarship: $5,000,000 (Korean War Vet Decedents & other US Wars
- American Legion Endowment Fund: $8,599,920 (VA & Rehab)
- Total in perpetuity: $13,599,920
- Total assets with donor restriction (designation): $41,700,692

American Legion Post 5 Officers for 2020-2021

POST OFFICERS
- Commander: Clare Sullivan
- 1st Vice Commander: Bobby Dunno
- 2nd Vice Commander: Michael Calhoon
- Adjutant: Melody Moline
- Finance: John Moline
- Service Officer/Judge Advocate: Fr. William Hanrahan
- Historian: Clare Sullivan
- Sgt-at-Arms: David Joslin
- Executive Board: Daniel Oliver
- David Squires

AUXILIARY OFFICERS
- President: Deb VanTassel
- 1st Vice President: Michelle Oliver
- Secretary: Lori Skaggs
- Treasurer: Susan St. Amand
- Executive Board: LaNno Settles
- Joanne Frey

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
- Commander: Mike Mooter
- 1st Vice Commander: Michael Calhoon
- 2nd Vice Commander: Scott Wilde
- Adjutant: David Dieckgraeff
- Finance: David Osborn
- Sgt-at-Arms/Historian: David Osborn
- Chaplain: Randy Kockritz

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
- Director: Bobby Dunno
- Assistant Director: Larry Gentry
- Sergeant at Arms: Terry Moon
- Secretary: Debra Dunno
- Treasurer: Mike Calhoon
- Chaplain: Larry Gentry
- Historian: Clare Sullivan

Congrats to the New & Returning Officers！！！！！
House and Vice Report......
By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice,

We were certainly looking forward to a busy Spring but have gotten a bit sidetracked. I hope everyone is staying safe and getting through the medical and economic emergency in good health and spirits.

I want to thank Sharon Dillon and David “Ozzie” Osborn for their help in providing take-out dinner service each night at the Post. We have been providing meals, for donation, every night starting on March 18th. If you are interested in getting food to go, come by between 5-7pm. You can call or watch for an email, for those on the email list, to see what is for dinner. You can be added to the email list if you are not on it at this time.

Please feel free to contact us and let us know if you need a meal or other assistance and we will try to help where we can. It is a tough time for all in our Post 5 Family, but we can help each other get through this.

The 2020 membership year is in full swing and we have reached all monthly goals so far. I want to thank everyone who has already renewed their memberships and urge those that have not to consider doing so. Membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewals, or go to MyLegion.org and renew.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

For God and Country

Sounding Off from the Sons....
By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Wow! A busy 2020 came to a screeching halt for us all. I hope you are all well and coping with the lifestyle changes we are all dealing with.
MEMBERSHIP Notes!

It is now April and we are fully in the new membership year. We’re getting close to our goal of 95% by April 6th, so if you have renewed – thank you for doing so and if you like what we do please spread the word to others! We need just 12 more members to renew or join to get us to 100% goal. Your support and membership keep us strong and allows us to continue to serve our veterans and our community.

If you have had one of our free meals whether during the holidays or during the week, had a child who received a scholarship, or a neighbor who received help in times of need, please know we can only do this due to having a strong and active membership. We as Seward Post 5 are only as good as the strength of our members. With that strength it permits us to reach out and help others. So please strongly consider renewing and encouraging others to join too! We really have a great organization and have a solid group of folks dedicated to our veterans and our community!

Thanks again to all who are members and those that volunteer at the post or simply stop by to visit with friends and family. Whatever your participation, everything helps and is truly appreciated.

If you have time on your hands....... 😊

Seven Military Museums You Can Visit Virtually

The American Legion
APR 01, 2020

Many museums today - military and veterans museums included - incorporate virtual components and rotating exhibits to complement their physical locations. With the coronavirus pandemic spreading, forcing museums to close and people to stay indoors, now would be a perfect time to see what some museums have to offer online ... and maybe make plans for a future visit.

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Have a wonderful and safe April! Meetings will probably be virtual so stay tuned!

And... Remember, remaining six feet apart is only temporary... if you don’t, then remaining six feet under could become permanent. (stolen from a Sterling Friend)

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Food is Served Every Night
(Curbside)

Thanks to all our amazing volunteers who keep things going
Even in this time of COVID-19!