



For God and Country

Seward Post Five Newsletter
American Legion Post 5
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Inside This Issue

Commanders Comments:
1-5
House Report: 6
SAL Notes: 7
Auxiliary: 8-9
Advertisements: 10
Calendar: 11

Commanders Comments

By Clare Sullivan

We're in it now, the Christmas holidays! We've just completed our community Thanksgiving meal at the post and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness!

Thanks to the crew who consistently makes it happen! I couldn't be more happy that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You totally rock!



We once again fed more people this year than in previous years. If I got it right, we had just under 70 people at the post and delivered just about 90 meals. You folks rose to the task to make it happen, between all the folks in the kitchen and the drivers it was like a well-oiled machine! It



was a great time getting ready and serving our fellow veterans and local community members!



On Veterans' Day Post 5 held a ceremony at the Senior Center and we had folks visit Seward Mountain Haven and the school. Many thanks go to Vernon Willet, David Dieckgraeff, Captain Ron, Ludwig Everett, Sharon Dillon, and Bobby Dunno for representing and honoring veterans on this special day!



As I was gone for a major portion of November on leave, I want to be sure to thank all that were keeping the post going with all the activities. A huge shout out goes to Connie Kullander, Sharon Dillon, Vernon Willet, Michelle Swartz, David Joslin, David Osborne, Rebecca Brinkley, and Melody Moline for taking the reins and keeping things going. Although they're usually helping and running things throughout the week, they're the ones that were there and "on point" if something needed to be responded to. I know there was a lot (as usual) going on and they kept things running smoothly. Thanks so much, it made it very easy to take time off knowing full-well our post home was in such capable hands!



On a sad note, we said goodbye to a one of our Son's member - Clifton Simons who was a wonderful man and a pillar of the Seward Community. We said goodbye on the 22nd with his friends, family, brothers from the Seward Fire Hall and other state-wide departments, as well as his colleagues from the Department of Corrections (DOC). Clif was a wonderful man, had a kind word and always offered a helping hand to all. He will be sorely missed, and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family for their loss. Clif's loss will leave a big hole in this community for a long time but we are all richer for knowing him.

Okay, onto December, we all have quite a bit planned not only in our own lives and regular jobs but we have quite a few things planned at the post. It is of course the Christmas season and we will be having our Christmas dinner as usual, so plan on a big and delicious meal. The Auxiliary has their annual Christmas Parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus giving out gifts to our local Seward kids at the post, and we will be finishing making up and mailing out our "Operation Apple Pie" packages to our local Seward young men and women who are in the service. Interspersed with these events we have all our regular events, as well as the annual dinner for the USCG Cutter Mustang where we will meet some of the new crew, gather in holiday spirits with existing crew, and thank all for their continued service; we also have a few other local Christmas parties that are in the making! :)



Speaking of the holidays, we're getting ready to get ready to get the post spiffied up for the season so come on by, see our progress. We like making the post a warm and inviting place for members to come and visit and have a good time.

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2014 membership year and the start of the 2015 year. I appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable post and that we're growing. With good numbers of members at the local, state and national level it allows us to continue to have a strong voice regarding veterans' medical and educational benefits. These collective voices speak "volumes" and have influence on lawmakers and decision makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and disabilities sustained while in the military. After all, one of the many roles of the American Legion posts is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And, how better done than helping a vet get healthy and receive the benefits and education which will assist him/her to be productive and viable in our communities. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, seek an active membership, and promote involvement and volunteerism. We have a good crew in our Post 5 Family and have many who are dedicated volunteers (and we can always use more :)), so come on down and see what we do - we even manage to have a lot of fun helping others!



I'd like to sincerely thank the crew of the Mustang who have consistently supported our post this year and in the recent years' past. They have been a great asset supporting the post for projects around the post home which needed strong backs and energy :) but more importantly they have been there, even with their busy schedules for our parades, memorials and services.





They have been there for our veterans who have answered the final call to "Post Everlasting," and they have worked with the Alaska National Guard's Honor Guard in these ceremonies which shows their maturity and willingness to take time out of their busy lives to help the community where they currently serve. These fine young service- members understand the notion of "service." They have demonstrated that time and again, and have willingly (and enthusiastically) participated in our post activities; and volunteer in our community service organizations in town that keep us all healthy and safe. I couldn't be more proud when I see these young servicemen do what they do, whether performing their official functions of rescue and law enforcement on seas or spending their free time in town as part of our community. Thanks again Mustang - know you are so very appreciated and we're thrilled you are a member of our veteran family!



House Notes

Hello from the Second Vice/Club, Winter appears to be sneaking its way in but the fall has been pretty nice overall. Hopefully we will get some snow to help insulate the ground and help the folks out that make part of their living with the snow.

I would like to thank Connie, Melody, and all the great volunteers that kept the club running smoothly while I was in New

York. Awesome job by everyone!!

November was a very busy month and every one stepped up to support all the activities the Post was involved in. We had the Auxiliaries Toys for Tots auction, Veteran's Day, our community breakfast, the Clif Simons memorial reception, and Thanksgiving. We could not have pulled it all off without the great volunteers at Post 5.

Keep those volunteer hats on because



December will just as busy as November was. We have the USCGC Mustang crew and family dinner on Dec 6th, the Auxiliary's Christmas with Santa on Dec 13th, a city Christmas party on Dec 14th, Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Command on Dec 20th, community breakfast on Dec 21st, Christmas dinner on the 25th, and New Year's Eve. So much for relaxing

during the holiday season!!

There are lots of other activities happening at the Post to include Poker, Pool League, and bingo so come down and enjoy the

fun and games along with good food and friends.

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.

For God and Country
Mike Calhoon

SAL Notes

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander,

November was very busy at the Post and the Squadron 5 provided a lot of volunteer support for each of the activities hosted at the Post. Squadron 5 continues its long history of support for the Post and the community of Seward.

November was also a sad month for the SAL and the Legion Family as a whole. We lost an SAL member when Clifton Simons passed and our Squadron Commander Al Dykstra lost his mother. We send our deepest condolences to Al and his family and to the family of Clif Simons.



During the month of December, we will have another opportunity to assist the Post and the Auxiliary with numerous functions and activities so let's keep the volunteer spirit going and lend a hand wherever we can.

It was great to hear that we had some of our younger members begin to attend meetings and we hope to see that trend continue. The SAL is an integral part of the American Legion Family and we need to have the infusion of youth to help us move forward.

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

Mike Calhoon
SAL First Vice Commander



From the Auxiliary

Connie Kullander

Oh my goodness it's December already. We also have snow on the ground, so it may be a white Christmas after all.

November flew by us and I would really like to thank everyone who helped me while the boss was gone.

We had a wonderful turn out for our Toys for Tots auction. Along with the volunteers, the folks who bid on all those wonderful items made this a memorable event. We will be able to get toys and food vouchers for those in need. So thank you everyone!!! You guys rock. I would like to thank all the businesses who donated all those wonderful gifts so we could have such a successful auction.



Veterans Day was a great turn out. With ham cheese potatoes and green beans, we had a few veterans come to the post to enjoy a meal and thanked for their service to the United States.

Thanksgiving was terrific. A huge "Thank You" to everyone who donated a turkey, ham, or pie. We were very fortunate to have a lot of these items donated by a variety of folks in our community. Thank you to all the volunteers who came to help as well. The drivers got everything delivered throughout the community. We at the post were able to put together 93 togo's and we served 65 in the clubroom. A great job was done by all. Thank you and we will see you in December to do it all over again.

Thank you to all our volunteers who continually help with no complaining, you guys are the best!!

December 7th, attack on Pearl Harbor came as a profound shock to the American people and led directly to the American entry into WWII in both the Pacific and European theaters.



December 13th we have the Toys of Tots Christmas with Santa. We will start here at the club, 11:30 ride with Mr. and Mrs. Santa on the fire truck. Then move into the front room with the giving of gifts from Santa. We will have hot chocolate and hot apple cider with other goodies available for everyone.

December 25th Christmas dinner. We will need all those wonderful volunteers again to help with the delivery and preparation of the Christmas dinner.

December 31st we will be here at the club to help bring in the new. We will be having finger foods and goodies to help celebrate. Come on down to the post and help bring in the New Year as we are going to have a grand time!!

Once again Thank You to all the folks who help makes things happen here at the post, whether you are post, auxiliary or sal. Bingo is still going on every Monday at 6:30. Doors open at 6:00 and then bingo at 6:30.

Auxiliary meeting is the 10th of December, so hope to see some new faces. Don't forget!!

For God and Country

American Legion Auxiliary



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December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	2 Mexican Martes	3 Convention Meeting 6:30pm	4	5 Steak Night	6 USCGC Mustang Crew & Family Dinner
7 Pearl Harbor Day Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	8 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	9 Mexican Martes Post Meeting 7:00pm	10 Auxiliary Unit 5 Meeting 7:00pm	11 SAL Squadron 5 Meeting 7:00pm	12 Steak Night	13 Christmas with Santa 11:00am Pool League 6:30pm
14 Seward City Christmas Party 4-6:00pm Texas Hold'em Poker 6:30pm	15 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	16 Mexican Martes	17	18	19 Steak Night	20 Pool League 6:30pm
21 Community Breakfast Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	22 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	23 Mexican Martes	24	25 Christmas Dinner 2:00pm – 5:00pm	26 Steak Night	27 Pool League 6:30pm
28 Texas Hold'em Poker 6:00pm	29 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	30 Mexican Martes	31 New Year's Eve	Food Every Night!!!		