



For God and Country

February
2015

Seward Post Five Newsletter

American Legion Post 5

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Commanders Comments

By Clare Sullivan

Welcome to February 2015!!!! After the new year we had a snapshot of time to catch our breath but we were back at it with the hugely successful 30th anniversary of the Polar Bear Jump-off Festival in January. It was a fast-and-furious weekend and a lot of good work went along with the activities. I can't say enough in thanks to all our volunteers! You guys make it happen, whether with fabulous food, supporting auctions, running the Karaoke Contest or down on the docks helping the jumpers - you did it all, and with such style! ☺ I also want to thank those who came to the post to help out this cause by making donations, bidding on the fun items for the auction and cheering on the contestants in the Karaoke Contest. It was a great time by all. This town and state is amazing how it pulls together to help others. What is really notable is the fact that many of these wonderful people are members of our American Legion Family right here in Seward who continually step up to the plate and make things happen! Thank You for all you do in service for our veterans and our community.



Polar Bear Breakfast Fundraiser



Mustaches and Mullets Jump Team



Karaoke Contest Contestants



Contest Winner



Saturday Auction

Here we are in February and we have things planned for Valentine's Day and of course Super Bowl. The 2nd Vice will have more details on that in his section. Also make sure you take a look at the calendar for nightly activities and the yummy meals.

February is **Americanism Month**. Many may wonder what that means and essentially it is the month that we focus on one of "the **Four Pillars**" that make up the American Legion. In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Reha-bilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Each pillar encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a differ-ence in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

At the national level and at varying levels at the posts, Americanism encompasses the following programs:

- **Flag Protection**
- **Illegal Immigration**
- **Voter Registration and Participation**
- **Boy Scouts of America**
- **The Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Establishment-Clause Lawsuits**
- **Legacy Run**
- **Boys Nation**
- **American Legion Baseball**

As you can see there is a lot to the American Legion, what it does and can do to be a vital part of a community; these programs are under only one pillar, there is so much more when you examine the other pillars.

February brings the "first call for officers" for the post, and the Sons and the Auxiliary will have their second call. All positions are up for consideration in all our organizations. If you like what we are doing (or not) and want to get involved, this is a great way to participate. As you may already know we help many in our community and throughout the state by funding scholarships, holding community events, helping those in need, honoring our patriotic holidays, and generally running an organization that positively impacts many in this community. You may think it takes a lot of time but not really. The way posts are organized the division of labor is made so that it isn't overwhelming for one officer or position. We all pull together to make things successful. We are happy to accept whatever you can do. Our decisions about our activities and support throughout the community are made at our post meetings. You can help guide what we do by coming in and offering your input, your "2 cents", and ideas. With this in mind, in order to participate you need to be a current member, so drag out your card from

your wallet and if it doesn't say 2015 - you need to renew (hint hint 😊)

Every membership makes us a stronger organization locally through the national level. Our membership numbers are a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits. We have veterans throughout Seward ranging from WWII veterans to veterans from the ongoing military activities in the Middle East and throughout the globe. All have served and all deserve the consideration due to them for their honorable service. The post for many veterans is the starting point for them to learn what they are eligible for and can receive in terms of benefits and support from the Veterans Administration. By coming by the post, and speaking to one of our officers, a veteran can potentially learn what is out there for them - in terms of benefits and assistance; as well as finding a familiar and welcoming community with many shared experiences that many in the "civilian community" just can't relate to.



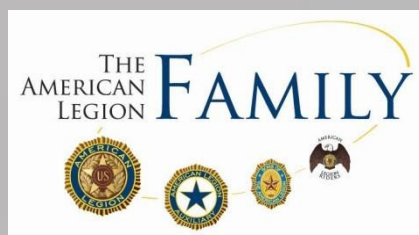
Moving on to another topic that seems to haunt service organizations like ours, and contrary to what some believe, the post is not simply a bar. Granted the post has a social area and many members come and benefit from the camaraderie here however, we are so very much more. Our primary mission is to support our veterans and our community and there are numerous opportunities to do that. Stop by and inquire as to what we are all about (even if you don't have a meal or a drink :).



We do a lot as a service organization for the tiny town as we have. The American Legion has a long legacy of helping others and Seward Post 5 is committed to continuing that legacy. Seward Post 5 has been around since 1919 and the post where it sits now has been there since the end of WWII. We are always looking for better ways to serve and in different capacities; so if you have some time and want to help, even a small amount, we're always ready to have new talent thrown in the mix! It is amazing what we manage to pull together with the variety of ideas and skill that we can employ. We get a great sense of accomplishment when we hold events that help others and we get the collateral benefit of having a great time and making new friends!

We have a lot planned in the near term and will plan for more upcoming events, so come on down to the post, join a great crew in any of our organizations and let yourself feel good by helping others!

Welcome to the American Legion Family at Seward Post 5!



For God and Country!

President's Day

Excerpt from Timeanddate.com

Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. The day honors presidents of the United States, including George Washington, the USA's first president. Washington's Birthday officially honors the life and work of George Washington, the first president of the United States. The day commemorates past presidents of the USA.



Washington's Birthday is sometimes known as Presidents' Day. This is because while most states have adopted Washington's Birthday, some states officially celebrate Presidents' Day. Some states pay particular

attention to Abraham Lincoln, as his birthday was also in mid-February. In the weeks or days leading up to the holiday, schools often organize events and lessons for students about the presidents of the United States

and George Washington in particular.



The federal holiday is on the third Monday of February each year, but records show that George Washington's birthday is on February 22. George Washington was the first president of the United States of America. His first term as president was from 1789 to 1793 and his second term from 1793 to 1797.



Before he became president, he played important roles in the military, leading **the American Continental Army** to victory over the British in 1783. Washington is often seen as the father of the United States and is probably the best known American politician ever.

Washington's Birthday was first celebrated as a holiday in the District of Columbia in 1880. It was made a federal holiday in 1885. The holiday was originally held on the anniversary of George Washington's birth, on February 22. In 1971, this holiday was moved to the third Monday in February.

The History of the Four Chaplains



On **Feb. 3, 1943**, the United States Army Transport Dorchester - a converted luxury liner - was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester's starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester's three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

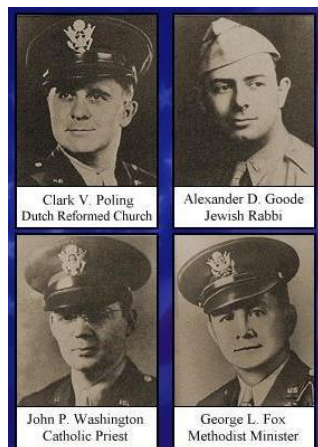
Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains' distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled. As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and the **Purple Heart**, and in 1948, **Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day**.



Because of the Medal of Honor's strict requirements of heroism under fire, Congress authorized a one-time

Chaplain's Medal for Heroism on July 14, 1960. The award was presented to the chaplains' next of kin Jan. 18, 1961. On Feb. 3, 1951, President Truman dedicated a chapel in the chaplains' honor at Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia. When the building was sold, the chapel fell into disrepair, and the foundation overseeing the chapel moved it to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 2001. The chapel was repaired in 2004 and given the name Chapel of the Four Chaplains.



In 2006, at The American Legion's 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution that supported awarding the Chaplain Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington.

The Chaplain's Medal for Heroism is a decoration of the United States Congress which was authorized by an act of Congress on July 14, 1960. Known as the Chaplain's Medal of Honor and the Four Chaplains' Medal, the decoration commemorates the actions of the Four Chaplains who gave their lives in the line of duty on February 3, 1943. The medal was designed by Thomas Hudson Jones (1892-1969) of the United States Army Institute of Heraldry. It was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Finally, a little snow to show us winter may still happen. I have noticed the change in daylight recently with sun on Mt Alice into early evening.

A big thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and effort in January. Without your efforts we could not have pulled off a short notice visit from the USCGC Sycamore and, of course, the Polar Bear Jump Off Festival activities here at the Post.

Polar Bear was a busy and successful weekend here even though we could not hold Turkey Bowling for the second year in a row. Horseshoes may be in order for next year if the same conditions exist!

We hosted the USCGC Spar for dinner on Jan 31st and had a great time with the crew. We will also have the pleasure of their company for Super Bowl!!

Along with Super Bowl on the 1st, we will be preparing breakfast for 175 students and parents on Feb 6th and 8th in support of the National Ocean Science Bowl.

We will have a Valentine's Day dinner on Feb 14th and you will need to sign up for that. I believe we will be serving Prime Rib and Shrimp Scampi. The cost will be no more

than \$25.00 per plate and includes all the trimmings and dessert. Please make a reservation as we will limit the number of dinners at 50 or so.

We have our third Sunday of the month breakfast on Feb 15th and we will be preparing dinner for the Fireman's Banquet on Feb 28th.

Also coming soon will be a schedule to spruce up the Post in preparation for the Department Convention on Apr 23-25. No major construction but lots of touch-up and cleaning to be done prior to the convention.

As you can see, there are lots of opportunities for you to get involved and donate your time and effort in helping the Post 5 family continue its mission of providing for our members, veterans, and the community of Seward. Let us know when and where you would like to help and we will put you to work.

The new membership year is in full swing so if you have not renewed please consider doing so. 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.

For God and Country

Mike Calhoon

SAL Notes

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Winter has finally arrived and we continue to support the many activities at the Post.

The Sons of American Legion is a smaller but very vital part of the American Legion Family. We are all sons, grandsons, great-grandsons of veterans who proudly served our great country. We support everything the Legion does and we have programs of our own to assist veterans and their families, children and youth, and the community we live in. We have a rich tradition of assisting others in Seward and you should all be proud of what we have accomplished over the years and continue to work towards on a daily basis.

There are a lot of activities and opportunities to volunteer coming up this month and beyond. We will be having our second call for officers this month and I would encourage anyone interested in helping us continue our forward progress to attend our meeting on February 12th at 7:00pm. Come see what we do and give us a fresh perspective and new ideas.

The Post will be having its Super Bowl party on Feb 1st with lots of food and prizes. We will be preparing breakfast for 175 students and parents on Feb 6th & 8th to help support the National Ocean Science Bowl, there will be a Valentine's Day dinner on Feb 14th, we will have the third Sunday of the month breakfast on Feb 15th, and we will be preparing dinner for the Fireman's Banquet on Feb 28th.

Let us know if you would like to volunteer for any of these functions and we will gladly put you to work.

If you have not renewed your membership please consider doing so. Membership drives everything we do and what we do is very important. If you know someone who may be eligible for membership you can contact me and I will answer any questions you may have.

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 Director

OK, so who is getting tired of watching the trickle chargers maintaining our bikes battery voltage? I personally am finding it difficult since my bikes are still in a state of disassembly I am denied the compromise of straddling the saddle just to see if butt still fits. But the good news is that regardless it is February and with the advent of March, spring is coming and if the weather stays dry we can be riding real soon.

In case you have not been informed as to what has been happening in the ALR these past few months, the ROMP is not going to be in Kenai next June due to the collapse of the ALR Chapter at Post 20. The Post and Chapter at 35 has graciously stepped up and offered to host our June gathering. Also the ALRA's newest Chapter at Post 1 is looking to host a BBQ in combination with the Poker Run on one of the days so we will be getting to know our newest membership and riding companions.

Of course we at 5 are hosting Department Convention this April (which is right around the corner) and the ALRA meeting will be held downstairs, Wednesday the 22 of April beginning at 1800 hours and going until we get everything covered, decisions made and Officers Elected. There is a lot of things we will need to cover so if you are a ALR member please plan on attending.

OK so speaking of attending an ALR meeting. Our own Chapter 5 "steps out of the dark" with first meeting in 2015 scheduled on March 5th. We also have much to discuss and a busy summer ahead to get scheduled and preparations to make. So to everyone who is getting ready and beginning to counting the days until spring when we all get to feel the wind break across a set of handle bars again. Get those bikes ready, test the brakes, get them lubed and air the tires because the time is coming when we will Get On Our Bikes And Ride!

For God and Country, Bobby D.

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Super Bowl Party 1:00pm	2 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	3 Mexican Mar- tes	4	5	6 NOSB Break- fast Steak Night	7 Pool League 6:30pm
8 NOSB Break- fast Texas Hold'em Pok- er 6:00pm	9 Bingo at 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	10 Mexican Mar- tes Post Mtg 7:30pm	11 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm	12 SAL Squad- ron 5 Meeting 7:00pm	13 Steak Night	14 Valentine's Day Dinner 6-9:00pm
15 Community Breakfast Texas Hold'em Pok- er 6:30pm	16 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em Poker 7:00pm	17 Mexican Mar- tes	18	19	20 Steak Night	21 Pool League 6:30pm
22 Texas Hold'em Pok- er 6:00pm	23 Bingo 6:30pm Omaha Hold'em 7:00pm	24 Mexican Mar- tes	25	26	27 Steak Night	28 Pool League 6:30pm

Food Every Night!!!