



# For God and Country Seward Post 5 Newsletter

February 2024  
Volume 21, Issue 02

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## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Well, we've had an excellent start to 2024! Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival was a great way to start, and as always our Post 5 Family stepped up and made things happen! Thank you for all your support of the post and with all the Polar Bear events at the Post and around town! 😊

As we move into February we will remain busy with our regular activities including complementary nightly meals and weekly activities (Bingo, Pool League, Jewelry Class) all supported by our amazing volunteer bartenders who make a lively and welcoming place in our "Social Area!" Thank You for all you do "behind the plank" as well as supporting our American Legion programs! 🍷👏

Here we are in February, we stand ready to support where we can with food and any other help our veterans and their families need in these days of high prices that are found everywhere and still growing!!! 🙏🙏🙏

We have more things in the hopper but I'll let the the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice give more details 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 & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth**. Each pillar encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.



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

- Flag Education
- Immigration & Citizenship
- Voter Registration and Participation
- Scouting
- Scholarship Programs (Legacy, Oratorical, etc.)
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- American Legion Baseball
- Junior Shooting Programs

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 and what is done in the community, state and nation. Visit [legion.org](http://legion.org) and find out more.

February brings the "first call for officers" for the Post and Auxiliary; the Sons 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 do that. As you may already know we help many in our community and throughout the state by funding scholarships, supporting 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" isn't overwhelming for one officer or position. We all pull together to make things successful. We are thrilled at whatever you are willing to do to help. Our decisions about our activities 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, and 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 2024 - you need to renew (hint, hint 😊), besides we got great chow every night just for your "dining pleasure." 😊

Con't on pg 4

## The History of the Four Chaplains



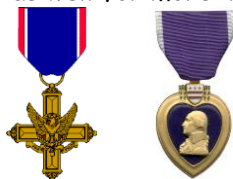
On **Feb. 3, 1943**, the United States Army Transport Dorchester - a converted luxury liner - was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander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

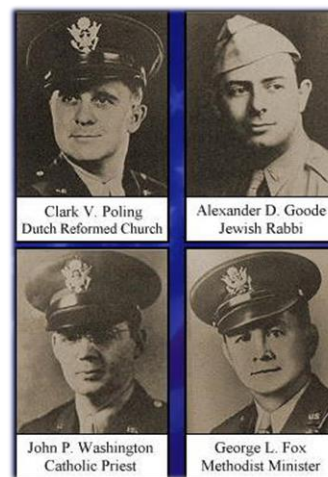
Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and the **Purple Heart**, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be **Four Chaplains Day**. Please also visit the [Four Chaplains](#) website as well for more information.



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. In 1998, a US Senate resolution was passed to recognize the 55th anniversary of the incident making Four Chaplains Day official.



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.



## 2nd Vice & Adjutant Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant.

We are having a real winter so far this year. Everyone watch out for each other and stay safe.

I want to thank everyone who helped during the Polar Bear Jump-off Festival. The volunteer bar staff, the kitchen volunteers, the karaoke volunteers, and the turkey bowling volunteers were all awesome. You all made it a great and successful fundraising event for the Polar Bear.



This month the ALR will hold a pancake breakfast on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, the Post will host a Super Bowl party on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, and the community breakfast on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. We will announce any other major activities if they spring up.

Members only Pool League, 7:00pm on Saturdays, and members only Poker, 5:00pm on Sundays, are both well underway so come have some fun. Also, Bingo is going strong at 6:30pm on Mondays.

I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food at the Post. We provide these meals as a benefit to our membership and would like to see as many members have had the opportunity to eat as possible. Please limit yourselves to one helping until it is apparent that most folks who want to have eaten. Thank you for your consideration.



The 2024 membership year is well underway, and 2023 memberships have expired. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. You can renew your

membership online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) or at the Post, either in person or by mail.

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.

## Sounding off from the Sons

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Chilly winter so far. Hope everyone is staying warm and safe. Be sure to let us know if we can help during this cold time.

Thanks for everyone's help during the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival. It was a very busy time but fun for all.

This month the Post will host the American Legion Riders Pancake Breakfast on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, Super Bowl party on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, and community breakfast on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. If you can assist with any of these, let me know if you can help with any of these functions and we will put you to work.



Our February meeting will be held on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have the second call for officer nominations at this meeting, so, if you have an interest in becoming a Board member or are just interested in how our meetings work, we convene at 7:00pm.

We are well into the 2024 membership year so please consider renewing your membership. Dues are \$35.00. There has been a bit of an issue with National sending renewal notices out stating the dues are \$16.00 but that is only the amount that goes to National. If you renew online and only pay \$16.00 you will still owe \$19.00 and should pay that at the Club. Remember, your membership helps us support the mission and goals of the Sons of American Legion and the Post 5 family.



If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 907-224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post when possible.

## From the President's Desk

By Connie Kullander



Hello everyone,

Well, we made it through another month, but baby it's cold outside. I hope the little ground hog can help out. Time for some nice weather.

Not much happened in January. I guess everyone was getting use to the new year. We did have our Polar Bear festival, that is a huge help to those that have cancer. Any donation helps whether big or small. The karaoke contest was fun, and the talent was great. I admire everyone who gets up there and sings.

On another note, I received an email from Ann (Dept. Secretary), If you want to run for a department position, you must get an endorsement for your unit. I will go over the details at our meeting, that will be February 14th, Valentines Day.

February this year is leap year. Aside from that, Ground Hog Day is on the 2nd.

- Super Bowl Sunday is the 11th with everyone rooting for their favorite team.
- Abraham Lincoln's birthday on the 12th.
- February 14th is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent, and it is also Valentines Day.
- Susan B. Anthonys birthday on the 15th.
- The 18th is National Drink Wine Day.
- The 19th is Presidents' Day.
- The 22nd is George Washington's Birthday and National Margarita Day.

Don't forget that if you haven't paid your 2024 dues its time. We will be going through all the memberships soon. Don't let your membership lapse.

Bingo is every Monday, with the doors opening at 6:00 and bingo starting at 6:30.

The club will be open at 1:00 for the Super Bowl Party with lots of food and fun. So, come down and root for your favorite team.



For God and Country



### Commander's Comment's Con't from pg 1

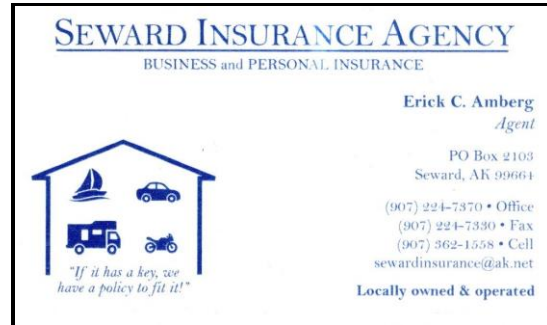
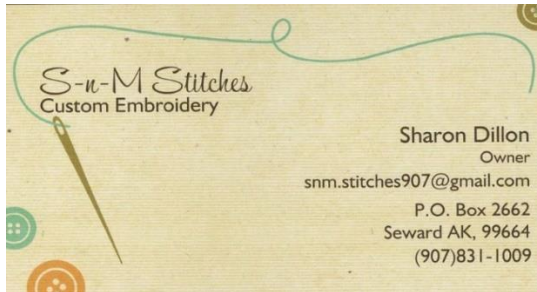
The 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Polar Bear Jump Off Festival occurred on the weekend of 12-14 January 2024 and the Post was in the middle of it with food, fun and fundraising. We even had several of our members do the jump! It was cold but all persevered with activities inside and out of the post! From Turkey Bowling to the Karaoke Contest, to the parade and jump, and of course some great food was provided for all in attendance. We enjoyed all the fun and fundraising in support of this great cause to beat cancer with the American Cancer Society.

The entire town rallies every year to support this event and it shows with the amazing fundraising they have done over the many years. The notable part of this is that it was started by Unit 5 Auxiliary member Marilyn Sutherland way back "in the day." She is referred to as Polar Bear Marilyn, although many of the newbies don't remember the beginnings. That's okay, they're still getting it done!!!



## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE

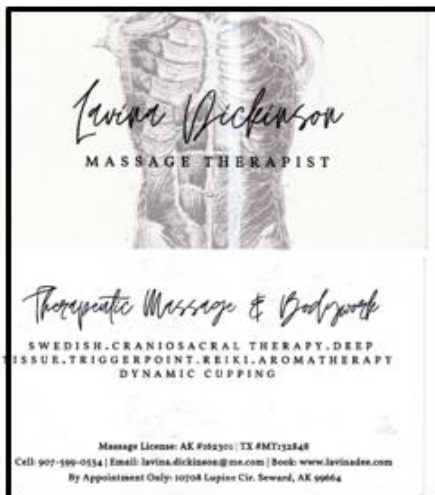
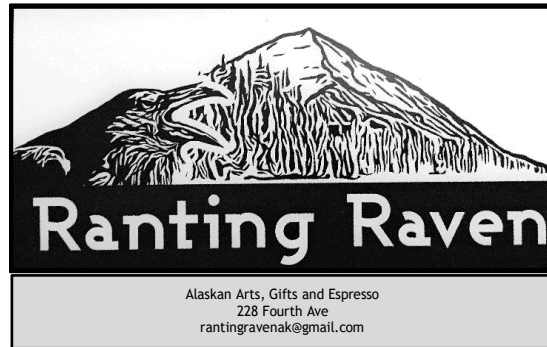
### Business Card Size



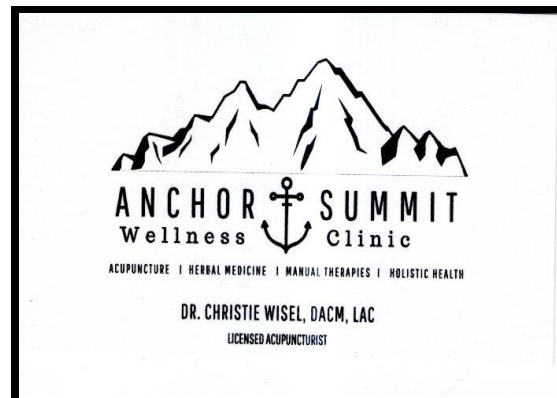
ADVENTURE SXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center  
Seward, Alaska

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VA Approved Provider
























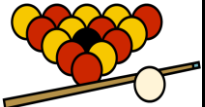


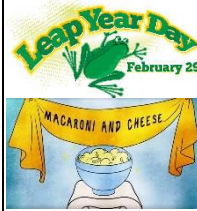



VA Approved Provider



February 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				B, B, M&C 1	Steak Night 2	3
<b>Americanism Month</b> 				 <b>Igloo #9 Meeting</b> 6:30 pm	  <b>Four Chaplains Day</b> <b>Pool League</b>	
4	Chili Dogs 5	Mexican Martes 6	7	B, B, M&C 8	Steak Night 9	10
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> <b>Members Poker</b> 5:00 pm	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 		<b>Jewelry Class with Carol Souza</b> 6:00 pm 	<b>SAL Meeting</b> 7pm 	 <b>Pool League</b>  <b>ALR Pancake Breakfast!</b>	
11	Chili Dogs 12	Mexican Martes 13	Valentines Day 14	B, B, M&C 15	Steak Night 16	17
<b>Super Bowl Post opens at 1:30 pm</b>  <b>Luscious Leftovers</b> <b>Members Poker</b> 5:00 pm	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 	<b>Post Meeting</b> 5:30pm 	<b>Auxiliary Meeting</b> 6pm  <b>Jewelry Class with Carol Souza</b> 6:00 pm 		 <b>Pool League</b> 	
18	Chili Dogs 19	Mexican Martes 20	21	B, B, M&C 22	Steak Night 23	24
<b>Community Breakfast</b>  <b>Luscious Leftovers</b> <b>Members Poker</b> 5:00 pm	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b>  <b>Presidents' Day</b>		<b>Jewelry Class with Carol Souza</b> 6:00 pm 		 <b>Pool League</b> 	
25	Chili Dogs 26	Mexican Martes 27	28	B, B, M&C 29		
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> <b>Members Poker</b> 5:00 pm	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 		<b>Jewelry Class with Carol Souza</b> 6:00 pm 	<b>Leap Year Day</b> February 29 		



Food Served Every Night at the Post!