



For God and Country Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5
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1st Vice COMMENTS By Clare Sullivan

Happy New Year! What a great year we've had! It has been one that was exceptionally full and rewarding. We had the opportunity to help many in our community and our veterans in our Post 5 Family. I especially want to thank all our amazing volunteers who took the time out of their busy lives to make things happen and to make a difference for others. You have risen to the challenge every time to help veterans and their families, our active duty, and our community. We are so very fortunate to have the members we have who unselfishly volunteer their time to help our mission to serve others. We have some incredibly generous and talented people who help out wherever they can. From Dave Dieckgraeff and his crew at **Metco** plowing the snow and spreading gravel at the post to Rocky Elhard at Marathon Electric and Mike Insalaco at AAES for putting up the lights at the cemetery. And, in particular the amazing volunteers who reliably show up for all our events. It is a great feeling to live in a town where people care for others and work to improve things for all. We also even manage to have a bit of fun while we're working to help others.



For a small post we accomplish a lot. I would like to highlight some of our events in 2017. We started the year of course with a New Year's Eve party at the post, closely with supporting the **Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival** where we helped the Polar Bear Jump-Off Committee with the weekend festivities. Throughout the year, we also had nightly activities of poker and pool league, once again supported by incredible volunteers. We also had sports commentary by our sports aficionados for whatever game was afoot! And how can I not mention the fabulous meals provided on a nightly basis. In early February we had our **Super Bowl Party** where we enthusiastically rooted on some great teams and had a wonderful **Valentines' Day Dinner** for our members and their sweethearts as well as the National Oceanic Science Bowl support and our Post 5 Open House. In March we celebrated **St. Patrick's Day** where we all were Irish for the day! We also celebrated the **98th Birthday of the American Legion** and we installed our new officers at our **Installation Dinner**. Busy times!



In April, besides tax relief day ☺ we had a community **Easter Breakfast**, a yummy **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** and good representation at the annual **Department Convention in Hanes**. We did amazingly well with all sorts of awards! It was a proud day for all of us at Post 5 and reflects the dedication and hard work by all of us in our American Legion Family!

We followed in May with our **Mother's Day Breakfast**, the **YMCA's Armed Forces Combat Fishing Tournament** support at the Cruise Ship Terminal and of course one of our most important weekends where we remember our departed military members who have gone to "Post Everlasting" - the **Memorial Day Weekend** ceremonies at the Legion Cemetery. We also had good representation at the Memorial Day **Byers Lake** motorcycle run with our ALR riding proudly - we all were fortunate, we had great times and although the weather wasn't great we had a good showing of support by the wonderful folks in town. It sure was a busy month but we got it all done!

June really kicked off our summer and our long days, we celebrated **Flag Day** with a ceremony and we "retired" several flags that completed their service; and we had a yummy **Father's Day Breakfast** to honor our dads! July's activities followed quickly with **4th of July** festivities where we marched and road motorcycles in the parade and served up the Post 5 "world famous ribs!" As always we had a great representation by our **USCGC Mustang** crew in the parade. What a great honor to have these wonderful and patriotic folks representing our military in our town's parade!



In August we helped to celebrate the Coast Guard Birthday and welcomed the Crew from the **USCGC Healy** for their visit. We also benefited by the arrival of the **Seward Silver Salmon Derby** and all the members who came to town, visited the post, and had a great time fishing.

September, we had our **Early Bird Dinner** and it was a good turn out and a tasty meal for all as we looked to continue our membership drive. We also observed **Patriot Day**, **POW/MIA Recognition Day** and **American Legion Day**.



October brought brisk weather and we had a great time at the **Department Commander's Visitation Dinner**. We had a great time welcoming our department officers.



As we started looking toward the cooler weather we forged ahead with activities, we honored our veterans with **Veterans' Day** ceremonies and a dinner at the post. The Auxiliary had their **Toys for Tots Auction** where funds were raised to buy presents for children and families in need during the holidays, and of course we had our ever tasty



Thanksgiving Dinner where we fed many in the community on a truly American Holiday. As the year was winding down, we surely weren't!

December brought lots of activities including getting ready for the holidays. We sent out **Operation Apple Pie** packages to the servicemembers from the Seward and Moose Pass areas and we helped out with the **Christmas Parade** wonderfully supported by the **Seward Fire Department**.



When the parade was done **Santa & Mrs. Claus** arrived at the post to pass out lots of wonderful gifts for the children in town. It was a busy

visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus but it was also a great visit with tasty snacks and warm refreshments!



Later in the month we also prepared and fed many in town by delivery or folks coming to the post to a wonderful **Christmas Dinner** - and to end the month we had a fabulous **New Year's Eve** get together with our membership - we even had wonderful entertainment by some talented local musicians! Many thanks Chris, Greta and Nate!!!



Now I'd like to address something that is essential to our organization - **Membership**. I know we talk about how good it is to have a healthy membership and some may feel we "harp" on it too much but the reason we do this is that if we're healthy in membership then we are able to help others in our community and of course our veterans. We don't generally advertise what we do in town but your support and membership have allowed us to do some good work over the last year as in many years before. We as an American Legion Family have donated several thousand dollars in scholarships and for veteran meals at the Senior Center, paid medical expenses, utility and heating bills, provided free holiday meals for many in the community, and have provided many gifts for children in town during the holidays. Our American Legion Family has donated well over \$90,000 to local causes and military support functions. As you can see with a strong and participatory membership we can help others and make a difference in people's lives.

We're all an important part of this town and we can positively affect those around us and influence all we come in contact with; after all, we are a service oriented group of people who are working together for the betterment of all.

Now it is 2018 we'll be having the **election of new officers** in all our organizations in the next few months. The selection of new officers keeps the forward momentum of the organization and infuses new ideas with the participation of new people; new folks keep things fresh and exciting. Membership participation and the new and bright ideas from individuals who get involved energize all to do what we can in the areas of veterans support, child welfare and education, and community service here in Seward.

Volunteering is not altogether a time consuming activity within our organization, and many of our positions do not require a lot of time to be taken out of a busy life but we can always use a helping hand here and there with input and new ideas. It is fun to be involved, and you get a good feeling when you do something for others without the expectation of anything in return. Actually, you get quite a bit in return by establishing friendships with good people who are also motivated by doing what is right and contributing positively to our community. Please consider volunteering or filling an officer position (or both ☺) if you have even just a few hours a week or month to help.

The American Legion Family has been here for many years and has been a solid foundation as a service organization within the community, and a reliable source for assistance and camaraderie for veterans and many members in Seward. We have helped many people in the community over the decades and now we could use a little help too, so please consider your post, unit or squadron when you have some free time and know that your efforts will help not only a few but many throughout our community.



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the House!!!!

Another great year has passed. The Club hosted too many great events to mention and had too many great volunteers to name each one. I will simply give everyone a truly heart felt Thank You for all your support, time, and effort. All the volunteers from all the Legion Family organizations deserve all the credit for the success of the Legion Family Mission in Seward!



Starting off the New Year we will have the Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Watch on Jan 13th, our Community Breakfast on Jan 21st, and the Polar Bear Jump Off Festival on Jan 26-27. We will need volunteers for all these events so let us know if you can give some time and effort to help make these functions successful as always.

Please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so. We will soon be checking for 2018 membership cards when you come in the club. Membership is the foundation for everything we do and a larger and active membership helps us plan more ways to assist our veterans and the community of Seward.



We're also going strong with our weekly activities of Poker, Bingo, Pool League and of course with our football season!

Remember, those of you on the Building Committee, the first meeting is on Tuesday, Jan 2nd at 7:00pm.

Thanks again to all of you who helped make 2017 a great year. I appreciate your continued support for your Post and Club. 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.

I want to take this moment to thank all the great Squadron 5 volunteers who helped the Post 5 Family accomplish all that was done in 2017 to support our veterans and the community of Seward. As is my norm, I will not try to name everyone who helped or try to remember all of the events. I will just give you all a big Thank You for staying true to the mission of the SAL.



This month the Post will host the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Change of Watch on Jan 13th, the Community Breakfast on Jan 21st, and the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival on Jan 26-27. If you are able to help with any of these functions, please let me know and we will gladly put you to work. 😊



Remember that membership renewal time is here. I thank those who have already renewed and encourage those who have not to consider doing so. We will begin asking to see your 2018 cards when you come to the club so please have them available. Membership drives the train for the S.A.L. and all its programs, locally and nationally.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support of the Post 5 Family mission of service to the veterans and other community members in Seward.

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.



The Tet Offensive (January 1968)

Excerpt: Wikipedia

The **Tet Offensive** (Vietnamese: *Sự kiện tết Mậu thân 1968*) was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War, launched on January 30, 1968 by forces of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army against South Vietnam, the United States, and their allies. It was a campaign of surprise attacks against military and civilian commands and control centers throughout South Vietnam.

The operations are referred to as the Tet Offensive because there was a prior agreement to "cease fire" during the Tet Lunar New Year celebrations. Both North and South Vietnam announced on national radio broadcasts that there would be a two-day cease-fire during the holiday. Nonetheless, the Communists launched an attack that began during the early morning hours of 30 January 1968, the first day of Tet. In Vietnamese, the offensive is commonly called *Tết Mậu Thân* (Tet, year of the monkey). Military planners called it the "General Offensive and Uprising" (*Cuộc Tổng tiến công và nổi dậy*).

The Communists launched a wave of attacks in the late night hours of 30 January in the I and II Corps Tactical Zones of South Vietnam. This early attack did not lead to widespread defensive measures. When the main communist operation began the next morning the offensive was countrywide and well-coordinated, eventually more than 80,000 Communist troops striking more than 100 towns and cities, including 36 of 44 provincial capitals, five of the six autonomous cities, 72 of 245 district towns, and the southern capital. The offensive was the largest military operation conducted by either side up to that point in the war.

The initial attacks stunned the US and South Vietnamese armies and caused them to temporarily lose control of several cities, but they quickly regrouped to beat back the attacks, inflicting massive casualties on Communist forces. During the Battle of Huế intense fighting lasted for a month resulting in the destruction of the city by US forces while the Communists executed thousands of residents in the Massacre at Huế. Around the US combat base at Khe Sanh fighting continued for two more months. Although the offensive was a military defeat for the Communists, it had a profound effect on the US government and shocked the US public, which had been led to believe by its political and military leaders that the Communists were, due to previous defeats, incapable of launching such a massive effort. The term "Tet offensive" usually refers to the January-February 1968 offensive, but it can also include the so-called "Mini-Tet" offensives that took place in May and August.

Post in Exile...

Excerpt: China Post 1 Website

This past week we had the privilege to meet one of our brother American Legion members from **China Post #1** which is a very unique post! We received a wonderful history lesson on the Post's formation from Scott who came to visit us for Steak Night China Post 1 is an American Legion post, unique in that, it is a post - the only post within the American Legion - operating in exile.



China Post 1 was formed in 1919 and chartered in 1920, and made its home at the American Club in Shanghai. During the late 1940s, the battle between communist and nationalist forces for control of China was settled in favor of the communists. In November 1948, China Post 1 sent its records to National headquarters in Indianapolis and went into exile.



Today, China Post 1 is part of the Department of France and a member of FODPAL (Foreign Departments and Posts of The American Legion). The post still has no permanent home, although "watering holes" around the globe offer a space for meetings, which are considered to occur wherever two or more members meet." Seward is one of the prestigious "watering holes!" 😊

The unique quality of China Post #1 is reflected in the character of its membership. In addition to meeting the qualifications established by the National Constitution of the American Legion..., China Post #1 members are usually further distinguished by the character of their service. Post members generally have had a significant career in active service, a meritorious period of duty or of acts while in service, or they have civilian careers or professions after honorable service working in, or in support of operations in the international community.



Welcome China Post #1, we're pleased to be a "watering hole" for our post in exile!



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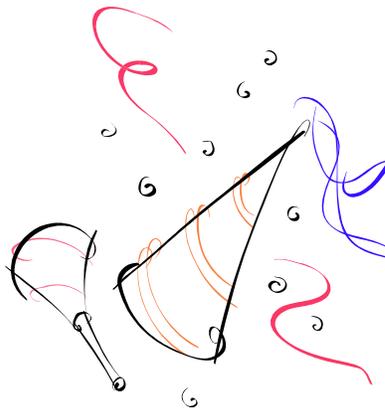
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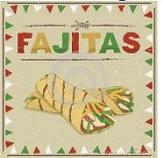
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January 2018



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| New Year's Eve!!!! | 1 | Mexican Martes 2 | 3 | 4 | Steak Night 5 | 6 |
|  Happy New Year |  |  Building Committee Meeting 7pm | Guest Chef Night | |  KARAOKE 7PM |  Pool League |
| 7 | 8 | Mexican Martes 9 | 10 | 11 | Steak Night 12 | 13 |
| "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM  Luscious Leftovers | OMAHA POKER 6PM  Luscious Leftovers BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  | Post Meeting 7pm  | Auxiliary Meeting 7pm  | SAL Meeting 7pm  Guest Chef Night Venison and Moose Brats, Beer Brats, Hotdogs, and Hot Italian Sausage 😊 |  KARAOKE 7PM | Pool League Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Watch Ceremony 6pm |
| 14 | 15 | Mexican Martes 16 | 17 | 18 | Steak Night 19 | 20 |
| "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM  Luscious Leftovers | BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  OMAHA POKER 6PM  Luscious Leftovers |  | Guest Chef Night Venison Fajitas  | |  KARAOKE 7PM |  Pool League |
| 21 | 22 | Mexican Martes 23 | 24 | 25 | Steak Night 26 | 27 |
| Community Breakfast  "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers | OMAHA POKER 6PM  Luscious Leftovers BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  |  | Guest Chef Night | |  KARAOKE 7PM | Lots of activities all day - check the Polar Bear Schedule!!!! 😊 |
| Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival | | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | Mexican Martes 30 | 31 | | | |
| "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM  Luscious Leftovers | BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Luscious Leftovers OMAHA POKER 6PM  |  | Guest Chef Night |  | |  |

Food Served Every Night at the Post

Stop on by for some good eats and good camaraderie!

Happy New Year to all at our Seward Post #5 American Legion Family!

