



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

January 2022
Volume 19, Issue 01

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Happy New Year! What a year it has been! 2021 was one that was exceptionally challenging with all the changes and requirements yet unexpectedly rewarding too. We had the opportunity to help many in our community and our veterans this year throughout it all. I especially want to thank all our volunteers who took the time to keep our post going in service to others. We have some incredibly generous and talented people who help wherever they can. From our everyday patrons who keep the place fun and cheery to the amazing volunteers who show up for all our scheduled and at times ad hoc 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 quite a bit, and this is where I also put on my Post Historian hat to chronical and memorialize what we do. So, with that in mind, I would like to highlight some of our events in 2021. We started last year of course with a New Year's Eve Party and also celebrating our 101 anniversary at the tail end of 2020. And how can I not mention the fabulous meals provided on a nightly basis, weekly Bingo and the 3rd Sunday of the Month breakfasts for our membership and the community.

We celebrated Saint Patrick's Day, American Legion Day, Flag Day, ALR Bike Blessing, Armed Forces Day as well as Memorial Day!



The 4th of July was a bit different due to Covid with most of the activities on the 4th but the Mount Marathon Race on the 7th but we persevered to make sure we remembered our independence Day! Way to go Post 5 Family!!!



In August the town had its 66th Silver Salmon Derby and a great time was had by all, and some great fish were hauled in.



In September, we celebrated American Legion Day on the 16th as well as Constitution and Citizenship Day, remembered those lost on Patriot Day (9/11/01) and remembered those who fought for our country and never returned on POW/MIA Recognition Day.



October brought brisk weather and we had a great time decorating the post and enjoying the Fall and all October has to offer including a fun filled Halloween at the post.



As we started looking toward the cooler weather we forged ahead and honored our veterans with **Veterans Day** with a yummy dinner at the post and we were able to give some "Honor Quilts" and wonderful cards made by the elementary school kids!



Later in the month we had our ever-tasty **Thanksgiving Dinner** where we fed many folks in the community on a truly American Holiday.



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 the Auxiliary had their **Christmas with Santa, Mrs Claus & the elves** to pass out lots of wonderful gifts for the children in town. It was one of the busiest visits from Santa in a long, long time!



We also prepared, delivered food for over 100 folks in town and fed nearly 80 at the post for Christmas! also served many folks who came to the post to share in a wonderful **Christmas Dinner**. Kudos to "the Crew!"



And, to end the month we had a fabulous **New Year's Eve** get together with our membership! As it was Friday night, we had a wonderful crowd as we rang in the end of a challenging, but oh so rewarding 2021! Thanks all for all you do!!!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Now, I'd like to mention something that is essential to our organization – **Membership**. We often discuss how good it is to have a healthy membership and the reason for that is if we have a good membership then we can help others in our community. We don't spend much time advertising what we do in the community, but your support and membership has allowed us to do some good work over the last year. And, as "big ticket items," we as an American Legion Family have donated several thousand dollars in post-secondary scholarships and technical school training. Also, we as an American Legion Family donated to numerous local charities that benefit our veterans and our community. Just know your participation has allowed us to donate around \$75,000 from all our organizations to our community. Anything you do, whether volunteering, playing "rippies," coming up for a meal or helping your neighbor, you are contributing to making our post and our town a better place - so thank you for all you do!!!

Inasmuch as it is 2022, 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 from these 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.

Our American Legion Family has been here for many years (102 years now!!!! 😊) and it has been a solid foundation as a service organization and a good community partner. We're excited to continue in our second century of service. So why don't you check us out and invite others, we're a good place for positive camaraderie for veterans and many folks in Seward. So, if you like what we do, come on down and get more information - we look forward to "seeing you at the Post!"



House and Vice Report

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice,

Hope you all had a great and safe New Year's Eve celebration and I wish you all health and happiness in the new year of 2022.

I want to thank all our members for their continued support of the Post and Club. You are all awesome and help us provide all the benefits and services to our membership, veterans, and the Seward community. You all helped us get through a tough year which we could not have done without your generous donation of time, effort, and money. We have a great, dedicated and generous family at Post 5 and you should all be proud of what you have accomplished this past year. So many volunteers helped us work through all the activities this past year that I will not try to name you all as I will surely forget someone. Just know how much I appreciate all the time and effort you have been putting in this winter.

This month the Post will be hosting events for the **Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival on January 14-15**. The schedule will be out soon, and you can let us know when and where you can donate your time and effort. There will be **Steak Night** both nights, **Breakfast** on the 15th and 16th, **Turkey Bowling** on the 15th (weather permitting), and the **Karaoke Contest** the night of the 15th. Lots to do and lots of help needed.



We are also working on hosting the crew of the USNS Grasp, a Military Sealift Command vessel, for a crew dinner this month TBA.

Planning for the next raffles is underway and we will let you know what they are as soon as plans are finalized.

The 2022 Membership year is well underway, and you can renew online at mylegion.org, by mail, or in person at the post. Membership is the backbone of your 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. So far, we have met all monthly membership goals so keep up the good work.

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.

Happy New Year everyone. As we start 2022, I would like to send best wishes to all for a better and brighter year than 2021.

I want to thank all Squadron members who volunteered their time, effort, and money during the past year. You have all made supporting the mission of the Post 5 family much easier and I commend your efforts.



This month the big event for the Post is the Polar Bear Jump-Off Festival. It will be back in full swing this year and there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities. This will be held Jan 14-15. The Post will have **Steak Night** on the 14th and the 15th, there will be a breakfast on the 15th and the 16th, there will be **Turkey Bowling**, weather permitting, on the 15th, and there will be the **Karaoke Contest** on the night of the 15th. Lots going on so let me know if you can help during any of these events.

The 2022 Membership year is in full-swing and the new cards are available. Thank you to all those that have already renewed their memberships and please consider renewing soon if you have not already done so. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs.



First Call for nomination of officers will be held at the monthly meeting on Jan 13th. Meetings are open to all current paid members and all are welcome to attend.

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 when possible.

Here's to a happy, safe, and prosperous new year for everyone.



From the President's Desk...

By Debbie VanTassel

Welcome to 2022! Hopefully it will be a great year for everyone.

December was a busy month for the Auxiliary. We were once again able to do the Firetruck Santa Parade for the community children. We had 122 children get the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and receive a present from them. We had a lot more children that participated in the Firetruck Parade. Thank you so much to the Seward Volunteer Fire Department and the Seward Police Department for helping us with this project. The children LOVE riding on the Firetrucks. Also, a huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped on the 18th and on the 11th with wrapping all the presents. It was a great day and even mother nature helped out with the weather.



We also completed some of our other community programs such as the food baskets. Thank you to Safeway for helping us out with this program. We were also able to provide stockings and gifts to the crew of the USCGC Mustang as a thank you for their service.

Throughout the year we have Bingo and other Gaming programs that allow us to raise money to donate into the Community. This money is used for many great purposes: to help persons in need in the community with rent, utilities, food and other needs, provide scholarships for students, to purchase the presents for the Santa parade, and purchase the food baskets at the holidays.

At the end of the year, the Executive Board also determines where to donate the remainder of the monies. This year we are making donations to the Seward Volunteer Fire Department, Seward Volunteer Ambulance Service, Bear Creek Fire Department, Seward Senior Center for meals for Veterans and spouses, Seward Homeless Connection and Alaska Fire Chief and Chaplains Association.

As you can see our Bingo games allow us to provide a lot of assistance into the community. So please come on down to the Post on Monday nights and play Bingo! It's a great way to have fun on a Monday night and helps the Auxiliary continue its many charitable programs in the community. Thank you to Sharon, Marilyn, Joanne, and Michelle for continuing to volunteer countless hours to keep the Bingo games going!



Reminder as we enter into 2022, if you have not renewed your membership please do! Your 2021 membership card expires on December 31st, 2021. We are currently at about 70% renewal for 2022.



At the February 2022 regular meeting will be the first call for Officers for the next year. Please consider serving as an Officer. It would be really great to add new faces and new ideas to the Executive Board.



If you are interested in serving as an Officer, please let one of the existing Officers know. If you don't want to serve as an officer, you can always attend the regular meetings- held the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 6 PM.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and were able to spend time with Family and Friends. Wishing you a wonderful Happy New Year full of joy and Happiness.



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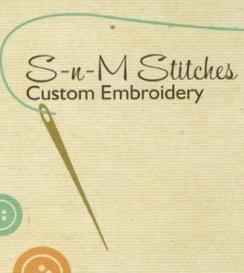
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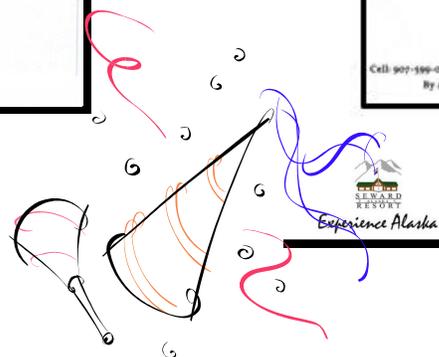
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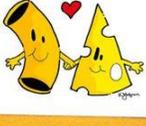
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January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night	New Year's Day 1
					New Year's Eve 	Pool League 
2	Chili Dogs	3 Mexican Martes	4	5	B, B, M&C	6 Steak Night
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 			Pioneers of AK Igloo #9 meeting 6:30 pm 		Pool League 
9	Chili Dogs	10 Mexican Martes	11	12	B, B, M&C	13 Steak Night
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 	Polar Bear Jump-Off  	
16	Martin Luther King Day	17 Mexican Martes	18	19	B, B, M&C	20 Steak Night
Community Breakfast 	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 		Guest Chef Night Filipino Dinner			Pool League 
23	Chili Dogs	24 Mexican Martes	25	26	B, B, M&C	27 Steak Night
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					Pool League 
30	Chili Dogs	31				
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					

Food Every Night at the Post!!!

JANUARY