



# Veterans Strengthening America

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Happy New Year!!! What a year it has been! 2022 was one that was exceptionally challenging but a lot of fun that allowed us to operate in a nearly normal way. And, the Seward Post 5 Family jumped right back into the "swing of things" throughout the year! As our priority has always been we had the opportunity to help many in our community and our veterans throughout the year. 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 place where people care for others and work to improve things for everyone. 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 2022. We started out last year of course with a New Year's Eve Party where we watched the fireworks from the back deck and enjoyed the "Sanctuary of Sanity" with fine food and drink and celebrated our 103rd Post 5 birthday at the tail end of 2022. And how can I not mention the fabulous meals provided on a nightly basis, and all holidays, plus weekly Bingo and weekly Jewelry making classes, and of course the yummy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month breakfasts for our membership and the community.

As we started out 2022, we had a lot of fun with the Polar Bear Jump Off Festival, celebrated Saint Patrick's Day, had a fun Installation Dinner, observed American Legion Day, Flag Day, ALR Bike Blessing, Armed Forces Day, Combat Fishing Tournament, Memorial Day and Veterans Day!



When we started to get into the "ber" months we started in September. We celebrated **American Legion Day** on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Installation & 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 a dinner at the post and we were able give some "Honor Quilts" and spent some wonderful time with the kids at the elementary school!



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 our local 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 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 Saturday night, we had a wonderful crowd as we rang in the end of a challenging, but oh so rewarding end of 2022! 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 \$90,000 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 2023, 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 veteran support, child welfare and education, and community service here in Seward.

Our American Legion Family has been here for many years (103 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 & Adjutant,

There are too many volunteers that have supported the Club throughout the year to mention everyone, but I will mention a few. First, I would like to give recognition and thanks to the great volunteer bartenders. Connie, Sharon, Michelle and Dan continue to make life much easier for me and have provided great service to our members and guests while receiving no pay from the Club for their efforts.



There is also all the behind the scenes volunteers who consistently come in to help with Steak Night, breakfast, and all the other free meals we provide throughout the year. We would not be able to pay staff to do what all the great volunteers do for us so be sure to acknowledge these volunteers and let them know you appreciate their efforts.

This month our main activities will be the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival being held January 13-14 and our community breakfast on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. We will let you know about other volunteer opportunities as they arise.



Pool league is going well, poker on Sundays has kicked in, and Bingo is going great on Mondays. Pool and Poker are Member only activities and Bingo is open to the community. We still serve food every night so come and enjoy some fun and some good food.

We will begin to hold more raffles starting later this month so keep an eye open for those notifications and you may win some very cool stuff including guns, ammo, knives, quilts, etc...

The 2023 membership year is rolling along. You can renew online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), by mail, or here at the Post. The dues remain \$60.00. Membership is the backbone of this 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.



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.

Good-bye 2022 and hello 2023. What a year it has been and we look forward to a better one this year.

I want to thank all Squadron members who have consistently volunteered their time and effort in support of Squadron 5 and the entire Post 5 Family. You have all helped the Post 5 Family accomplish the goals of service to our veterans and to the community of Seward.



During 2022 Squadron 5 supported all Post 5 functions and activities, consistently provided food service support, helped maintain the Legion cemetery and the grounds around the Post. We sent delegates to the Department Convention and the Fall Conference. Squadron 5 was also able to give out over \$15,000.00 in scholarships and charitable donations. Thank you again for your dedication and support of the Legion mission.

This month the Post will need help during the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival on Jan 13-14, and with the community breakfast on Jan 15. We will let you know about other volunteer opportunities as they are developed.



The 2023 Membership year is in full swing so please consider renewing your membership at any time. The dues will remain at \$35.00 for the 2023 year. Membership is the foundation for all the SAL programs.



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.



# From the President's Desk...

By Sharon Dillon

Welcome to 2023! Let's make it a great year for everyone! 😊😊😊

December was an exceptionally busy month for Auxiliary Unit #5. We were once again able to do the Firetruck Santa Parade for the community's children. We had lots of children get the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and receive a present from them with lots of fun elves to make things happen. Thanks to the Seward Volunteer Fire Department, the Bear Creek Volunteer Fire Department and the Seward Police Department for helping us with this project. It was a chilly day but things came together with lots of pink cheeks and fun times awaiting their turn to see Santa! The children were so excited to ride on the Firetrucks. Besides Santa and Mrs. Claus that was the highlight of their day! Also, a huge thank you to all the volunteers from Kim Barhaug and the members of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) that helped out and made things happen. It was a great day and even mother nature helped out with the weather, albeit a chilly one!!!!



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

Throughout the year we have are continuing with Bingo and other gaming programs that allow us to raise money to donate into the community. This money is used for many purposes such as scholarships for students, to help persons in need in the community with rent, utilities, food and other needs, to purchase the presents for the Santa parade, and purchase the food baskets at the holidays among other items that present themselves to us.

As you can see our Bingo games and gaming locations allow us to provide a lot of assistance to others. So please come on down to the Post on Monday nights and play Bingo, it's fun and you're helping others at the same time! Many thanks you to Marilyn, Joanne, Debbie and Michelle for continuing to contribute continuing hours to keep the Bingo and "rippie" games going!



As we head into 2023 I just want to remind people you're your 2022 membership is expired! 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄 So, I would like to remind those who haven't renewed to do so soon son not to miss all the fun stuff we have going.... And, for those who have renewed – THANK YOU!!!



A new year calls for new ideas and fresh faces! At the February 2023 regular meeting we will have the "First Call for Officers" for the next year. It is a great opportunity to get involved in an organization that has a lot of internal support and gives you the opportunity to give back to our community that we all love. If you have wanted to be involved in an organization that helps others, this is good one to be part of. We always want new ideas and new "blood" to help us move forward; and this would be a great year for it as Auxiliary Unit #5 will be 100 years old this September. It would be really great to add new faces and new ideas to "the Board but even if you don't want an officer position, come on by and see what we do! We're a fun group that gets a lot done in support of our American Legion Family.



Once again, Merry Christmas to you and your family and I wish you all the best for an amazing 2023! Let's hope that as we continue into this year that we focus on what is important to us all and remember our Auxiliary Mission of "Service, Not Self!"



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"If it has a key, we have a policy to fit it!"

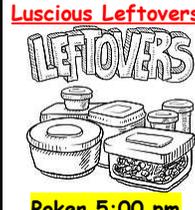
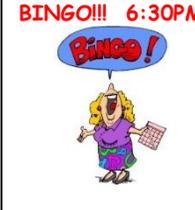
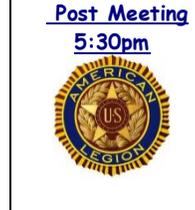
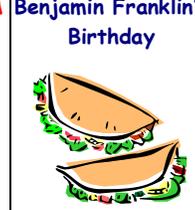
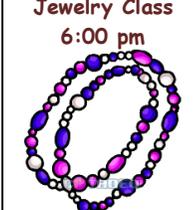
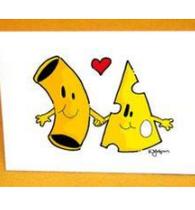
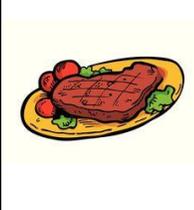
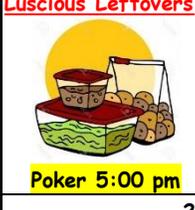
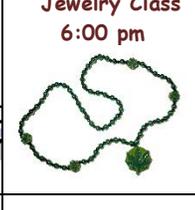
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# NEW YEAR'S EVE 2022 EXTRAS... 😊



HAPPY NEW YEAR AND ALL THE BEST TO OUR  
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY!


**January 2023**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						New Year's Eve 31
						
1	<b>Chili Dogs</b>	2 <b>Mexican Martes</b>	3	4	<b>B,B,M&amp;C</b>	5 <b>Steak Night</b>
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> 	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 		<b>Jewelry Class 6:00pm</b> 	<b>Pioneers of AK Igloo #9 meeting 6:30 pm</b> 		<b>Pool League</b> 
8	<b>Chili Dogs</b>	9 <b>Mexican Martes</b>	10	11	<b>B,B,M&amp;C</b>	12 <b>Steak Night</b>
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> 	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 	<b>Post Meeting 5:30pm</b> 	<b>Auxiliary Meeting 6pm</b> 	<b>SAL Meeting 7pm</b> 	<b>Polar Bear Jump-Off</b>  	
15	<b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	16 <b>Mexican Martes</b>	17	18	<b>B,B,M&amp;C</b>	19 <b>Steak Night</b>
<b>Community Breakfast</b> 	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 	<b>Benjamin Franklin's Birthday</b> 	<b>Jewelry Class 6:00 pm</b> 			<b>Pool League</b> 
22	<b>Chili Dogs</b>	23 <b>Mexican Martes</b>	24	25	<b>B,B,M&amp;C</b>	26 <b>Steak Night</b>
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> 	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 		<b>Jewelry Class 6:00 pm</b> 			<b>Pool League</b> 
29	<b>Chili Dogs</b>	30 <b>Mexican Martes</b>	31			
<b>Luscious Leftovers</b> 	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 					<b>Happy New Year</b> 

**FOOD EVERY NIGHT AT THE POST!!!**

**JANUARY**