

## Veterans Strengthening America

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

January 2024 Volume 21, Issue 01

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#### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

Happy New Year!!! What a year it has been! 2023 was one that was busy but a lot of fun! The Seward Post 5 Family jumped right into the "swing of things" right at the start of the New Year, that is

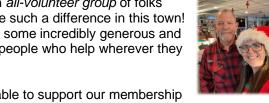




after we recovered from Christmas and New Year celebrations. As our priority is to help many in our community and our veterans throughout the year, I especially want to thank all our volunteers who took the time out of their busy lives to keep our

post going in service to others. Its amazing that we are

able to accomplish all that we do with nearly an all-volunteer group of folks that make such a difference in this town! We have some incredibly generous and talented people who help wherever they can.



We are able to support our membership who keep the place fun and cheery and the amazing volunteers who show up for all our scheduled, and at times, spontaneous 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 guite 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 2023.... We started out the beginning of 2023, 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.



2023 New Year

Following that busy start, how can I not mention the fabulous meals provided on a nightly basis throughout the year, plus weekly Bingo and Jewelry making classes, Saturday night Pool League and Sunday Texas Hold 'em Poker and the yummy 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfasts for our membership and the community.

Just as we started out 2023, we had a lot of fun while we rang in 2024 with good food and fun again on New Year's Eve with many in our Legion Family.... even with an eagle shaped salmon dip!!! How Alaskan is that???!!!! @









Ok, Back to January 2023... a short two weeks after the new year, we were deep in the Polar Bear Jump Off Festival and we moved down the calendar, ticking off the months by celebrating Saint Patrick's Day, American Legion Day, Flag Day, our annual ALR Bike Blessing, Armed Forces Day, Armed Forces Combat Fishing Tournament, Memorial Day, Silver Salmon Derby, the ALA Unit 5 Centennial Celebration and Veterans Day! We'll have some photos from these events at the end of the newsletter. All this before we got to our "busy" holiday season!!!

In addition to all the above, during the summer we welcomed several military crews who were just visiting or were in drydock for ship repairs. We had tasty dinners and wonderful camaradarie with members of the USS Zumwalt, USS Lake Champlain, USCGC Fir and the USCGC Kukui. We gave them all warm Seward Post 5 hospitality and we have some good memories and have some new friends!



USS Lake Champlain and USCGC Fir

**USS Zumwalt** 



USCGC Kukui



As we started to get into the "ber" months we started in September. We celebrated **American Legion Day** and the **Early Bird Dinner** on the 16<sup>th</sup> as well as **Constitution and Citizenship Day**, we 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 on** Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.











We also had a special treat with Unit #5 and their Centennial Celebration with true Gatsby flair and an amazing silent auction that was supported by so many of our businesses in town including some incredible talent from Spring Creek Correctional Center! And of course, lively bidding!















Not to be outdone in notable activities, Squadron #5 completed the flagpole project where they coordinated material and labor and got our sixth service (Space Force) flagpole installed on the cemetery dais. You never know how complicated a project is until you get concrete involved!!!





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 with costumes and goodies galore!











As we started looking toward the cooler weather we forged ahead and honored our veterans on **Veterans Day** with a yummy a dinner at the post and we held a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Senior Center! As the heavy snows were upon us most of the ceremonies at the schools and for the weekend were cancelled but we managed to celebrate at the SCC with many of our "senior" veterans!







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** on December 16<sup>th</sup> to pass out lots of wonderful gifts for the children in town. It was a fun visit with Santa and the crew!

We also prepared, delivered around 85 meals and fed around 70 or so at the post for **Christmas Dinner**. Kudos to "the Crew!"





And, to end the month we make it back to the beginning of this summary! We had a fabulous **New Year's Eve** get together with our membership! We had a wonderful crowd as we rang in the end of an, oh so rewarding end of 2023!

Thanks all for all you do!!!



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 with your support and membership you have 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 postsecondary 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 2024, 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 (104 years now!!!!  $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{S}}$ ) 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!"



# ALR "Stuff" from the Director By Bobby Dunno

Just to start out on an optimistic note, we have reached that point in the year where our days are getting longer. So, the inevitable is coming and although it seems so very far off, Motorcycle Season is coming. I was reminded of that by Dave at the Post Office it was snowing cold, and he sees me grins and raises his arms and mimics twisting the throttle. Gotta love that guy.

ALR news.....No surprise to know one Chapter 5's slate of Officers likely will not change as we had our first call for Officers in a rare December meeting. Another result of that meeting is a few ALR members will be doing a "Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast" starting in January.

Outside of moving snow, Bobby has not brok in a long time – this should be interesting. The

Outside of moving snow, Bobby has not broken a sweat in a long time – this should be interesting. The first Pancake feed is the 13<sup>th</sup> of January which also falls in line with Polar Bear Jump-off weekend. Wintertime fun for the ALR and opportunity to raise funds for the Chapter.

POLAR BEAR July OF FESTIVAL

So, knowing the slow but steady approach of motorcycle weather, it is time to start on those projects on your bikes in preparation for that first day in the saddle. Of course, that means opening the toolbox not just going out and sitting on them and wishing. So, get the parts filters and oils ready get it done so when time does get here we can....

#### Get On Our Bikes and Ride!



# Polar Bear Jump Off Festival Schedule



Come see the Karaoke Contest at the Post - a lot of talent and a lot of fun!!!



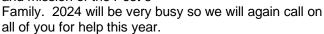
# Adjutant & Vice Report...... By Mike Calhoon

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Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

This is always the toughest newsletter article to write because so much has happened over the last 12 months.

I will simply give a Great Big Thank You to everyone who gave of their time, talent, effort, and money to support all the functions, activities, and mission of the Post 5





First up is the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival on Jan 12-13. Let us know if you can help and we will put you to work.

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.



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.

For God and Country

# Sounding Off from the Sons. By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Welcome 2024. We had a very busy 2023 with some great work done by Squadron 5 volunteers. You supported all the Post Family functions and activities throughout the year. Thanks, and kudos to all of you.

Of particular note, was Al Dykstra ramrodding the completion of the cemetery flag project. It was a great job and looks wonderful. Squadron members also helped maintain the grounds around the Post and at the cemetery. Squadron members volunteered for every Post Family function from the Polar Bear Jumpoff to New Year's Eve. You should all be applauded for your willingness to give of your time, money, and effort.



Let's get ready for another busy year. Polar Bear Jumpoff is just around the corner, Jan 12-13. Let us know if you can help.



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

Happy New Year!! We hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season. We hope all your wishes and wants got fulfilled.

I would like to thank everyone for your continuous help all year long. We had an amazing 2023 with the new year starting with the Polar Bear Jump to the New Years Eve party, it was indeed a spectacular year.

Speaking of Polar Bear, we are starting with that event again on January 12 -14th. A schedule of events is on: www.seward.com/events. I hope to see you for this wonderful event, helping kids with cancer.



Thank-you all who helped with our Toys for Tots Christmas party. A huge thank you to the Police and Fire Departments for your continual help with our parade and making the kid sooo happy getting to ride on the trucks and in the police car. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, for all you do as well. Thank you to all the merchants and Individuals who gave to organization so we could make the kids have a happy and memorable day.



Remember to pay your 2024 dues. \$40.00 for Auxiliary dues.

Auxiliary meeting is the second Wednesday of the month @ 6:00 pm.

Bingo every Monday, doors open at 6:00 and bingo at 6:30.

Breakfast is the third Sunday of the month.

We are in need of a committee for the election of the new officers, so please don't forget the meeting on the second Wednesday of the month.



Once again thank you everyone for your continual help!!! Happy 2024, For God and Country!!!



### Just for Fun Days in January

Excerpt from almanac.com

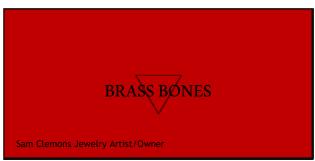
January is National Clean Up Your Computer
Month and National Hot Tea Month!

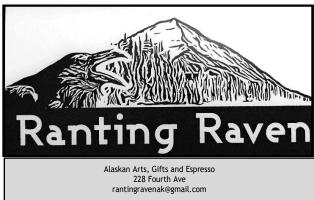
Here are some more fun things to celebrate in January:

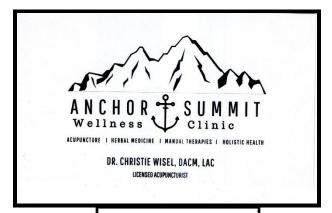
- January 1: Z Day (On this day, those whose last name begins with "Z" get to go first instead of last.)
- **January 3:** National Chocolate-Covered Cherry Day
- January 6: National Bean Day
- January 8: Elvis Presley's Birthday
- **January 10:** National Houseplant Appreciation Day
- January 14: National Dress Up Your Pet Day
- January 20: National Penguin Day
- January 22: National Answer Your Cat's Questions Day
- January 29: National Puzzle Day

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES FOR A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY 2024

### YOUR BUSINESS CARD SIZE AD HERE!







VA Approved Provider



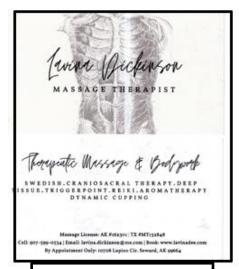




Outdoor Adventure Center Seward, Alaska

907-224-2600





VA Approved Provider

## Fond Memories in 2023





2023 INSTALLATION & DINNER







FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST \* HEALY VISIT & FLAG PRESENTATION









FLAG DAY CEREMONY



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY







TSUNAMI BOWL BREAKFAST \* MEMORIAL DAY FIRING DETAIL \* COMBAT FISHING TOURNEY FEED

WHAT A YEAR IT WAS AND A BIG THANKS TO ALL OUR SEWARD POST 5 FAMILY FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!





## FOOD EVERY NIGHT AT THE POST!!!

