



# For God and Country

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5  
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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Winter is nearly over, even if you want to call it that; it sure wasn't a cold and blowy one as we usually have. Did we even have a full week of winter weather? Hey, the daylight is coming back, and we practically have no snow to melt off, break up should be a breeze. ☺ We're not out of it yet but at least we have some more sun and the good prospect of the summer and better weather bringing more outdoor activities. Start gearing up the bikes, fishing poles, and get on planting the seeds for the summer flowers!

This month we have some fun and important things planned including participating in the **Seward Spring Break Festival**, **St Patrick's Day**, the **American Legion Birthday** and the final round of officer nominations for for Post, Auxiliary, Son's, and Riders. Along with identifying our new officers, we will be planning our **Officer Installation Dinner** toward the end of March.

So hang the the calendar on the fridge and look for those



updates on email activities that we have going on and that spontaneously crop up!



March 15 is the designated birthday of The American Legion, It is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. It was developed by veterans for veterans after the end of WWI. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4<sup>th</sup> - for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born - March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.



Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. We have an impressive legacy

and have done some incredible things in our 96 year history, and we're still moving forward with our commitment to service to our individual veteran, community and country.

We're working hard to hit our 90% mark for membership for March, **and to those who have renewed thank you very much.** Your membership continues to make us a strong organization with the ability to help others. Every membership makes us a stronger organization locally and through the national level. Our collective membership numbers are a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits. We have veterans throughout Seward ranging from WWII to veterans from the ongoing military conflicts in the Middle East and throughout the globe. We have a good representation in Seward, and are fortunate that we have many in our American Legion Family, encompassing Post, Auxiliary, and Sons who step up to the plate and help out. And for that I sincerely thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to be of service for our veterans and our community.

Examples of what the American Legion has successfully fought and is continuing to fight and represent us on in just the past year:

- **Passage of an amendment to return to the states the right to protect the U.S. flag from desecration**
- **Eliminate the disabled veterans tax**
- **Properly fund the Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Improve GI Bill education benefits**
- **Provide quality education through Post 9/11 GI Bill**
- **Focus programs on assisting vets with jobs**
- **Support veteran-entrepreneurs**
- **End veteran homelessness**
- **Continue to work toward reducing and eliminating VA claims backlog**

The above is just a highlight, more information can be found in the 2014 Annual Report that summarizes the programs and the accomplishments in the past year.

All our members of Post 5 have served or are still serving and all deserve positive consideration and respect due to their honorable service. The post is the starting point for veterans to learn what is being done regarding veterans' benefits and support and to learn how they can help others. As you probably have already figured it out, support can be found at all levels of this organization from one's home post to the national level, and with well over 2 million members nationwide we have a pretty good fighting force fighting for our veterans and their families!

**For God and Country!**

## House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

The winter that never was continues to move right along and I guess we will have to see what March brings us this year.

We had a fun February with the arrival of the USCGC Spar during Super Bowl weekend. Lots of fun with them and our own Mustang family. It was an exciting game and we had lots of great food and fun.

We supported the NOSB with breakfasts and snacks for 175 brilliant science minds and their chaperones on Feb 6-8; early mornings but lots of fun.

Valentine's Day Dinner once again proved to be another wonderful time at the Post. The food was great, as usual, and the decorations were beautiful. What a tremendous Legion family event it was. Valentine's Day was followed by a wonderful breakfast and a successful fundraising garage sale - many thanks to **David "Ozzie" Osborne and Rebecca Brinkley**.

We prepared lasagna, green beans, and salad for 150 Cub Scouts and their parents for the annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. They tell me everyone loved the food and nobody went away hungry so it was a successful event.

We also catered the Firefighters Banquet on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> with prime rib, chicken and all the fixings and it was a very nice event at the Seward Army Resort.



I would like to give a truly heartfelt thank you to all the hard working and dedicated volunteers who continue to give their time and

effort to help this Post serve our veterans and the community. Without all the volunteers none of what we do would be possible.

In March we will have opportunities to excel. We will be involved in the **Spring Break Festival March 13-14, breakfast on March 15<sup>th</sup>, St Patrick's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup>**, and whatever else comes along. Keep your volunteer hats on because it never seems to slow down too much when it comes to activities around the Post.

**John Christensen, Dieter Smith, and John Moline** were busy remodeling the downstairs men's bathroom and it should be complete soon. Thanks much guys, things are looking great!



**March 10<sup>th</sup> will be officer elections** for 2015-2016. If you are interested in a position or to have input please plan to attend the Post meeting that night at 7:00pm. All members in good standing are always welcome to come to the monthly meeting.

**Membership for 2015 is in full swing so if you have not renewed please consider doing so.** Membership drives the train for the American Legion and is the foundation for all we do. Thanks to everyone for supporting the Post and the Club. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 224-5440/362-2029.

## Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

What a busy February we had. We supported the Post's Super Bowl Party, the NOSB breakfasts, the Valentine's Day Dinner, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast, a garage sale with some incredible stuff, The Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet, and the Firefighters' Banquet.

As you can see, Squadron 5 is an important part of the Post 5 family plus we provide assistance, scholarships, and volunteer time in the community separate from the Post.

In March we will assist with the Spring Break Festival, the Community breakfast, St. Patrick's Day, and continued preparation for the Department Convention.

We will be electing officers for 2015-2016 at our monthly meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All members in good standing are invited and encouraged to attend and take part in all of our meetings.



If you have not renewed your membership please consider doing so. Membership drives everything we do and what we do is very important. If you know someone who may be eligible for membership you can contact me and I will answer any questions you may have.

I thank all of the SAL Squadron 5 members for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the Post.

## Convention Information

By Clare Sullivan

This year the **Annual Department of Alaska Convention** will be happening at our post between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April! Each post, squadron, auxiliary and riders organizations of the American Legion throughout the state will send "delegates." We will also have the privilege of the attendance of the National Commander, the National Auxiliary President, and the Sons of the American Legion National Commander as well. We are busily planning the event and looking to welcome the National Leadership in a fine Seward Style with a true Americanism theme of "America Strong."

The delegates represent their respective organization and are designated to vote on issues on behalf of their post, unit, squadron or chapter. This is a pretty big deal for posts throughout the state as decisions are made regarding programs, leadership and direction for the next year. It is an exciting time for "meet and greets" as well as having some fun with folks that we only get to see maybe a few times a year; and with all in one place it should be good times for all!

Many people have wondered what is done at these conventions and some think they are just a big social event; and they are partially right since you have the opportunity spend to time with many other Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons members throughout the state. These meetings however are designed to bring forward ideas and develop policy that a post wants to have considered beyond just their area of influence. In simple terms, an idea is brought forward to be considered in a resolution and to be approved at the state level, or if it has farther reaching implications, it is to be moved "up the chain" to National to be considered at the National Convention.

Also found at conventions are seminars to inform and teach the participants about a variety of subjects in the American Legion. They also provide information on ongoing programs inherent to the Four Pillars of the American Legion including oratorical competitions, Boys and Girls State, American Legion Baseball, Scouting, and of course Veteran Rehabilitation and Benefits, etc.

By actively participating in conventions one can go a long way toward contributing to the forward momentum of the American Legion. Earnest participation also addresses future leadership potential by making certain that the post delegate receives correct information at the training sessions provided at these conventions.

Conventions are also a great way to build connections, meet new folks who are like-minded and have the same service

oriented attitude. In addition, you will also find that attendance at functions will do much toward building the esprit de corps that makes for a good post.

Another occurrence at the convention is the election of officers. Similar to the elections at the post, there are elections of officers at the state level who have responsibilities in assisting and helping posts in the areas of programs and membership.

As this is a pretty big effort I want to thank the folks who are working on this event as they have spent personal time and lots of brain energy coming up with ways to put this event together. You guys are awesome! I also want to thank the local businesses and hotels who are giving us some special consideration and really great rates to help us welcome our visitors to town.



Conventions are great learning opportunities for all and a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make new ones with like-minded and service-oriented people. It is an opportunity to spend fun and productive time with other Legionnaires while working in service for our veterans, their families, and our communities.

## From the Director...

By Bobby Dunno

Hey we are looking at the beginning of March and with the wonderful month of March come of the inevitable onset of spring and the thing everyone is looking forward to the most RIDING SEASON. I have already seen a few bikes out and about and yes I am jealous and I won't see the road on two wheels until I get my bikes put back together. So Bobby needs to get around to getting busy getting bikes ready!



So while March will find us saddling up and taking those first slightly chilly rides with big grins on our faces, we will also be having our first ALR meeting on 5 March at 7pm and there is things we need to discuss and plan for, so please plan to attend our first meeting of 2015. We also need to be aware that April will bring with it the annual American Legion Department Convention here in Seward. The ALRA meeting will be held downstairs at Post 5, Wednesday the 22 of April beginning at 1800 hours and going until we get everything covered, decisions made and Officers elected.

# Auxiliary Notes

By Connie Kullander, E-Board

Hello March,

We sure have had an easy winter, and spring is in the air. We have lots to do this month, everything from cleaning outside to inside.



February was a good time. We had a great Valentine's Day dinner. Thank you to all who helped and who came for the dinner. Thank you for the help decorating and taking it down.

Thank you to all who helped with the Sunday breakfast. We have a great group of volunteers and it's so nice to see you all come in and give a helping hand.

For the Auxiliary this will be **last call for nomination of officers**. At our March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be selecting the new officers for the year 2015.

We will be having Spring Break Festival on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Sunday breakfast on the 15<sup>th</sup> and St Patrick's on the 17<sup>th</sup>. So come down to the post and bring your appetite along with a few Irish stories and have some corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew or whatever the cook prepares.



Don't forget BINGO is every Monday night, with doors opening at 6:00 and bingo starting at 6:30.

We are also having our convention here in April. We will be looking for LOTS of help cleaning up around the post, inside and out. After the post meeting, the Commander will be giving us a heads up on the days we are going to be doing the deep cleaning. So if you are so inclined to lend a hand and some elbow grease, give us a call at the club.

Remember to salute your flag, support your veterans, mentor your youth and help your neighbors.

*For God and Country!*

The Riders on Motorcycles Parade (ROMP) location is working itself out. The Post and Chapter at 35 has graciously stepped up and offered to host our June gathering. Also the newest ALR Chapter at Post 1 is



looking to host a BBQ in combination with the Poker Run and Bike Games on one of the days during the ROMP. The Riders of Chapter 1 seem to be anxious to join in for any rides that we may go on, I am thinking a day ride to Hope for Pie where we can meet up and figure out where to ride too next. They may also be meeting us on the road to Byers Lake this year also.



So as we begin that exercise in patience and begin the count of the days until spring when we all get to scratch that itch and feel the wind break across a set of handle bars again. I pray that all have a safe and enjoyable riding season as we all  
*Get On Our Bikes And Ride!*

### THE RIDER CREED

**R** IDERS DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE SUCCESS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. I KNOW THAT THROUGH MY EFFORTS I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

**I** ALONE AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MYSELF AND TO MY FELLOW RIDERS. I WILL CONDUCT MYSELF WITH THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR.

**D** EEDS NOT WORDS CREATE CHANGE. I WILL PERSEVERE AGAINST ANY AND ALL THINGS THAT PREVENT MY SUCCESS. MY RESOLVE AND STRENGTH WILL OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES.

**E** ACH RIDER IS FIRST A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY. I WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN AND WILLINGLY SUPPORT THEIR ENDEAVORS.

**R** EADILY WILL I JOIN OTHER RIDERS IN ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS WHICH SUPPORT OUR MISSIONS. I WILL DO SO GLADLY KNOWING I VOLUNTEERED TO BE AN AMERICAN LEGION RIDER.

**S** UCCES IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE CONCLUSION. I WILL ALLOW NOTHING TO DISSUADE ME OR IMPEDE ME FROM SERVICE TO MY FAMILY COMMUNITY COUNTRY AND ESPECIALLY TO OUR VETERANS.

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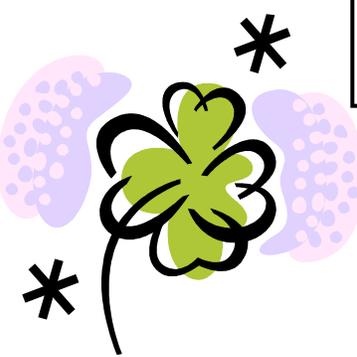


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# MARCH 2014



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                                      | FRIDAY                               | SATURDAY              |
|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1<br>"Texas Hold 'em"<br>6PM<br>   | 2<br>BINGO!!! 6:30PM<br>OMAHA POKER 7PM<br>       | 3<br>Taco Tuesday<br>                                | 4  | 5<br>ALR Meeting 7pm<br>Officer Elections<br> | 6<br>Steak Night<br>Karaoke 7PM<br>  | 7<br>                 |
| 8<br>"Texas Hold 'em"<br>6PM<br>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS<br>                              | 9<br>OMAHA POKER 7PM<br><br>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM<br>  | 10<br>Taco Tuesday<br>Post Meeting 7pm<br>           | 11<br>Auxiliary Meeting 7pm<br>  | 12<br>SAL Meeting 7pm<br>                     | 13<br>Steak Night<br>Karaoke<br>     | 14<br>                |
| 15<br>"Texas Hold 'em"<br>6PM<br>Community Breakfast<br>American Legion Birthday!!!!<br> | 16<br>BINGO!!! 6:30PM<br>OMAHA POKER 7PM<br>      | 17<br>St Patrick's Day<br>A tasty Irish Dinner ☺<br> | 18   | 19<br>Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003            | 20<br>Steak Night<br>KARAOKE 7PM<br> | 21<br>Pool League<br> |
| 22<br>"Texas Hold 'em"<br>6PM<br>  | 23<br>OMAHA POKER 7PM<br><br>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM<br> | 24<br>Taco Tuesday<br>                               | 25   | 26<br>Steak Night                             | 27<br>KARAOKE 7PM<br>                | 28<br>                |
| 29<br>Palm Sunday<br>"Texas Hold 'em"<br>6PM<br>   | 30<br>BINGO!!! 6:30PM<br>OMAHA POKER 7PM<br>      | 31<br>Taco Tuesday<br>                               | <p>A variety of food will be available every night in addition to what is here - hot meals are available for individual purchase and donation.</p> |   |                                      |                       |

