Ok, so maybe I jinxed us by talking about the upcoming onset of spring in the last newsletter, but Wow did we get our share of snow or is my imagination running away from me. I don’t know about everyone but for a few days I had gripped a snow shovel so much I was having difficulty straightening my fingers.

Regardless and at the risk of tempting fate again it is March and with the movement of the calendar dates it WILL get warmer and this stuff will start to melt. You can always tell when people are tired of snow because we start calling the white stuff “it”. “How much of it did you get last night”, or “I have been shoveling it all day” 😄. Or the worst question “How many inches of it are we expecting tonight?” So while we may get some more of it before winter is had its final say warmer weather will arrive…..eventually! Of course, along with that we will have to endure the mess all of it melting will create let us hope that the flooding and mushy mess of break up has minimal impact on Seward and our surrounding area, but I would suggest that we all prepare because it could be very inconvenient when we do not.

Life will continue at Post 5 no matter what the weather does so if you are looking for a friendly and consistent environment we have a quiet and warm place for you to visit. This month we will again be beginning the daylight savings time so plan on setting your clocks ahead an hour on Sunday, March 12. Daylight saving time in the United States is the practice of setting the clock forward by one hour during the warmer part of the year, so that evenings have more daylight and mornings have less. It is always fun to listen to the debate why we are doing this in Alaska where we have more daylight hours than anybody else in the United States. For me I say that we get it on our ballot and let the people decide wonder what the result would be?

This Month we will be electing our Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders officers, and that means we will be holding our Installation Dinner on the last weekend or near the end of the month. As one of your Post Officers I have to say it has been an experience that has given me a sense of personal satisfaction being a part of an organization that does so much for the veterans and the community that we live in. beside the officers of our American Legion Family we also have a cadre of outstanding volunteers here at Post 5 without which Post 5 could never accomplish all the wonderful things we do. So, if you are visiting the Post whether it is for Steak Night or just to sign in please take a minute to recognize those who are there dedicating their time to making American Legion Post 5 successful.

From the 1st Vice

By Clare Sullivan

Hey, the daylight is coming back, and it has been a very long and snowy winter! We’re not out of 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 that do not require a ton of clothes to keep warm. I don’t know about you but I’m thinking of coming up with a Snow Melt Pool! 😄

With the onset of spring we will have a lot of events that will be appearing on our calendar so we can always expect to stay busy in the coming months. Easter and the Post’s annual Easter Breakfast will be in April and all the events surrounding Memorial Day in May. You have to wonder if IT will be all gone by then 😄.
We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and of course we will celebrate the American Legion Birthday of our National Organization that was the beginning of all our posts! So hang the calendar on the fridge and look for updates on email for the activities that we have going on and those that spontaneously crop up!

Just to let you know March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 - 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 quite the legacy and have done some incredible things in our 95 year history and still moving forward with our commitment to service to our individual veterans, community and country.

It looks like we might hit our goal 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. As mentioned last month, we have veterans throughout Seward ranging from WWII to veterans from the ongoing military conflicts and throughout the globe. We have a good representation in Seward and are fortunate that we have a good representation in our American Legion Family found in the Post, Auxiliary, and Son's 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.

We do a lot in our little post to help veterans and our community and we continually advocate for veterans while we participate in meetings and conventions throughout the year. Examples of what we advocate for with the larger American Legion organization just the past year:

- VA Accountability
- VA Recruitment and Retention of Quality Providers and Administrators
- Modernizing the VA System to Meet the Private Systems Standards and Improve Access
- Benefits for Caregivers
- Alternative PTSD-TBI Treatment
- Reduce the VA Backlog of Appeals
- Recognize and Treat Illnesses Associated with Hazardous Material Exposure
- Hepatitis C Treatment
- Treatment of Victims of Military Sexual Trauma
- Improved Woman Specific Treatment
- Lifetime Electronic Health Records
- Improve and Maintain Military Force Strength
- VA Home Loan Guarantees
- Military to Civilian Transition Services
- Enhance Veterans Employment and Training and Disabled Veterans Outreach
- Credentialing Veterans Skills
- Increase Small Business Loans and Assistance
- Increase Veteran Owned Small Business Federal Contracts
- End Veterans Homelessness
- Flag Protection

Our members have served and all deserve the consideration due to them for their honorable service. The post is the starting point for veterans to learn what they are eligible for and can receive in terms of benefits and support, but as you can see, support can be found at all levels of this organization; with well over 2 million members The American Legion we have a pretty good fighting force for our veterans and their families, and of course our communities and country.
House and Vice Report

By Mike Calhoon

Snow, snow, snow!! A real winter this year.

I want to thank METCO and all the other folks who have come and helped with snow removal and management this winter. You have all done a great job in helping to keep our post safe and accessible.

I also want to thank all the great volunteers who helped the Post with Super Bowl, The NOSB breakfasts, the Auxiliary Valentine’s Dinner, and the Legion Family Open House. You are all great and you continue to help the Legion Family provide all the activities for our membership and assistance to the community. Without our volunteers we could not accomplish everything we do.

This month we have St Patrick’s Day dinner on the 17th, our community breakfast on the 19th, and Officer Installation Dinner on the 25th. Please let me know if you are available and willing to donate your time and effort to any of these functions.

We will have our final call for 2017-2018 Post Officer Nominations/Elections at our monthly meeting on March 14th at 7:00pm. All Post members in good standing are welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. The more input we get the better decisions we can make.

We are fully into the new membership year. We encourage all members to consider renewing their membership if they have not already done so and to talk to veterans, who are not members about coming to the Post and finding out more about what we do and all the programs we have to support veterans, their families, and the community of Seward. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewal, or go online to Legion.org and pay online. Dues for 2017 have increased to $60.00 due to an increase at the national level. If you have any questions on that please feel free to give me a call and help the Post reach its goal of 244 members.

Pool league is on Saturday night, Bingo is on Monday night, and Poker is on Sunday and Monday night.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Constitution Information

By Clare Sullivan

This year the Annual Department Convention will occur in Haines at the Lynn Canal Post 12 between the 27th and 29th of April. Each of the organizations in our American Legion Family will send “delegates.” These delegates represent their respective organization and are designated person to vote on issues on behalf of the post, unit, squadron or chapter.

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 to “meet and greet” many other Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons members throughout the state. Essentially, these meetings 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, to be moved “up the chain” to National to be considered at the National Convention.

Found also at conventions are seminars to inform and teach the participants about a variety of subjects in the American Legion. Such as 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.

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 veteran support and child welfare programs and of course membership.

Bottom line, conventions are great learning opportunities for the delegates, an opportunity to help shape the direction of the Department, and finally one gets to spend fun and productive time with other Legionnaires while working in service for our veterans and their families.
Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Well, all the snow sport folks and snow removal businesses are smiling this winter. Like Seward in the old days!

We have had lots of help from our Squadron members throughout this period of snowfall. They have shoveled the flag deck, helped with a bit of plowing and, as always, METCO has done a tremendous job of keeping the parking lot serviceable and safe!!

Volunteers also helped with Super Bowl, the Auxiliary Valentine’s Dinner, the NOSB breakfasts and the Post Open house. Volunteers are who keep the Post going and you all do a great job. Thank You!!

This month we will have our St Patrick’s Day Feast, monthly our community breakfast, and Officer Installation Dinner. Lots of work so we will need lots of help. Let me know if you are available and would like to lend a hand with any of these functions.

We had our Second Call for new officers at the February meeting and will have our Third Call and elections at the March 9th meeting. If you are interested in getting involved at the officer level please come to the meeting at 7:00pm or call me if you have any questions about becoming a squadron officer.

The new membership year is in full swing. The SAL Dues for 2017 have increased to $30.00. I thank all of you who renewed early. Please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so already. Your continued support help Squadron 5 with its mission of service to veterans and our children and youth 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.

From the President’s Desk
By Michelle Swartz

The weather is turning colder and the winds are showing up.

Before we get into the meat and potatoes of our newsletter, here is a traditional St. Patrick’s Day toast. “May the enemies of Ireland never eat bread nor drink whisky, but be tormented with itching without benefit of scratching.”

Last month we had our late Valentines dinner and I can tell you from the experience it was delicious. I want to thank everyone that helped out with making it a huge success, from those who helped decorate, those that helped in the kitchen and those that helped to serve and clean up. A lot of time and effort went into making the evening enjoyable so a huge shout out of THANK YOU to all that made it possible!

This month we have our monthly meeting March 8th at 7:00pm. We have our final call for officers and the vote for officers. So please come down and let your voice be heard. We would like everyone to have the opportunity to participate in the elections.

Friday March 17th instead of having Friday night steak night we will be having a St. Patrick’s Day dinner instead. I’m not sure what will be on the menu, but I’m sure it will be mouth-watering as usual.

On Saturday March 25th we will be having the installation dinner for all new officers, Post, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. Please be sure to join in the celebration and welcoming new and returning officers for the coming year. We look forward to seeing everyone support the officers that are doing their best to support our members, servicemen and women and our community.

Please be sure to support our scholarship fund if you can. We currently have a raffle for three prizes. The first prize is a fishing trip for two (2) with John Moline of in and out charters. The second is a trip for two (2) on the Wilderness Express train to Denali and the third prize is $500.00. Tickets are $10 each and the drawing will be Saturday April 15th (yes, you heard me right). Tickets can be purchased at the club.
Fun Facts in March

By Michelle Swartz, Auxiliary President

March 3rd 1819 Congress authorizes the revenue cutters to protect merchant vessels of United States against piracy and to seize vessels engaged in slave trade.
March 3rd 1915 Congress creates Federal Naval Reserve.
March 3rd 1931 President Herbert Hoover signs a congressional act making "The Star Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States.
March 5th 1942 Seabees Birthday
March 6th 1967 President Lyndon B. Johnson announced his plan to establish a draft lottery.
March 7th 1918 President Wilson authorized the Army’s Distinguished Service Medal. The medal is awarded to any person who while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, has distinguished him/herself by exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility.
March 9th 1976 The first female cadets were accepted to West Point Military Academy.
March 12th 1955 Effective this date all foreign and domestic ships were required to give 24 hour advance notice to the local U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port before entering U.S. ports.

On March 13th 1942 - Julia Fikke of the Nurse Corps becomes the first woman colonel in the U.S. Army. Simultaneously, Army nurses were given pay equal to officers of comparable grade without dependents.

March 15th THE AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY
March 15th 1997 Operation Gulf Shield begins.
March 16th 1802 The United States Military Academy – the first military school in the U.S. – is founded by Congress for the purpose of educating and training young men in the theory and practice of military science – Location West Point, New York.
March 17th 1756 St. Patrick's Day was 1st celebrated in New York City at Crown and Thistle Tavern.
March 17th 1898 – The USS Holland, the first practical submarine was launched. It was named after its inventor.
March 19th 2003 Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom
March 23, 1882 - SECNAV Hunt issues General Order No 292 creating Office of Naval Intelligence.

March 23, 2008 - Two Coast Guard helicopters (a HH-65 Dolphin from the CGC Munro and a HH-60 Jayhawk from St. Paul Station in the Pribilof Islands) worked with the F/V Alaska Ranger to save 42 of 47 crewmen from the sinking F/V Alaska Ranger in an Easter Sunday blizzard amidst 20-foot waves 120 miles west of Dutch Harbor in the Bering Sea. The crew of Munro received the Coast Guard Unit Commendation.
March 25 1804 - The Secretary of the Navy approved the first formal uniform of the Marine Corps.
March 25, 1863 - The first Army Medal of Honor is presented to PVT Jacob Parrott of the 33rd Ohio Infantry.
March 26, 1790 - US Congress passed a Naturalization Act. It required a 2 year residency.
March 26, 1951 - The US Air Force flag design was approved.
March 26, 1954 - The US set off the second H-bomb blast in four weeks in the Marshall Islands at Bikini Island. The 15 megaton device was 750 time more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
March 27, 1794 - President Washington and Congress authorize creation of the US Navy.
March 27, 1975 - The first pipe of the Alaska oil pipeline was laid at Tonsina River.
March 29, 1867 - US purchased Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million dollars.
March 29, 1943 - World War II meat, butter and cheese rationing began.
March 30, 1942 - Coast Guard was designed as a service of the Navy to be administered by the Commandant of the Coast Guard under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, similar to the administration of the Marine Corps.
March 31st 1965 - US ordered the 1st combat troops to Vietnam.
March 31st 1995 - Coast Guard Communications Area Master Station Atlantic sent a final message by Morse Code and then signed off, officially ending more than 100 years of telegraph communications.
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# March 2017

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Food Every Night at the Post!!!!