



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022
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E-mail: americanlegionpost5@gci.net
Sewardpost5@gmail.com
website: <https://www.americanlegionpost5.com>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/americanlegionpost5.sewardalaska
Phone: (907) 224-5440



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Hey Post 5 Family, we're getting the daylight back (yay!), and boy has it been a long, cold and snowy winter; and what about the ice department.... Well, we don't need to talk about that one! 😊 We're not finished yet, but at least we have some more sun and with the better weather around the corner, we'll soon be able to do more outdoor activities that do not require a ton of clothes and ice grippers!

We have some fun and important things planned for this month including the final round of nominations for all our organizations and we will elect our new officers year. Along with identifying our new officers, we will be planning a yummy Installation Dinner toward the end of March. We will also 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 the email and/or Facebook for the activities that we have going on and those that spontaneously crop up! 😊



Just to remind you 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 4th for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared their independence from the British and the spirit of America was born - March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life. Today, membership stands at about two million legionnaires and over 12,000 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 VA 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 over 100 year history and we



are still moving forward with our commitment to service to our veterans, community and country into the next century!

For those who have renewed for 2022 thank you very much! And if you haven't please consider doing so. Your membership continues to make us a strong organization with the ability to help others right here in town. Every membership locally through the national level helps us all as many members create a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits on Capitol Hill. As mentioned last month, we have veterans throughout Seward ranging from nearly every war and conflict as well as our active duty members who are scattered throughout the globe. We have a good core group in Seward and are so fortunate that we have many in our American Legion Family who step up to the plate and help in all our post activities. And, for that I sincerely thank every one of you for taking time out of your busy lives to be of service for our veterans and our community.

All our post members have served in the military, and all deserve the due consideration for their honorable service. The post is also the starting point for them to learn what they are eligible for at the VA and VBA and once evaluated and approved they can start receiving benefits and support, but support can be found at all levels of this organization and with about two million members we have a darn good fighting force to ensure veterans will continue to receive what they are entitled to from their military service.



American Legion 2022 Legislative Priorities: Know Before You Go
Please take listen to the link above regarding the 2022 Legislative Priorities for the American Legion. Learn key talking points to use when communicating with our senators or representative. The times indicated below are when each priority is being addressed. It is a good listen and an opportunity to learn. Please click the link above for more information.

0:00 Introduction 0:53 2021 Legislative Wins 2:20 VA Health Care Modernization 3:55 Suicide Prevention & Peer Support 6:15 Toxic Exposures & Burn Pits 7:50 Improving Care for Women Veterans 9:30 Concurrent Receipt 10:30 National Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity 12:08 GI Bill for Honorable Service 12:50 Pay our Coast Guard 13:28 Citizenship for Honorable Service 15:20 The Forever Wars & Restoring Congressional War Powers 17:10 Amend the U.S. Flag Code.

As many of you know we have been working to improve our Post Home and our Cemetery. Fortunately, we have some talented folks who can put their skills to use to help us do that; whether it is painting, landscaping, headstone maintenance, flowers, etc. All this talent needs money to purchase items to get it done and we've been very fortunate lately with help from one of our local organizations - The **Seward Community Foundation** with generous donations to help us out in our efforts to help our veterans and our community.



Seward Community Foundation

An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation

We were able to receive the donations due to the generous support of the last by The Seward Senior Center as a "sponsoring" organization for grants that we have applied for to help bring our Post Home to a position/condition where we can better serve others



For many years not much had been done regarding upgrades other than the exterior siding; and that was a huge undertaking with many folks participating, but since then, generally for lack of resources little improvement had been made. Now we're in a much better position to make some positive changes and upgrades to our Post Home. Thanks so much Seward Community Foundation and the Seward Senior Center for all your support!

With sponsorship from the Senior Center, we applied and secured two grants recently that have helped a great deal to help us in "capital" improvements. Many know that our kitchen serves a lot of folks in the community throughout the year and our stoves were on their last legs. Additionally, the meeting room's ancient flooring tiles were beginning to crack and break up which is clearly a hazard. So, with the help of the Senior Center's sponsorship and the Seward Community Foundation granting of funds we can move forward with much needed improvements! Things are looking up; and will soon be looking better!!!!



National K9 Veterans Day

Excerpts from [Military.com](#), [Wikipedia](#), [militaryhistorynow.com](#)

National K9 Veterans Day, March 13, is a day set aside to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history.

It was on March 13, 1942, that the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," according to American Humane, marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces. The rest, as they say, is history.



Sgt Stubby

Officially, the dogs of war span centuries and include such American heroes as

[Sgt. Stubby](#), the original war dog, [Chips](#), the most decorated dog in World War II and [Lex](#), who retired with his fallen owners family and [Cairo](#), the Navy SEAL working dog on the bin Laden raid.



Chips



Lex with Handler Dustin Lee



Cairo

America's greatest dog of its greatest generation was likely Chips, a German Shepherd, Collie, Husky mix that forced the [capture of 14 Italian soldiers in one day](#) during the invasion of Sicily despite being wounded.

Lex was the first active duty, fully fit military working dog to be granted early retirement in order to be adopted. Working for his United States Marine Corps handler Corporal Dustin J. Lee in the Iraq War, he was wounded in an attack that killed Lee, and subsequently awarded an honorary Purple Heart.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, dogs have served primarily in explosive detection roles, [helping American and allied forces avoid IEDs and mines](#). They've also served on assault teams with special operators.

While some of the dogs in modern special operations are trained to engage directly with the enemy, [Cairo went on the kill/capture mission against Osama Bin Laden](#) but was there to search out hidden passages, enemies, or weapons.

These are just a few examples of heroic war dogs. Take some time to look up the many that have served and saved servicemembers throughout the decades of conflict, police work and throughout history.

House and Vice Report...

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice!

We have had a sneak preview of Spring Break-up but will have to see if March comes in like a Lion or a Lamb. Stay warm and dry.

I want to thank all our members for their continued support of the Post and Club. Your dedication is an inspiration for us all. You help us provide all the benefits and services to our membership, veterans, and the Seward community. There are too many volunteers to 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 providing support for the FFA Conference Mar 4-5, St Patrick's Day on Mar 17, The community Breakfast on Mar 20, and Installation Dinner on Mar 26. Let us know if you can give us some time and effort during these functions and we will gladly put you to work. New ovens are here and should be installed next week,



Our **next raffle** will include one for a \$500.00 gift certificate from **CBK Arms** and a \$500.00 gift certificate from **Great Northern Guns**. We will let you know when tickets are available.

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



The last couple of weeks has really made us look forward to spring but with cautious optimism. Need to get through March first.

I want to thank all Squadron members who continue to volunteer their time and effort in support of the mission of the Post 5 family.

This month's events and activities include the Squadron supporting the FFA's **conference with food service on March 4-5**, St Patrick's Day on Mar 17, Community Breakfast on Mar 20, Installation Dinner on Mar 26. Let us know if you can volunteer some time and effort towards these functions.

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.

Final Call for nomination of officers and elections will be held at the monthly meeting on Mar 10. Meetings are open to all current members and all are welcome to attend. Information about the State Convention will be discussed at this meeting.



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.

Chapter Director's Report...

By Bobby Dunno



So here we are in March and ALR Chapter 5 is once again coming out of the "Dark" and getting ready to ride. Y'all might have noticed that I started this article introducing myself as "Chapter Director" cause that is right Bobby is no longer an ALR Alaska Officer. Now having said that does that mean I am not involved, no, still involved as a Past State Director and I answer a lot of questions and am assigned to the committee for re-writing the ALRA By-Laws. But mainly as far as the State level of the ALR, in the future I am going to be one of those guys who shows up to ride, have fun and enjoy the company of our fellow riders with little responsibility but to be safe ☺.

There are some activities that are being planned. In April there is the Department of Alaska's annual convention which will be hosted by Post 28 this year from the 21st through the 23rd, The ALRA executive committee meeting will be at 4:30pm of the 20th with the ALRA Convention meeting happening afterwards at 5:30 pm.

Armed Forces Day is falling on the 21st of May this year and we will schedule our Bike Blessing for that morning, lets plan on getting the word out as we should have a better turn out than we did last year.

Chapter 20 will be hosting the ROMP this year from 24- 26 June, and they have an awesome weekend planned with rides covering the entire Kenai Peninsula and planned visits to Post 20, 16, 18 with the ROMP will ending with a visit at our own Post 5.

22 - 24 July will find the ALRA gathering in Sterling joining South Peninsula ABATE / Chapter 20 Riders for the annual **Salute to Vets**. The event has been a great time every summer, and this will be our 4th year participating. I want to say also that this is not an event for just for us motorcycle riding veterans, but a Salute to all Veterans and if you are a vet, you're invited ☺. The past few years the Salute to Vets has been the highlight of most of our summers with the specter of COVID hanging over everything, but it is very nice to relax with like-minded people and enjoy a weekend of comradery and fun.

Of course, we will be involved in Seward's 4th of July parade and I do not think they will cancel it after the awesome showing our town displayed coming out to cheer our flag and all the parade participants last year. 😊 Either way the ALR will be showing the Flag and riding around town one way or another.

Let's not forget that Chapter 5 will be holding our first meeting of 2022 on Thursday, the 3rd of March and taking care of the business of getting our officers elected and approved by the Post. We'll also will be putting out the updates written above and anything new on the ride schedule.

So, despite the fact that it is still cold and the roads are still wet & slick and we all are experiencing the itch to start them up and rumble around town, we will have to wait a short while longer. But while we wait it is time to start dusting them off, charging the batteries and checking them out to ensure that when it the roads do dry up, we are all ready to...



Get On Our Bikes And RIDE!



From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

Happy Spring! Well Almost. It is March and if nothing else the days are getting longer, and we can hope Spring is not far behind. Also, Spring Solstice and we spring forward-daylight savings time begins.

February is behind us and once again our volunteers put in lots and lots of hours to support the ALA projects. Again, thank you to all the volunteers who put in the time and effort to help our Veterans, active duty military and our community.



As we head into March, it will again be a busy month. The Auxiliary monthly meeting will be on the 9th, this will be the 2nd and final call for officer nominations and officer elections. If you are interested in serving in an office, please contact an Auxiliary officer.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as the Unit President for the past several years. This is an amazing organization and we do so much for our Veterans, Active Military, Community and Children and Youth. I really encourage members to become involved and participate in the many projects the Unit does during the year. It is always a good thing to have new ideas and a fresh approach.

We will be finalizing details for the Department of Alaska annual convention in Anchorage. This is the 100th anniversary of the Department of Alaska so there will certainly be some special events planned. Also, with that in mind, Seward Unit 5's 100th anniversary will be in January 2023.

MEMBERSHIP- currently we are at 90.0% for the year. Thank you to those who have already paid their membership dues. For those that haven't paid yet, please consider renewing your membership. The membership dues are vital to the Unit, Department and National Organizations so that we can continue our missions and projects. It would be amazing if we could reach 100% membership renewal for the year. We only need 15 more members to renew to achieve 100%.

St Patrick's Day- the Post will be decorated in the green and sure to have a special celebration.

Bingo continues every Monday night- Doors open at 6 and games begin at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Special Days in March to Remember

March is **Women's History Month** and well over 200,000 women serve on active duty in the U.S. military. The contributions of women to military history (and well beyond) cannot be ignored. While Women's History Month isn't a time to focus exclusively on the contributions of women in military service, the contributions of female veterans are certainly an important part of American history.

March 3 - Navy Reserve Day

March 4 - Hug a GI Day

March 13 - K-9 Veteran Day. With the creation of the United States K9 Corps on March 13, 1942, dogs were officially adopted into US military ranks during WWII. The Army's Dogs for Defense program trained 10,000 dogs who were again donated to the war effort by American families.

March 21- Rosie the Riveter Day

March 25 - National Medal of Honor Day is observed every year on March 25 and is dedicated to Medal of Honor Recipients. Each branch of the U.S. military awards the Medal of Honor to those who have distinguished themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity" above and beyond the call of duty, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs official site.

March 29 - National Vietnam War Veterans Day- National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active-duty service between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service which includes:

- ⊕ Nine million Americans serving during that time
- ⊕ 6.4 million Americans living today
- ⊕ 2.7 million U.S. service members who served in Vietnam
- ⊕ 58,000 whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation's Capital
- ⊕ 304,000 who were wounded
- ⊕ 1,253 Missing in Action (MIA) heroes who have not yet returned to American soil
- ⊕ 2,500 Prisoners of War (POWs)

The commemoration makes no distinction between veterans who served in-county, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years.

Coming up- April is the month of the Military Child. Created in the mid-1980s by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, April is recognized as the Month of the Military Child. During this month, military support organizations, and

even the Pentagon, recognize the more than 1.2 million military children for the challenges they overcome and the sacrifices they make.

From long separation times from parents to having to adjust to new schools, new lifestyles, and being miles away from family — being a military kid comes with many challenges, some loneliness, and frustration.

Did you know that...

- Military children relocate 3 times more than civilian children?
- Since 2001, over 2 million children have had a parent who had to deploy at least once?
- The average military brat will change schools at least nine times before they graduate high school?
- About 42 percent of military children of active-duty service members are younger than five years old?

Military children take the challenges the military life throws at them and learn to bloom where they are planted — something that even adults struggle to do — which is why they deserved to be celebrated and acknowledged for their strength and adaptability.

Hope everyone has a great month, and we will see you at the Post.

For God and Country

Basic Training for the American Legion

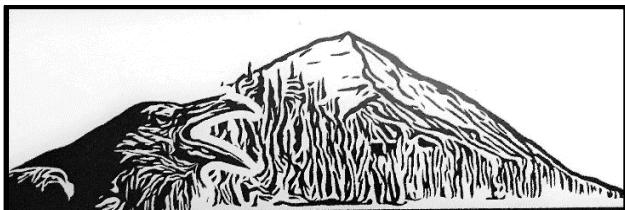
Every American Legion Post is unique as they work to serve the veterans and their individual communities. Our post right here in Seward is no different and our hope is we are meeting those needs, however all of us, over 12,000 posts worldwide, have a common history and mission of service.

For those who would like to know and understand more than what we do just at the local level and to get a "bigger picture" The American Legion (TAL) at the National Level has developed training programs for Legionnaires. The course, called "Basic Training, is updated and online with streamlined and enhanced videos, digital photos, clickable links and many other features. This course is now the official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who just want to expand their knowledge of this amazing organization. It is divided into five easily digested sections for learning.

Following a Course Conclusion step in the training program, a 40-question exam is provided. Graduates can download and print a certificate of completion and order a Basic Training Graduate pin from Emblem Sales. Take the Basic Training course online at www.legion.org/training.

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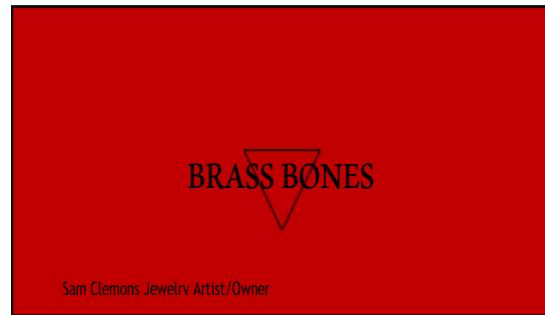
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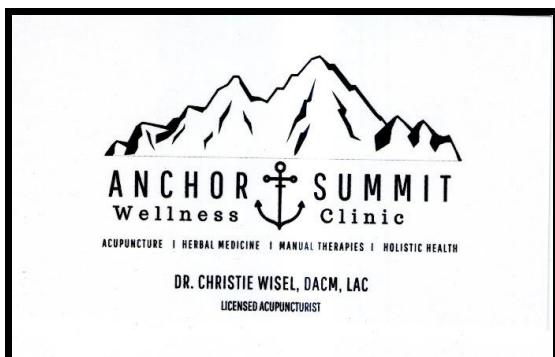
Karla J. Nemitz
Artist/Illustrator

559-936-6691
art_by_karla@yahoo.com
Facebook@TheSeaWitch1990
Instagram@art.by.karla



BRASS BONES

Sam Clemons Jewelry Artist/Owner



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SEWARD INSURANCE AGENCY
BUSINESS and PERSONAL INSURANCE

Erick C. Amberg
Agent

PO Box 2103
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-7370 • Office
(907) 224-7330 • Fax
(907) 362-1558 • Cell
sewardinsurance@ak.net

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MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Taco Tuesday 1		2	B,B,M&C 3	Steak Night 4
			Ash Wednesday 	 ALR Meeting 5:30pm Pioneer Igloo #9 Meeting 6:30pm		 Pool League 7:00 pm
6	Chili Dogs & Chips 7	Taco Tuesday 8		B.B,M&C 9	Steak Night 10	12
Luscious Leftovers 	Bingo 6:30 pm 	Post Meeting 5:30 pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6 pm 	SAL Meeting 7 pm 		Pool League 7:00 pm
K-9 Veterans Day 13	Chili Dogs & Chips 14	Taco Tuesday 15		16	17	18
Luscious Leftovers 	Bingo 6:30 pm 	American Legion Birthday 		St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef & Cabbage with all things Irish!!! 		Pool League 7:00 pm
Daylight Savings Time Begins						
20	Chili Dogs & Chips 21	Taco Tuesday 22		23	B,B,M&C 24	Steak Night 25
Luscious Leftovers 	Bingo 6:30 pm 		Guest Chef Charlie Jackson - Salisbury Steak 		Congressional Medal of Honor Day 	Officer Installation Dinner 6:00 pm
Community Breakfast						
27	Chili Dogs & Chips 28	Taco Tuesday 29		30	B,B,M&C 31	
Luscious Leftovers 	Bingo 6:30 pm 					
Vietnam War Veterans Day						

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!!!



FOOD SERVED EVERY NIGHT AT THE POST