Commander’s Comments...

By: Clare Sullivan

Well, here we are again in the beautiful Fall Season and thankfully heading into the much cooler days, so far no Termination Dust has been seen on Marathon that I know of so we’re still safe for a while. (I think) With this cooler weather we will be saying goodbye to all the fabulous flowers we have been enjoying all summer long and tended to by Brent Johnson. We have a few hangers-on and a few late bloomers but it was a great run for them and a brilliant splash of color thanks to Brent who has kept the flowers going all summer. Many thanks Brent!

With the cooler weather arriving we will get back into our Winter projects and fundraising events. We remembered Patriot Day on 11 September, POW and MIA on 18 September, We’ve already started our Winter Members Only Pool League, which is always a big hit with the membership. As it is October, we’ll also be busily decorating the post for Halloween for those trick or treaters and those who just want a candy bar or two as they stop by the club... We also are planning a dinner for Marathon Wrestling and a few other folks throughout the month so keep checking your email for announcements or on our website at american legionpost5.com or our Facebook page too!

As we look toward November we have Veterans’ Day, followed by Thanksgiving, and of course the Auxiliary has the ever fun and successful Toys for Tots Dinner and Auction to get us going into the Holidays. There is a lot of work for this auction including obtaining and organizing the items for auction as well as getting the word out. It is an open event for anyone to participate so spread the word about the really neat items that come up for auction. There is generally something for someone and you might just find a nice gift for the holidays. As you may know this event raises funds for lots of gifts to be purchased for our Seward kids. Santa and Mrs. Claus come to town in December to ride in the Christmas parade and then give out gifts to all the kids who come and brave the elements to meet them and an elf or two! Last year Santa and Mrs. Claus handed our well over a 100 presents to our Seward children so as you would imagine the fundraiser auction is a huge part of getting those gifts!

The post will also be starting to get the packages organized for our yearly “Operation Apple Pie” where we send out gift and care packages to our young service men and women from Seward who are serving their country and are away from home. We like to let them know we’re thinking of them, and want to send them a reminder that we appreciate what they are doing for this great country at the same time send them some fun goodies that remind them of friends and family. If you know of any Seward men or women who are in the military and you think they could use a gift package, let us know, we’ll get them something nice that will be comforting and remind them of home.
I would like to thank everyone who attended our Early Bird Dinner, it was a good time and of course great food. I really appreciate you renewing your membership, as a strong Post and a strong Legion Family we are able to help our veterans and our active duty men and women. Your annual dues help support programs in our community and across the nation. Locally, your support assists us in giving annual scholarships that we award to graduating seniors going to college or vocational schools, youth activities throughout the community, and helping veterans and community members in need. On the national level your dues assist the American Legion in programs and services including: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and many others. Thank you for your membership, your participation helps to ensure The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, service members, their families, and communities across the nation.

September was a busy month - as it seems most of our months are fairly busy, but I’d be remiss if I didn’t thank everyone who volunteered their time in helping around the post to make this a family center, a sanctuary, and not just a place to come and have fun but a place to turn to in times of need. We couldn’t do any of these activities for our members or the community without your selfless dedication and commitment.

With this in mind, I want to acknowledge the continued dedication of the everyone who run our nightly events including Texas and Omaha Hold ‘em, the Auxiliary’s Bingo, all the kitchen help during our nightly tasty meals and special celebratory events, participation during the celebrations of our patriotic holidays throughout the year, and those impromptu and unscheduled events where we really need the help of members in fast order to get things going.

I particularly want to thank David “Ozzie” Osborn who accomplishes the bulk of the “grunt” work in our American Legion Cemetery throughout the year in keeping up with final resting place of those who have gone to Post Everlasting and John Christensen who arranges the settings for the grave placement of final markers for those interred. I am deeply indebted and humbled that you all take time out of your busy lives to support our veterans as they are lain to rest, and make the commitment at a critical and sorrowful time for the families! Because of all of you we are a one of the most involved, very acknowledged and recognized posts in Alaska!

Come on by the post, we always have something going on and our post home is always a place of welcome. We’re a members’ organization, and as such, the members provide the direction in our mission of support to our veterans and the community. I hope we will see more coming by now that the fast pace of summer is done and we can collectively “catch our breath.” We can now spend some quality time now with our friends and neighbors. The pace has slowed, the town is returning to its residents, and the quiet and peacefulness of the cooler months are returning. Thanks again and I hope to "See you at the Post!"

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
House and Vice Reports...

By: Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Good-bye Summer and hello Fall. It did not take long to transition between the seasons so now time to get ready for Winter!

I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers who continue to support the Post and Club activities! With all the help we can just continue to move ahead and take care of our veterans, their families and the community of Seward.

Squadron 5 member David Osborn has been working diligently with the Legion Cemetery and could now use some help to get it ready for winter. If you have some free time and would like to assist with that please contact us at the Post and we will get you lined up.

This month we will be hosting the Marathon Wrestling Club’s annual Taco Feed and Auction fundraiser on Oct 3 at 6:00pm. If you can help please contact us at the Post and we will put you to work.

The ALR is having their End of Season dinner on Oct 10th, the community breakfast is on Oct 18th, the Department Commander’s Visitation is on Oct 24th, and of course Oct 31st is Halloween. We can use help with any and all of these events so please let us know if you can give us some time and we will fill your hearts with joy or at least give you dishpan hands.

The new membership year has gotten under way and we thank everyone who has renewed and encourage others to renew their memberships. Remember that membership is vital for the accomplishment of all things that the American Legion and the Post 5 family do for veterans, their families, and our community.

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.

Salutations from the Sons!

By: Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Summer has truly departed and now we need to get ready for winter.

I would like to give a hearty thanks to all those individuals who have given and continue to give of their time and effort to the Post 5 family and all the functions and activities we have. Volunteerism is what truly makes things happen and without you all we would not be able to serve our veterans and this community like we do. Thank You!

David “Ozzie” Osborn has been doing a great job with the cemetery and he could use some assistance in the next few weeks to help get it ready for winter. If anyone has the time to assist please let me know.

Busy month in October. The Post is hosting a Taco Feed and Auction fundraiser for the Marathon Wrestling Club on October 3rd. Call me or stop by if you can help.

We also have the Community Breakfast on October 18th, Department Commander’s Visitation on October 24th, and Halloween on, of course, October 31st. Volunteers will be needed for all events so let us know if you can help.

The 2016 membership year is in full swing so please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so already. Membership is what drives the train for the Sons of American Legion programs so please help us continue the great work being done by the Post 5 family.

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.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
President’s Post...

By: Nancy Perea

October is here. As I put away the lawn chairs last weekend, I couldn’t help but reflect on what a busy summer we have had and just how short it seemed. My to-do list didn’t seem to get much shorter, but my joys grew deeper. I fished places I’ve never fished, met new friends and hiked new trails. That to-do list can wait, friends and family shouldn’t. School has started and just when we think that time will slow down, we realize that another busy season is just starting.

Can you believe it’s time to start thinking about the Toys for Tots Auction? This year, the Toys for Tots Auction will be held at the American Legion Post 5 on Saturday November 14th. Please mark your calendars! If you would like to volunteer or have any auction items that you would donate, please call Nancy Perea (907)362-3902 or Connie Kullander (907) 224-5440, or items may be dropped off at the Legion after 4pm.

Another hot topic coming up for the Ladies is Money! Approximately 25 years ago, the Post 5 Auxiliary put a large amount of money into a CD. This CD has now matured we will be discussing use of the funds at our regularly scheduled meeting, beginning at 7pm on November 11th. Anyone unable to attend the meeting may submit comments by mailing them to PO Box 706, Seward, AK 99664 or by email at unit5@yahoo.com. There was quite a bit put away for a rainy day, when the building needed repairs, and that day is here. Please share your thoughts. We have not located the minutes from the meetings that discussed the intent and all input is valuable.

October 31st will be a great night at the Post. It’s always nicely decorated and full of good spirits! Stop by in costume and say Hi.
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