Commander’s Comments...

By: Clare Sullivan

Well, another summer down and it was a fun one and a really busy one for the Post 5 Family. It was great seeing our out of town visitors and members coming down for some fun and work on the bay! For the most part we had some really great weather as well as the opportunity to visit with many of our membership who come to Seward. It always is good to see these folks; but it is just as sad to see them go as we see them off with a feeling of bittersweet because we have enjoyed their company while they're here but we know they have to go back to the Lower 48 to their families and return to their regular lives. We wish them well and look forward to their return next summer!

Our summer was as filled with activities that supported our community, membership, and our active duty personnel. We rolled into getting things going right after the big push for the 96th Annual Department Convention at the end of April. We went full bore getting the post spiffed up and the cemetery ready for Memorial Day, and of course we had dedicated Post 5 Family Members making it happen. From Carol Souza with her donation of the fabulous flowers in front of the post, Brent Johnson tending the flowers all summer long, to David (Ozzie) Osborn and John Christensen continuing to make the cemetery fitting to honor those who have answered the final call to Post Everlasting. These folks on their own and in their own way contributed throughout the summer to our organization's efforts to serve others. With all this work being done the planners for the events throughout the summer were able to make things happen as well, and did it happen!

Throughout the summer we hosted and fed several incoming Coast Guard boats who made several day stopovers in Seward and while they were here and we functioned as a local support base for these young military men and women, which allowed us to introduce the next generation to the American Legion and what it means to continue to serve after completing military service. We celebrated Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, and started it all out with our Memorial Day Ceremonies. We also had lots of fun and work with our participation in the 4th of July events to include the cooking up and serving 450 lbs. of ribs with beans, potato salad and other goodies to celebrate our country’s independence. We had a great showing in the parade with our Country’s Colors flying carried by our Mustang Crew leading the parade and our ALR following right behind proudly flying the Post 5 Family’s organizational flags.

A good time was had by all!!! August was just as busy with the addition of all the town’s events with the Silver Salmon Derby and the Expedition Alaska crew who competed in some extreme running, swimming, and biking events and had their awards dinner (provided by the post) at the Military Rec Camp.
September looks to be busy as well with the Alex Haley coming in for about a week so we know that is going to be a fun time. We also will have the privilege of having President Obama visit our town early in the month for his whirl wind tour of Alaska with his efforts on climate change. Our town has been abuzz with interesting vehicles, people and planes as we prepare for this visit. I hear something too about the next Christmas tree for the White House is coming out of the National Park here in Seward at some point. Let's hope it isn't one of the Black Spruce trees - they're not exactly Scotch Pines. I guess the folks in the Park Service have found a real gem out there to be selected for that honor!

It's starting to look like we're heading right into the Fall; hopefully it will be as nice a transition as we had into Summer. The daylight is getting much shorter and we're starting to drive with headlights on at night now that we're getting darkness back. It is a sure sign that the colder days are on their way. With this in mind, we need to think about getting our homes ready for the cold weather and for many we'll need to budget for the increased heating and utility charges with the cold and dark.

One of our Sons members Doug Capra who has done wonderful work for many years writing about many of the historical figures in Seward is now working on one of Post 5's own - Edna Weir. Edna was a WWI veteran and was very active in the earlier days of Post 5 particularly in the 1960's and 70's; if you have any photos or stories locked up in your library or in a box stashed away please dig it out your contributions with help immensely in Doug's work.

Speaking of work we're starting to seriously look at our post home and the long overdue TLC that our building is in need of. As many of you may already know the original part of the post (downstairs bar) had its beginnings as a WWII Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) club. The military "sold" the building to the American Legion as the war wound down for we think $1.00. Later, sometime in the 1980s the post members built the larger addition that we now enjoy upstairs with the incredible views. We're now in 2015 and we are now looking at many years that we all have benefited from this building and we now need to help it out our old friend!

Many of our SAL members are already "on it" and looking at the areas that we need to prioritize for repair and upgrade, and we have figured out so far the most needed area is the south facing wall and the windows. Every time we get rain with wind we are racing to get cups from the bar to catch the drips! We've received some funds from a few folks and a nice donation from the Auxiliary which will help a lot in this effort but we will need to have fundraisers throughout the winter to help get the funds for the badly needed "maintenance" we need to do. With that in mind, we could use help in developing fundraising projects and if anyone knows how to write grants that might be an option. We can do rummage sales as we have in the past which were very successful due to the organizational skills of several of the ladies in the Auxiliary.

During this month we have a few days of remembrance and celebration. We have Patriot Day (Sept 11th) where we remember the tragic day of 9/11 and those lost in the terror attack in NY, the Pentagon, and Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. We also have POW/MIA Recognition Day on Sept 18th where we remember and honor the sacrifices made by this nation’s prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. We also have a day of celebration in the American Legion Day on Sept 16th. This day was dedicated in 2009 on the anniversary of the establishment of the American Legion in 1919. American Legion Day celebrates the 96 years of service that the American Legion has accomplished throughout the country with over 14,000 posts honoring veterans and providing community support. Seward Post 5 has been in existence since 1919 as well and remains committed to carrying on that tradition of supporting local veterans and the community, as well as our military service members.

Even with all the work we will be doing as the Summer winds down and our involvement in monthly special events and we get into Fall and Winter, we will still be having our regular events; look at the 2nd Vice’s Report and the calendar for the events, dates and times. As always, whatever it is - it will be fun and of course we’ll be having great food!

In closing, I'd like to thank you all in the Post 5 American Legion Family for everything you do at the post and the community! We really represent what the American Legion Family is - good people working in service for our veterans and our community!

*FOR GOD AND COUNTRY*
House and Vice Reports...

By: Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Summer is beginning to roll into fall with the help of some strong winds. It has been a busy summer and fall looks to be the same with lots of activities on the horizon.

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.

This month we will have a visit from the USCGC Alex Haley which is stationed at Kodiak. They will be here from the 7th thru the 12th and we will be hosting the crew for dinner one evening during that period of time. We will be having the Early Bird Dinner on Sept 12th for those who have renewed their membership for 2016. We will have our monthly breakfast on the 20th. I am sure other activities will come up so keep your volunteer hats ready to go and we will gladly put you to work.

Plans are coming together to reside the south wall of the post and replace the old windows so we can keep the water out this winter. Also we will be sealing up the “Flag” deck on the west side of the post to keep water from coming down into the lower men’s bathroom. Getting the leakage issues fixed is a priority and when the work is ready to commence we will let everyone know so we can make short work of it.

The new membership year has gotten under way and we thank everyone who has renewed and encourage others to renew and join us for the Early Bird Dinner. The food and socializing are always great so you do not want to miss out.

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.

For God and Country!!!!

Salutations from the Sons!

By: Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

First I would like to let everyone know that we will be having our monthly meeting on September 17th instead of the 10th.

Squadron 5 continues to support all the Post functions and activities with their volunteer efforts. It is exciting to see the Post 5 family always working together. Between the Post, Auxiliary, Sons, and ALR we all set a great example for others to follow.

We have a Coast Guard visit coming up, Early Bird Dinner, Community breakfast, and building fix up coming this month so there will be ample opportunity to show you volunteer spirit and come have a good time working with the Legion family in Seward. Just check your calendar to see what we have going on and come lend a hand if time permits.

The new membership year has begun and we have received the 2016 membership cards so think about renewing your membership before the Early Bird Dinner which will be held on Sept 12th.

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.
President’s Post...

By: Nancy Perea

What an amazing summer we have had. It’s sad that it is quickly coming to an end, but the end of summer means that fun holidays are on the horizon. From Halloween in October, Thanksgiving in November and then Christmas in December, we are on a fast roll of planning and preparing. These holidays are a time to think about our local Veterans and what they need. It’s a time to remember those who are less fortunate and think about why we are part of the Auxiliary. We are here to help. To some, we are angels in disguise. Sometimes it is a thankless job, but if you have ever seen the smile of a veteran when they receive their meal on wheels, or heard the squeal of a child opening a gift because they thought Santa might not come this year, or saw the tear on a mother’s cheek after she received fuel for her home, you have been thanked. This is why we do what we do. Why we assemble on the second Wednesday of every month. Why we say our Preamble and the Pledge of Allegiance. We are here to serve those in need.

We are in the process of planning our Toys for Tots auction, Santa’s arrival on the fire truck and many of our other Holiday traditions. September is the month to start planning events, soliciting donations and organizing committees to assist us in accomplishing our goals. If you have time to assist us with these fun events, stop by at 7pm on September 9th and join a committee.

(Courtesy of Cheryl Verschueren, President Obama arriving in Seward)

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
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Food Served Every Night