Unpaid Officers

Post 1
Arthur F. Bell
David Young

Post 2
Robert Jeffries

Post 11
Rich Drinkman

Post 12
Tom Ward
Randell Jackson

Post 15
Thomas J. Kennedy

Post 16
Robert Rude
Kevin Anderson
Gregory Martin Jr.

Post 17
Robert Lachowsky

Post 25
Mike Dobson

Post 28
Kirk Waldhauss

Post 29
John R Lattin
Lawrence Hicks
Angel Waakes

Post 33
J. C. Willette

Post 34
Henry McNuckles

Post 57
Rob Monteith

Post 75
John Clonts

Post 2222
Malcom Bailey

Adjutant’s Corner

By W.E. “Gene” Franks
Department Adjutant

Good, bad, or indifferent another year has come and gone. Naturally, if you are reading this and no one has told you yet, you made it through.

As usual, many ups and downs this year. With the Southeast and Western Districts being dissolved, the Legion Family held its first Fall Conference in Anchorage during November which seemed to be a success. The Auxiliary has been having one for a few years and it seemed appropriate for the Family to come together. Joe Koss from Alaska Gaming had a very well attended class with numerous hypothetical questions. Seemed like a lot was learned from the “hypothetical” answers.

During the Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting held at the conference, it was passed that the Department will have an annual Fall Conference to be held at an acceptable time of availability to the Legion Family. The time frame should either be in October or November.

January brings us many more opportunities. This should be your first call for election of officers for your Post. Now would be a good time, should you want to make some changes in your Post, to throw your hat in the ring. You may even want to volunteer a little time to be on one of the committees for either our Oratorical contest, or to interview the young men for Boys State. You may even have some new ideas for fund raisers to help your American Legion Baseball team or other projects around the Post.

In addition you should be thinking about the Commander, Adjutant, and Legislator of the year. The nominations from your Post are forwarded directly to Department and the winners will be selected at the Department Convention.

By Steven L. Huisman Department Commander

Another year has come and gone and I would like to wish all of you a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and may the coming year find you with good health and prosperity.

October found me in Indianapolis for the Commanders and Adjutants Conference, and on the way back I had a stop in Ketchikan for a visitation with Post 35, I have to apologize to those who showed up as I was not in top form with some kind of bug that put me down for the count. The following Friday found me at Post 20 in Kenai and some of Alvins famous Halibut Enchiladas. Saturday I went to Seward Post 5 and had some mouth watering Prime Rib, although competing with all of the Halloween parties a good number of members showed up.

November 30th found me at Post 29 and an out of this world Turkey Dinner. Saturday Dec. 1, found me at Palmer Post 15 for a steak dinner that was delicious. The following day found me at Post 1 for the Silver Tea and I even held my pinkie in the right position. The 17th and 18th found me back at Post 1 for the first ever Fall Conference, which I will cover later. November 30th found me at Post 29 and an out of this world Turkey Dinner. Saturday Dec. 1, found me at the Veterans Domicilary, and as I have said before “If you want a good feeling in your heart this is a must do program”. On Sunday 2 Dec. I was in Wasilla Post 35 to honor the WWII and Korea Veterans, and it has been a long time since I have been in the presence of that many of that era veterans. Good show Post 35.

The first Fall Conference was held on the 17th & 18th of November at Post 1 in Anchorage and was deemed a success as valuable information was passed on in the following areas, Boys/Girls State, Oratorical, American Legion Riders, American Legion Baseball, Gaming, ROTC, Children and Youth programs, Operation Comfort Warriors, and the Fisher House along with an Adjutants Workshop. Sounds like an awful lot to get into two days but we did it and had a good time too. In the DEC meeting held after the Conference it was voted on to continue the Fall Conference in the future.
From the desk of the Second Vice Commander

By Ernest L. King Sr.
Department 2nd Vice Commander

Happy New Year. I found this article on Nationals Web Site and thought I would share it with you. The Programs of The American Legion are very important for us to support.

One of the primary missions of The American Legion is to make sure that our veterans and their families receive the support and recognition they deserve. Every member of our organization is a wartime veteran. We know how important it is to receive the support of our fellow citizens during and after our military service.

Saying thank you is not always enough to truly honor America’s newest generation of warriors and veterans. Their unique needs require that we support and recognize these needs and take action to make a difference for these brave men and women. Every citizen of the United States benefits from their service, and should join with The American Legion in supporting them.

We should all be aware that the real and unique issues women veterans face is critical in today’s military environment. We must press to make sure that these issues are addressed during and after their military service.

The unemployment rate of transitioning service members is growing and The American Legion is in the trenches working with employers to hire returning veterans by partnering in job fairs and offering small business workshops for veterans.

Through programs such as Operation Comfort Warriors, The American Legion is involved in numerous ways to aid and support wounded, injured and ill veterans and their families. OCW has provided more than $1 million of assistance to wounded war veterans and their families receive the support and recognition they deserve.

Whether he’s working on his mechanics on the bump or in the box, Josh Crapps of Anchorage puts in plenty of sweat and sacrifice to get better. It’s no different when it comes to studying for a big test in school.

Love for academics, baseball fuels Josh Crapps
By Van Williams
alaskalegion.com

Whether he’s working on his mechanics on the bump or in the box, Josh Crapps of Anchorage puts in plenty of sweat and sacrifice to get better. It’s no different when it comes to studying for a big test in school.

He cares about his GPA just as much as his ERA. Crapps, an 18-year-old pitcher of Post 4 fame, graduated from South High School in 2012 with a sparkling 4.23 grade point average.

As a result of his academic prowess he won a national American Legion Baseball scholarship worth $2,500, money that went towards his tuition this fall at the University of Dallas. Crapps was one of only six national winners.

He cares about his GPA just as much as his ERA. Although he has been the star pitcher for Post 4, he also worked on his studies to maintain his high GPA.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Greetings!!! To all of our veterans, their families and friends. We have made it. A year of trials and tribulations as we look towards the future of 2013, and for the American Legion Department of Alaska there are some changes to look forward to. We have already started with the first Combined Fall Workshop that took place at Post 1 during the weekend of the 17th of November. While in the joint session of the conference there were five (5) subjects that started the day off. First were the Girls and Boys State chair persons, Debbie Henderson and Kevin Collier that gave us a look to what the 2013 program has in store for our High School Juniors. Then Jan Scott the Oratorical Program Chairperson who gave us a briefing of a couple changes of personal and how the judging of the contestants and where they were going to take place at for each location. Then the American Legion Riders state President Don Ridl gave us information on the one of the fastest growing programs for the Legion and a couple of the dates to watch in 2013. Last up to bat were a few guest speakers from the State of Alaska working with the American Legion Baseball who enlightened us on some of the legion baseball program status and operation. It was nice to know that there was a New Baseball Field in Southeast Alaska and how some of the older fields were getting some needed TLC in preparation for the next season. Being from the Kenai Peninsula I would like to know what it will take for us to get a new American Legion Baseball Field built for our local teams to play on. Does anyone have an idea?? Let me know. Well back on track for the last guest speaker before we broke of lunch was Mr. Joe Koss the representative from the Alaska State Gaming. This is a subject that will always have room for all of the non-profits to improve on one way or other. I am sure that we will invite Mr. Koss to be a guest speaker at another workshop or even for one of the department conventions. On just these subjects there were a lot of new information that you will have to ask your workshop representative and they will get the information to you. Or you can for to the workshop or convention and get this information first hand. After the lunch there were a few more vital informative programs such as Sharon Charette and our ROTC within some of our schools and Terry Husiens with the American Legion Children and Youth program and the information that she had brought to us from the national fall conference.

The Operation Comfort Warriors, to the Fischer House in Anchorage were also a subject of interest. Then to a subject that all and every post should have a great deal of interest in and that is the Post Adjutant’s Workshop. Now this is a very informative item that we should always keep up with the new and improved ways to keep our post up and running. Also to get the knowledge to find and retain our new and old members so we can continue to help our veterans from all of the different branches of service. Now in January the target is to get our membership to Peggy at Department is Thursday the 10th and for February it is Thursday the 7th, this will give Peggy enough time to submit the Alaskan membership to Indy so it will show up in the National Barometer. If you didn’t notice on the internet, National is looking for ideas for a new and catchy saying to give the American Legion a new and upgraded sound, so the public will connect this catchy jingle with the American Legion. This in turn will hopefully grab their interest and inquire what our organization contributes to our military, veterans and their families. Remember that the membership is the foundation that will keep our legion family alive so we must always find ways to recruit and retain the members that we can.

Other that going through the trial and era way, you can come on down to either a workshop or convention and share some of the experience and the knowledge that is spread through the American Legion Family. Heck if you anything, meet up with some of the old friends that you haven’t seen in a while and catch up with the latest news. Well hopefully we will see one another here or there and until then have an exciting time recruiting new or old members and enjoy the life that our veteran made possible for us to have.

By Alvin Diaz
Department First Vice Commander & Membership Chairman

A recent news release dated December 06, 2012 from the VA:
VA and Indian Health Services Announce National Reimbursement Agreement Native Veterans Able to Access Care Closer to Home American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans will soon have expanded access to health care closer to home following a recent Department of VA and Indian Health Services (IHS) joint national agreement. As a result of the national agreement, VA is now able to reimburse the IHS for direct care services provided to “ELIGIBLE” American Indians and Alaska Native Veterans. While the national agreement applies only to VA and IHS, it will inform agreements negotiated between VA and Tribal Health programs. VA copayments do not apply to direct care services provided to IHS eligible American Indians and Alaska Native Veterans under this agreement.

For more information and to view the national agreement, visit www.va.gov. To find out additional information about American Indian and Alaska Native Veteran programs, visit www.va.gov/tribalgovernment and/or http://ihs.gov/ Working Together for Alaska’s Veterans: What is Helmets to Hardhats? Helmets to Hardhats places quality men and women from the Armed Forces into promising building and construction careers. The program helps connect you with the building trade’s apprenticeship programs and the training you need to become a journeyman in your chosen field.

How Do I Sign Up? The first step in finding a great career in a building and construction trade is to register online with the National Helments to Hardhats program. Once you’ve registered, you can search through the list of career opportunities, post a resume, and express interest in an opportunity. Go to www.helmets-to-hardhats.org.

How Can I Find Out More? AWP’s Helmets to Hardhats coordinator is Ed Flanagan. Call or e-mail him at: 1-866-993-8181 or eflanagan@alaskaworks.org. Art for Senior Veterans (50+). Basic supplies are provided and the will be “NO CHARGE” for the lessons. If you are interested contact the Reception Desk at the Anchorage Veteran’s Center and leave your name and phone number for the instructor and reserve seating at 907-770-2000. See you on Mondays in the Art Room. Military Funeral Honors: Alaska Army National Guard Honor Guard: If the family of a deceased veteran would like to request Military Funeral Honors for their loved one, the following steps should be taken to expedite the request:

If there is a funeral director involved in the planning and preparation, the director should be provided with the proper documentation recognizing the loved ones military service. Any of the following documents are acceptable: DD-214 or NGB-22 (Discharge Papers) Honorable Discharge Certificate Veteran’s Service Card Number/ Identification Card Documentation for an award received.

Funeral Directors should call the Headquarters’ office for the Alaska Honor Guard Program where it will be processed and assigned to the Military Funeral Honors team assigned to the requested area.

If a funeral director is not being used, a family member can contact the Alaska Honor Guard State Coordinator at 907-428-6688.

RENDERING TAPS: Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion then the call of TAPS. The melody is both eloquent and haunting, while the history of its origin is intriguing and somewhat clouded in controversy.

A bugle call that beckons us to remember patriots who served our country with honor and valor, it is the most familiar call and one that moves all who hear it.

For the March/April issue of the “Alaska Legionnaire” February 15th is the deadline for all stories and/or photos to be submitted. All material must be into Department Headquarters no later than 5:00 pm. Please be reminded that only those articles that are typed, preferably sent via e-mail or provided on a diskette will be considered for publication. Faxed articles will not be considered. As always, the editorial staff can edit all submissions. Photos are also being sought for publication. They should be clearly marked and must be originals for good quality camera reproductions. Anyone interested in submitting an article and/or photo, or anyone interested in advertising in an upcoming issue contact the Alaska Legionnaire office at 1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508 or call (907) 278-8598 or email us at legion@anch.net. Please request a return receipt for any emails you send to us, in order to verify that it was received.
Taps

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose on earth. People, places, and things were never to give us life. These veterans served a fulfilling life for our country.

Robert Andree
Eric Anslow
Carl Benson
Howard Burnham
Max Carpenter
Claudie Cole
Cesar Dela Cruz
Barry Eldridge
Jake Ivanoff
Norm Kassahn
Gregory Kowatch
Dennis McKechie
Arthur Moll
John Mulligan
Patrick Murphy
Edith Nelson
Robert Nistler
Alton Ogard
Lewis Reed
Elbert Ross
Thomas Sabel
Oius Schaffner
Ed Schederland
John Scott
Robert Straight
William Thorn
James Thornton
Henry Versnick
Linden Virgin

S.A.Lutations

By Kevin Collier, Sons of The American Legion

Hopefully the New Years was good to you and re-instilled a shining new vision to you and yours in the belief of this great organization and everything we do for God and Country.

Remember the Detachment will be doing their 32 oz. T-bone Steak Dinner!

This will be our 17th year doing this event. This years STEAK FEED will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at Spenard Post #28, in Anchorage, Alaska. This fantastic dinner will be held from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The price this year will be $25, with the proceeds going toward The American Legion Alaska Boys State and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs. See one of your Detachment Officers for tickets.

There will be a Detachment Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 pm on the day of the Steak Feed at Spenard Post #28.

The Detachment is holding a Money Raffle this year. Proceeds will be used for Children & Youth Programs. 300 tickets sold at $20.00 each. The Drawing will be held April 27, 2013 at the Detachment/Department Convention in Anchorage – being sponsored by Spenard Post #28. See your local Detachment Officer for your ticket today before they are all gone!

The Detachment as a whole has 674 members transmitted out of our year-end goal of 1483 (so far). This is equivalent to 45.4% of our goal. Remember that membership is everyone’s responsibility! Keep up the great job.

As of writing this article we have had a total of sixteen Squadrons turn in membership so far for the 2013 Membership year, the other three Squadrons are still stalled out or stuck in the snow/ice. Maybe their tires have been frozen.

The 2013 Membership year the remaining Target Dates are as follows:

60% January 16, 2013
75% February 13, 2013
80% March 13, 2013
90% April 10, 2013
100% May 8, 2013

We need your cards into Detachment Headquarters about 1 week prior to the Target Dates in order to get them processed at National in time to count as reaching the goal.

Let’s meet or beat each and every one of our goals this year – let us show everyone what the SONS from Alaska can do.

Remember that membership is everyone’s responsibility!

The National Membership Goal is 400,000 Members. The National Membership theme this year is “Sons Bandwagon – 2012-2013.”

Honor our Veteran’s Service whom our membership eligibility came under by renewing your dues or if you are eligible to become a member of the Sons of The American Legion and have not joined – join the SONS and honor the service of the veteran who has sacrificed so much to protect this great country. Remember it’s Cool to be Dual!!!

Who will be our Top Recruiter for the 2013 Membership Year?? Will it be you??

We all need to work on being a top recruiter. This will assist us succeed in reaching all our goals and the 105% challenge that Detachment Commander David Dieckgraef has posted.

Keep up the great job you are doing in membership. Remember the three “R’s” “Renew”, “Recruit” and “Reinstall”. Do not just sit on it! Keep it rolling in.

National Commander Chris Huntsinger has asked every Detachment to work on what is still being called the “Triple Nickel”.

As a reminder, your LIT free AD&D insurance has been increased from $1,000 to $5,000. Your Post should have the forms needed for this, if not you can go to our web site, alaskalegion.org, scroll down to links then to LIT, and you can complete the form on line. Presently less than 5% of our membership has applied for this FREE benefit.

There are 55 Departments that make up The American Legion. This year, 95% of the time we were in the bottom 5 of these Departments. Although we made our assigned goals during the year, it is embarrassing to see us at the bottom of the barrel. January 16 we need to be at 80% and as usual this time of year getting membership is like pulling hens teeth especially for those members who say “my membership card says 2012 and I will pay my dues at the end of the year.” We still have time to climb out of the cellar and make it to the top by just submitting your membership dues. Three easy ways to do this, stop by the Post, mail in your reminder notice, go on line to legion.org. The renewals on line have been very successful with about 10% of our membership taking advantage of this program.

For those who might have guessed as to the Legionnaire on the front page of the last issue, ONLY ONE (1) PERSON GUESSED that it was our own Past National Vice Commander, Past Department Commander, and all around good guy JOE CRAIG Ketchikan Post 3. Now, who can this Legionnaire be located on page 4.
Calendar of Events

2012

JAN/FEB
February is Americanism Month
- Jan 1 - 2 Dept Offices are closed
- Jan 11 - 12 Membership & Post Activities Planning Session - Indianapolis
- Jan 11 80% Membership Due at Dept
- Jan 26 S.A.L. Steak Feed Post 28 - 4 P.M.
- Feb 3 Four Chaplains Sunday
- Feb 9 ORATORICAL - NOON @ PROV. HOSP.
- Feb 18 President’s Day - Dept Offices are closed
- Feb 20 - 23 Dept Services Officers School Washington D.C.
- Feb 24 - 27 Washington D.C. Conference

Food served most nights at Post:
- Jack Henry Post / Unit 1: Wednesday Taco’s 5:30 - 7:30
- Friday night Steaks 5:30 - 8:00
- Tuesday Night Auxiliary Meals 6 - 7:30
- Feb 9 - Sweetheart Ball 6:00

- Seward Post 5: Taco Tuesday
- Friday Night Steaks

- Matanuska Valley Post 15: Taco Monday
- Friday Night Steak

- General Buckner Post 16: Family
- 1st Saturday Auxiliary Dinner 6 pm
- Taco Tues 5 pm
- Friday Burger & Brew 6 - 8 PM
- 3rd Friday Steak night 6 PM

- Post 20: Sunday Breakfast 10 - 1
- Sunday Football
- Monday Night Football meals
- Thursday Afternoon Football
- Friday Night Steak night 6 - 8
- Dec 8 Children’s Christmas party 12:00
- Dec 22 Adult Christmas Party
- Dec 31 New Years Eve Party

- Spenard Post 28: Monday night food 6 PM
- Wednesday Burgers, Chicken, Tacos 6 - 9 PM
- Thursday Red Solo Cup Night 9 PM
- Friday Steak and Seafood 6 - 8:30 PM
- Saturday Night Food 6 - 9 PM
- Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday Karaoke with James 9 PM

- Muldoon Post 29:
- Sunday Brunch 11 - 1
- Wednesday Karaoke and Food
- Friday Night Steak 6 - 9 with DJ Rico

- Chappie James Post 34:
- Friday Socials 6 PM with Buffet: Pincholo, Dominoes, Music
- Saturday Dinners 3 PM - 8 PM
- Catfish, BBQ Ribs, Fried Chicken. Prk Steak, Pigs Feet, Liver & Onions

- Susitna Valley Post 35:
- Friday Night Steak Night 6-8:30 pm
- Every Sunday Turkey Shoot, Starting at 1 pm. Ammno and Guns supplied or bring your own 12ga shotgun
- Legion Riders Sunday Pancake Breakfast 10 am - 2 pm
- Senior’s Dance Last Thursday of month 2 PM - 4 PM Everyone invited, Come enjoy, dance sing and meet new and old friends.

Past Commander Club Meeting JAN 19 @ 10 am
- Post 1.
- Bring your checkbooks, membership is $100 for a Life Membership.

National Executive Committeeman

By Jim Pisa

National Executive Committeeman

“The Doghouse”

Foreign and Outlying Departments and Post of The American Legion (FODPAL):

- Do you know what FODPAL is and what they do? FODPAL is just a small part of The American Legion. With over 15,000 members and 250 active post located around the world. We have post located in several countries such as Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Mexico, Philippines and several other countries. A listing of Post and locations can be found on The American Legion website at www. legion.org/postlocator.

- If you have plans on traveling outside the United States to one of these countries, check out the post locator and visit one of the Posts.

The purpose of FODPAL is to:

1. To promote the 4 pillars of The American Legion
2. To advocate a closer spirit of cooperation among the FODPAL membership and the national organization, departments and posts.
3. To improve and maintain open communications, to keep FODPAL members better informed about national and international policy changes germane to the overall mission of The American Legion.

FODPAL has just recently had a website come on line at www.legion.org/FODPAL. Take the time and visit it.

ALASKA LEGION RIDERS:
The Alaska Legion Riders is growing by leaps and bounds. At the recent Fall Conference held at Jack Henry Post 1, the Riders held their fall meeting. Reports were made on the National Riders Legacy Scholarship Ride from Niagara Fall, NY to Indianapolis, by Jim Pettino and Jim Scott who made the ride this year. Also making the ride were Jan Scott and Jay King. Letters of Appreciation from National HQ were presented to the Chapters for their contributions to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

This year the Alaska Legion Riders donated over $7500.00. BRAVO ZULU Riders.

THE CHALLENGE: A challenge has been made by Wasilla Chapter 35 Riders for next year’s Legacy Scholarship Donation. Chapter 35 Riders have committed to raising $5000.00 and challenge all other Alaska Legion Riders Chapters to “MEET IT or BEAT IT”. I know the other chapters are going to give it their all out best to meet the challenge.

Discussion was held on the up coming elections for next year. Remember that the Riders are now holding their annual elections in April at the Department Convention. Any interested Rider who would like to run for office, contact your local chapter for more info and support.

Remember that the Alaska Legion Riders Annual Romp (Fun Run) will be hosted by North Pole Chapter 30 June 15-17. There will be several rides, games and a lot fun. Make plans to attend.

Call to All American Legion “Anchorage” Motorcycle Riders: One of the topics of discussion at the Riders sessions of the conference was “Why there is not a Legion Riders Chapter in the Anchorage Bowl”? I know that if a post were to persuade the idea of forming a Chapter, there would not be a shortage of help from the other chapters in assisting. The challenge has been made to at least one Post in the Anchorage Bowl to get one started.

The Winter Conference will be held in Washington D.C. in late February. This is where your Alaskan Senators and Congressmen will get a visit from us to discuss Veteran’s issues. This is an annual trip that we make to insure that our representatives are on the same page as The American Legion.

This is where the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) comes into the picture, when Congress gets to see all the activities and volunteer hours that The American Legion members do in support of the Veteran. Reminder to all Post to submit their annual Consolidated Post Report.
Detachment Commander

I would like to take a moment to thank all our Detachment Officers and Members for their help and support in making our Detachment Fall Convention such an overwhelming success. A job well done!

I had the opportunity to attend my first Silver Tea in early November. I was once again very impressed during my visits. We have formed some strong friendships and strengthened connections throughout the Legion family.

I would like to take a moment to thank all our members who donated money, gifts, and contributed their time to coordinate and facilitate the overwhelmingly successful annual veteran's gift wrapping event held at the Domiciliary in Anchorage. My daughter, Teri, and I were deeply moved by the members and veterans who came out in this event and its inspirational cause.

The Sons of American Legion's strong support for our veterans and for those in need was especially evident during this event. We know that many hearts were touched, and we look forward to another successful event next December.

I also had the opportunity to attend Wasilla's Post 35 for the Honoring of WWII and Korea Veterans earlier this month. This memorial was very heartfelt, and reminded me what a great organization we are in and what a great country we serve. We must remember daily to pay tribute to our veterans by celebrating our freedom and the men and women who fought for our country. As we turn our focus to the busy holiday season, please be mindful and remember those who are less fortunate than us.

Keep in your thoughts and prayers the troops that are away from their families during the holidays. Wouldn’t it be nice to gather a few members together and visit your local Veteran’s Home or Nursing Home to share some holiday spirit?

Membership needs to be on the forefront of our minds as we begin this new year. We all are busy during this holiday season, but please remember to renew your membership and help remind those around you.

And please remember my door is always open. If you have any ideas on how to continue to make this year a success, or simply just want to say hello, please feel free to email me at mauler@cox.net. Thanks again for being a part of this great organization as we preserve American traditions and values, improve the quality of life for our nation's children, care for veterans and their families, and teach the fundamentals of good citizenship.

As we look ahead to the 2013 horiz-', coordination is underway for the Detachment Convention at Post 28 in Anchorage. Your squadron will be receiving more information as the time draws nearer.

In closing, I want to wish everyone safe holiday travels, and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from my family to yours! And remember, visit a vet!

Notes from the S.A.L. National Executive Committeeman

The time is going fast, it seems like it was last week that we were at the Domiciliary in Anchorage wrapping presents for some of our vets to be sent off to the families. We are now to that saying, ‘it is the time for all good Sons to come to the aid of their squadrions. With 2013 now here and all of the holidays gone by, we must think of our membership and how to find a way to keep the SAL strong. Keep looking for the new members and refresh our ways with new ideas to renew and retain our existing ones.

Notes from the S.A.L. National Executive Committeeman

By Austin Diaz  Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman

Cont S A L from page 5
– to push membership to retain at least 85% of their current members, reach 105% by National Convention next year (2012) and charter at least 5 new Squadrions.
If you still have not taken the opportunity to turn in your Certification of Officers, please do so as soon as possible. This helps the Detachment Commander, David Dieckgraeff and I in having points of contact at your Squadron so we may arrange official visits or send important information from the Detachment and from National to your Squadron.
Again this year we will have a Consolidated Squadron Report Form, there will be some changes on the form from last year and will be coming out somewhere around February or March. As soon as I receive them I will be sending them out to the Squadrions. In the meantime remember to keep track and record everything that you do so it can all be put on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention.
As we start out a new year remember to gather all of the information from the appropriate sources such as grants in the form of scholarships prizes, returned checks or bank statements for the donations so that next year’s Consolidated Squadron Report Form is easier to fill out and perhaps more detailed on what you actually accomplished throughout the year.
We need to do better in reporting when we do as a Family helps maintain our non-profit status.
Let’s see if the Detachment of Alaska can get 100% reporting this year.
It is never too early to start organizing your activities for each month, get started as soon as possible in order to ensure success.
February is the month that The American Legion Family has dedicated as Americanism Month. Be sure to start planning your Americanism activities for your Post, Unit and Squadron.
Several American Legion Posts will be having a Four Chaplains Day Ceremony. This is the “Consolidated Squadron Report Form”. This is perhaps the most important document your Squadron can complete. We only had about 3 of the 19 active Squadrions fill out the Consolidated Squadron Report Form.
The information that you enter on the “Consolidated Squadron Report Form” is combined with that of all of the other Squadrions and reported to The American Legion to show what we as the Sons of The American Legion have done and accomplished throughout the year. The American Legion subsequently sends this on to Congress to show what the American Legion Family has done throughout our Communities, our State and the Nation. All this information of what we do as a Family helps maintain our non-profit status.
Let’s see if the Detachment of Alaska can get 100% reporting this year.

SAL American Legion strong.

men to see how you might be able to assist them with the program.

Another one of the Americanism programs is The American Legion National Emergency Fund. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) has provided over $3,000,000 in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. The National Emergency Fund has kept posts from closing and enabled Legion family members to begin to rebuild their homes and their lives. Eligibility is open to Legionnaires, Auxiliary ** and Sons members, Legion Posts. (** If Auxiliary membership is less than 5 years continuous. Otherwise, the request will be forwarded to the National American Legion Auxiliary for consideration.) The Legion Family member has to be in good standing – in other words they have to be current with their membership and it has to have been processed at National Headquarters – yet another reason to transmit your membership timely. There were Legion Family members in New York that did not receive assistance from the National Emergency Fund because their membership was still at their Post/ Squadron or Unit – thus it had not been sent into their Detachment or Department to be processed and sent to National – they were not members in good standing.

One other area that we should
From the Desk of the Auxiliary President

By: Beverly Eads

Department President

“Angels All Around You”

Happy New Year may you all have a healthy, happy and productive New Year! January is National Security Month. Our Units need to reach out to military families during and after deployment for assisting in their needs. The National Guard has an agreement with the American Legion to meet with them, for “what needs do they have this year?” So get together with the Legion, and the Sons of the American Legion for a meet and greet with your local National Guard as “what can we do for you?” Be a part of their Welcome Home activities.

January is also Legislative Month. This is the time when lawmakers of our country working on important issues pertaining to the American Legion, we need to contact our representatives. As our soldiers are fighting for us we need to fight for them!!

In December I was able to participate in the Domiciliary Gift Shop in Anchorage what a heartfelt experience. The Auxiliary provides gifts for the veterans loved ones, they wrap and package them for mailing. A big thanks to all for their hard work and to Peggy Bateman what a great job for putting it all together and making it so successful!!

February is Americanism Month. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate “Americanism” and promote membership at the same time! We can achieve “Americanism” by going out and teaching the youth and adults about the true meaning of liberty and freedom. They will become aware of our veterans sacrifices and contributions for our freedom. They will receive valuable information as to how and why the American Legion Auxiliary was founded and why. An also an opportunity to recruit a new member.

In January I was able to interact with national leaders. I was able to ask questions, voice concerns, and to be welcomed and included. In this two-day workshop, I was able to attend an e-mail requesting permission to endorse written and voted on by your respective Units for their endorsement. Don’t forget to send copies to your letters, to circulate you do begin to send copies to Department Head-quarters, all Units, and all Past Department Presidents.

February 14 is our second membership milestone and it would be wonderful if we could make this goal of 70%. We have yet to make the first milestone that was 55% on Veterans Day in November. Come on membership chairman, we really need you to work your membership programs. Start calling those members and reminding them that there is no time like the present to pay their 2013 dues. Our veterans and our programs to benefit our veterans need their support. The second and final batch of 2013 renewal notices will be mailed out by National on January 15th.

Finally, please take a moment to say a special prayer for our troops still in harms way and for their families who will miss having them home this Holiday season. If you’re fortunate enough to live with your vet give him/her a big hug and thank them for their service. It is another testament to their service that you and I have the freedom to worship the holidays in our own way. God Bless you and yours in the coming New Year.

Just a reminder that Poppy Orders are due by January 7, 2013. This year they are $100.00 a 1000. Please be prompt in getting your orders in.

From the SECRETARY’S DESK

By Linda Schmitt, Auxiliary Secretary

First of all, let me wish you all Happy Holidays! I can’t believe that we are just a couple of weeks away from a New Year already – seems like 2012 just started. For those of you who attended the Fall Workshop I hope that you learned something you didn’t already know about the American Legion Family of organizations. We were very encouraged by the turnout and hopefully next year even more of you will be able to attend. There is a lot of information that we try to put out to benefit everyone and the hope is that those of you who did attend will be able to take what you learned back to your Units and members. I finished typing the minutes from the Department Executive Committee meeting and the Girls State meeting this past weekend and e-mailed them out, if you have not received them send me an e-mail and I will make sure you get a copy of them. It is always an opportunity to celebrate “Americanism” and promote membership at family of organizations. We were always a big supporter of our veterans because they have served our country.

TheAuxiliary’s mission is to support of your efforts. Don’t forget to give me a call or drop me an e-mail requesting permission to circulate your endorsement letters prior to sending them out. When you do begin to send copies to me at Department Head-quarters, all Units, and all Past Department Presidents.

The structure will include interactive presentations by each of the ALA’s new “pods,” a simplified way any Auxiliary unit with limited resources can work programs effectively. “Pods” are groups of similar ALA mission delivery programs: Veteran/Military Support and Advocacy – Legislative, National Security, Poppy, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation You Development – Children & Youth, Liaison to Child Welfare Foundation, Juniors, ALA Girls State Family Support Programs – Americanism, Education, Community Service, National Chaplain Membership Development – Membership Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Leadership, Public Relations, Long Range Strategic Planning, American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, Advisory Organizational Support – Constitution, Bylaws, Finance, Cadet, Past Presidents Parley, Audit, Parliamentarian, National Historian
Finance Officer - Kevin French

Pat Murphy

Meeting 3rd Saturday @ 2 pm

P.O. Box 9116, Anchorage, AK 99504

745-4440

General Buckner

Post 16 Family

Richard Turner

Commander

Patricia Meeks

Post 4400

P.O. Box 9114, Fairbanks, AK 99707

907-338-0756

Dorman H. Baker

Post 14

Doric Kent

Commander

Pat Murphy

P.O. Box 306

Seward, AK 99664

907-224-5440

SPOONER POST 28

Commander

Wes Lancaster

First Vice

Ernest L. King Sr.

2nd Vice

Michael Bloom

Adjutant

Arnold Heck

Finance

Richard Geogias

Chaplain

Kim Jacobs

Historian

George Tillman

Service Officer

Natalie Carter

STG - ARMS

Jeffery Hoefer

Judge Adv

Kenneth Jacobs

Committeeman

Ralph Marquez

Annual Sponsorship

- Boys & Girls Program
- AL Baseball Service High
- Boys Scout Troop 234
- Cub Scout Pack 214
- Dimond High JROTC

Post 28 Scholarship Program

7001 Brayton Drive

Anchorage, AK 99507

907-344-3841

Muldoon Post 29

Meets 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM

Commander

Fred Stier

Service Officers

Carol Gross

1467 Muldoon Rd

Anchorage, AK 99504

(907) 338-3550

FAX (907) 338-0756

Susitna Valley Post 35

Commander Dallas Massey

Adjutant Ronald Travis

Service Officer James Francois

MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st and 3rd Tuesday's

@7:00 PM

Friday Night Steak 6:00 - 8:30 PM

PO Box 907370

Wasilla, AK 99687

C. Russell Huber

Post 57

John Magmore

Commander

Service Officer

Darril Peterson

Pete Duchesher, Adjutant

1634 S. Cushman St.

Fairbanks, AK 99701

452-5757

Jack Henry

Unit 1

Peggy Bateman

President

Jill Pavison, Secretary

Meets 1st Thursday @ 7:30 PM

P.O. Box 92747

Anchorage, AK 99509

Aurora Borealis Post 21

All Female Post

CRIS VRABEL

Commander

Betty Pearson

Adjutant

Al Diaz

Service Officer

283-3222, 902 Cook St.

Kenai, AK 99611

GRANDE ISLAND POST 3

Bette Pearson

Post 11

Primary Post

CRIS VRABEL

Commander

Adjutant

Sue Miller

Service Officer

Meeting 3rd Saturday @ 2 pm

P.O. Box 9116

Anchorage, AK 99509

Matsunaka Valley

Unit 15

Kelly Sawyer, President

Pam Hodson

1st Vice President

Barbara Ray, 2nd Vice

Janet Bower, Treasurer

Regina Meyer, Secretary

Meets 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.

PO Box 541

Palmer, AK 99645

Pull Tabs Available

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