

Alaska



Legionnaire

The American Legion ~
Today's Voice for Today's Veterans
& Military

VOL. 2019 No. 1

Alaska Department of the American Legion

January/February 2019

Travels with Commander Nate, President Debbie, and SAL Commander Dave...



The American Legion
Department of Alaska
1550 Charter Circle
Anchorage, Ak 99508



The Officers travelled to Palmer Post 15 and our 3 Post up North - Post 11, Post 57, Post 30. As you can tell they had a wonderful time at all the Post. While in Fairbanks they tested their skills at the Escape Room. The ALA held their initiation for the Auxiliary and the Juniors at Post 57.



Adjutant's Update

By Clare Sullivan

Another year down and what a great record of all our posts serving our veterans and our communities! Job well done!!!! Here we are at the start of a new year, and one that brings us to our second century of service! This organization has done incredible things in the last 100 years and has a bright future of service ahead. Our posts right here in Alaska are continuing their own journeys and several are reaching their 100 year celebrations; all have some significant stories to tell as well of their continued mission of service. Hopefully, we will see more of those journeys on the legion.org Centennial Site!

As you will notice, many articles within this month's Legionnaire are on upcoming events. One of the first and most popular will be the S.A.L. annual 32 oz. steak feed being held at Spenard Post 28 on January 26th. Please look for details to be announced here in the newsletter and on our Department Facebook site. The proceeds from this event are split between the Boys and Girls State program.

Although we don't often think about it (and we should), If you have a local firefighter or law enforcement officer that you think should be considered for a national award, please complete an application outlining what he/she has done that makes their service notable or outstanding. We have some amazing people up here that do some heroic work that isn't seen much in "the Lower 48." Just know their applications need to be into Department by mid January.

We've been busy at Department working on reaching out to folks regarding expired memberships on behalf of the posts as well as getting the "word out" on what the posts are doing to keep interest in our activities, not only by our members but to get interest by those who haven't had the opportunity to join.

We are doing this of course by our newsletter but also the more timely use of social media. The Department has created a Facebook presence where we put updates on what is happening at the posts and other useful information. Some posts are taking advantage of this and it is helping highlight their positive activities. Additionally, we have contracted to totally revamp the website to not only update its look but also for it to be a far more "user friendly" resource for our members as well as those wanting to learn about what we do throughout our Department, with an emphasis on the posts – the heart and soul of any Department. We plan on having links to your websites if you have one, so we'll be calling you for that information.

January should be your "first call" for your Post elections, and your elections need to be completed by the first of April. This year the Department Convention, the Centennial Convention, will be at Jack Henry Post 1.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Nate Carter



Hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday and now that we have had some fun, it is time to get back to basics.

First, we start with our membership. The Department of Alaska did not make it's 75% goal. We were about 30 members short. Going into the holidays, I knew that we were going to be short, but it's the effort that counts and I want to thank **each and everyone** for their support.

Our next goal is January 17, 2019. So let's do our best to make our next goal. Post Commanders let's start with our Post Officers. Post Officers whose membership has expired on December 31, 2018 cannot vote in your meetings. Check your Certification of Officers and make sure everyone is current. So, Commanders the basics really start with you.

We should be working on our Boys and Girls State applications. Let's give Yvonne and Kevin the support they need to these programs a success.

I want to give a shout out to Art Bell at Post 1 for all the support that was given to the community during the November 30, 2018 earthquake. Emergency radio announcing, coffee and the doors were open for those that needed food. Now that's how you promote the largest veteran organization, The American Legion.

For God and Country

..... cont. from Adjutant

You should receive the convention packets early in the year and if you are interested in "running" for a Department office you should have your Post endorsement letter or a letter of intent for the position you are considering. In addition a copy of your DD214 or appropriate paper work should be on file with Department Headquarters.

One of the most important forms that our National Headquarters receives during the year is the Consolidated Post Report. The information that you submit is consolidated into one compiled report and this information is reported to Congress as to the accomplishments of The American Legion during the year. Everything you do at the post, can meet one of the criteria in the report. Also, a many of us do outside volunteer hours in other organizations, those hours can be included as well. You'd be amazed what we really do if we think about it. Having a personal log or even a calendar to write your hours down will show all you've done and you don't have to try and remember a years worth of work either!

As a final word, I want to thank everyone for their support as I transition into this position; it was (and still is) a steep learning curve, and as I don't know what the new year will bring for me, all I want to say once again is thanks, and I look forward to seeing you "at the post!"



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Department of
Alaska

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The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been The Department of Alaska’s sponsored member benefits program since 1988 and continues to fulfill our members needs while being the only such program to benefit our Department for 26 years.

For more information on the products and services provided by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust,

Call: 1-800-235-6943 Or visit our web site at:
www.theLIT.com

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2018-2019

Commander.....	Nate Carter.....	2250 Sentry Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507
First Vice Commander.....	Art Bell.....	100 Bunnell Unit 3A, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Second Vice Commander.....	Hunter Davis.....	655 Park Ave. Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Adjutant-Finance Officer ...	Clare Sullivan.....	1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Service Officer.....	Fred Richardson.....	POB 2934 Palmer, Alaska 99654
Sergeant-At-Arms.....	Mike Downs.....	3639 Carleton Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99517
Chaplain.....	Deb Davis.....	655 Park Ave. Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Historian.....	Ray Hollenbeck..	1457 N. Pioneer Peak Drive, Wasilla, AK 99654
Judge Advocate.....	Ken Jacobus.....	310 K Street Ste 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Executive Committeeman...	Don Maupin.....	910 W. Edinborough Dr. Palmer, Alaska 99645
Executive Committeeman...	Kent Winship.....	POB 257 Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Executive Committeeman...	Mark Berg.....	7913 Arlene Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99502

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

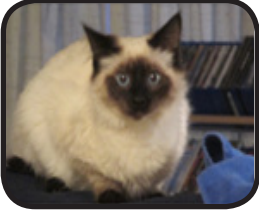
NEC.....	Steve Huisman.....	4700 Rivers St. North Pole, Alaska 99705
Alt. Committeeman...	Jim Van Horn.....	3217 Timberline Ct. Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AIDES

Con Miller Post 30.....	Jim Scott.....	1124 Holmes Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705
Susitna Valley Post 35.....	Dave Webster.....	8266 W. Hollywood Rd, Wasilla, Alaska 99623
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Post 20.....	Alvin Diaz.....	1112 Walnut Ave., Kenai, AK 99611
Joe Craig Post 3.....	Scott Kline.....	444 Schoenbar Rd, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Spenard Post 28.....	Mike Hayward.....	12021 Seashore Pl., Anchorage, Alaska 99515



History from
Ray Hollenbeck
Dept. Historian



The American Legion held it's first meeting at the American Club near Place de la Concorde in Paris, France, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces and it was chartered on September 16, 1919, by the U.S. Congress.

The organization played the leading role in drafting and passing of the Servicemen's Re-adjustment Act of 1944, otherwise known as the "GI Bill". In addition to organizing com-

memorative events, members provide assistance at VA hospitals and clinics. The Legion is active in issue-oriented U.S. politics. Its primary political activity is lobbying on behalf of interests of veterans and service members, including support for benefits such as pensions and the Veterans Health Administration. The organization has historically promoted "Americanism".

Do you realize that as a member of the American Legion Auxiliary that all legislation from your City Council, Borough Assembly, State and Nation that affects a military person or a veteran also affects you as a spouse, mother, sister, grandmother or daughter. From the earliest beginnings of our American Legion Auxiliary we have been involved in supporting legislation that affects our military or veterans. When there was a Presidential veto of pensions to returning WW1 veterans the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary came together to encourage their Senators and Representatives to over ride the veto and so it happened. Ever since then our organization has continued to be involved in the encouragement for the passage of legislation that affects our military, veterans, and the families.

How can you be involved? Check out the Legislative Agenda for the 115th Congress 2nd Session at <https://legion.org> . You can download the pamphlet/ To quote from the Legislative handbook, which can be downloaded “Do not fall for the line that you, as just one person, can’t make a difference in changing old laws and making new ones, or that the legislative process is to complicated”. “Can one person make a difference? Absolutely! Because most American are reluctant to write to members of Congress, the average representative and senator treats each letter received as the opinion of 150 to 200 people. Thus, your one personal letter carried significant weight.”

Marge Blankenship, ALA Department Legislative Chair



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Clare Sullivan,
Managing Editor

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Members of The American Legion, Department of Alaska subscription included in payment of annual dues.

ALL OTHERS: United States and possessions - \$5.00 per year; Foreign - \$10.00 per year.

Postmaster:

Send address changes to The Alaska Legionnaire, 1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508.

Please turn in Post pictures and activities so Alaska can save our Legion history.

- DATES TO REMEMBER
- January 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- FEBRUARY IS AMERICANISM MONTH
- February 3 - Four Chaplains Sunday
February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
FEBRUARY 14 - VALENTINE DAY
February 18 - President's Day
February 22 - Washington Birthday

News from Dept. 1st Vice Art Bell



Greetings Legionnaires,

What a year! It seems as though it was only yesterday that we were all looking toward 2018 and all the gifts and challenges that lay ahead. Once again the New Year is ahead, ripe with excitement and celebration.

As we move into 2019 take a moment to remember 2018 and all that has occurred. So many amazing events, at Post's across our great state, that are just too numerous to list. Veterans, helping Veterans, through good times and bad. Working hard, to fulfill the many missions, which make up the Four Pillars of the nation's premier service organization. What part did you play? What program is held near and dear to your heart? Where did you spend your valuable time and money? Then ask yourself why?

As we head into our 100th year of service to God and Country, it is important that every single one of us evaluate our role in the beginning of the American Legion's second century of devotion to Veterans. Each of us plays a vital role, not one more important than the other. You may be the outgoing, loud and boisterous individual that seems to always be at the center of the action, or the quiet member, who shows up for a few events and has an occasional coffee, meal or cocktail at the Post. It is important that you know that your involvement is what has brought us through the last one hundred years and is the key ingredient in making sure that, after we are long gone, this organization will still be growing and serving Veterans as they celebrate their 200th Anniversary.

Remember the day when you joined the American Legion. **REALLY**, stop and think of that day when you signed the application and joined this amazing family. What brought you in? Were you invited by a friend? Was it at an event where there was a table set up recruiting individuals? Were you thinking of your own time in service and just said "I always meant to stop in and check it out, so I did"? No one was born a member of the Legion. How has your experience been?

The chances are that if you are taking the time to read this, you are a Legionnaire at heart and have experienced, first hand, the difference you can make in the lives of others. Our founders worked tirelessly for years to bring the American Legion to life. We, as members at the start of our next century, have a duty to make sure that we do all that we can to keep the organization strong and growing in the future.

I have left a lot of questions for you to think on. I would say that they are all at the heart of our future. Please take just a few minutes, ask these questions of yourself and look into your heart. We struggle, as a group, bringing new members on board and keeping our Department alive and healthy. It truly is up to each of us to turn this tide. I know you have all heard it before, but now is the time to make the commitment. It is time to bring 1 new member on board. Not a huge task. We all know one person who has served and is not a member. So bring them in help us grow and continue to serve our Vet's for the next hundred years.

For God and Country

NEWS FROM SAL ADJUTANT, KEVIN COLLIER

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.

This will be our **23rd year** doing this event. This years STEAK FEED will be held on **Saturday, January 26, 2019 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 **\$30**, 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.

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 Ceremony. This solemn ceremony pays tribute to the World War II Heroes. For more information on this go to www.legion.org and look under Americanism – Publications for "Saga of Four Chaplains"

The **Four Chaplains Ceremony** is normally held on the **first Sunday in February** although I have heard that some of the Post may postpone the Ceremony until the second Sunday due to not wanting to compete with the events around the Super Bowl. Be sure to check with your local American Legion Post to find out when it is scheduled.

February also is when **The American Legion Oratorical Contest** is usually held (If you are in Anchorage the local level will be held at Jack Henry Post #1 on **February 9th**). This Contest is a great event in which High School Students give an 8-10 minute speech on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States, which also gives emphasis to the duties and obligation of citizenship. Then each of the Contestants will present a speech from an assigned topic that usually tests their knowledge of that topic which is also on some phase of the Constitution of the United States. **Check with your local Post, District and Department Oratorical Chairmen 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 California 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 always keep in mind is the education of our communities and our youth in Proper Flag Etiquette, The proper presentation and proper folding of the Flag of our Country.

Remember that if you have a nomination for Eagle Scout of the Year, their application needs to be into The American Legion Department Headquarters before March 1st.

The American Legion was formed in the spring of 1919 between **March 15-17**. Hopefully everyone will **help** his or her Post **celebrate** the **100th Birthday of The American Legion**.

The Detachment as a whole has 757 members transmitted out of our year-end goal of 1422 (so far). This is equivalent to 52.6% of our goal. Remember that membership is everyone's responsibility! Keep up the great job.

As of writing this article we have had all except two (2) Squadrons turn in membership so far for the 2019 Membership year, This is Fantastic – Thank you and keep the membership coming.

The second Membership Postcard Renewal Notice for the 2019 Membership year will be sent out by National Headquarters in January and our members should be sending in their membership dues.

The **challenge** for you is to **send in** a transmittal with as many **members** as possible **prior to** the 60% goal on **January 17th** and the 75% goal on **February 13th**.

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 "**Team 100**" – Keep bringing the membership in and sending it into Detachment weekly!

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 2019 Membership Year??? Will it be you???

.....continues on page 6

News from the 2nd Vice, Hunter Davis



A New Year has arrived. That pesky calendar just doesn't stop flipping pages, does it? Day by day, week by week, month by month, we advance toward our personal, professional, and Post goals. What goals have you set for the Post this year? Membership is probably high on the list, but isn't it always? It seems that recruiting active members is like finding unicorns or warrant officers, rumors abound about sighting in the wild, but no one ever seems to see either one. How do you set goals for a Post? Is there an Executive Board meeting to discuss and plan the new year? Or does a tentative plan come out at the monthly Post meeting? Or does your Post just cut and paste the same plans from the last three decades? I bring these questions up as a way to get into an Americanism mood. So much of our yearly calendar is to support the Americanism pillar. Holidays, solemn occurrences, baseball, other sports teams, Oratorical, Boys State, and so many more activities seem to fill our day planners. Do you plan them or wait for them to arrive? I watched the Army-Navy game this weekend. Wondered why National did not look into running a 15-second ad. Seems like the fan base for that game would make a natural cross-over to membership. One of the repeated commercials did have a brief glimpse of a Legion Rider, but I'm thinking we, as an organization, really missed the chance of huge access. Now is a good time to start thinking of resolutions, nominations, and awards. Remember some require cut-off dates to meet bylaw requirements. For God and Country

TAPS

- Post 3**
Christopher Boss-Gulf War

Post 5
Dennis Bunn-Vietnam
William Clark-Vietnam
Dennis Gallt-Vietnam
Richard Swain-Vietnam
Richard Whittington-Korea

Post 12
James Stevens-Vietnam
William Weir-Vietnam

Post 16
Richard Collett-Vietnam

Post 18
Alan Self-Korea

Post 20
LaBuck Braun-WWII

Post 26
William Currie-Vietnam
- Post 28**
George Stark-WWII
Ralph Valkama-Vietnam
Douglas Doyle-Vietnam

Post 33
Ed Willis-WWII

Post 34
James Fisher-Vietnam

Post 35
Johnny Beauregard-Vietnam

Post 75
John Cook-Korea

Post 77
Robert Morris-Vietnam

Department Chaplain, Deb Davis

What to write, what to write? Unlike some folks I know, ideas for a column do not come easily to me. So, I look for inspiration from things happening around me. I am writing this in early December, but you will not see it until January. A lot can happen in that time, but I can't know what may be. I can only write about now. There has been a lot of inspiration lately. From members of our deeply divided congress who came together to honor our 41st President George H.W. Bush (who, by the way, was an American Legion member) at his memorials calling him "a good man, a compassionate man." Then, there was the November 30 earthquake and continuing aftershocks. Story after story of people helping others, (like Jack Henry Post 1 providing a warm, safe place for anyone needing it), calm Anchorage air traffic controllers directing aircraft while they are evacuating the tower (if you have not listened to the recording from Nov 30, it is worth it), to roads getting fixed in record time. Every one of these folks have homes and families of their own at risk but they reached out, helped out, did their jobs and made life better for all of us. "There is more that unites us than divides us" (Mauricio Macri). Now that is inspirational!



ALA Department Secretary, Barb Nath

I trust that 2018 was a successful year for all the year. As most of you are aware, we ended our year with a BANG! Literally. Recovery efforts continue as a result of the earthquake. To the best of my knowledge, most of our units and members did not have any major catastrophic damages. A lot of people had many items fall off the walls and subsequently broken (including aquariums, pictures, knick knacks, etc.). However, the bottom line is that while there were injuries, I don't believe there were any casualties as a result of the earthquake. Things can be replaced; people cannot. So, let us give thanks to God for watching over all of us in this time. If anyone needs help with anything, please let me know and we will see what we can do. As the New Year begins, we will see a definite increase in activity. The Call to Department Convention will be going on in January. The official recommended changes to the governing documents for the Department of Alaska will go out with the Call to Department Convention (to be voted on at the Department Convention). Our Honorary Junior President will be attending Mission Training in February. The Department Convention will be held in April followed by the Department Leadership National Convention in May. Alaska Girls State and Alaska Boys State will be in June at the Elks Camp in Sutton. And that only takes us halfway through the year.



PDC Scott Kline presents Ketchikan Kayhi Kings basketball team a check from Post 3.



A flash back of "Big Dog and Little Dog" NVC Jim Pisa and PDC Scott Kline. S.E. District Convention 2010 held in Ketchikan, Alaska.



The ALA Juniors with April Sinclair, Executive Committeewoman, receiving their initiation Certificates at Post 57.

Happenings at your Post

Jack Henry Post 1
Monday - Homemade Pizza 5:00-7:30
Tuesday - Cribbage 4:30
Wednesday - Tacos 5:30-7:00
Thursday - Burgers & Brew 5:30-7:00
Friday - Steaks 5:30 - 7:30
Saturday - LOL Drawing 3:3

Seward Post 5
Taco Tuesday
Friday Night Steaks
Food Served every night

Wrangell Post 6
MARCH
3/6 & 3/20 - Taco Tuesday 5pm
\$1 Tacos - \$3 Frybread - \$5 Indian Tacos
Family Games, Pull Tabs, Raffles

APRIL
4/3 & 4/17 Taco Tuesday 5pm
\$1 Tacos - \$3 Frybread - \$5 Indian Tacos
Family Games, Pull Tabs - 50/50 Raffle

Matanuska Valley Post 15
Tuesday Pool League
Thursday Night Darts League
Friday Prime Rib and Live Band
Saturday Cajun Food and Karaoke

General Buckner Post 16 Family
2nd Saturday Auxiliary Dinner 6 pm
Friday Burger & Brew 6 - 8 pm
1st Friday of the month Special
3rd Friday Steak Night 6 pm

George H. Plumley Memorial Post 20
Sunday Breakfast 10am - 1pm
Every Friday is Steak Night 6-8 pm with an added Special Dish
Every Sunday Breakfast Menu Dishes 10am -1pm
Every Friday Aux Unit 20 Sponsors
The Friday Night Raffle 12 pm - 8 pm
Drawing (sign up once a day to enter)
Every Saturday must be present 4 pm
Membership drawing (no sign ups)
Every Sunday must be present 2 pm

Spenard Post 28
Monday Panini Bar and Karaoke 4-8 pm
Tuesday, Taco night 6 pm
Wednesday Chicken Wings, etc. 6 pm
Thursday, Philly Cheese steaks sandwiches 6 pm
Friday Steak Night and Karaoke 6-8:30 pm
Saturday, Karaoke 8 pm
Sunday, Make your own ~ Grilled Cheese 10-2 pm

Muldoon Post 29
Tuesdays, Taco night 6pm - 8:30pm
Wednesday Night Dinners 6pm - 8:30pm
Catfish, Chicken Wings, Pork chops
Friday Night Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Chappie James Post 34
Commanders night starting at 6:30pm every Thursday

Susitna Valley Post 35
Open Daily @1:00pm
Meeting Nights: Legion: 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
Auxiliary: 1st Tuesday 7:00pm
Sons: 1st and 3rd Monday 7:30pm
Riders: 1st Saturday 6:00pm
Wednesday: Taco Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm Texas Hold'em 7pm - ?
Fridays: Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Senior Appreciation Dance: Last Thursday of Every Month 2pm - 4pm

C.R. Huber Post 57
Sunday Breakfast 10-2
FOOTBALL & NASCAR Every Sunday
Monday night Football
Thursday Burger Night 5:30-9:00 PM

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From the Dog House with Jim Pisa, NVC

Greetings and Happy Holidays to all. Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. For all our American Legion Family living in South-Central Alaska, I hope you survived the Great Earthquake of 30 November. I know that the American Legion Family made many calls and social media post checking up on everybody. Our thoughts and prayers were with you all. But now it's time to get back to work and continue the work of The American Legion.

As National Vice Commander (NVC) my travels have taken me to the Department of Alaska, Montana, Arizona, and New Mexico to date. During these visits I observed The American Legion in action and what they do for the community, state and nation. I have sat in many meetings and listened to discussions on how to improve the many programs of The American Legion. I have learned that what works for one department, not necessary will work for another. Every department is unique in its own way.

On my recent trip to New Mexico, we did a post revitalization. The New Mexico membership team made many phone calls that day and as a result transferred and signed up enough members into one post to increase its membership to the minimum numbers to prevent the post from losing its charter. They also transferred many members from their department holding post to local post. Over all they transferred over 50 members into local post. It was very refreshing to see our hard working membership teams at work.

Overall the Western Area is doing well, but it's time for the West to grab our boot straps and concentrate on our membership numbers. As of 10 December the Western area had 6 departments that have reached the 75% membership goal. Overall the total West stands at 72.11% membership. Our next goal of 80% is 14 January 2019.

Remember to **RECRUIT, RETAIN and RENEW OUR MEMBERS.**

In closing, I will be very busy with my travels for the next couple of months. January has me going to the departments of Oregon, Idaho and Colorado. February I will be visiting Nevada and Washington D.C. March visitation will take me to Washington, California and Utah. I'm always available you need any assistance or information, just give me a call.

REMEMBER: WE ARE TEAM 100 and THE WEST IS THE BEST!

~~~~~

~~~~~**ORATORICAL NEWS**~~~~~


By Jan Scott

Now is the time to contact schools and students about The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest”. When thinking of getting students interested, do not forget the home schoolers, 4-H clubs, Girls and Boys Scouting troops and private school as well as English, Debate and Social Studies teachers.

It is not easy to convince students to participate, but remember to mention that all participates at the department level get scholarship money and participation in this program gives them extra points on a college application.

At the post level it is encouraged that members listen to the 8 to 10 minute speech to insure that the student has written and memorized a speech to present at the Department Contest. Each post can send more than one contestant to the Department level. When your post sets a date for the contest, please contact me so I can direct students who contact me your way. Anchorage will hold their local competition on February 9, 2019 at Post 1. Contact Kevin Collier for further information. Fairbanks will hold their local competition on February 16, 2019. Contact me for further information.

The Department Contest will be help on March 8th and 9th at Central Middle School in Anchorage. The winner will represent Alaska in Indianapolis, IN on April 5th to 7th.



December 2018 the crew of the USCG Mustang with their families visits with Santa at Post 5, Seward, Alaska

THE SONS OF THE

AMERICAN LEGION



From Dave Dieckgraeff
SAL Detachment Commander



Want to begin by wishing everyone “Happy Holidays”.
It is really hard to believe that it is Christmas time again. My grandchildren are getting bigger.
Hope everyone made it through the earthquake ok. I was in Anchorage when it happened.
I made it to Kenai. There are a lot of really great people there at the Post. I like all of the young SAL members.
The young ones are the future. We older members aren’t going to be around forever, so we need to bring in the younger generation to take our place. We have to show them the ropes.
We went to Palmer and Post 28. Thank you for the hospitality while we were there. I love the little lake at Palmer.
There are lots of things to do for the holidays. I know the posts can use help.
Also, if you know a Vet that is home alone, they would sure appreciate a visit.
See you at the Posts.

From Kevin Collier
SAL Detachment Adjutant



....continued from page 3

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 National Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs has given to Detachment Commander Dave Dieckgraeff and the rest of the Detachment Commanders across the nation. National Commander Gregg “Doc” Gibbs has also challenged all members of the Son of The American Legion to be a Team 100 - Hero and reach the 100% by the Legion’s Birthday.

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

National Commander Gregg “Doc” Gibbs has asked every Detachment to work on what is still being called the **“Triple Nickel”** – to push membership to **retain at least 85% of their current members, reach 105% by National Convention** next year (2019) and **charter at least 5 new Squadrons**.

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, Dave 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 Squadrons. 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 from your membership for hours, 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 what we do on the **“Consolidated Squadron Report Form”**. **This is perhaps the most important document your Squadron can complete**. We only had about 6 of the 18 active Squadrons 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 Squadrons 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.

As you prepare to go into elections for this upcoming year and select your Squadron Officers it would be greatly appreciated if you would take the opportunity to **turn in your Certification of Officers. Please do so as soon as possible after your elections!** This helps the Detachment Commander and myself in having points of contact at your Squadron.

It is also time to start thinking about **running for an Office at the Detachment level**. If you are interested in running, please be sure to get the support of your Squadron and Post and send a copy of your **letter of intent** and support to the Detachment Headquarter as soon as possible. The address is 1550 Charter Circle Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. **The letters of intent for Detachment Officers need to be received no later than 5:00 pm Monday March 04, 2019.**

Conventions are a great way to learn not only what is going on in the state but also the nation as far as The American Legion Family goes. You also get the opportunity to see some of your longtime friends and to meet new ones. Hopefully you will be able to attend the Department/Detachment Conventions in Anchorage this April and we will see you there.

Take a moment out of your day to say “Thank You!!!” to our American Heroes – our Veterans. Remember every day we should pay tribute to our veterans by celebrating our freedom and the men and women who fought for our country. Always remember that with out the sacrifices of our veterans this country would not be the great Nation that it is. They have given of themselves so that we all may live in peace and enjoy all the rights and privileges we have being an American Citizen. All veterans gave something of themselves; some even gave all to ensure our blessings of life, liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of the veterans for their service and sacrifices that they made. God Bless you and God Bless America.

If there is anything that any of your Detachment Officers can do to assist you or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. My email is kcollier@alaska.net. Hope to hear from you soon. **Remember Our Commitment Keep it Every Day!**

Yours in Service for God and Country

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Girl's State News with Yvonne Lamm, Alaska Girls State Director

Hello to you all,

ALA Alaska Girls State is closer than you might think. But, let’s not get ahead of ourselves. By this time all the information should be in the schools. The flyers are out and about and I hope you are using the QR Code. I’ve been all over the state promoting the use of this new technology. The teenagers I’ve spoken to are excited and believe this to be the correct direction for recruiting and applications. Members seem to like how easy and convenient it makes getting the correct information to the potential participants.

The website: [alaskalegionauxiliary.org](http://alaskalegionauxiliary.org) has the QR Code on it, and it can be printed on stickers or on anything you would like to put it on. The website also has any and all current information about the program. Please feel free to utilize this resource, it is here for you.

Please be sure to get those interviews done no later than March 28th, 2019. There is still a lot of paper work to be done after the application process is over. I cannot stress enough how important it is to get those interviews done before April. I need the information on who you will be sponsoring and any travel arrangements need to be done as early as possible. The earlier they are made the cheaper they are. I really appreciate your cooperation and am looking forward to working with you in the months to come.

The cost of each girl this year will be \$400.00. Fundraisers are a great way to raise the money to sponsor your participants. Get the Legion and SAL involved in fund raising, I have found that they are pretty handy when it comes to raising money. Also, you can raise money for both ALA Alaska Girls State and TAL Alaska Boys State at the same time. These two programs are well worth the time and money, these are our future leaders and we need to invest in them now.



From the desk of Debbie Lowndes,  
Department Auxiliary President

Hello:

As visitations wind down for this administration year and we start 2019 I want to say how much of a joy it has been to visit so many units. I have learned so much from each of you. Everyone is doing such a good job of serving our Veterans and Communities in so many varied ways. I applaud you.



I have been blessed this year with such a great team of Officers and Chairman. They really want to work hard and get their program messages out there. As I've said before they are energetic and enthusiastic, so reach out to them you need fresh program ideas. I am confident that with this team of upcoming Officers the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska has nothing but great milestone years ahead. Keep up the good work.

I have traveled with two chairmen on my visitations to help me show that my administration is not a one-woman show, we are a team. As a team it takes all of us working our programs together to accomplish our mission and reach our goals. This is what makes American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska strong.

The Anchorage earthquake may have rattled some of us a little bit, but not for long. The Domiciliary Gift Shop had to enact an emergency plan, but thanks to the Co-chair team of Ann Robinson and Jane Larson the job got done. It did bring about some innovative ideas on how we can to serve even more Veterans and their families next year. I cannot be remiss and I must thank Marge Blankenship for all the time she spent crocheting bell ornaments for every one of the Domiciliary Veterans. Well done ladies, we all appreciate your hard work even under such hazardous situations you faced in the storage facility during the earthquake.

Thank you to all Units who reported prior to the December 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. We improved our mid-year reporting ratio over last year, but we were still not 100% without having to reach out to several units. I realize life sometimes gets in the way but let's really try and get all year end reports in to the Chairmen by the April 5<sup>th</sup> deadline.

For God and Country

PDC Terry Huisman with  
at Post 57



#### How are National Security and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation different?

- National Security deals with active duty military and their families, some of whom do not live on military bases.
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation promotes our Mission to enhance the lives of veterans and their families.

The main focus of the National Security program is “maintain & promote a strong national defense by strengthening & supporting military service members & their families”

How might you do this??

We have an excellent resource: Military Family Readiness Guide! For easy reference, you can download it at <http://www.alaskalegionauxiliary.org/National%20Security.htm>

The American Legion Auxiliary Military Family Readiness Action Guide provides information for the service member about emergency financial relief, education, employment and transition, financial services, health, legal assistance, morale and youth development, peer support and service coordination. But for our use as volunteers, it will help us determine where the Auxiliary's help can be most beneficial and how to do that. Please use this as your “Go To” resource this year when it comes to National Security!

The American Legion Auxiliary Military Family Readiness Action Guide will help us support active, reserve and transiting service members and their families by matching ALA units to a Family Readiness Group or to an individual military family in need.

Most of you are aware that American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan's focus is on women veterans and the specific issues they face, particularly homelessness. How can you try to incorporate that focus into your Unit's programs?

Ideas for National Security include:

- Ensure male military spouses that are seeking employment have and maintain meaningful employment in order to prevent or reduce financial hardship for our military families.
- Participate in the career e-mentoring network through Academy Women.
- Get involved with military spouse job fairs in your community and offer to staff an information booth about the ALA.
- Deployed servicewomen are often in need of care packages specific to them. Consider preparing women specific care packages or work with an organization like Operation Courage is Beautiful, which provides high quality products for deployed servicewomen. For more information visit [www.operationcourage.org](http://www.operationcourage.org)
- Join the ALA National Security Facebook group.

Did you know that simply by working the Mission and concentrating on women veterans, your Unit could win one of the prestigious National President's Awards for Excellence?

Now you might be asking, “how do we apply?” It's quite simple! Report what your Department or Unit has done in any specific program, and how you incorporated the National President's focus into your program activities. Provide a narrative as well as photos! Highlight details on how her focus was an integral part of your program. And of course, submit it to the appropriate Division Chairman by the June 1, 2019 deadline, using the National Award and Report Cover Sheet. The Award form and additional information can be found by clicking <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Awards/National-President-s-Award-for-Excellence/>.

By Lisa Williamson, Department National Security Chairman



**Jack Henry Post 1**  
Meets 1st Thursday @ 7 PM  
**Commander Mark Berg**  
1st Vice Commander Art Bell  
2nd Vice Commander James Grant, Sr.  
Sgt-At-Arms Justin Mills  
Adjutant Michael Downs  
Finance Officer Ray Untiet  
Chaplain David Mazack  
Historian Nicholas Knowles  
Service Officer Steven R. Untiet  
Executive Committeeman Jim Sartin  
Tim Campbell  
Charlie Brown  
272-5242, FAX 272-5792

**JOSEPH T. CRAIG POST 3**  
Meets every Monday, 7pm  
Potluck every 3rd Saturday  
**Commander Scott Kline**  
Adjutant Deb Davis  
Service Officer Hunter Davis  
  
225-2021, P.O. Box 5121  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
www.americanlegionpost3.com  
**SEWARD POST 5**  
Meets 2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday 7p.m.  
**Commander Clare Sullivan**  
Adjutant Michael Calhoon  
Service Officer Tom Sears  
  
Taco Tuesday ~ 4 p.m.  
Steak night Friday ~ 4 p.m.  
P.O. Box 306  
Seward, AK 99664  
907-224-5440

**DORMAN H. BAKER POST 11**  
**Commander Walter E. Crary**  
Adjutant Billy M. Smith  
Service Officer Anthony Tillery  
  
Pull tab sales at the club  
452-2228, 129 First Ave.  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

**LYNN CANAL POST 12**  
**Commander -William Rostad**  
Adjutant - Ralph Strong  
Service Officer - Terrance Pardee  
First Vice - Thomas Spencer  
  
766-2530  
amerlegion@aptalaska.net

**MATANUSKA VALLEY POST 15**  
**Commander Ed Jarman**  
Adjutant Donald Maupin  
Service Officer Bill Kennedy Jr.  
  
Meets 1st & 3rd Mon., 6 p.m.  
1550 Mystic Cr  
P.O. Box 1146, Palmer, AK 99646  
745-4440  
www.facebook.com/aklegion15  
aklegion15@gmail.com  
  
RV's can hook up to electrical and enjoy a lake front VIEW!

**General Buckner Post 16 Family**  
  
Commander **Michael Morawitz**  
Adjutant Bill Sheldon  
SAL Commander Chip Dugan  
Meetings - 6 PM  
SAL - 2nd Monday  
Legion - 3rd Wednesday  
Aux - 3rd Thursday

**ROBERT G. BLAIR POST 17**  
**Commander Walter Sargent**  
Adjutant Pamela Cawley  
Service Officer Mike Nichols  
  
318 Center Ave.,  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
Office: 486-3258 / Bar: 486-5757

**NINILCHIK POST & UNIT 18**  
  
**Commander Robert E. Self**  
Adjutant David Behm  
President Chris Calabrese  
Sec./Treas Betty Randall  
Mile 136.5 Sterling Hwy  
Phone 567-3918

**GEORGE H. PLUMLEY MEMORIAL POST 20**  
**Commander Gregory Fite**  
Adjutant Al Diaz  
Service Officer Ron Engebretson  
  
283-3222, 902 Cook St.  
Kenai, AK 99611

**AURORA BOREALIS POST 21**  
**All Female Post**  
**Commander - Katherine Andrews**  
Adjutant - Ayanna Santiago  
Service Officer - Elexzanderia Carr  
Meeting 3rd Saturday @ 2pm  
Sept - May  
P.O. Box 91116  
Anchorage, AK 99509

**MULDOON POST 29**  
Meeting 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm  
**Commander Jeffrey M. Read**  
1st Vice Jeffrey Corey  
Service Officer Lional Maypin  
1467 Muldoon Road  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
907-338-3550  
Fax 907-338-0756  
muldoon29@gci.net

**JACK HENRY UNIT 1**  
**President Susan Stepsics**  
Secretary Jill Pawson  
  
Meetings:  
1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m.  
  
Mailing Address:  
2208 Romig Place  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**Spenard Post 28**  
  
Commander **Galen Rick**  
1st Vice Michael Hayward  
2nd Vice Mike Bloom  
Adjutant Arnold Heck  
Finance Richard Kazaitis  
Chaplain Rachal Colvard  
Historian Phil Parks  
Service Officer Martin Carlton  
Sgt-At-Arms Nate McKay  
Judge Adv. Kenneth Jacobus  
Exec.Committeemen:  
Dale Chubin  
James Davis  
Taggart Hooper  
  
**Annual Sponsors of**  
• Boys & Girls State  
• AL Baseball Service High  
• Boys Scout Troop 214  
• Cub Scout Pack 214  
• Dimond High JROTC  
• Post 28  
Scholarship Program  
  
7001 Brayton Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
907-344-3841


**Con Miller Post 30**  
  
**Commander Terry Huisman**  
Adjutant Harold Schuster  
Canteen Manager Harry Schuster  
  
3614 Old Richardson  
Highway - Moose Creek  
907-490-6830  
P O Box 56615  
North Pole AK 99705  
  
**SUSITNA VALLEY POST 35**  
Commander - **Ron Travis**  
Adjutant - Delmar Johnson  
Service Officer - James Francois  
Monthly Meetings  
Legion & Aux - 1st Tues 7pm  
ALR - 1st Sat 6pm  
SAL - 1st & 3rd Mon 7:30pm  
P.O. Box 870370  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
907-376-3500  
Mile 46 Parks Hwy  
www.facebook.com/post35ak

**TAL 2019 TARGET DATES**  
  
65% BY 11/15/2018  
75% BY 12/12/2018  
80% BY 1/17/2019  
85% BY 2/13/2019  
90% BY 3/13/2019  
95% BY 4/10/2019  
100% BY 5/8/2019  
**Delegate Strength 30 days prior to National Convention**

**ALASKA LEGIONNAIRE ARTICLES ARE DUE TO THE DEPARTMENT NO LATER THEN February 10th, 2019**

**ALASKA LEGIONNAIRE OPT OUT FORM** - Please mail to 1550 Charter Cir. Anch. Ak. 99508  
*I would like to view the Legionnaire online* NAME  
*http://www.alaskalegion.org*  
*instead of receiving it through the mail.* Membership No:  
*Please permanently remove me from the Legionnaire mailing list. This option will not effect any of the Legion mailings* Address:  
City:  
State: Zip:  
E-mail:  
  
Signature

**GRANDE DU ALASKA**  
  
**GRANDE CHEF DE GARE Dave Webster (907)376-8880**  
**GRANDE CHEF DE TRAIN**  
Bob Myles  
(907)690-1951  
**GRANDE CONDUCTEUR**  
Tom Schanrock  
907-283-6192  
**GRANDE CORRESPONDENT**  
Alvin Diaz  
  
**C. RUSSELL HUBER Post 57**  
  
**Commander Linda Boisseau**  
Adjutant Marcus McGrew  
Service Officer 1st Vice Mark Fraley  
Sunday Breakfast 10-2 followed by:  
Football & NASCAR  
Monday Football  
Thursday Burger Night 5:30-9 PM  
  
**C. RUSSELL HUBER SQUADRON 57**  
Commander **Dale Toenies**  
Adjutant Cary Toenies  
Finance Officer Chris Bedel  
1634 S. Cushman St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

  
**Sons of the American Legion 2016 - 2017 Detachment of Alaska Officers**  
**Commander** Dave Dieckgraeff  
**1st Vice** Dale Toenis  
**2nd Vice** Jamie Weeks  
**Adjutant/Finance** Kevin Collier  
**Chaplain** William Null  
**Sargent-at-Arms** Chris Bedel  
**Historian** Shane Rupe  
**Executive Committeemen** Chip Duggan  
William Wolfe  
Sterling Estrada  
**NEC** Howard Fruhwirth, Jr.  
**Alt. NEC** Loren Estrada. Jr.  


**SAL 2019 TARGET DATES**

- 35% by 11/15/2018
- 45% by 12/12/2018
- 60% by 1/17/2019
- 75% by 2/13/2019
- 80% by 3/13/2019
- 90% by 4/10/2019
- 100% by 5/8/2019

