ADJUTANT UPDATE

Wow, 2019 is now history. Happy New Year 2020! I hope your New Year’s resolution continues through the year. My first three months as your adjutant have quickly zipped on, and the busy time of the year continues. We have the Detachment’s (SAL) annual Steak Feed the end of January, Oratorical contests in February, Washington DC Conference in March, Department Convention in April, school graduations in May, and Boys State/Girls State in June; along with local events.

Remember to continue to do “buddy checks” throughout the winter months. November-January are the critical months especially in Alaska with the lack of daylight.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provided a grant to United Through Reading last year; goal of the program is “Together, We Unite Military Families Facing Physical Separation By Facilitating The Bonding Experience Of Reading Aloud”. United Through Reading has an app available on App Store or Google Play, which provides 5,000 free books for individuals to use a physical book to read and record online, or offline, and then upload the recording for the child to view anytime and as many times as they want. This site was created to help service members connect with their children while deployed, no matter the age of the child. For more information go to https://unitedthroughreading.org.

Ever wonder how The American Legion started or when the American Legion Auxiliary was established? Check out National’s website at www.legion.org. To learn more about The American Legion and the programs, the Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion, go to www.legion.org/alei. This site is new and is the American Legion Education Institute “Basic Training” which replaced the Legion Education Institute course. The new training is all on-line and FREE, the old training had booklets you purchased through Emblem sales, read, and completed the test that was mailed to National Headquarters for a pass/fail grade. The new site has training videos with more added all the time along with other training information. Some of the topics covered are Membership Development Retention, Post Adjutant, myLegion.org, Membership Recruitment, Post Leader Development, Post Commander, Online Transmittal Process, Parliamentary Procedures, Mentorship, and Resolutions. Why not cover a topic at your Post, Unit, or Squadron meeting from the training site? There are also many publications on the Legion’s website available for download to include the Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies that can be combined with the training.

Cont. to page 3 Adjutant

COMMANDER’S CORNER

Greetings…Holidays…Fall Department Meetings…Service Office…Veterans Benefits…Looking Ahead

Greetings from Southeast. It has been good to hear from some of the Posts around the Department the last few weeks. Too often, outside of meetings, we can get forgetful of the Legion as a larger organization. Contact should be encouraged. If a Post has reported events that appeal to you, contact them and find out how and what was done to make it a success.

I write this in the first week of December. By the time the hard copy of this hits your mailbox, 2019 will be gone. This has been a fast year. Many changes and challenges have been met with hard decisions. The image of the Department has always been foremost in the Executive Committee. I cannot stress enough how careful all Legionnaires should be when in the public square to present and promote a positive image of the American Legion.

The Department Fall meeting/workshop was held in October at Post 35, in Wasilla. I have heard only good comments about the agenda and presentations. The Department SAL Detachment and the Department of Alaska Auxiliary also hosted meetings. The Legion Riders were there and had a productive session themselves. Membership was a major portion of the agenda, as it always seems to be.

Why is that? Anyone reading this is highly likely to be a member already. What does it take to get new members, or keep renewals up in an organization that does the good work that the Legion performs?

A major desk has been sitting empty for a couple of months now, the Department Service Officer. Fred Richardson has moved out and Jamie Carlson has held down the job, with some part-time assistance, since Fred’s departure. Interviews for a replacement DSO are scheduled for mid-December with a preferred reporting date of early January for potential candidates. As of this date, four individuals have sent in applications and resumes. The work of the Service Office is a large reason for the existence of the American Legion. Since 1919 we have striven to help our fellow veterans gain benefits and other assistance. We as a Department cannot afford to keep this position vacant.

A huge step in Veterans benefits was recently announced. The Defense Department announced expanded Commissary, Military Service Exchange and MWR access Jan. 1 and established a standard for physical access to military installations. Before this, the access requirements for all but Active duty personnel was very narrow. Now it appears that access hinges on a Veterans Health Identification Card. This news is worthy of going into your Post newsletter or email blast events.

Cont. to page 3 Commander

On April 11, 2019 our very own Stan Hjort, Petersburg Post 14 Adjutant, and retired Coast Guard was honored along with Marilyn Menish-Meucci, left and Mary Ellen Anderson, center, at the National Library Week Extravaganza at the Petersburg Public Library. They were recognized by Friends of Petersburg Libraries for their years of service to Petersburg libraries. Stan Hjort, has been reading to Petersburg 2nd graders for over 20 years.
From American Legion Veteran Service Office!

Happy 2020 Everyone!!! Can you believe another year has gone by!!! They always say time flies when you are having fun!!! The service office definitely tries to keep things entertaining!!!! It is with great sadness that I have to announce the Retirement of Frederick Richardson. Fred retired on October 15th, 2019 from the service office after 3 years of service to veterans as the Department Service Officer. Fred was a great boss, mentor and friend and truly is a shining spot for anyone that met him! He is definitely missed!!! Jamie Carlson Service Officer is currently acting as Department Service Officer with Ashley as our Administrative Assistant. Steven Powell is still going strong in Kenai and Trina Crimmins is still an amazing advocate for Veterans in Kodiak. 
Couple of updates for the start of 2020: On June 25th, 2019 the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans act of 2019 was signed into law and the Veteran’s Benefits Administration will start processing Blue Water Navy Veteran’s claims as of January 2020. For those Blue Water Navy Veterans that have been denied claims and meet the criteria of being 12 nautical miles to Vietnam/Cambodia please call our office 907-257-4802. An interactive map of Ships and Vietnam/Cambodia territory can be found at https://www.hillandponton.com/blue-water-navy-vietnam-map/.
Starting January 1st, 2020 “The Department of Defense and Veteran’s affairs are gearing up for what will be the largest expansion of patrons to the military commissary system and exchanges in 65 years”. The law enacted is called the: “Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Law” this law covers Purple Heart Veterans, Medal of Honor Recipients, POW’s, and Veterans with any service-connected disabilities. The Boniface Gate will have more information about the process and getting access. The Veteran’s Consortium Discharge Upgrade Program is available for free legal assistance for military discharge upgrades. Free representation for Veteran’s with Other Than Honorable discharges related to PTSD, TBI or other similar mental health conditions. You can contact them at 202-733-3324, email upgrades@vetsprobono.org and their website is: www.vetsprobono.org. The State Office of Veterans Affairs located at 4600 Debarr Rd is also a resource for upgrade assistance.
As a reminder for Veterans with a 30% rating or more, you are eligible for Dependents on your monthly compensation, if you have qualifying dependents (spouse, children under 18, or college kids between 18-23) please call the office to find out the process of verifying dependency or adding dependents to your award.

We hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays and wish everyone the Happiest New Year of 2020!!!

From The American Legion, Department of Alaska

DEPARTMENT SPONSORED INSURANCE PROGRAMS

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been The Department of Alaska's sponsored member benefit 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.chelIT.com
News from 2nd Vice Michael Downs

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to all our active duty thank you for your sacrifices. The 2nd Vice Commander is supposed to write about Americanism, I tend to just write whatever is on my mind, which gets me a talking too, but this month I will be indirectly covering my assigned topic.

I’m the most recent American Legion College graduate from Alaska, so now I know everything. . . . . . um no, not even close. However, it has inspired me this month to think about how our Legion Family can learn about Americanism, well training of course. I will start by assessing our current training program. At the Post level, I do not know of any training programs, we do not have one at Post 1 yet, we have learned here more from mentoring, if your Post has a training program, I would love to hear about it. The Department does not have an official training program or Department level Legion College, they have done a good job since I’ve been around trying to get people trained up on Legion programs and MyLegion at the Spring and Fall Conference.

So, what is available, your asking yourself? There are resources available nationally, the first place to start is https://www.legion.org/training. Here you will find a link to American Legion Basic Training, I strongly encourage everyone reading this to take this class, it is free, and you will learn about our history and the 4 pillars that make our organization. You can also find a link on the training page, called District Training in a Box, while we do not have Districts in Alaska, this is still applicable to us. This is a new resource, so currently there is a membership training and phase 1 training, more to come. The last resource I will talk about here is Legion College, this is an annual training done in the fall and is a competitive all-expense paid training, that I can say was well worth my time. There is an application, essay, and a prerequisite that you take basic training, if you have questions let me know.

My message this month is, we can’t expect people to just find out about Americanism, membership or our history without training them. I get Alaska is different, but certainly we can develop a training program that fits us and informs all our members on what we are all about it, this is the key to our future as the biggest and best veteran service organization in Alaska.

“We don’t rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training.” – Archilochos

Cont. from Commander....

Upcoming events around the Department are listed elsewhere in the Legionnaire. If your events aren’t there, why not? Contact Headquarters to add the events. Also, before the individual Posts toss out the 2019 planning calendars that are hanging in the Post, be sure to transfer the data in preparation for filling in the Consolidated Post Reports, due in 2020. Do you have the large-scale planning calendars up, right?

Several congratulations are in order. First, congratulations to Mike Downs for attending and completing the Legion College. This is a tremendous step, of benefit to the Department, Post #1, and himself.

Cont. from Adjutant....

Our founding principle of Veteran and Community service is as critical to the success of this organization as it was in 1919. Sometimes in the daily operational chaos of running a Post we forget our guiding mission, and let every other thing become our priority. Service to our brothers and sisters is the paramount purpose for this organization. With the passing of the Legion Act more veterans are now eligible to belong to The American Legion. Our founding fathers believed “a veteran is a veteran” however, the war era for eligibility were defined by Congress.

Oratorical Contest: The state contest is being held 28-29 February (Friday/Saturday). The Oratorical contest is a “Constitutional Speech Contest” and a scholar- ship program. It is to assist high school students in developing a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States, develop leadership qualities, and the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently. The assigned topics covered this year are Amendment XII, Amendment XXIV, Amendment XXVII, and Amendment XX.

Steak feed tickets are available at the Department Headquarters office for the Detachment’s (SAL) annual Steak Feed Dinner being held at Post 28 on 25 January 2020 from 4 PM to 9 PM in support of Girls State and Boys State.

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If you are interested in attending a Washington Conference (DC) or what the Conference covers, please go to https://www.legion.org/washingtonconference for more information. This year it is 8-11 March 2020 (a bit later than usual - usually held near the end of February). Many of Alaska’s school districts (to include the University of Alaska) have Spring (more like mid-winter) Break that week 9-13 March. For planning purposes (and checking prices of airline tickets) please add to your calendar the annual Department Convention - to be held at Post 35, Wasilla, Wednesday afternoon/ evening, 22 April through Saturday evening 25 April.

From the Desk of Marty Carlton, Department Chaplain

Each generation has new ideas and have adopted to new and different life styles. As we grow older the next generation takes our place. we can only learn from our mistakes and instill into the younger generation our values and who we are. So it is with our nation.

I have come to appreciate the delicate balance of life these last months. I have witness strength during adversity and the resilience and desire to move forward. Because of my interaction with fellow veterans and their family members, I have learned that the battle of life is difficult and peace is hard to find at times but each of us has the ability to find peace and joy if only in our hearts.

Love is the promise. God is the gift and we must be the answer.
News from Detachment Adjutant, Kevin Collier

Hopefully the New Year 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 year’s STEAK FEED will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Spenard Post #28, in Anchorage, Alaska. This fantastic dinner will be held from 4:00pm - 9:00pm. The price this year will be $30.00, 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 12:00pm on the day of the Steak Feed at Spenard Post #28.

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 Post will be hosting a Four Chaplains Ceremony. This solemn ceremony pays tribute to the World War II Heros. For more information on this go to www.legion.org and look under Americanism - Publications for “Saga of Four Chaplains”.

One more program, 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 post. 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, Sons, members and Legion Posts. 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.

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.

The National Membership Goal is 400,000 Members. The National Membership theme this year is "Serving those who Served - Full Steam ahead" Keep up the great job!!!

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 Clint Bolt has given to Detachment Commander Dale Toner and the rest of the Detachment Commanders across the nation. National Commander Clint Bolt has also challenged all members of the Sons of The American Legion to be a Hero and reach the 100% by the Legions Birthday.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt 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 (2020) and charter at least 5 new Squadrons.

Again, this year we will have a Consolidated Squadron Report Form (CSR), 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 so it can all be put on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention.

The information that you enter on the CSR, is combined with that of all the other Squadrons and reported to The American Legion to show what we at 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. 

Remember it’s Cool to be Dual!!!

Who will be our Top Recruiter for the 2020 Membership Year??? Will it be you???

As of writing this article we have had all except two (2) Squadrons turn in membership so far for the 2020 Membership year, this is Fantastic - Thank you!!! The second Membership Postcard Renewal Notice for the 2020 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 16th and the 75% goal on February 13th. We need your cards into Detachment Headquarters about 1 week prior 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 "Serving those who Served - Full Steam ahead" 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.

The challenge for you is to send in a transmittal with as many members as possible prior to the 60% goal on January 16th and the 75% goal on February 13th.

Who will be our Top Recruiter for the 2020 Membership Year??? Will it be you???
Happenings at your Post

Jack Henry Post 1
Monday - Wings and Fries $7
Tuesday - Rib Night!!! $12
Wednesday - Taco Night CHEAP
Thursday: Burgers & Brew $10
Friday: Steak Night $17
Saturday: Spaghetti $5
Sunday: Smoked BBQ $15
5-9pm except Sunday Starts at 4pm

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

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 6:00pm
Friday Burger & Brew 6:00pm - 8:00pm
1st Friday of the month Special
3rd Friday Steak Night 6:00pm

George H. Plumas Memorial Post 20
Sunday Breakfast 10:00am - 1:00pm
Every Friday is Steak Night 6:00pm-8:00pm with an added Special Dish
Every Sunday Breakfast Menu Dishes 10:00am -1:00pm
Every Friday Aux Unit 20 Sponsors
The Friday Night Raffle 12:00pm - 8:00pm
Drawing (sign up once a day to enter)
Every Saturday must be present 4:00pm
Membership drawing (no sign ups)
Every Sunday must be present 2:00pm

Spencer Post 28
Monday, Karaoke 9:00pm -12:00am
Tuesday, Taco night 6:00pm
Friday Steak Night and Karaoke, Poker 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Saturday, Karaoke 8:00pm
Sunday, Poker 3:00pm - 8:30pm
Legion, Sons, Auxiliary meetings start at 7:00pm

Muldoon Post 29
Tuesdays, Taco night 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Wednesdays: Night Diners 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Carfish, Chicken Wings, Pork chops
Friday Night Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Peters Creek Post 33
Thursday Taco Nite - 4:30pm - 8:30pm
1st & 3rd Friday
6:00pm - 8:00pm

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 & 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm
Sons: 1st and 3rd Monday 7:00pm
Riders: 1st Saturday 6:00pm
Wednesday: Taco Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm Texas Hold’em 7:00pm - 7:00pm
Friday: Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm
E.R. Huber Post 57
Sunday Breakfast 10-2
FOOTBALL & NASCAR Every Sunday

American Legion Auxiliary Alaska GIRLS STATE is a program developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part and responsible for the character and success of her government. As such, it is an activity of high educational value, born out of a need for youth training in practical citizenship.

TO ELABORATE: This program is easily classified as a Leadership Action Program where qualified High School Juniors take part in a practical government and to impress upon them the fact that their government is just what THEY make it.

TO SUMMARIZE: American Legion Auxiliary Alaska GIRLS STATE is an objective citizenship-training program, which inculcates individual responsibility to the Community, State and Nation. It is operated on the basis of the political government organization existing in Alaska, including all levels from the Municipality to the State.

OBJECTIVE OF American Legion Auxiliary Alaska GIRLS STATE: Quite naturally, programs of this scope encompass many objectives all of which are important. We outline those which these organizations, feel is the most important and for which we strive the hardest.

A. To develop civic leadership and pride in American Citizenship: It is our earnest hope that each young lady attending American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State will return to her community as a better citizen and that we will have aroused in her a desire to demonstrate this fact by their willingness to make their community a better place in which to live.

B. To arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of our government. Here we desire to create more than just a passing interest, but a desire for lifelong knowledge.

C. To arouse in the young citizen a determination to maintain our form of government: This we attempt to accomplish in many ways but primarily by bringing them into the full realization of how wonderful it is to be an American.

D. To develop in the young citizens of American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State a full understanding of our American Traditions and belief in the United States of America: Here we desire to impress upon the young mind, in the strongest manner possible, the glorious traditions which have made this country what it is today.

SPECIAL NOTE: The final two objectives need no embellishment in that they are taken from the immortal Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

E. To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation.

F. To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

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ALASKA GIRLS STATE

Come join us for a fun filled educational week!
Learn about how our government works!

Great food, fun and fellowship

June 6, 2020-June12, 2020
Near Wasilla, Alaska

Director: Yvonne Lamm

Email: lovesysmom2000@hotmail.com
Phone: 907-232-0915

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News from SAL Department Detachment Commander, Dale Toenies

Good Day All! I hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday! As we close out the 2019 year and move into 2020, I’m looking at a very productive coming year. I believed we had a very good meeting at our fall workshop. We moved forward on several issues, a finance committee was organized to look into reinvesting SAL’s low interest CD’s, locating replacing of trophy’s, membership, squadron bylaws, along with other topics. We had a full day of discussions. I also, want to thank the Anneys, Post 9 for the use of their meeting space and their hospitality. I also had the honor of attending Post 35 Early Bird Dinner and Turkey Shoot and Post 33 ALA, 100th Birthday Party. A great time was had by all.

Next call-in meeting will be in January. If you are not getting a text or email from me, I don’t have a good contact. Please, contact me at, dale@terntech.com.

June 20, 2020

This will be our 54th Annual American Legion Boys State Program and it will be held starting at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday June 14, 2020 through Saturday June 20, 2020. This year’s program will be held at Alaska State Elks Camp near Sutton. The Tuition remains $300 per student.

Please get the information into your schools and Invest in our future leaders of tomorrow! If you have any questions or need additional information – 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!
Happy 2020 everyone!!

2019 was a year to remember and to be proud of. The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Family proved their mission of being there for our veterans, military and military families. From preparing meals, gift shops, helping our veterans to putting together packages for our military, I was so proud and excited to see so many of our American Legion family members of Alaska come together from all over to help out with The American Legion Auxiliary gift shop. It was a great success! I was also privileged to be involved with putting together and delivering Christmas bags to our veterans to JBER, Anchorage Pioneer Home and to the Palmer VA Pioneer Home.

A huge thank you to everyone that helped. It was a great display of “service not self.”

On a personal note, my husband and I had the privilege of making sure one of our WWII veteran, Joe Rayfield, age 103 and his wife were escorted to The American Legion Post 35 WWII and Korean era dinner on December 8th. On our ride home from the event, all Joe could talk about was how grateful and thankful that he and his wife were invited and remembered. The smile on their faces when we dropped them back to their home in Willow was priceless. This is just one example of why we belong to such a great organization. To honor those who have served and never forget them for their service and sacrifice.

The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Family—a reminder on how important it is to report our volunteer hours. This helps the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion tell the public and Congress how we are fulfilling our mission. So, please report your hours.

As we enter into 2020, our focus on the mission continues to grow as we enter our next century of service. We have impacted many lives, which is our legacy. Our “service not self” continues.

From the desk of Barb Nath, Department Auxiliary Secretary

I trust that your holidays were full of fun and family. And that you were blessed many times over. The American Legion Auxiliary was so blessed this past year because of YOU! Thanks to each of you for your commitment and dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Family.

As we begin the New Year, I have a challenge for us. We’ve all heard about the Culture or Spirit of Goodwill. But how many of us actually implement it? How many of us think about how our actions affect someone else – not just in our Legion Family but in general. There is a course on the ALA Academy called “Establishing an ALA Culture of Goodwill”. It helps us understand how our attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors impact ALA membership. It also helps to understand how it can affect the ALA’s ability to serve our mission. If you haven’t already taken the time to go through this course I would encourage each of you to do so.

Let us take the challenge and make this the year that shows how well we work together as a family. Let us treat each other as we would want to be treated. Give each person dignity and respect, for no reason than that they deserve it. Let them know that they are important and appreciated. Let us think about how we can make someone’s day. Random acts of kindness are a good thing. Don’t expect anything in return, just do it for the fun of it. Your act of kindness could be the one that helps a member want to stay involved. And, when they feel appreciated and loved, maybe they will tell someone else and we will get new members.

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

From the desk of Ann Robinson, Department of Alaska 2nd Vice, VA&R

What a way to end a year. Working with Jason DeLozier, a VA Domiciliary Recreation Therapist on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Christmas Gift Shop was incredible. Not only working with someone who works there full time but also a Veteran himself, made each moment an incredible experience of working together as a team to make sure this was a great experience for our Veterans, And yes, Jason is now a member of Peters Creeks, Post 33.

The VAVS meets quarterly at the VA usually just for one hour and I encourage everyone to attend at least on meeting a year if not all four. Yes, we have Representatives and Deputies but nothing beats hearing the information first hand. Great job American Legion Family on stepping in to purchase charging stations to go throughout the VA and last I heard they were going to put some in our satellite stations as well. One thing for sure, when they get in place, everyone will see how we stepped up to the plate when we were asked to and support that worthy item for the VA. You can call the VA for the date and time of our next meeting.

Fisher House is busy busy busy! I am still looking for someone to step up and be a K-cup provider for them. Or even a couple somebodies. They go through an average of 2 cups a day for 30 people. Yes, that’s a lot of K-cups. But also, an easy way for someone to donate on a monthly basis is buying a couple boxes of K-cups of coffee and taking them to Fisher House. Thank you for all the knitting.....it is keeping our veterans and families warm.

From the desk of Jane Larson, Department Auxiliary President

From the Domiciliary Gift Shop

Mr. Claus and Mrs. Claus. An elf and Rudolph 🐘

A couple of our much loved Christmas elves!