

Alaska



Legionnaire

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

VOL. 2020 No. 1

Alaska Department of the American Legion

Jan/Feb 2020



Brian Varela / Petersburg Pilot

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.



SAL Detachment Commander Dale Toenies is introduced by Unit 33 President/Past Department President Susan Caswell during the American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Anniversary Celebration held at Peters Creek Post 33 on November 24th, 2019.

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

ADJUTANT'S UPDATE

By Sharon Cherrette

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 Extension Institute course. The new training is all on-line and FREE; the old training had booklets you purchased through Emblem sales, read, and completed a 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

By Hunter Davis



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 mailboxes, 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



From The
American
Legion,
Department of
Alaska

**Legionnaire Insurance
Trust**

**DEPARTMENT
SPONSORED**

INSURANCE PROGRAMS

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 2019-2020**

Commander.....Hunter Davis.....6550 Park Ave. Ketchikan, AK 99901
First Vice Commander.....
Second Vice Commander.....Mike Downs.....3212 Oregon Dr., Anchorage, AK 99517
Adjutant OfficerSharon Cherrette....1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Service Officer.....
Sergeant-At-Arms.....Don Maupin.....910 Edinborough Dr., Palmer, AK 99645
Chaplain.....Marty Carlton.....8351 Henry Cir., Anchorage, AK 99507
Historian.....Ray Untiet, Jr.380 E 11th Ave., #423, Anchorage, AK 99501
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Executive Committeeman....Kent Winship.....POB 257 Dillingham, AK 99576
Executive Committeeman.....Tom Sears.....P.O. Box 1472 Seward, AK 99664

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Alt. NEC.....Jim Van Horn.....3217 Timberline Ct. Ketchikan, AK 99901

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AIDES

Jack Henry Post 1.....Tim Campbell.....1112 Chugach Way, Anchorage, AK 99503
Joe Craig Post 3Scott Kline.....444 Schoenbar Rd., Ketchikan, AK 99901
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Post 20.....Alvin Diaz.....1112 Walnut Ave., Kenai, AK 99611
Susitna Valley Post 35.....Matt Larson.....P.O. Box 643 Willow, AK 99688
CR Huber Post 57.....Chris Bedel.....13 Blanche Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701

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 was/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 65years". 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!!!



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Hunter Davis, Membership Chairperson

Membership. My challenge to every member of the Department of Alaska is to recruit one new member and renew two. That's pretty easy to remember, 1-2.

We all know several veterans who are eligible for membership. Just ask them to join the largest veteran's organization in the United States. Use yourself as an example of a veteran who continues to serve. I have always thought that service was the best presentation that could be made.

Because we are still serving. Everything we do as Legionnaires is in service to the Military, their Families, Veterans, and the Country. The best part? We don't have to wear a uniform any longer.

As of now, beginning of December, Alaska is hovering around 42nd-43rd place on the National Membership Barometer. We are not quite at 68% of our goal for the year. But that can change, quickly, when every Alaskan Legionnaire signs up one new member and gets the renewal of two. 1-2

Oh, I realize that the renewal part is always considered the Adjutants job, or the primary duty of the 1st Vice Commander, or the Membership Chair, or...well, you get the picture. You do not even have to ask them if they need help, just start helping. Talk to the members you know at work. Haven't seen them at a membership meeting or potluck at the Post in a while...let them know what's up. You know their kid is playing Legion Baseball for another year, ask them to help with the ball team committee.

And don't forget the rest of the Legion Family; the Sons, the Auxiliary, and the Riders. There are many ways to be active, to do something to support this organization.

As always, For God and Country,



Lt. Alexander Goode
Lt. George Fox
Lt. Clark Poling
Lt. John Washington

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. You do 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 eras 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 scholarship 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.

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 resillance 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.

~~~~~TAPS~~~~~

Post 1
Harold Hoffman-WWII

Post 7
Larry O'Sullivan

Post 15
Donald Miller-Vietnam

Post 18
John Huey-WWII

Post 27
John Becker-Korea

Post 28
Taggart Hooper-Gulf War

Post 29
William Timmons-Vietnam

Post 30
David Haywood-Vietnam

Post 33
Edward Barnum-Vietnam
Jerry Stewart-Korea

Post 35
Norris Finch-WWII
Merle Petron-Korea
George Rinkevage-Vietnam
Harry Rosencrans-Korea
Robert Thoms-Vietnam

Post 77
Alphus Alford-Korea
Vernon Henry-WWII
Fred Pridgen-Vietnam
Richard Rold-Vietnam
Richard Zenge-Korea



News from Detachment 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 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 Heroes. 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 1st.

The Detachment as a whole has 660 out of our year-end goal of 1515 (so far). This is equivalent to 43.6% of our goal. 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 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.

**Remember it's Cool to be Dual!!!
Who will be our Top Recruiter for the 2020 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 National Commander Clint Bolt has given to Detachment Commander Dale Toenis 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" "Renew". "Recruit" 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 do so it can all be put on the Consolidated Squadron Report Form by Detachment Convention.

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 CSR, is combined with that of all 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.

.....Cont. on page 6

Team Alaska
Supports
Lisa Williamson
for American Legion Auxiliary National President
2022-2023




ITEMS	SIZES	POCKET	QTY.	COLOR	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
MEN'S POLO	XS-4XL	w/pocket		RED	\$40.00	
MEN'S POLO	XS-4XL	NO pocket		RED	\$40.00	
LADIES POLO	XS-4XL	NO pocket		RED	\$40.00	
					\$5.00	
					TOTAL COST	

(Circle one below) if need shipped, add \$5 each

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DATE PAID:	DATE MAILED:		

The story of the Four Chaplains by John Brinsfield

It was Feb.3, 1943 and the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

It was only 150 miles from its destination when shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German U2 spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship, far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more.

Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the Soldiers, calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains, Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "here are you going" a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked "To get my gloves." Mahoney replied "Here, take these." said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young officer. "I can't take those gloves," Mahoney replied. "Never mind," the Rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

As the ship went down, survivors in near by rafts could see the four chaplains arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A T. Dorchester, only 230 survived. Before boarding the Dorchester back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, "Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty...never be a coward,,and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate."

A Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded posthumously by the President on January 18, 1961

It was never given before and will never be given again

The American Legion honors The Four Chaplains on February 2, 2020

Happenings at your Post



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: loveysmom2000@hotmail.com
Phone: 907-232-0915



More fun at Post 33!

Top photo left to right:
Vonn Lamm-Dept. Aux. 1st Vice President, Jane Larson Dept. Aux. President, Ann Robinson, Dept. Aux. 2nd Vice President.

Bottom photo top row left to right:
Sue Caswell, PDP, Ann Robinson, Dept. Aux. 2nd Vice President
Bottom Row left to right:
Penny Mazonna, NEC, Danielle Larson, Dept Jr. Chairman, Penny Mazonna-Jones



- January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Dept. Office will be closed)
- February 2 Four Chaplains Sunday
- February 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 17 President's Day (Dept. Office will be closed)
- February 22 Washington's Birthday

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
 5-8pm except Sunday Starts at 2pm

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. Plumley 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

Spenard 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
 Wednesday Night Dinners 6:00pm - 8:30pm
 Catfish, 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 7:30pm
 Riders: 1st Saturday 6:00pm
 Wednesday: Taco Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm - ?
 Fridays: Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm

C.R. Huber Post 57
 Sunday Breakfast 10-2
 FOOTBALL & NASCAR Every Sunday

~~~~~WHAT IS GIRLS STATE ~~~~~

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 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.

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 Amvets, 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 please put SAL Contact in the subject line, or text me at 907-360-1880 with all info. This is a great way to stay in the information loop and to keep your squadron updated with the latest detachment information. In the coming year all squadrons will be required to attend these meetings. The 2020 Convention is right around the corner at Post 35 Wasilla, please start planning on attending and letting me know of any talking points that you would like to be discussed, so I can add them to the agenda.

2020 Calendar Raffle for "Team Alaska American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Leadership Development" info.

You

can log into <https://www.facebook.com/SALSquad57/> to see if you are a daily winner. Good luck to all who have purchased a calendar.

For God and Country

Oratorical News

NEWS FLASH OUR DEPARTMENT CONTEST TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE NEXT LEGIONNAIRE

The Department of Alaska will hold its contest for The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" on **February 28, 2020** at Central Middle School in Anchorage. On Friday, February 27, 2020 there will be a mandatory meeting at 7:00 pm for the purpose of individual sound checks and a walk through to familiarize contestants with the route that they will follow during the contest. Saturday's contest will start at 8:00am and be completed by 4:00 pm.

The winner of this contest will go to Indianapolis to compete with the other Department winners on April 17 -19, 2020. This year the scholarships given at Indianapolis have increased! Each department winner who participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. The three finalists in the final round of the national contest will receive: 1st place: \$20,000; 2nd place \$17,000; 3rd place \$15,000.

In Alaska one contestant from each post may participate at the department level. It would be wise to have the contestant that your post is sponsoring to deliver their 8 to 10 minute speech to a group to insure that your contestant has a polished speech ready for department contest. This group can give feedback to the young person about their speech. Each contestant will deliver a prepared oration on the topic of the United States Constitution and a 3 to 5 minute speech on an assigned topic. I am willing to share all the information that I have with anyone interested concerning the topics of the assigned speeches or rules about this contest. I am willing to answer any question about this program.

Any student in high school (public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school) is eligible to participate. This program results in scholarship monies that are **not grade connected** which sets it apart from most scholarships. We, members of the American Legion Family, need to share this opportunity with parents and young people we come in contact with

The purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. Other benefits of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation of acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Department Chair, Jan Scott janscott1.js@gmail.com 907-460-6707

Boys State News by Kevin Collier, Director

The American Legion Alaska Boys State is an objective citizenship training program which includes individual responsibility to the community, state and nation.

American Legion Alaska Boys State is easily classified as a Leadership Action Program where High school juniors participate in a practical government course designed to develop in the young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon them the fact that their government is just what THEY MAKE IT.

It is our goal that each young man attending American Legion Alaska Boys State sessions will return to his community a better citizen. Part of our goal is that this experience will have stimulated in him a desire to become an active citizen and leader to make contributions which will help to make his community a better place in which to live. To incite in these young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government. To develop in these young men a full understanding of our American traditions and a belief in the United States of America.

American Legion Alaska Boys State is not a recreational camp but a leadership training camp. The American Legion Alaska Boys State Program is open to qualified male High School Juniors (**those who will be seniors during the 2020-2021 school year.**) and are at least 16 years of age.

We are asking all American Legion posts consult with area high school principals/guidance counselors and ask them to recommend a group of boys as possible candidates. The American Legion Post Committees interview each candidate and select those best qualified. Remember this is an investment in the future of your community, the state and quite possibly the nation.

The American Legion Alaska Boys' State Counseling staff is comprised of American Legion members, Sons of the American Legion members, and former American Legion Alaska Boys' State members, many of whom have been with the program for a number of years. Their services have contributed much to the success of this program. We are always looking for volunteers to help by being a counselor. Or if you are not able to volunteer we are also looking for assistance with any donations to help sponsor students from outlying communities where there is no American Legion Post.

This will be our **54th Annual American Legion Alaska 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 email me or call me.

.....Cont. from SAL

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 me 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 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 5:00pm Monday, March 2, 2020.

Take a moment of your day to say, "Thank You!!" to our American Heros-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 blessing 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!

From the desk of Jane Larson,
Department Auxiliary President



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 to 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 Domiciliary Gift Shop



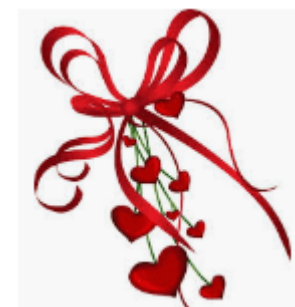
Joe Rayfield



DecDee Robb



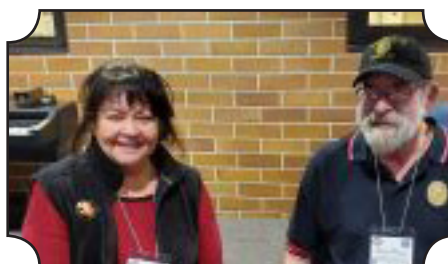
Mr. Claus and Mrs. Claus. An elf and Rudolph ?



Old Friends



Together for 75 years



A couple of our much loved Christmas elves!



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

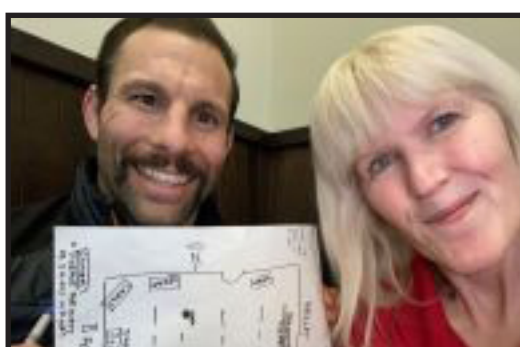
What a way to end a year. Working with Jason DeLozier, a VA Domiciliary Recreation Therapist on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Christmas Gift Shop was incredible. Not only working with someone who works there full time but also a Veteran himself, made each moment an incredible experience 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.



*Happy Valentines Day
February 14, 2020*



Jack Henry Post 1
 Meets 1st Thursday @ 7 PM
Commander Michael Downs
 1st Vice Commander Justin Mills
 2nd Vice Commander Steve Untiet
 Sgt-At-Arms DJ Jones
 Adjutant Peter Pritchard
 Finance Officer Ray Untiet
 Chaplain David Mazack
 Historian Bob Price
 Service Officer William Campbell
 Executive Committeeman Jim Sartin
 Jim Vorderstrasse
 Tom Roh
 272-5242, FAX 272-5792
 P.O. Box 91285

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

Spenard Post 28
 Commander **Mike Hayward**
 1st Vice Vacant
 2nd Vice David Todd
 Adjutant Kirk Waldhaus
 Finance Vacant
 Chaplain Martin Carlton
 Historian Phil Parks
 Service Officer Martin Carlton
 Sgt-At-Arms Nate McKay
 Judge Adv. Kenneth Jacobus
 Exec. Committeemen: Dale Chubin
 Taggert Hooper

GRANDE DU ALASKA

 GRANDE CHEF DE GARE **Tom Schanrock**
 907-283-6192
 GRANDE CHEF DE TRAIN
 Walt Crary
 (907)690-1951
 GRANDE CONDUCTEUR
 Dave Webster
 907-376-8880
 GRANDE CORRESPONDENT
 Billy Smith

**ALASKA LEGIONNAIRE
 ARTICLES ARE DUE
 TO THE DEPARTMENT
 NO LATER THEN
 February 10th, 2020**

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

Annual Sponsors of
 • Boys & Girls State
 • AL Baseball Service High
 • Boys Scout Troop 214
 • Dimond High JROTC
 • Post 28
 • Scholarship Program
 7001 Brayton Drive
 Anchorage, AK 99507
 907-344-3841

C. RUSSELL HUBER Post 57
 Commander **Jimmy Russell**
 Adjutant
 1st Vice Mark Fraley
 Sunday Breakfast 10-2
 Followed by: Football & NASCAR
 Monday Football
 Thursday Burger Night 5:30-9 PM

**Sons of the American Legion
 2019 - 2020
 Detachment of Alaska Officers**
Commander Dale Toenies
1st Vice Jamie Weeks
2nd Vice Chris Bedel
Adjutant/Finance Kevin Collier
Chaplain Connor Hayward
Sargent-at-Arms Chip Duggan
Historian Shane Rupe
Executive Committeemen
 Bill Wolter
 Thomas Attwood
 Rolf Aarseth
NEC Howard Fruhwirth, Jr.
Alt. NEC Loren Estrada, Jr.



JOSEPH T. CRAIG POST 3
 Meets every Monday, 7pm
 Potluck every 3rd Saturday
Commander Jeremiah Sullivan
 Adjutant Deb Davis
 Service Officer Hunter Davis
 225-2021, P.O. Box 5121
 Ketchikan, AK 99901
 www.americanlegionpost3.com

NINILCHIK POST & UNIT 18
 Commander **Tony Rea**
 Adjutant David Behm
 President Kathy Bowen
 Secretary Catherine Laky
 Tres/Tandy Wallace
 Mile 136.5 Sterling Hwy
 Phone 567-3918

Con Miller Post 30
 Commander **Robert Blackmore**
 Adjutant Harold Schuster
 Canteen Manager Harry Schuster
 3614 Old Richardson
 Highway - Moose Creek
 907-490-6830
 P O Box 56615
 North Pole AK 99705

C. RUSSELL HUBER SQUADRON 57
 Commander **Dale Toenies**
 Adjutant Cary Toenies
 Finance Officer Chris Bedel
 1634 S. Cushman St.
 Fairbanks, AK 99707

SAL 2019 TARGET DATES

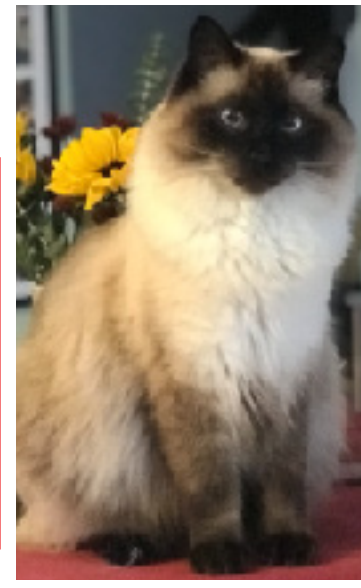
10%	September 11, 2019
25%	October 9, 2019
35%	November 14, 2019
45%	December 11, 2019
60%	January 15, 2020
75%	February 12, 2020
80%	March 11, 2020
90%	April 8, 2020
100%	May 13, 2020
105%	July 29, 2020*

**Delegate Strength Target
 Date 2019-2020 MEMBER-
 SHIP YEAR**

SEWARD POST 5
 Meets 2ND Tuesday 7p.m.
Commander Clare Sullivan
 Adjutant Mike Calhoon
 Service Officer Tom Sears
 Taco Tuesday ~ 4p.m.
 Steak Night Friday ~ 4p.m.
 P.O. Box 306
 Seward, Alaska 99664
 907-224-5440

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

PETERS CREEK POST 33
 Commander Herman Staschke
 Adjutant Mark Breci
 Service Officer Fred Richardson
 907-688-2354
 21426 Old Glenn Hwy
 Chugiak, Ak 99567



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

AURORA BOREALIS POST 21
All Female Post
 Commander - **Orelvis Ibarra**
 Service Officer - Elexzandria Carr
 Meeting 3rd Saturday @ 2 pm
 Sept - May
 P.O. Box 91116
 Anchorage, AK 99509

SUSITNA VALLEY POST 35
 Commander - **Ron Travis**
 Adjutant - Dalmar Johnson
 Monthly Meetings
 Legion & Aux - 1st & 3rd
 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



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

MULDOON POST 29
 Meeting 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm
 Commander **Jeffrey Corey**
 1st Vice Keith Stolberg
 Adjutant Lois Sholl
 1467 Muldoon Road
 Anchorage, AK 99504
 907-338-3550
 Fax 907-338-0756
 muldoon29@gci.net

MATANUSKA VALLEY POST 15
 Commander **Eric Wright**
 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!

JACK HENRY UNIT 1
 President **Ann Foley**
 1st Vice Amy Bell
 2nd Vice Karen Wolters
 Secretary Susan Stepsics
 Meetings: 1st Thursdays @ 7 p.m.
 Mailing Address: 840 W. Fireweed Lane
 Anchorage, AK 99509

**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 Membership No: _____
Instead of receiving it through the mail Address: _____
Please permanently remove me from the City: _____
Legionnaire mailing list. This option will State: _____ Zip: _____
not effect any of the Legion mailings E-mail: _____
 Signature _____