

Alaska



Legionnaire

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

VOL. 2020 No. 4

Alaska Department of the American Legion

July/August 2020

2020-2021 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

The Legion

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	9/10/2020	50%
Fall Meetings	10/15/2020	55%
Veterans Day	11/12/2020	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	12/9/2020	75%
Mid-Winter	1/21/2021	80%
President's Day	2/10/2021	85%
Legion Birthday	3/10/2021	90%
Children & Youth	4/14/2021	95%
Armed Forces Day	5/12/2021	100%
Delegate Strength	30 Days prior to National Convention	



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

ADJUTANT'S UPDATE

By Sharon Cherrette

We continue with changes happening due to COVID-19 within the State and Anchorage area. Kelly and I are still working limited hours in the office and from home. The voice message on the Headquarters phone has our contact phone numbers and emails if you need to get in contact with us. It also has the Service Officers' phone numbers provided in the message. If one of us is not in the office during the day and you are in the local area, please put any membership or other paperwork through the mail slot.

July starts the new membership year – 2021. We know we are not in 2021 yet; however, the renewal process dates are set by National Headquarters. They would like Posts and Departments at 55% by September. At the 30 March DEC call, the members voted and passed the resolution submitted by Spenard Post 28 to continue the reduced membership dues for new 2021 members. The cost collected would be \$18.50 (covers National's amount, Post waives theirs and Department's portion) for a new member. A new member is considered as 1) a veteran who has not been a Legionnaire or 2) hasn't renewed since 2017 (cannot have been a member in 2018, 2019, or 2020). The POST does NOT have to participate in this program. This runs from 1 July through 31 March 2021. (This is not new; this process has been in effect for Alaska the past several years).

Your membership is IMPORTANT to us. Without you, we cannot run our programs or help our veterans. Without you, The American Legion would not exist. Who would then ensure our veterans (including me and you) received the help they need? If you think Congress would ensure we are taken care of without The American Legion and other veterans' organizations like us, you are mistaken. Tell your story to a non-Legionnaire veteran - WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Don't forget to put the Fall Conference on your calendar. The dates are Friday, 2 October through Sunday 4 October 2020 at Spenard Post 28 located in South Anchorage. Sunday is for completing business not finished on Friday afternoon or Saturday (which is usually a training day); and hopefully, the renaming of the Headquarters building.

Stay Safe. Thank you for all your support and what you do within your communities.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Hunter Davis



Good day to you, the Veterans and Legion members of Alaska.

I am hearing and reading of Posts opening up across the U.S. and the Department. This is good news, as quite a few members look forward to the weekly or monthly membership meetings. At my home Post, Joseph T Craig #3 here in Ketchikan, we have a Legionnaire that has not been out of his house for over eighty days. He is the care-giver for a family member that requires twenty-four-hour care. Post 3's Monday evening meetings are the only regular breaks that he gets in providing that care. His relief, due to her own job, is not able to provide cover for him, even for a few hours. Neighbors do his grocery shopping. Restarting meetings, opening up our social interactions cannot come soon enough for him. We, Post 3, are his only break in his duty to care for someone else. I am sure he is not alone in this isolation.

I have seen reports of Memorial Day activities around the Department. Flags and crosses were placed, limited access observations on the day itself, streaming speeches, and gravesite visitations occurred. The solemn duties of our organization were met by ingenuity and steadfastness. It was a good time to see just how far social media can be used to get the American Legion activities in front of a larger audience. Post 3 had two streaming live broadcasts of our ceremony, and a taping for the local cable channel. A color guard and six speakers were supposed to be the only attendees; in the end, there were twenty-some folks there. How did your observances go?

Flag Day/Army Birthday will be coming up soon (as I am writing this). Did you and your Post celebrate either or both of these? Falling on a Sunday this year means that the usual attendees and participants may be otherwise engaged. I enjoy the Flag retirement ceremony. Post 3 has been collecting flags from the post office, the school district, and the hospital. Many have been turned in to the Post and we are holding probably 50-70 flags right now. And the Army Birthday will be celebrated as 244 years of service to the Nation.

July marks the start of the Legion membership season. Some members have only just joined or renewed, and here we go again. We can only hope and plan for a less...challenging year ahead. First Vice Commander Mike Downs will have more to say on this subject. He has some great ideas for bumping up our Post numbers. Remember that it is not about the money, but about the mass of voices that are represented by your membership. The Legion is a respected voice in Washington, D.C.

Remember too that each of us is a representative of not just our Posts, but the Department, Alaska, and every son or daughter that has served in the Armed Forces of these United States. Make your Buddy Checks around the Post, and take care of each other.

For God and Country,



From The
American
Legion,
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.

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Call: 1-800-235-6943 Or visit our web site at:
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**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2019-2020**

Commander.....Hunter Davis.....6550 Park Ave. Ketchikan, AK 99901
First Vice Commander.....Mike Downs.....3212 Oregon Dr., Anchorage, AK 99517
Second Vice Commander....Deb Davis.....6550 Park Ave. Ketchikan, AK 99901
Adjutant OfficerSharon Cherrette.....1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, AK 99508
Service Officer.....Jamie Carlson 1201 N Muldoon Rm 2A 215, Anchorage, AK 99504
Sergeant-At-Arms.....Mike Hayward..... 12021 Seashore Pl. Anchorage, Ak 99515
Chaplain.....Marty Carlton.....8351 Henry Cir., Anchorage, AK 99507
Historian.....Ray Untiet, Jr.380 E 11th Ave., #423, Anchorage, AK 99501
Judge Advocate.....
Executive Committeeman....Dale Chubin.....1700 E 57th Cir., Anchorage, AK 99507
Executive Committeeman....Jeremiah (Joe) Sullivan...3939 Big Rock Rd. Ketchikan, AK 99901
Executive Committeeman.....Don (DJ) Jones.....4003 Resurrection Dr. Anchorage, AK 99504

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

NEC.....Jim Pisa.....4043 Hampton Dr. Anchorage, AK 99504
Alt. NEC.....Steve Huisman.....4700 Rivers St. North Pole, AK 99705

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AIDES

From Our Service Officer - Jamie Carlson

Hello Everyone!

We are amid crazy times from the COVID to Riots to Protests to half the world being shut down. In the midst of all of this, the American Legion Service Office has maintained a steady schedule and have continued helping Veterans as best as we can under the circumstances. We want to thank everyone for their continued patience as we try and adjust to our changing times. The Service Office is happy to announce 2 new hires! Don Jones and Derek Morris! Jamie is very relieved with these two new hires and believes that they will definitely be a strong asset to our team! We are very happy to welcome both of these accomplished gentlemen to our team and we look forward to getting them up and running! Steve Powell who worked the Kenai Peninsula area is no longer with the American Legion.

Don Jones (DJ) will be joining us in the Anchorage office. Don "DJ" Jones is a retired Air Force Officer who specialized in Command and Control Operations and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Operations and Planning for both Conventional and Special Operations Forces in a career that spanned 27+ years. DJ has an extensive career history and is looking forward to working with us! DJ currently serves in several positions with the American Legion. He is the current Adjutant for Jack Henry Post 1 in Anchorage and one of three an Executive Committeeman at the State Level. Additionally, he is the State Director for Alaska's American Legion Riders (ALR) and is the Sergeant at Arms for his post's ALR Chapter. He met his wife, Annette, in 1999 while stationed at Elmendorf AFB. She is a native Alaskan who was born in Fairbanks and is currently the Human Resources Executive Director for Furniture Enterprises. He and Annette have been married 20 years and now live in Anchorage, Alaska. In his spare time, he fills in on various radio shows as a guest host.

Derek Morris will be joining us and working the Kenai Peninsula Area. Derek Morris was raised in the small town of Elgin Oregon. He joined the Army as a Military Police Officer in March of 1999 from Alaska and then retired in March 2019. Throughout his 20-year military career he held numerous positions, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Desk Sergeant, Operation NCO, Recruiter, Platoon Sergeant, Detachment Sergeant and Force Protection NCO. He has deployments to Afghanistan, Jordan and Kuwait and has been stationed at Fort McClellan, AL; Fort Detrick, MD; Republic of South Korea; Fort Richardson, AK; Fort Rucker, AL; Milwaukee, WI; Fort Carson, CO; and his final stop was JBER, AK. Derek attended numerous military schools and courses during his career. He has a bachelor's degree in Sports and Health Science from American Military University and a master's degree in Safety, Security and Emergency Management from Eastern Kentucky University. Derek is married with three kids who attend Kenai Central High School and Kenai Middle School. His wife Robin Morris served for over 10 years on active duty as a Combat Medic and another 5 1/2 years in the Army Reserves. She is currently finishing Physician Assistant School from the University of Washington and plans to practice on the Kenai Peninsula.

At this time there is still no new information regarding when we will physically be opened up again. We are currently waiting for the Veteran's Benefit Administration to decide on when they will be opening up their lobby which is the access point to our office. In the meantime, we are still seeing people in the parking lot and working through phones and emails. We appreciate everyone's patience through these uncertain times.

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Postmaster:
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The American Legion, Department of Alaska is looking for an Oratorical Chairperson. After many years as Chairperson, Jan Scott will be retiring at the end of the 2020 Oratorical Competition. Some of the duties include setting up the Department competition in February, arranging for judges, time keepers, chaperons, and travel.

From the desk of Kevin Collier, SAL Adjutant

Hopefully, everyone is staying safe and staying healthy! Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 situation it has put all of us a little behind where we usually are at in membership, elections of new officers, donations, and reporting just to name a few!

As each of your Squadrons start to meet, whether in the normal meeting at the post or via electronic meeting spaces, work on membership transmittals, election of officers and your Consolidated Squadron Report Form. Most importantly - please continue to reach out to those members that have not renewed their dues, or you have not seen them around town or in the Post and do a "Buddy Check" on them to see how they are doing!

Doing the "Buddy Check" is about letting our membership know that we care and are concerned about them and not just about receiving their money for their membership. With COVID-19 there were and continue to be a lot of people out of work and business that have not opened yet. Be compassionate and understanding of their situation, invite them to come to the next event at the Post, let them know that we are still here and care about them – regardless if they pay their dues or not – remember it may take them a little while to get their feet back under them.

As your Post opens up and your Squadron starts having your meetings – please let the Detachment know who are your elected and/or appointed officers for 2020-2021, this will make it easier for the Detachment Commander, Dale Toenis and myself to keep in contact with your Squadron. There is always lots of information from Detachment that we would like to share with you – but without the points of contacts especially emails it makes it a little bit challenging. The Detachment Chairmen as they get information from the National Chairman would also like to forward on the information they receive to your Squadron, so you and your membership are informed about what the Sons of The American Legion does.

We would like to challenge you to celebrate all of the work we have done this year in an effort to keep the commitment you've made to our veterans, our service members and the youth of this country. Be sure to let everyone know what you have done by filling out your Consolidated Squadron Report and send it into Detachment as soon as possible. This way National will also know the work you have done as members of The American Legion Family that has changed lives. (If you have an MySal.org account you can file it electronically to National – just be sure to print off a copy to send into Detachment and another copy to share with your Post.)

The "Consolidated Squadron Report Form" is perhaps the most important document your Squadron can complete. The information that you enter on the form is combined with that of all of the other Squadrons and reported to The American Legion to show what we 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.

For the 2019-2020 reporting year there are only two (2) Squadrons that have sent in their Consolidated Squadron Report Form. Please send them to the Detachment Headquarters at 1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. The goal is to have 100% Squadrons reporting this year. (The Reporting year is from Detachment Convention to Detachment Convention. – End of April 2019 – End of April 2020 for this reporting year, as there was no convention this year 2020).

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 years Consolidated Squadron Report Form is easier to fill out and perhaps more detailed on what you actually accomplished throughout the year.

The 2021 Membership Goals – Every year someone asks how the membership goals are set each year. The goal for Detachment is 100% of our current membership year plus 1 member. This extra member is given to the Squadron that the Detachment Commander is a member of. So right now, your Squadron's goal for 2021 is what you have currently transmitted for 2020. Both your Squadron's goal and the Detachment goal for 2021 will increase as more members are transmitted for 2020 up until December 31, 2020.

As information comes out on the National Membership Theme, we will make sure to get it out to you. Lets all aim for 100% membership and 100% renewal as soon as possible. The earlier we start the easier it will be.

The first Membership Postcard Renewal Notice for the 2021 Membership year will be sent out by National on September 20, 2020. The challenge for you is to send in a transmittal with as many members as possible prior to the 10% goal on September 10th and beat the renewal notice.

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 all aim for 100% membership and 100% renewal as soon as possible. The earlier we start the easier it will be.

The Detachment as a whole has 1249 members transmitted out of our year-end goal of 1487. This is equivalent to 84.0% of our goal. Hopefully as everything opens up, we can reach our membership goals! We only need 238 more members to be transmitted to achieve our 100% goal. Membership is everyone's responsibility! Keep up the great job – remember to Recruit, Renew and Retain!

As one membership year comes to an end and another year starts so does the reporting year for the information from the appropriate sources such as from your membership for hours, returned checks or bank statements for the donations so that next years Consolidated Squadron Report Form is easier to fill out and perhaps more detailed on what you actually accomplished through out the year.

By being a member of the Sons of The American Legion and also being a top recruiter, we will succeed in reaching all our goals and honor our Veteran's Service whom our membership eligibility came under.

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.

Take care, be safe and stay healthy!



TAPS

POST 15
Alice Taylor - WWII

POST 16
Amber Klopp - WWII

POST 17
Walter Willett - Vietnam

POST 30
Merlin Mattice - WWII

POST 33
Osman Lang - WWII
Larry Robinson - Vietnam



Membership Information from 1st Vice Commander Michael Downs

The world around us has forever changed. 2020 has seen the fighting of an invisible enemy with plenty of misinformation, economic challenges for our families, posts, and communities due to hunker down orders, and now our country burns from police brutality and terrorists taking advantage of peaceful protest. None of this will stop our 100-year-old veteran organization, we will help those that get sick, our posts will bounce back, and never has a veteran cared about the race of the person in their foxhole. Let us talk to each other and help those that are in need or feel left behind.

As the newly elected first vice commander my goal is to grow membership. I stand ready to help every post adjutant and membership chairperson recruit and retain members. I am willing to have a zoom call with you or visit your post to assist.

Please pull out your membership card. Check the year at the top, if it says 2020 or heaven forbid 2019 it is time to reach out to your post as new cards are in and ready to be distributed on July 1, 2020 or visit <https://www.legion.org-membership/renewals> and renew online, you can get your card online too. The fiscal year of our membership throws off new members but renewing early helps your post focus on recruiting new members.

Next look at the post # in the middle of your card. Many members are not aware that there is an at large post 0077 for the Department of Alaska. This means you do not yet belong to a post, basically your still at the MEPS station. Posts are the bedrock of the American Legion 4 pillar mission; without you they cannot complete that mission. If you would like to transfer from 0077 to any post in the state please email, text, or call me at alaskapost1@gmail.com or 253-906-9983.

Are you tired of renewing every year and want to stop the notices from cluttering your mailbox? Then the Paid Up for Life (PUFL) option is for you. Check out <https://www.legion.org/join/pufl>. I am not going to lie American Legion life membership is not cheap, but it is a great organization and supports several programs, that as a veteran or family of a veteran you are likely to care about. You will need to put in your membership number and last name to receive your cost, it is not a set price.

The 2021 membership cards honor the 100th anniversary of The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the background. The American Legion has a special relationship with Arlington Cemetery and in 1969, for the Legion's 50th birthday the organization decided to make a Gift to the Nation: bankrolling the design and installation of permanent fixtures for the suitable illumination of the area of the Tomb of the Unknowns and Temple Facade of Memorial Amphitheatre at Arlington National Cemetery. I look forward to what the National Legion decides to do this year, what will we do for our community this year?

From Mike Hayward, Department Sergeant-at-Arms

Greetings to all! As I write this, it is June 3rd, 2020. The nation and world have been struggling with response and recovery from COVID19 for months now. Throughout the lock down and easing up phases, we here at The American Legion have all done our best to provide support where and when we could to our individual post and memberships as well as the community-at-large. We got Memorial Day accomplished! Veteran graves and memorials did not go neglected this year due to any lapse by us and that is a point of pride that I hope you all realize as strongly as I do.

Now, the Posts are opening up again. Normality is approaching and this means that the Post needs us! Swing by your Post, grab a drink, sign in on whatever daily drawing they have, check-up/in on your buddies and absolutely ask if there is some small thing that you can do to make it a better place for all.

Myself, I spend most of my time at Post 28 and I know for a fact that the to-do list endless and volunteer time is precious. No one knows how much time they are given in this life, and the gift of that time is not something to be taken lightly. For those that do, thank you...and for those that can? Come on down! Even a small item taken off someone's plate can make a world of difference to them and the Post. Grab the mower, scrape the grill down, take out a bag of trash...everything helps! Special skills are in short supply and greatly appreciated. If you are a tradesman, ask about donating a couple hours a month towards improving your Post. Recently I was at Post 5 and saw sign-up sheets communicating labor and material needs of the Post for all to see, great ideas can and should be stolen! (Kudos to Cdr. Sullivan).

I don't want to talk on membership too much except to communicate that July 1st is coming up fast and 2021 membership sales will be available. Make it a point to show your support and get that renewal done right away, get hold of your buddies and nudge them as well.

National Commander Bill Oxford is absolutely correct in that no other organization can and has the potential to adept and overcome like us. Let's show our peer organizations what sets us apart. Many hands make light work and together we can move mountains. BUT, above all and like the National Commander says:

Stay safe, my friends and comrades!

The American Legion, Department of Alaska
is looking for a Department Judge Advocate. Ken Jacobus has retired his position as Judge Advocate due to health issues.
We wish Ken the best of luck and a speedy recovery.

For more information contact Department Headquarters @ 907-278-8598

BOYS STATE NEWS by Kevin Collier

Times right now are tough, but we will get through them together. Thank you for your patience, resilience and continued service to our great organization and country.

The American Legion Alaska Boys state program started in 1967 and was held in Copper Center. **After 52 consecutive years** The American Legion Alaska Boys State 2020 program year, will go down on record as the **first time that we did not hold a legislative secession.**

The National Commander for the American Legion, Bill Oxford, on March 24, 2020, cancelled the 2020 session of American Legion Boys Nation that was scheduled for July 17-25, 2020, in Washington D.C. On April 1st, the Samsung American Legion Scholarships were cancelled for 2020, with the National Leadership stating in an email that 32 Boys State sessions had already been cancelled for this year. The email also stated that many of the states have their sessions on a university campus and that many campuses had closed their facilities for summer use hoping to be back in full session in the Fall.

On April 13th, The American Legion Department of Alaska went on record to cancel this year's Alaska Boys State program. The decision to cancel the 2020 American Legion Alaska Boys State session was difficult. It was made with safety as the highest priority, for our Boy State Citizens (students that would be attending) and our volunteers. Contributing factors also included uncertainties on whether or not the All Elks Camp would be open, if the state was going to be open up for a gathering of more than five people and the Alaska Boys State Citizens not being able to attend the national capstone program (Boys Nation) nor receive the Samsung Scholarship.

I am challenging all Post Commanders to please **remember to appoint a Boys State Committee or at least a Chairman.** Once these appointments are made be sure to send them in to myself and the Department so that I can keep in contact with them as we start preparations for American Legion Alaska Boys State, 2021 Legislative Secession, coming next June!

Next year will be our 54th Annual American Legion Alaska Boys Program and it will be held starting at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday June 13th 2021 through Saturday June 19, 2021, at All Elks Camp, outside of Palmer.

cont. to page 5 Boys State

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
 5-8pm 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

...cont. from page 4 Boys State

The tuition will remain \$300 per student. Just as a reminder about our program: 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.

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 2021-2022 school year**) and are at least 16 years of age.

All American Legion Post Boys State Chairman/Committee will be asked to get in contact with area high school principals/guidance counsellors to let them know about our American Legion Boys State program, this will be a couple of weeks after the Schools start up in the fall. They will be asked to share their contact information and to keep a list of contacts for that school. I will also ask that they send me the contact information, so that we can keep a updated list of contact for the following year.

Each year American Legion Alaska Boys' State Counselling 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 counsellor. 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.

Please let me know who your Post Boys State Chairman are so we can 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.

Mark your calenders !!!!

**The Department of Alaska
 Fall Conference will be held at
 Spenard Post 28 October 2nd - 4th 2020.
 More details will be coming!!
 SEE ALL OF YOU THERE!!**

FLAG DAY AT POST 28



Flag retirement ceremony at Post 28
 June 13, 2020



News from SAL Department Detachment Commander, Dale Toenies

Good Day All!

I hope all are well, safe and life getting back to normal from the COVID-19 Virus!!!!

As this virus affected all of us through the United States and the rest of the world, we should all be very thankful of the people that kept us feed, safe, health - first responders, full of liquid spirits and other essential items. Lets all keep in touch with our families, fellow Vets, members and friends.

As the state opens up from this virus, looks like we will be able to have a fall conference in Post 28 in Anchorage. All SAL squadrons should start plans to have representation there. As this keeps all of us informed on how each of our Squadrons are doing and help figure out how we can help each other out. Please, stay active in our continue membership drive, contacting prior members, who may not have renewed in previous years, or have just forgot. It would be awesome if Alaska could hit the 100% mark, 2 years in a row.

We are still doing call-in meetings. These meetings are open to all SAL members from all squadrons, the executive board is very interested in what's happening around the state and where we can assist our members. 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 your info.

As summer is here, I wish all a very happy and safe 4th of July!!!!

Reminder, 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



The American Legion Riders at Post 30 North Pole



American Legion Riders annual trip to Byers Lake on Memorial Day weekend 2020

"From the Bullpen"

Play Ball, Strike Three, Home Run, Double Play and No Hitter. Those are the words many of us are missing the summer due to the cancellation of American Legion Baseball. Earlier this year National HQ cancelled the Legion Baseball season including regional playoffs and the World Series. But here in Alaska baseball is alive and well.

Thanks to the Alaska Alliance for American Legion Baseball the season lives on. A huge Thanks to the Alliance for forming the Alliance Baseball League. Although the season is shortened and travel at the bear minimum Play Ball is going strong. Games are being played as we speak. A tournament will be played at the end of July for both the AA and A teams.

The schedules can be found online on Facebook at American Legion Baseball in Alaska or the Department of Alaska website at www.alaskalegion.com. Once again, although this is not officially American Legion Baseball, it is the still your post team out there playing every day. The coaches are still putting in countless hours, the parents are still out there rooting for their teams and players. If you are bored sitting inside from the pandemic and need to get out in the fresh air, come on out to the ballpark and enjoy some great baseball.



Happy belated Birthday United States ARMY



Happy Birthday United States Coast Guard

August 4 is National Purple Heart Day 2020. It is a time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

From the desk of Jane Larson,
Department Auxiliary President



Not sure if you all have heard, but I am proud to announce that we had three of our young Alaskans receive scholarships from the National American Legion Auxiliary. Congratulations, to Celestina (Tina) Cruz for the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarships, Abigail Y. Middleton for the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, and Brianna Nicole Bahl for the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship.

As we go into the 4th of July weekend – let us remember that the 4th is a national holiday in the United States of America. Also, known as Independence Day – commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the birth of the United States of America as an independent Nation. Independence Day is a symbol of patriotism. American patriotism is a fundamental value of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our Americanism program teaches respect for our country and our nation's flag. Patriotism is learned by seeing it in **action**. Patriotism is rooted in our character by practicing it throughout our daily lives! We need to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism.

So, fly our flag high and never forget your Patriotism!

For God and Country,



Team Alaska: THANK YOU for your continued support
By Lisa Williamson, Candidate for ALA National President for 2023-2024

I know most of you have heard that the National Convention originally scheduled for this August in Louisville has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis! Current Legion Family National Officers and Chairmen are staying in place until the National Convention in August 2021 in Phoenix.

What does that mean to Team Alaska's and my journey to become the ALA National President? Well, it too has been delayed a year. So now we can look forward to 2023 when I hope to be installed, and then a year later chairing the National Convention in New Orleans.

While disappointing in some respects, I am trying to look at the silver linings!

This gives us another year to plan - to plan what I hope to focus on during that year of service, to plan for Homecoming in 2023, to plan for Installation, and so much more.

And of course, this will allow us to fund raiser for another year. It can be expensive for all the receptions that are required as a candidate, as well as to offset the costs for Homecoming. We all know Alaska is a "bucket list" item for many who live in the Lower 48, but it can be expensive! The more we can offset those cost, the more than might be able to attend. Being a friendly sort, we love to show off our great state! The more, the merrier!

Speaking of fund raising, I know the economy is tight right now. I hope that any Legion Family entity that is struggling will be working on keeping their programs alive and well. However, if any Post, Unit, Squadron or Chapter would like to host a fund raiser for the campaign this summer or fall, I'll do whatever I can to be in attendance. The National organization has put off all travel through September at the earliest, so my time is much more open.

Now to a "feel good" story - mid-June, I was able to venture down to Ninilchik and Anchor Point for a bit of fishing. (I forgot just how absolutely beautiful our state is sometime! I can't wait to show it off!) We stopped into Ninilchik Post 18 a couple of nights, and darned if I wasn't recognized by the Post Commander as soon as I walked in. Once the word got out, I ended up with a cash donation handed to me from a Legionnaire sitting next to me! THAT is a perfect example of our Legion Family supporting one another. We are just that - FAMILY! And I have the best darn Family there is!

Thank you Alaska, for your continued support! I am truly honored and humbled to have this opportunity with your backing. I will do everything in my power to make you proud.

News from Ann Robinson, VA&R

Well hello EVERYBODY! A harder test for an organization like ours I cannot imagine. But we survived and are getting stronger everyday. To be shut down was hard for us, and the reopening is slow to go, just remember why we are here. Remember what our mission is. Remember who we support, how we support, remember why we are here. OUR VETERANS!

The VA was very quick to get control of their clinic as far as PPE's and they still have control of it. As I write this article, our state VA still has no calendar of events. We have been busy throughout all of this with coming to the call with what ever support we can give, even if it was just dropping stuff off at the front door. Many of you answered the call when I asked for help and I thank each and everyone of you.

Our Fisher House opened to food and supplies only being dropped at the front door on June 2. No taking the food in and setting it up or cooking on spot. Totally crazy to experience but they needed to get supplies and food for their guests, our Veterans and their families.

My hope for our organization is we realize how important we are to the VA and Fisher House and all our Veterans in Alaska. They actually do rely on organizations like ours. We need to be ready and willing to answer the call. I would like to see at least 2 more units, or posts, or detachments step up and take food one day a month to the Fisher House. It isn't hard to do and at the most should cost anyone \$200 as you make food for 30 people. Currently we have Unit/Posts 33 and 35 doing this as well as my husband and myself. I would also like to have at least 10 people walk into your local VA and get registered as a regular volunteer for our Vets. It doesn't mean you have to set a volunteer schedule. But it makes sure we are ready to volunteer if needed. And this past experience with the shut down is a prime example of that.

So thank you everyone! Now lets get back to work!

From the desk of Barb Nath,
Department Auxiliary Secretary



First, let me express let me echo the congratulations of our Department President for the three recipients from Alaska receiving National Scholarships. We are extremely proud of you and look forward to hearing about your experiences as a result of your scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Second, it's been more than three months since COVID-19 took over much of our socialization with each other. Keeping isolated from each other and having to have masks in public makes it a very trying time. But – we are strong – we will overcome. Please keep up all that you do to keep the virus from spreading.

As a result of Covid-19 we've had to cancel unit meetings, department conventions, National Convention, as well as the Department Leadership National Conference. However, we have found ways to overcome even in these. The DLNC held a virtual meeting. We have had two DEC meetings via teleconference and many units also had meetings by teleconference and are now starting to have in-person meetings with social distancing. We have found ways to continue to help our veterans and their families – whether through dropping items off at doors, delivering meals, allowing for people to drive up and get meals at various posts/units.


You are all amazing. Thanks to all of you for your efforts and time.



Jack Henry Post 1
 Meets 1st Thursday @ 7 PM
Commander Michael Downs
 1st Vice Commander Justin Mills
 2nd Vice Commander Mark Berg
 Sgt-At-Arms Steve Untiet
 Adjutant DJ Jones
 Finance Officer Ray Untiet
 Chaplain David Mazack
 Historian Bob Price
 Service Officer William Campbell
 Executive Committeeman Laura Sturdevant
 Matieu Frolich
 Mike Alexander
 272-5242, FAX 272-5792
 P.O. Box 91285

General Buckner Post 16 Family
 Commander **Eileen Faulkner**
 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 Dale Chubin
 2nd Vice David Todd
 Adjutant Kirk Waldhaus
 Chaplain Phil Parks
 Historian Martin Carlton
 Service Officer Nate McKay
 Sgt-At-Arms
 Judge Adv.
 Exec. Committeemen:
 Jim Alton
 Jason Ott
 Lance Welsh

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
 August 10th, 2020**

ROBERT G. BLAIR POST 17
 Commander **Pamela Cawley**
 Adjutant Austerman
 Service Officer Robert Lachowsky
 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
 Adjutant
 1st Vice
 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 2021 TARGET DATES

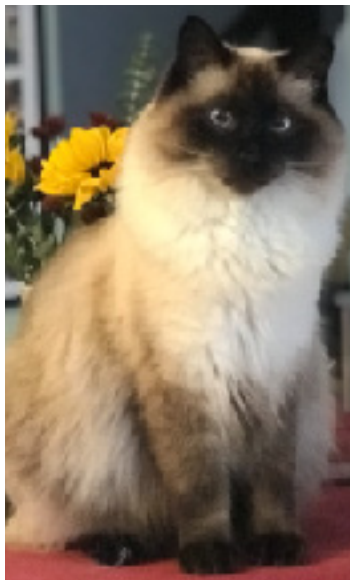
10%	September 10, 2021
25%	October 15, 2020
35%	November 12, 2020
45%	December 09, 2020
60%	January 21, 2021
75%	February 10, 2021
80%	March 10, 2021
90%	April 14, 2021
100%	May 12, 2021
105%	July 28, 2021*

**Delegate Strength Target
 Date 2020-2021 MEMBER-
 SHIP YEAR**

SEWARD POST 5
 Meets 2ND Tuesday 7p.m.
Commander Clare Sullivan
 Adjutant Mike Calhoon
 Service Officer John Moline
 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 Alison Humphrey
 Service Officer Fred Richardson
 907-688-2354
 21426 Old Glenn Hwy
 Chugiak, Ak 99567



DORMAN H. BAKER POST 11
Commander
 Adjutant
 Service Officer
 Pull tab sales at the club
 452-2228, 129 First Ave.
 Fairbanks, AK 99701

AURORA BOREALIS POST 21
All Female Post
Commander - Orelvis Ibarra
 Adjutant Ricca Gaines
 Service Officer - Elexzandria Carr
 Meeting 3rd Saturday @ 2 pm
 Sept - May
 P.O. Box 91116

SUSITNA VALLEY POST 35
 Commander - **Jim Pisa**
 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 -
 Adjutant -
 First Vice -
 Service Officer -
 766-2530
 amerlegion@aptalaska.net

MULDOON POST 29
 Meeting 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm
Commander
 1st Vice
 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 Don Meany
 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 _____