



# The Alaska Legionnaire

**Fun Fact:**  
Vinginh Xuq'udh (Deg Xinag) word for "Month it gets cold"  
Quyawim Iralua (Alutiiq, Kodiak) word for "The thanksgiving moon"  
Kaneghyengesi (Yup'ik, St Lawrence Island) word for "Moon of the frozen dew"

VOL. 2022 No. 4

Alaska Department of the American Legion

Oct/Nov/Dec 2022



Left to right Jay Bowen of Colorado, membership chairmen, Chip Ganassi owner of The American Legion Indy Race Car, Alaska Alt NEC, Mike Downs, Alaska Dept. Commander, Deb Davis, Alaska NEC, Jim Pisa, Race Car driver Jimmie Johnson and National Commander Paul Dillard.

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

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER

By Sharon Cherrette

Hope you enjoyed your Summer (even with all the rain); now we head into Autumn and the hectic schedule with many events being held at the post or in the community during October, November, and December: **OCTOBER** - **Department Fall Conference** is at **Susitna Valley Post 35, Wasilla** on **Saturday, 22nd starting at 9 AM, DEC and Boys State meetings on Sunday, 23rd**; Halloween on Monday, 31st; **NOVEMBER** - Clocks “fall” back Sunday, 6th (daylight savings ends), Election Day Tuesday, 8th, Veterans’ Day Friday, 11th (offices closed), Thanksgiving 24th (**offices closed 24th and 25th**); **DECEMBER** - Pearl Harbor Day 7th, Hanukkah starts at sundown 18<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Sunday, 25th (**offices closed 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26th**), and New Year’s Eve 31<sup>st</sup> (**offices closed 30th and 2 January 2023**). December is also Holiday Blood Donor Drive month.

**Upcoming events:** Post elections are to be completed **BEFORE** 1 April (1st call starts in January); **Department’s Convention** hosted by Peters Creek Post 33, Wednesday, 26 April through Saturday, 29 April 2023. **National Convention**, Charlotte, North Carolina, 25 August thru 31 August 2023 – Incoming American Legion Auxiliary National President will be **Lisa Williamson, from C. Russell Huber Unit 57, Fairbanks** (her Homecoming is scheduled for 28-30 September 2023 in Fairbanks). 2024 National Convention is in New Orleans – room request required at Department Convention 2023 for 2024 National Convention.

LEGIONCARE NO COST TO YOU Accidental Death Insurance Protection Guaranteed”To Legionnaires. You are eligible for up to \$5,000.00 in **NO COST To You** insurance coverage. Your Confirmation is **REQUIRED** for activation. Your beneficiary will receive a check for \$5,000.00 if you suffer a fatal covered accident while you are traveling to or from or participating in any covered event conducted for **Legion business**, or **\$1,000.00 for all other** fatal covered accidents. You pay nothing for this coverage. Your beneficiary will receive a check for up to \$1,000.00 cash benefits if you suffer a fatal covered accident at home, on the job, in your car, on vacation, while traveling, wherever you are. Go to **TheLIT.com** for more information and to sign up. You only need to sign up once as long as you keep Legion membership current. **They also offer dental and vision insurance to include Legion Family members.** LIT – Legionnaire Insurance Trust.

**Remember, The American Legion’s success depends entirely on membership, participation, and volunteerism.** The organization belongs to us (the members it serves) and the communities in which it thrives. In the daily operational chaos of running a post, the mission is forgotten; we let every other thing become our priority.

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Deb Davis

“By the time you read this” is becoming a regular thing for my first line. That’s because in order for Kelly to be able to put together this newsletter, she has to get everyone’s’ articles and photos and then put them in the newsletter format (which takes her time and talent to do well) and then it goes to the printers to be printed and mailed. So, about the time you get this, we will be meeting at Post 35 for our Fall Conference. We are working now on the agenda. This conference has lately been primarily focused on training topics and this year our topics include membership engagement and mentoring, Mylegion membership processing issues and solutions, resolution writing, our Boys State program and more.

Thank you to Kelly for starting the emailed “Post News” with pictures and current events. If you are not getting them, we may have the wrong email for you. Let us know so we can fix it. She is doing a great job on this. If you have news or pictures, get them to her.

The 103rd National Convention held in August went well. Most of us had an opportunity to be part of some the different committees that guide our organization and hear from our National leaders on goals/objectives for the following year. We had multiple opportunities to talk with our outgoing National Commander Dillard about successes and challenges of this past year. And we had opportunities to speak with our incoming National Commander Troiola and his focus for this year “Be The One”. He will be at our 2023 Department Convention. The Department of Alaska received several awards. PDC Mike Downs received the prestigious “Commander of the Year” award for his leadership success in 2021-2022 Membership. He worked hard for our success and deserves our congratulations. The Department received the award for achieving 100% membership by May 10 and we also received the award for most donations per capita to the Child Welfare Foundation this year (Post 28 and 1st Vice Mike Hayward were instrumental in this achievement- congratulations).

Membership is again one of our primary topics because without our members, we have no voice (especially with our Legislators). The more than 34,000 members who sent messages to our Legislators in support of the PACT Act ensured that it was passed. We want our Posts to thrive.

...cont on page 3







From The  
American  
Legion,  
Department of  
Alaska

**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](http://www.theLIT.com)

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**



**DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS  
2022 - 2023**

Commander..... Deb Davis  
1st Vice Commander..... Mike Hayward  
2nd Vice Commander .....Pam Cawley  
Adjutant..... Sharon Cherrette  
Service Officer..... Ryan McNeeley  
Sergeant-at-Arms..... Joe Sullivan  
Chaplain..... Charlene Mrtin  
Historian .....Don "DJ" Jones  
Judge Advocate..... Ken Jacobus

**Department Executive Committeeman**  
Dale Chubin  
Chuck Russell  
Justin Mills

**National Executive Committeeman**  
NEC.....Jim Pisa  
Alt NEC.....Steve Huisman

**2022 - 2023 Department of Alaska Officers** (still need a couple pictures)



**Commander**  
Deb Davis  
Joe Craig Post 3  
Ketchikan  
16 year member



**Sgt-At-Arms**  
Joe Sullivan  
Joe Craig Post 3  
Ketchikan  
6 year member

**Dept. Executive Committee**  
Dale Chubin  
Spenard Post 28  
Anchorage  
8 year member



**1st Vice Commander**  
Mike Hayward  
Spenard Post 28  
Anchorage  
13 year member



**Judge Advocate**  
Ken Jacobous  
Spenard Post 28  
Anchorage  
19 year member

**Justin Mills**  
Jack Henry Post 1  
Anchorage  
6 year member



**2nd Vice Commander**  
Pam Cawley  
Jack Henry Post 1  
Anchorage  
7 year member



**Chaplain**  
Charlene Martin  
Muldoon Post 29  
Anchorage  
15 year member

**Chuck Russell**  
Peters Creek Post 33  
Peters Creek  
6 year member



**Historian**  
Don "DJ" Jones  
Jack Henry Post 1  
Anchorage  
6 year member



**National Executive Committee**  
Jim Pisa  
Susitna Valley Post 35  
49 year member



**Adjutant/Finance Officer**  
Sharon Cherrette  
Muldoon Post 29  
Anchorage  
30 year member



**Alt. National Executive Committee**  
Mike Downs  
Jack Henry Post 1  
8 year member



**SERVICE OFFICE HOURS**  
The Department of Alaska Service Office phone number is 907-257-4802.  
They are primarily in the office in the mornings but still closed to public per VBA regulations.  
To reach Phil Templin at the Kenai Peninsula area please call 907-741-9997.  
They are located in the Capstone Clinic at 10543 Kenai Spur Highway Kenai, AK  
  
The Service Office is located in the VA at 1201

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Sharon Cherrette  
**Managing Editor**

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# From The Department 1st Vice, Mike Hayward

Greeting to all Alaska Legion family members! Let's get right down to it, shall we? As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander of our great organization, my primary job is to champion membership. There are many facets to effectively managing this responsibility and if you are running membership at your Post, you know that the year can positively fly by.

I want to take this opportunity to offer myself as a second set of hands in your efforts to make the membership goals this year. If you intend to run a membership drive or just make some calls, let me know! While some posts aren't in driving distance, most of you are. I would be more than happy to drive out to work with you, even if some choice door-to-door visits are called for, I stand ready! Let's put in the work! Feel free to email me: [1stvicecdr@alaska-legion.org](mailto:1stvicecdr@alaska-legion.org)

By the time you read this, the September 14 target of 50% will have come and gone. For those of you that made it, congratulations! Keep pushing, because from here on out, the goal grows by 5% monthly with the next goal being 55% by Oct. 13. I truly believe that a coordinated effort each month at the Post level will make the magic happen.

The American Legion has also created a great tool to mainline our voices directly to Congress in support of veteran-facing issues through the new Legislative Action Center. Using this website, you can easily and quickly lend your support to The American Legion as they fight in Congress concerning issues such as: the PACT Act (PASSED WOOO!), the Afghan Adjustment Act, the Richard Star Act, and the Veterans Service Recognition Act.. just to name a few. Get involved! There are over 1.5 million of us, let's make ourselves heard! The website is: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

Lastly, I wanted to touch on the main initiative for The American Legion, it is a comprehensive program that had been in development, but now is being rolled out across the country: The "Be The One" campaign aimed to stop veteran suicide. You can read more about the program at [www.legion.org/betheone](http://www.legion.org/betheone)

I look forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference, hosted by the Post 35 family in Wasilla, from October 22-23. For God and Country!



BE THE ONE

TO ASK VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO LISTEN WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO REACH OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

...cont. from page 1 Commander

We want our National Organization to thrive. We want our veterans' voices to be heard. And the way we do that is to keep and grow our membership. 1st Vice Hayward and myself attended the National Membership Workshop 28-29 July. It was outstanding. Both Mike and I were busy the whole 2 days. The workshop was organized in different tracts which we chose by our interests, so we were doing different classes (double the information). We will be putting that information to use as we go forward this year. September 11 was our first Membership goal date (50%). 15 posts met or exceeded that goal. That is a start, but we have a long way to go. Oct 13 (55%) is the next target date. Talk to your members...they need to know that their membership matters. I hope to see lots of folks in Wasilla Oct 22. And after that, I will be hitting the road to visit our posts. Looking forward to it.

**Another step in the journey.....**  
*By Lisa Williamson, 2022-2023 ALA National Vice President*

After I was installed as the American Legion Auxiliary's 2022-2023 National Vice President, I try to gather my thoughts. I hear, "Congratulations, Madam National Vice President" and my heart skips a beat! I want to make sure I do a good job, that I can live up to everyone's expectations, that I remember our Mission of supporting our MilVet community, that I don't disappoint anyone, that I am still the same Lisa that you all know. And I promise to do all that.

But first, I want to share my words from the Installation of 2022-2023 National Officers, not because it needs repeating, but because I agonized over what to say. And after many edits and changes, it truly reflects what my heart feels.

*Thank you. I stand before you grateful and humbled to have been elected to serve as your National Vice President. What an honor! I look forward to showing I'm worthy of this trust every day of this next year.*

*First, I wish to thank my family – those that traveled here today and those who are watching on the live stream!*

*My husband, Darrel, who I happened to meet at a Legion Family convention. The Legion Family has given me so much, but who knew it would also bring me the love of my life?*

*Both my children who were raised in this organization –*

*My daughter, Danielle, who attended her fair share of National Junior Meetings, serving in several Honorary Junior offices at the National, Department and Unit levels;*

*And my son, Kyle, who is still serving in the Alaska Air Guard and is a triple threat as a member of the Legion, SAL, and the Auxiliary. He also made history as being the first male ALA member to nominate an Auxiliary National Officer.*

*Danielle's husband, Mike, and their two boys, Dawson and Micah as well as both my brothers, Rob and Jake, their spouses and children and my stepfather are at home watching online. Mom, well, my mom is watching us from above.*



...cont. from page 3

Now, I would like to recognize my extended family – would the entire Legion Family from Alaska please stand? Your trust and belief in me has helped bring me to this point. Thank you for all your support throughout the years. This was a team effort – TEAM ALASKA!

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the Legion family in the Department of Arizona. They have "adopted" me as one of their own when I winter there.

I would like to express my appreciation to the entire Western Division. Alaska, Arizona and the rest of the Western Division, please stand so I can say thank you to all of you.

And a shout out to my Kent-Aska Family. You know who you are! I love and thank you all!

John F. Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them." It's my pledge to each of you that I will serve with grace, compassion, commitment to the Mission, and of course, a smile.

People have heard me say that one of the greatest benefits of membership in the American Legion Auxiliary are the friends you make. And I firmly believe that. If it weren't for the Auxiliary, I would have never met this wonderful lady here – Vickie Koutz who will be serving as our National President.

Vickie and I have had amazingly similar journeys to these leadership positions. How does that saying go, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger"? Well, I'm here to tell you that two very strong women stand before you! And we will continue to be strong – for you, for our veterans, for our service members, their families and our communities.

I love you, Vickie, and cannot wait to see what the year has in store for you! Know that I am always behind you! And beside you! Take the world by storm, my friend. We're all here to see and help you succeed.

In a nutshell, I THANK YOU ALL! Wholeheartedly!

# TAPS



POST 1  
Richard Garvin - WWII

POST 3  
William Kline - Korea  
George Porter - Vietnam  
Leslie Uttke

POST 15  
Douglas Giossi - Vietnam

POST 18  
Emil Bartolowits - Korea  
Timothy Kelly - Vietnam

POST 20  
Robert Harrison - WWII  
Larry Vansky

POST 21  
Juliana Wilson - WWII

POST 25  
Carroll Holst - Vietnam

POST 27  
Bruce Heaton - Vietnam

POST 28  
Frank Flavin - Vietnam  
Stanley Nelson - Korea  
Kenneth Scheuner - Vietnam  
Alan Waldron - Vietnam

POST 29  
Cynthia Strous - Lebanon/Grenada

POST 30  
Charles Zukowski - Vietnam

SQUADRON 33  
Raymond Williams

SQUADRON 34  
Tyrone Tucker

SQUADRON 35  
Gerald Fawcett

POST 57  
Tommie Rawlinson - Vietnam  
SQUADRON  
Larry Sunford

POST 77  
Glenn Hackney - WWII-MM  
Norman Niemi - Vietnam  
Daniel Pell - Vietnam  
Thomas Wadzinski - Vietnam



Department Chaplain,  
Charlene Martin



Ronald Reagan once said, "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." I had the opportunity to attend the American Legion National Conference in Milwaukee Wisconsin. The priority for the incoming Commander Vincent J. Troiola is "BE THE ONE" The be the one campaign priority is to save one veteran. BE THE ONE campaign emphasis on de stigmatization of veterans seeking Mental healthcare. I have listed a few ways you can be the one in a veteran's life from the BE THE ONE campaign. First, simply ask a veteran in your life how they are doing. Secondly, listen when a veteran needs to talk. Third, reach out when a veteran is in crisis and/or struggling. Now think of all the ways you can bring the be the one campaign to your post and community. Also spread the word regarding the Veterans Crisis line: dial 988 then press 1.

Steve Maraboli said, "A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal."

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the American Legion National Chaplain breakfast. The theme of the breakfast was also BE THE ONE and a look to the future. The American Legion youth champion delegation were also in attendance. Go to the American Legion department of Alaska's

Facebook page where I have posted a short video clip of each delegate speaking at the prayer breakfast. I have listed the names of each youth champion delegate. Our youth champions are: American Legion Boys Nation President Tamara Derby Junior, American Legion Junior shooting sport air rifle champion

Samantha Zermeno, American legion national oratorical champion Emma Noble, American Legion Eagle Scout of the year Christopher Adams, and American legion baseball all-academic team captain Dylan Owens.

In closing I would like to leave you with a quote from Jose Riza, "The youth is the hope of our future. "





Happenings at your Post

**Jack Henry Post 1**  
Full bar menu 4pm - 8pm Mon - Sat.  
Steak Night Every Friday

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

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

**General Buckner Post 16 Family**  
1st Friday of the month family dinner 5pm -7pm  
2nd Friday is burger Night 5pm - 7pm  
3rd Friday Steak Night 5pm - 7pm  
4th Friday is burger Night 5pm - 7pm

**George H. Plumley Memorial Post 20**  
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

**Spenard Post 28**  
Monday, Karaoke 7 pm  
Tuesday, Tacos 3 - 8pm; Open Mic 6:30pm  
Thursday, Pizza 4pm- 8pm; Trivia 7pm (2nd, 4th Thurs)  
Friday, Steak Night 6pm - 8pm - Karaoke 9pm  
Saturday, Karaoke 9pm  
Sunday, Brunch 11:30am-2pm, Poker 3pm

**Muldoon Post 29**  
Queen of Hearts Thursday  
Food Served every night

**Peters Creek Post 33**  
Thursday Taco Nite - 4:30pm - 8:30pm

**Chappie James Post 34**  
Thursday night - Wings  
Friday night - steak night  
Saturday is the full menu

**Susitna Valley Post 35**  
Open Daily @1:00pm  
Daily lunch specials - eat in or take out 1pm to 5  
Wednesday: Taco Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm - ?  
Fridays: Steak Night 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Pool Tournament Sundays @ 1:00pm

**C.R. Huber Post 57**  
Meetings 3rd Wednesday @ 7:00pm  
Sunday Breakfast 10-2  
Thursday Burger Night 5:30-9:00 PM



Department of Alaska Commander, Deb Davis  
will be at the following Post. Stop by and say  
**"HELLO"**

Friday, 21 October 2022 - Post 1 and 21, Anchorage  
Satrday, 22 October 2022 Fall Conference held at Post 35, Wasilla  
Friday, 28 October 2022 - Post 16, Homer  
Saturday, 29 October 2022, Post 5 Seward

Tuesday, 1 November 2022 - North Pole

“From the Doghouse”

Jim Pisa, NEC

The National Convention is over, and our new National Commander is Jim Troiola from New York. Auxiliary National President is Vicki Koutz from Indiana, and Sons of The American Legion National Commander is Chris Carlton from Indiana. We wish them all a successful year.

On a larger note, our very own Lisa Williamson from Fairbanks Unit 57 was sworn in as the Auxiliary National Vice President. This is an honor, not only for Lisa, as the next step is National President for 2023 – 2024, but for the Department of Alaska as well. This will give Alaska a National Commander, Jimmie Foster 2010 – 2011, Son’s National Commander, Kevin Collier 20015-2016 and Auxiliary National President, Lisa Williamson 2023 – 2024.

During the National Convention, the Legion Riders made their annual donations to National Commander Paul Dillard for The Legacy Scholarship. This year’s ride began in Mobile, Alabama and ended in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On Tuesday, the Riders made presentations to National Commander Dillard. After the final checks were tabulated, the Riders raised over \$1.3 million dollars for the Legacy Scholarship. The Legacy Scholarship, is for the children of our fallen heroes since 9-11 and for the children of Veteran’s with a 50% or higher disability rating from the VA. This scholarship is a grant to be used for their future education.

There has been a lot of interest and input from the general membership throughout the Departments for a digital membership card. The IT people have been working on it and hopefully within the next couple of months, you will be able to have a digital membership card on your phone. As soon as we hear that you can get it, we will pass the word to our members.

The PACT Act: The Pact Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to Burn Pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they earned and deserve. For more information on the PACT Act, you can call 1-800-698-2411, or you can file a claim for PACT Act related disability compensation by contacting your local Service Officer to assist you in filing a claim.



We Just Love the "BER" months, don't you?  
(October, November, December)



The Department  
Staff wants  
to wish everyone,  
**SAFE and  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS**





Our very own Lisa Williamson was sworn in as National Auxiliary Vice President at the 103rd National Convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



From the desk of Barb Nath, Department Auxiliary Secretary

WOW!! What a week we had at National Convention. So many people to see and re-connect with and so many things to do. And so many changes to keep track of.

The first change was the pre-convention committee meetings. This year, these were held BEFORE convention via zoom. Some people liked that and some didn't. Many people wanted to be able to see who was online at the zoom meeting which wasn't possible this year. Most people missed the camaraderie of in-person meetings. It was an advantage to me as your Department Secretary as I was able to sit in on all the meetings and hear what was said.

At our Western Division Caucus, we elected our new Western Division National Vice President. It is Eva Wallace. Eva is from Snohomish, Washington. She has been invited to join us at our Fall Conference on October 22nd and is currently working out the details.

Our Member of the Year – Connie Landmesser -- was recognized at the Public Spirit Award Luncheon. She is a member of Susitna Valley Unit 35. Connie, thanks for all you have done and will continue to do.

Installation of Officers was another highlight of the Convention. Alaska was honored to have two officers installed. One was Anarene Robinson as our new Department President. The other was Lisa Williamson as the National Vice President. Congratulations to both of them. May their upcoming year be one full of successes.

I want to take the time to thank all of our members who were able to attend. And for being willing to help at some of the more challenging times during the convention. The words “service not self” came into play as many of our members needed help and all of our members stepped up to the plate to offer assistance during the week.

Finally, even though there were lots of responsibilities, I did get a chance to just see the Milwaukee area surrounding our hotel and the convention center. I took off one afternoon in my trustee little scooter and did some exploring. Water has always been my place to go for giving me a chance to just sit and contemplate how good God has been to me. And I got this chance in Milwaukee. I did the riverwalk. It was so peaceful. And I got reminders from home as the Canadian geese came up to visit with me and to welcome our delegation to Milwaukee.



Look who is out on the town (at the National Commanders Banquet) Dept. Auxiliary Finance Officer, Diana Estrada, NEC, Jim Pisa, National Auxiliary Vice President, Lisa Williamson.

Talk to me goose!