



Post 1 Annual Review



PRESENTED TO

Post 1 Family

PRESENTED BY

Post 1 Leadership

MARCH 2023

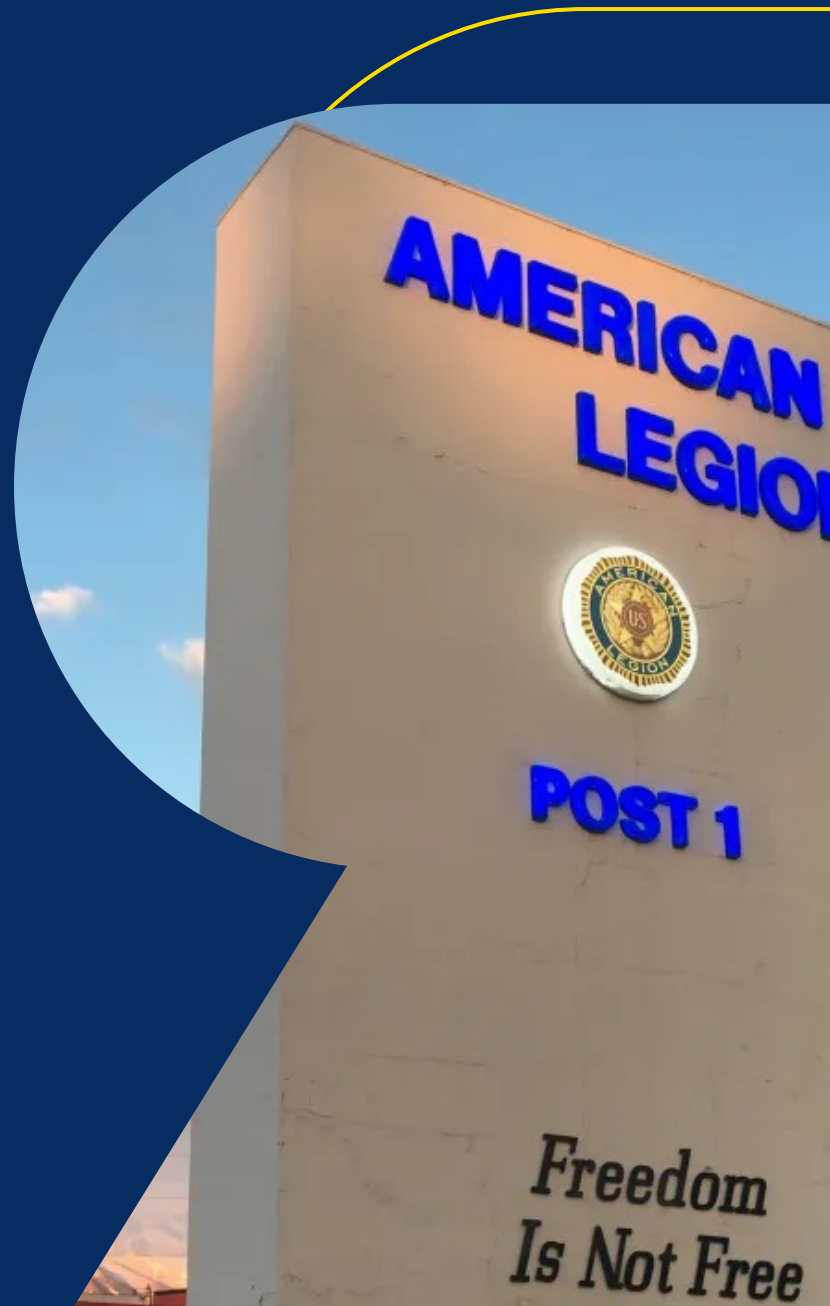


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INTRODUCTION

JACK HENRY POST 1

Department of Alaska

In August of 1919, there was a meeting held to finalize the formation of the American Legion and an invitation went out to local veterans to join. On August 20th of 1919, Anchorage made it's application for membership. Fifteen men signed this original application.

These men unanimously agreed/decided, based on the recommendation of a late comrade, to name the Post after John "Jack" Henry. Jack Henry was the first man from Anchorage to be killed in action in the Cierges Woods, in France, nearly a year before the Meuse-Argonne offensive. So the newly named Jack Henry Post # 1 application was signed and sent to Headquarters American Legion, which was then located in New York City.



JOHN K HENRY "JACK"

NAMESAKE

John K Henry "Jack"

Birth: 1887 - Death: 1918

Pvt M. C. G., 362nd Inf 91 Division, son of Alice and John Henry; entered service May 27, 1918; killed in action Sept 29, 1918 at Boise de Cierges; buried in American Nisbet Cemetery, Polk County, MN.

John K Henry was a graduate from the Grand Forks ND high school, being one of the best athletes. He was a member of a Presbyterian church.



COMMUNITY HISTORY

Jack Henry Post 1 became one of the civil defense centers during the 9.2 Great Alaskan Earthquake of 1964. The Post 1 building became a shelter and people came from all parts of the city and outlying areas. People bedded down on the floors, volunteers served food and assisted the military to bring in water and supplies. This continued for over a week, during this time a Typhoid Inoculations Center was in full operation at the Post.



The Post took the initiative to organize doctors, nurses, ham radio operators, requisitioned drinking water, and took donations of food and supplies in support of earthquake relief. They served hot meals, provided clothing, and sleeping accommodations for those in need. One highlight of this horrific event was the birth of two baby girls at the Post.



JUSTIN MILLS

Commander
"Wonder Boy"

DON "DJ" JONES

1st Vice Commander
"Lazarus"



IAN FRYER

2nd Vice Commander
"Lord Ion"

LAURA DEAN

Adjutant
"Sturdy Smash"
and SAL "Clarky"



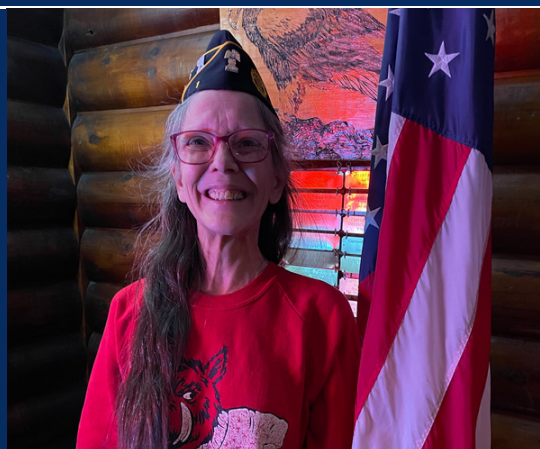


PAM CAWLEY

Finance Officer
"Pam Bam"

SANDY ALRED

Sergeant-at-Arms
"Arkansas"



CHRIS KRULL

Chaplain
"Chili Dawg"

VERN NEFF

Service Office
"Just Vern"





MICHAEL DOWNS

Historian
Past Post Commander
"Down for the Legion"

ROBERT PRICE

Junior Past Commander
Past Post Commander
"Dr. Bob"



MARK CRABTREE

Executive Committee
"Crabby"



JULIE SPRADLING

Executive Committee
"Jewels"



KEVIN FRENCH

Executive Committee
"Mr Worldwide"

Report from the Commander

JUSTIN MILLS

Since Installation of the new Executive Committee at the end of April, we have done a significant amount of work! One of our focuses this year is to look into how Post 1 and The American Legion can get involved with reducing veteran suicide prevention rates. As we started to pursue this, The American Legion launched their "Be the One" campaign and Post 1 is proud to say we were the first in Alaska to host an event supporting the cause. We raised \$3,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Alaska Chapter.

Another focus for the year is how we can better support our service members on base. A key area we identified where we could help was assisting and supporting them during their transition out of the military. We partnered with the USO to host three networking events with local leaders for transitioning service members, so they might gain a mentor. This quarterly event has garnered media attention and was attended by around 75 people in February!

We also wanted to further our work in the community and focus on strategic partnerships. AFSP-A and USO are examples of these, as are the Anchorage



Chamber of Commerce and the National Warrior Foundation. All the efforts of our members led us to be nominated for a Gold Pan Award from the Chamber. If you haven't see the video, be sure to look for it on our Facebook!

Finally, we also want to focus on Post building maintenance and renovations. A key part of this effort has been updating our Facility Prioritization Strategy to ensure all projects were listed. Our volunteers have also put significant effort into our backyard, painting the game room, renovating the upstairs meeting room, and installing our new boilers. We have a few more projects planned, but please let us know what you think!



Unit 1 President's Report

JEANNE OSTNES

It has been a year for Unit 1! In April our National President Kathy Daudistel visited Anchorage and Unit 1 had the privilege of meeting her at the airport. In May Unit 1 created bouquets using over 7,000 red crepe paper poppies to place on veteran graves at the Anchorage Memorial Cemetery over Memorial Day weekend. We coordinated dozens of volunteers to adorn 1,500 graves with the poppies and crosses (or Star of Davids). Our historian, Erin Lamothe and I working with Matthew Worthy, an Air Force volunteer, to forge a new future of identification of veteran graves. With the wise help of Riders Tim Campbell and Clara Blom, our cross cleaning will now be more efficient with their ingenious mechanism.

Of note, Unit 1 has stepped up to advocate for Boys and Girls State for summer 2023, with our very own First Vice Commander, Robyn Downs, becoming the Chair of the Girls State Committee for Department. We look forward to supporting more high school juniors in this amazing program!



I am proud to say Unit 1 has also helped the Post with all of their events, including hosting a Women Veterans Day, Father's Day, Flag Day, and Thanksgiving ourselves.

Finally, Post 1 and Unit 1 are looking forward to July 2, 2023 to celebrate Unit 1's 100 Year Anniversary! There will be a huge celebration and we hope everyone would come attend. If you would like to help plan, sponsor, or volunteer during the weekend of festivities, please let us know!

Look for events throughout the year to celebrate and raise money for our Anniversary. Make sure to get your 100th Anniversary Pin too!



SAL Sqdn 1 & Riders Ch 1



Squadron 1 hosted a Gumbo Throwdown for Mardi Gras, which was extremely well attended! We have also volunteered to help build the new sheds in the backyard and split the donated firewood from BLM. Finally we have donated to our Legion baseball team, the Sea Services Memorial, and led the fundraising for the shed project and new BBQ for the backyard.

Chapter 1 has supported quite a few events this year- the Anchorage High School reunion, Spenard Bike Week, the Frozen Nipple Run, and the Honor Flights. We look forward to hosting more events for riders in the Spring!



Adjutant's Corner

LAURA DEAN

I have been focusing my efforts on three main categories:

TRUST.

Increasing the transparency of what is happening "behind the scenes" at Post 1 for all members to see. This report, the emails and texting services, and enhanced social media presence are the first steps. Our monthly calendar and newsletter email, and promoting changes based off the membership survey were other efforts too.

SUPPORT.

Internal and external relationships for the benefit of the membership. This includes streamlining internal processes for all Legion organizations at Post 1 and helping the Commander pursue strategic relationships in the community. We are also looking at how to provide other benefits to our members, such as establishing a video game league.

Family.

The Post has grown significantly over the last few years, as noted by National in the July 2022 Legion Magazine (did you see it?!). While we're incredibly proud of that, we also want our Sons, Auxiliary, and Riders to grow with us, so we are looking at ways to support them. Make sure to mark your calendars in July 2023 for the Auxiliary 100 Year Anniversary!

Post 1 2022 Membership



848 222



166 39





IAN FRYER

House Committee Chair

Ian brought stability to the business end of the post. We currently have one of the best staffs in Alaska. Our free events for the community are also better than ever.



ROBERT PRICE

Maintenance Committee Chair

Bob led the replacement of the boiler and the much-needed maintenance on our 60-year building.



PAM CAWLEY

Finance Committee Chair

The Post 1 canteen sees about \$2 million pass through it annually. Pam's main success is the formulation of a new budget process at the Post.



LAURA DEAN

Public Relations Chair

Every post needs a "Sturdy". Our digital presence is by far the best of any VSO in Alaska. This work is a huge factor on our membership success.





SANDY ALRED

Disciplinary Committee Chair

Sandy has the most challenging chair. She has approached it with justice and fairness. This committee also kept the Post out of trouble beyond our control.



MICHAEL DOWNS

Strategic Management Chair

The SMC was created by the new Commander. Michael's history at the Post has helped the new Commander achieve many of his goals for the Post in his first year.



BILL WOLTERS

By-laws Committee Chair

Bill was the perfect choice for this chair since he led the last revision some 30 years ago. New provisions for online meetings and new committees put us in a much better position in the future.



TIM BENINTENDI

Backyard Maintenance Chair

Tim raised \$3,000 to build new storage sheds and then built them. Tim has a long history of finding funds and making things happen at the Post.



Committee Reports

Finance

Goal: Establish a budget

We have worked diligently with our bookkeeper to straighten out our books so we may establish a budget. We are happy to report that we have a preliminary budget drafted that will allow us to establish a budget for Fiscal Year 2023. The budget was not included in this report, as it has to be approved by General Membership first, but we will report on it in the next issue!

Strategic Management

Goal: Determine the long-term vision for Post 1

To start the year off, Strategic Management held a meeting with all organizations in Post 1 to prioritize major maintenance projects that needed to be completed in the building.

The Committee championed the renovation of the upstairs meeting room which the Post received funds from the Muni to complete. Next they are looking at ways to renovate the downstairs room.

Maintenance

Goal: Complete 2 critical maintenance projects

It has been a busy year for us! Our boilers finally arrived after significant delays due to COVID logjams. Unfortunately, one was damaged beyond repair by the contracted moving company while being installed, but they are covering the costs to obtain a new one. Fortunately, the Post can still operate adequately on one boiler.

We are also working to fix the code violations from the Fire Marshall inspection and engineer a new plan for our plumbing and drainage on the western side of the building.



Public Relations

Goal: Establish a PR strategy

We hired Upper One Studios to manage our social media in order to optimize our online presence. They have crafted us a marketing strategy that will help us reach the 70k veterans that are not part of the Legion in Alaska. We have also updated our logo and are ordering new t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats. Stay tuned for more on how to order them!

We are also working on a website upgrade and how to market events for all organizations in Post 1.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Likely one of the biggest things to happen to Post 1 in the last six months is updating our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the first time in over 25 years. Our Constitution and By-Laws Committee spent tireless hours reviewing every line of the 21-page document to ensure it was updated, modernized, and accurate for current Post procedures. The Committee presented their proposed edits to the General Membership at the March Annual meeting. They then went through a second reading at the April General Membership meeting, with the final vote at the May General Membership meeting. The full document is available for download at www.alaskapost1.org

A special thank you to the Committee- Bill Wolter (Chair), Bob Price, Mike Downs, Tim Benintendi, Les Parker, and Laura Dean.

Of note, the most substantial changes include:

- Changing the General Membership meeting to the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm
- Adding a Judge Advocate to the Executive Committee
- Having the Club Manager report to the Commander instead of the House Committee



House Committee



Save the date!

Auxiliary Unit 1 is turning **100 Years Old on July 2nd, 2023!**

Come join us for a banquet on July 1st and/or the community event in the backyard on July 2nd. Hope to see you there!



Email the Auxiliary at jackhenryauxunit1@gmail.com to order your 100 Year Anniversary pin today!



Whew! What a year!! The House Committee was kept busy with a ton of fantastic events for our Post Family and community. A few highlights:

- We partnered with Nuvision for Memorial Day weekend and cleaned over 300 veteran graves in the Anchorage Cemetery, then threw a huge party
- To help our active duty service members transitioning into the community, we hosted three networking events for them with local leaders
- Football Sunday was back in action again at the Post

We also held a scheduling meeting with all Post 1 organizations to determine what events we wanted to host for the year and who was the primary planning organization.

Finally, we had some staff turnover and have been working diligently to codify Post procedures in a Post Policy Manual.

House Committee

Here are some pictures from various events we hosted and participated in throughout the year. Got a great picture to share? Send it to alaskapost1@gmail.com



2022 Survey Results

1

Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Vets Day are the most attended events

2

Members would like movie nights, yoga, and NFL football

3

Tacos, burgers, and pasta on the menu

4

Great staff and plans for improvement

5

Focus on cleanliness and more lighting; love the history of the Post

6

Help members with the VA and advocate for suicide prevention



In August 2022 we conducted a membership survey of the Post 1 Family to gauge what our members care about and how we can do better for the Post. We had over 110 responses and it has provided much needed clarity to the Executive Committee on what efforts we need to prioritize. To the left are the most cited comments from the results.

2023 Membership Survey

We have new questions we'd like to ask you! Scan the QR code below; it only takes 4-5 minutes to complete.

How to scan a QR code:

Apple

- Open camera on phone
- Hover over the box
- Click the yellow link that pops up

Android

- Open camera on phone
- Hover over the box
- Click the pop up link in the box that appears



Community Involvement



We are happy to report on some of the incredible involvement we have had with some tremendous organizations. Nuvision Credit Union graciously sponsored our Memorial Day BBQ and also helped organize over 40 volunteers to clean over 300 veteran graves in the Anchorage Memorial Cemetery. Our Legion baseball team, West High, also came by in May to help us remove seven tons of junk from the Post! KeyBank AK then came by to help us paint the game room and hallway. Revive Alaska Community Services volunteered to clean our backyard and deep clean our bathrooms. Finally, we partnered with the Eagle River Broncos football team to clean another 175 veteran graves in September.

Post 1 was also happy to host Governor Dunleavy as he signed three veteran-related bills. SB 203 extended the Purple Heart Trail down to Homer and along the Alaska Marine Highway System. HB 125 added employment preferences for military spouses and their dependents, while HB 148 updated the Alaska Coordinate System.

As part of supporting our community, we have also donated close to \$30,000 to various organizations in the State, including but not limited to Armed Services YMCA, Navy League (and their Sea Services Memorial project), VIPER, and the USO. Know a deserving organization? Let us know!

Finally, we want to highlight our growing partnership with the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. Since becoming a member, our own membership has soared. We were proud to support their Military Appreciation Picnic and host the Young Professionals Group annual picnic. The Post 1 Family was also nominated and selected as a finalist for the Chamber's prestigious Gold Pan Award in Community Service by a Small Business.

Volunteer Recognition

These members were selected by the Executive Committee as super volunteers that have gone above and beyond for the Post in the last year. From all of us, THANK YOU!



Jeanne Ostnes

- If you need a hand, Jeanne will always be there to help. We don't think we've had an event at Post 1 that Jeanne hasn't been there volunteering!

Ian Fryer

- An unsung super volunteer of 2022. While going through multiple personnel changes, Ian was there to make sure operations did not stop.



Laura Dean

- Sturdy is the woman behind the scenes making sure all the projects gets done, all the memberships go out, and the Post stays on track.

Swag is Here!

ClaimjumperAK, a local Anchorage company, has designed our new swag. You'll notice it's the state of Alaska in a camo-like pattern. T-shirts, polos, and hoodies been ordered and will hopefully be in before the holidays!

- T-Shirts: \$40
- Polos: \$45
- Hoodies: \$60

Purchase from a bartender or email alaskapost1@gmail.com to get yours today!





Questions? Contact us

www.alaskapost1.org

alaskapost1@gmail.com

907-272-5242

