



Commander's Column

Fellow Legionnaires,

I want to thank everyone who participated in the May and June events of Memorial Day, Horse Races, 5K Run, Bike Safety, Decorating Veteran's graves, Honor Guard, Color Guard and Monster Burger Nights. These were two very busy months and your help was sincerely appreciated.



We do need more volunteers for the Honor Guard. Graveside service times and days do vary; so if you're retired or able to take time off from work, please consider volunteering for this service. We can provide you with the necessary outfit. You can contact me by email at mgvolk1948@yahoo.com or call 229-1023.

We will be suspending Monster Burger Night after Monday, July 14th, and start up again on Monday, September 8th. This short break will give the volunteers some time off to enjoy the summer.

Mark your calendar as there will be a Veterans & Spouse Job Fair on Wednesday, August 6th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Augustana College, Elmen Center, 2505 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD. There is no charge to attend.

The DAV Mobile Service Office will be in Aberdeen, Thursday, July 10th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the former IHOP, 2402 6th Ave. They will answer any questions you may have regarding the rights and benefits you have earned through your service to our country.

Reminder: Legion Post meetings are held inside the Eagle's building every 3rd Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. I'm hoping you can find the time to attend.

Membership in the Legion is very essential for all former military personnel to maintain and improve benefits and services earned through serving our country.

Mel Volk
Commander
Sidney L. Smith Post #24
mvolk1948@yahoo.com

From the Adjutant

Thanks for all of the help in getting all the Horse Racing activities and Memorial Day observations over with.



The Monster Burgers require more work, but we do usually have enough helpers.

We are still short of having enough people helping the Firing Squad. There is more of a problem with double the requests for Color Guards. The main problem is the need to use the same few people for all jobs.

The American Legion State Convention will soon be over with [editors note, this column was written before the Convention, which was already held before publication of the Gas Alarm].

I will try to get more news out using the office door with copies of the Up To Now information.

We have decided to give a rest to the Monster Burger workers, with rest from July 21st until the Monday after Labor Day - Sept 8th.

Let the office know if you are available for jobs.

It has been a challenge to do the job, so if anybody wants it, come forward.

Have a very good Summer,

Larry Nupen
Post Adjutant

2015 Membership renewal

July is the official start of the membership drive for the next Legion year, which can lead to some confusion, and even frustration, particularly for new members.

Membership runs on a calendar year, no matter when you pay your dues for a given year, your membership for that year runs from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. So, if you join in June, for the current year, your membership effectively starts the day you sign up and runs through the end of the year.

This part of the process is intuitive to most

Roll Call
2014 Post Officers
Commander Mel Volk
1st Vice Commander Earl Schultz
2nd Vice Commander Dale Strom
Adjutant Larry Nupen
Finance Rich Kezar
Americanism Sam Olson
Chaplain Ruth Van Steenwyck
Sargent at Arms Larry Lightenburg
Asst Sgt at Arms Sid Beckler
Children And Youth Steve Nemmers
Athletics Tom Perrizo
Employment Gary Warne
Historian Dale Strom
Service Pat Steele
Attorney Tom Tonner

people, and they are fine with it, if they joined after the year started, they are OK with that. Where the problem normally arises is with the renewal notices sent out by National, and that takes a bit of explaining.

It would be difficult for the post to process renewals for every member, if they all came in at the first of the year - and would be even harder for the Department (State) to process it's 20,000 members all at once, or National to deal with 2.8 million. To help spread that paperwork out, the membership drive for the next year actually starts in July. National will start sending the renewal notices out in batches starting the first of July, hoping that the replies will also come back staggered and allow the Post, the Department, and National to deal with small, but steady, numbers of renewals.

The batches don't look at when a member joined, however. As a result, if your name happens to be in the first batch, you can get a renewal notice for next year (2015 in this case) even though you just signed up a couple weeks ago for this year (2014).

Don't Forget
Post Meeting is 8:00pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Post Home (inside the Eagles Building, 316 South 2nd St, Aberdeen)

Even though you will be receiving renewal notices starting in July, know that your 2015 membership is NOT past due until after the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. The post would, however, appreciate it if you would renew earlier. (And the Early Bird membership dinner is only open to members who have paid prior to the dinner starting, which is normally 6pm on Nov 10th).

#### Summer Slowdown

After the busy month of May, followed by the Department Convention in June, the months of July and August are traditionally slow ones for the Sidney L Smith post. Membership, as noted on the front page, is gearing up, but the post does not have a lot of activities this time of year, though we still do have meetings.

**The American Legion, Post #24  
PO Box 2052  
Aberdeen, SD 57402-2052**

## \*Know your Legion Benefits\*

Summer travel plans?

All American Legion Members have access to a free program, which allows you to shop great travel deals on: cruises, hotels, flights, car rentals and resort stays.

Call (866) 691-5109, or visit their web site; <https://www.govvacationrewards.com/americanlegion>

### TAPS

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting in May/June of 2014:

Larry Heintzmann

Warren Grebner

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Aberdeen, SD  
Permit No. 75

#### Upcoming Events

July 04 (Friday) - Independence Day Holiday

July 7<sup>th</sup> (Monday) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm in the Legion office at the Eagles Club.

July 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) - Post meeting, 8pm in Room A of the Eagles Club

Aug 4<sup>th</sup> (Monday) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm in

the Legion office at the Eagles Club.

Aug 18<sup>st</sup> (Monday) - Post meeting, 8pm in Room A of the Eagles Club

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> (Friday) - **Turkey Shoot/Charity Night** - post fund raiser. 7pm in the ball room of the Eagles Club.