



Commander's Column

Fellow Legionnaires,
Wishing all a Happy New Year!



I want to thank all the Legionnaires who signed up to ring bells at Running's for the Salvation Army.

We have oratory contest coming in January 10th at 2:00 Pm. Please come to be part of this program and support the youth of our community.

Volunteers are still needed for the Honor Guard. If, by this February, no one from the Legion steps forward, I'll have to ask other Veteran groups to help out. We need to have a full squad present at our fellow veterans' memorial services. We have uniforms available. We just need an hour of your time for a fellow veteran, to give her or him the military honors they deserve for their service. Please contact me at 380-0725.

Veterans Support Group

Pastor John Hisel, a veteran of the Vietnam War, is holding a Veterans Support Group meeting every 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in Room 205 at the First United Methodist Church, 502 S. Lincoln St., Aberdeen, SD. All Veterans of all ages are welcome.

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 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

First of all I want to thank Post Commander Mel for donating his new shotgun for a recent Post Fundraiser. Thanks to Mel and all



those of you who purchased tickets, this raffle was a huge success.

Also please remember to check this newsletter for time and dates of Post Events. We do not want anyone to miss out!

Members - did you know you can receive discounts at Sears and many of the major car rentals. Also Wyndham Hotel Group and Motel 6 offer discounts as well as Dell Computers and Apple. Be sure to ask and show your Legion card! Be sure you have paid up for 2016!

Please note Walgreens is offering no cost flu shots to Veterans. If there is store in your area be sure to stop in if you have not gotten the shot!

Hope each one of you had a good Christmas and Best Wishes for 2016.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Reminder - Dues have increased
As of January 1st, Post 24's annual dues were increased to \$40 as a result of National raising their per member assessment on the post. If you are sending in your dues based on an old mailing, please remember to use the new rate.

Boys State Registration Changed

If you have a son, grandson, or simply know of another boy, who is interested in attending the American Legion's South Dakota Boys State, be aware that the application process has changed.

Rather than picking up an application through the school counselors' office, interested students now apply on-line at:

http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/forms/boys-state-application-form

All applicants wishing to attend from Aberdeen will still be required to interview with the post selection committee, but the first step is to fill out the on-line application.

Audience members wanted...

The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship contest, for the post and the district, will be held at the post home in the Eagles Club in Aberdeen. The post

Roll Call
2015 Post Officers
Commander Mel Volk
1st Vice Commander Steve Nemmers
2nd Vice Commander Dale Strom
Adjutant Gary Warne
Finance Rich Kezar
Americanism Sam Olson
Chaplain Ruth Van Steenwyck
Sargent at Arms Larry Lightenburg
Asst Sgt at Arms Sid Beckler
Children And Youth Mike Jurgens
Athletics Tom Perrizo
Employment Gary Warne
Historian Dale Strom
Service Pat Steele
Legal Officer Tom Tonner

contest is Sunday, January 10th, and the District contest is Saturday, January 23rd - and we would like to have members present in the audience to listen to the contestants speeches at both events.

The doors will open at 2:00pm both days, with the first speaker taking the stage shortly thereafter.

Other volunteers are still needed as well, please contact Dale Strom (216-3458) if you would like to help, but it is nice to have people in the chairs as the students give their presentations.

Annual Memorial and Past Commanders Night

Reminder that the Past Commanders night memorial will be Feb 15th, there will be no regular meeting (nor monster burgers) that night, but all members are welcome to attend the memorial to form post commanders and all members who transferred to Post Everlasting in 2015.

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)

Program of Focus:

Youth Cadet - Law Enforcement

The Department of South Dakota is one of 18 that sponsors an annual youth law enforcement program. Run in conjunction with the SD Highway Patrol, this program allows high school students, male or female, preparing for their Senior year, to attend a one week long course based on the training received by HP cadets.

This is high intensity training, and is intended for students who have an interest in pursuing a law enforcement career after graduation.

Courses at the academy include firearms/firearm safety, defensive driving, police procedure, self defense, and criminal law.

The program is in its third year, here in South Dakota, and while the size of the class has been increased, there are still only 24 slots per year, state wide, so competition to attend can be fierce.

Post 24's involvement:

While the Youth Trooper Academy is a department level program, the local post is responsible for the tuition fee, and we have had an Aberdeen student participate in the program already.

We encourage students to apply, prior to the March 26th, 2016 due date, though the Department's web site:

<http://www.sdlegion.org/program/sd-youth-trooper-academy/>

TAPS

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting:

- Arthur Fulker
- Gust Jaaska
- Albert W. Kolb
- Larry A. Klebsch
- Marvin Dean Lorenzen
- James R. Muphy
- Ervin R. Schilling

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

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Upcoming Events:

- Jan 4th (Monday) - Executive committee meeting. 8pm in the Legion Office
- Jan 10th (Sunday) - American Legion Oratorical Scholarship contest (post level) 2pm in the ballroom of the Eagles Club.
- Jan 18th (Monday) - Post meeting, 8pm in Room A of the Eagles Club.
- Jan 23rd (Sunday) - American Legion Oratorical Scholarship, District contest. 2pm in the ballroom of the Eagles Club.
- Feb 1st (Monday) - Executive committee meeting. 8pm in the Legion Office.

- Feb 12-14 - Midwinter Conferences (Department) at the Crossroads Convention Center in Huron.
- Feb 15th (Monday) - **Past Commanders Night and memorial**, ballroom in the Eagles club. - No monster burgers or Post meeting -
- Mar 7th, 2016 (Monday) - Executive committee meeting. 8pm in the Legion Office.
- Mar 12, 13, & 17 - Boys State candidate interviews at the Legion office in the Eagles Club.
- March 21st (Monday) - Post meeting, 8pm in Room A of the Eagles Club.