



Commander's Column

Fellow Legionnaires, I'm now looking forward to starting a third year as your commander. I sincerely appreciate everyone's help and support.



May and June are going to be very active months for the Legion with:

- Horse races on May 21st and 22nd; May 28th and 29th; and May 30th
• Decoration of the graves on May 25th at 6:30 pm in Riverside Cemetery
• Veterans 5K walk/run at Wylie Park on May 28th
• Memorial Day Services on May 30th (schedule will appear in the newspaper)
• Removal of flags on June 1rd at 6:30 pm
• Boys state begins May 30th - Blue cap day June 2nd

We'll be looking for volunteers for the above activities, so please be willing to give of your volunteer time by calling 380-0725 with the dates and times that you can help. It would be gratefully appreciated.

We also have another special volunteer opportunity for anyone interested in serving as an Honor Guard and Color Guard member. We will supply the uniforms. Please notify me of your interest by calling 380-0725.

The 2016 State Legion Convention will be held in Watertown, SD at the Best Western Ramkota and Watertown Event Center on June 16th through June 19th.

Monster Burger Night on Mondays. Come out and enjoy a burger! We are still looking for help to set up begins at 1:00 pm or if you like to cook, serve clean-up begins 4:00 pm. Workers can enjoy a free half a burger or pizza.

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

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.

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

Election Results

Elections of the 2016 officers for the Sidney L Smith post of The American Legion were held during the April 18th regular meetin, and the new post officers are shown in the Roll Call box to the right.

From the Adjutant

On the National level the American Legion has been busy pushing for reforms to make the VA to be more accountable when it comes to wait time when seeing a VA doctor, and to get claims processed faster. Also veteran PTSD & suicide remains is a big concern, and we continue to lobby to resolve female veterans' issues in the VA.



Locally we are looking to fill positions within the post as elections are coming up April (held by the time you read this) but candidates are not coming forward. Hopefully you will!

The last 2 weekends of May we will need help at the horse races which has been a good fund raiser for us. May 25 we will flag graves at Riverside North and South starting at 6pm. Bring a long screwdriver in case the ground is hard! Additionally Running for Veterans is scheduled for May 28th at Wylie Park starting at 8am. You can work this event or run/walk in it!

Monster Burgers will finish up for the summer on May 9th and start up the first Monday after Labor Day or Sept. 12th. If any Post members want to see this continue for the summer please contact us. We will train.

Have a good summer!

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Roll Call

2016 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

MEMORIAL DAY SCHEDULE

Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 30th this year, and as always the post will hold programs at all four cemeteries in Aberdeen, three short programs, and the main program at 10:00am

Short Programs (roll call, laying of wreaths, prayer, taps, and ruffle salute):

- 8:00am Riverside (by GAR statue)
8:45am St Mary's (north of chapel)
9:15am Sacred Heart (east end)

Main Program (speaker, guests, laying of wreaths, roll call, prayer, taps, and ruffles):

10:00am Sunset Memorial (west end)

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)

Your American Legion On-Line

To try to help stay connected with our members, Post 24 has recently setup a Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/aberdeen.legion

In addition, the post also still maintains a web site:

www.aberdeenlegion.org

For information from the Department (state) or National organization, you can also visit their web sites:

sdlegion.org

legion.org

No summer Monster Burgers

Monster burgers will run through May 9th and then start again Sept 12th, but will not be served over the summer weeks in between (May 16 - Sep 5).

While this continues to be a great fundraiser for the post, the same dozen people work every Monday for 9 months out of the year and unless we can get enough volunteers to set up two crews, we need to take a break and let our workers have some time off.

TAPS

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting:

Donald Daly Jr.
Terrance Albert Marko
Leonard Bruckner

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

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Upcoming Events:

May 2nd (Monday) - Executive committee meeting.
8pm in the Legion Office

May 16th (Monday) - Post meeting, 8pm in Room A of the Eagles Club.

May 21st & 22nd (Sat/Sun) - Horse racing opening weekend. Races run 1:00pm to 5:00pm daily.

May 25th (Wed) - Flaggering of veterans' graves for Memorial Day. Meet at Riverside South at 6:30pm.

May 28th (Saturday) - Running for Veteran's 5k run/walk at Wylie Lake. 7am

May 30th (Monday) - **Memorial Day**, programs start at 8am, main program at 10am.

May 28-30 (Sat-Mon) - Horse racing, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

each day.

May 30 - June 3 (Mon-Friday) South Dakota Boys state on the campus of NSU in Aberdeen.

June 2nd (Thursday) - "Blue Cap Day" at Boys State, please wear your Legion cover and sit in on Boys State to see this great program in action.

June 6th (Monday) - Executive committee meeting. 8pm in the Legion Office

June 17-19 (Fri-Sun) - Department Convention in Watertown, SD (Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 1901 9th Ave SW, Waterton, 605/886-8011)

June 20th (Monday) - Post meeting, 8pm in Room A of the Eagles Club.