



Commander's Column

Fellow Legionnaires, I hope everyone had a great Holiday season, now it's time to get back to work. We need help with our programs, so if you want to help, get hold of one of the officers, or just show up.



We still don't know what's going to happen with horse racing, so we will have to wait and see.

We still need help with membership, so if you know of people who have not paid their dues, please get them. There are still a lot of people out there who do not belong; go ask them. We are about 100 short of our goal, so please help us get there.

Tom Perrizo
Commander
Sidney L. Smith Post #24

From the Adjutant

Greetings, Hope this newsletter finds each of you in good health and having had a great Christmas!



We have received a inquiry from Vitalant (formerly United Blood Services) to sponsor an in-center blood drive. The request will be brought up at our next meeting for discussion. I know there is a huge demand for blood donors. My concern is too much activity for the few workers we have. If there are a few members who would chair this needed activity please contact any of the officers!

We are a busy post with Monday burger, many military funerals, Boys State, Oratorical Contests, Membership Drives, Post Meetings, Bike Safety, Color Guard details, Govt Days, Baseball needs, and many other needs such as promoting Veteran issues to State and National Govt. In February we will conduct a Memorial Service for our deceased members from 2018 and Post Commanders living and deceased. We certainly do not take our responsibilities lightly but I find the task can be overwhelming when I see members quit or veterans that do not choose to promote veteran needs by not renewing or joining the American Legion Post 24 or any post.

The VA needs to hear Veteran concerns.

The American Legion can do this but only with a loud voice backed by many more members. Please join the fight to maintain the benefits our forefathers obtained for us. We cannot do this without membership. It takes dollars to maintain offices in this state as well as National Offices in Indianapolis and Washington DC.

Our motto starts For God and Country. We must not ever forget that.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Boys/Girls State & Youth Trooper

Applications for the 2019 sessions of these exceptional leadership programs are now being accepted.

Boys who are currently in the Junior grade, and who wish to participate in Boys State, should apply on-line at http://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/

Girls currently in their Junior year who wish to participate in Girls State, as well as both Jr and Sr boys and girls interested in the Youth Trooper program, should see their HS guidance counselors for details and applications.

SD Secretary of Veteran Affairs

Greg Whitlock has been selected as the new Secretary of Veteran Affairs for the State of South Dakota, replacing recently retired Larry Zimmerman. Whitlock served in the SD National Guard for 33 years.

He was a strong advocate of the East River cemetery and many other veteran ideals.

Past Commander's Night Memorial

The Post will be having our annual memorial service on Monday, Feb 18th, 2019. This service will be in lieu of the regular Post Meeting that is scheduled for the same night.

The memorial pays tribute to all past commander's of Post 24, as well as honoring all Post members who passed away in 2018.

We encourage all members to attend the memorial, which starts at 8:00pm, and will be held in the fellowship hall at Schriver's Mortuary (414 5th Ave NW).

(There will be no Monster Burgers this night.)

Roll Call
2018 Post Officers
Commander Tom Perrizo
1st Vice Commander Pat Steele
2nd Vice Commander Dale Strom
Adjutant Gary Warne
Finance Mel Volk
Americanism Sam Olson
Chaplain Ruth VanSteenwyk
Sergeant at Arms Larry Ligtenberg
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
Recording Secretary Lloyd Just

AAVI Annual Meeting

Aberdeen Area Veterans, Inc. will be having its annual meeting on Saturday, January 12th at 1:00 pm in meeting room A of the Eagles Club (they are still open through this day). This is the chance for all members of Post #24 (and the other veteran's groups that make up AAVI) to hear the status of the project and ask questions of the Board of Directors.

AAVI is a separate, non-profit, entity that is planning to own and operate a facility to serve as the post home for The American Legion, the 40 et 8, the Disabled American Veterans, the Marine Corp League, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Aberdeen. Each of the five groups appoints members to the Board of Directors for AAVI, and the Board will oversee construction and operation of the facility.

Meeting Change
With the recent closing of the Eagles, the post meetings will be moving. Long term plans have not been set, but the January meeting will be the 21st at Schriver's Memorial (414 5th Ave NW).

### High School Oratorical Contest

The District round of The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship contest was held Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, in Aberdeen, SD.

We are pleased to announce that Aberdeen Central student Keilly Gunther, who won the post competition on December 16<sup>th</sup> to advance to the District, was selected to advance to the Department Contest in Spearfish, SD on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Keilly, is shown here, after the contest, with Post Commander Perrizo and District Commander Perry Schmidt.



### **TAPS**

The following members transferred to  
Post Everlasting:

Richard Krokell  
Delbert Aldinger  
Orville Dahme  
Reed R. Healy  
Allen R. Kulm  
Hollis Anderson

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

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### Upcoming Events:

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat) - AAVI Annual Meeting. 1pm in meeting room A at the Eagles Club.  
Jan 21<sup>st</sup> (Mon) - Post meeting, 8pm in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW)  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW).  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (Wed) - Legislative Reception, 5:30pm in the Pierre post home (members are encouraged to attend the capital all day on Wed, while wearing their Legion Caps).  
Feb 8 - Feb 10 (Fri-Sun) - Department Mid-winter conferences, Holiday Inn convention center,

Spearfish, SD

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> (Mon) - PAST COMMANDER'S NIGHT and Memorial (no post meeting, no monster burgers). Memorial starts at 8pm in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW).  
Mar 4<sup>th</sup> (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm location to be announced (see next Newsletter).  
Mar 10<sup>th</sup> (Sun) - Daylight Savings Time starts  
Mar 18<sup>th</sup> (Mon) - Post meeting, 8pm location to be announced (see next Newsletter).  
Mar 29<sup>th</sup> (Fri) - Spring District meeting (more details in next newsletter).