



Commander's Column

Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season, we have a lot to do.

We need to find a place to do Monster Burgers, so if you know of a place we can use, let us know.



We also have elections coming up, so we need people to run for office. If you are interested in running, let us know. Or if you know of somebody else whom you feel would make a good officer, let us know that as well.

We still don't know if we will need help with horse racing, whether races run or not is currently in the hands of the State Legislature. We will be having the 5k Run in May, though, and will need people to help with that.

Last, but not least, we need to continue to work on members. So please pay your dues if you haven't yet for 2019, and remember to ask other veterans you know about joining The American Legion.

Tom Perrizo
Commander
Sidney L. Smith Post #24

From the Adjutant

Are you ready for Spring? Silly question but since I have your attention I will tell you Post 24 is looking for candidates to run for Post positions in April. All spots are open.



Time is here for High School Junior boys to apply for Boys State. Please encourage those young men to apply on line. The experience will last a lifetime.

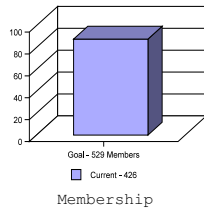
Additionally Trooper Academy is open for students who are interested in a law enforcement career. Students who are chosen will spend a hands on week in Pierre at the Law Enforcement training center. Students who have attended have all said the week was hard but very informative.

Various members of the SD Legion had a chance last week to meet with our elected Congressional officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities that are important to all veterans plus all Legion members and their families. The American Legion works hard to push for veteran benefits and rights, especially

recently with the VA Mission Act, new GI bill and speeding up Appeals time.

I often have heard "what does the Legion do?" We are your voice in Pierre and DC. It does take money to maintain that strong voice which means we must pay our dues and raise funds. Please join in this campaign to see Veteran Issues get answers by paying your dues, writing your elected officials and signing up Veterans to join the ranks of the largest veterans group - The American Legion. 100 years now of being the voice of the Veteran.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant



Legionnaires recognized by Chamber

Dale Strom of Post 24 was recognized by the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce as their 2018 Veteran's Advocate of the year at their Community Champions awards luncheon, Feb 12th.



District 4 Commander Perry Schmidt of Redfield was recognized as the 2018 "Rich Kezar Armed Services Veteran of the Year"

Leaders needed

The April meeting, as always, will feature the election of new officers for the Post. If you have thought about getting involved in the leadership of the local American Legion before, this is your chance to do so. For more information about one of the offices, or to put your name in, please either contact the post by email (post24@aberndeenlegion.org), reach out to one of the current officers, or attend the March meeting on the 18th.

In addition to Commander and two Vice Commanders, there are openings for Finance Officer, Chaplain, Historian, and Service Officer, as well as chairmanships of Athletics, Employment, Children & Youth, and Americanism (all officers list under "Roll Call" to the right).

The post can use fresh ideas and perspectives, so please, consider stepping up and taking a leadership role.

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

District 4 Spring Meeting

The spring meeting will be held on Friday, March 29th in Leola post home. There will be a social at 5:30 pm, and a meal at 6:00 held in the Legion Bar.

The District Meetings will start at 7:00 pm, with the Legion meeting at the Leola Post Home, and the Auxiliary in the Municipal Building.

Horse Races

The status of 2019 Horse Racing in Aberdeen is on hold pending legislative action to allocate funds for track improvements. If the funding bill goes through in time, Horse Races will be held in May.

Meeting Location
With the recent closing of the Eagles, the post meetings have moved. Long term plans have not been set, but the March & April meetings will be at Schriver's Memorial fellowship hall (414 5th Ave NW - west building).

Department High School

Oratorical Contest

Keilly Gunther of Aberdeen Central HS was the winner of the 2019 SD American Legion Oratorical Contest, held Feb 10th in Spearfish, SD. Keilly competed against 6 other district winners at the state contest, and will now advance to the National contest in Indianapolis this April.

Keilly is shown here, after the contest, with Department Commander Denny Brenden and Department Americanism Officer Larry Madsen.



TAPS

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting:

Melvin A Weide

Willard Wolff

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Aberdeen, SD 57402-2052**

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Upcoming Events:

- Mar 10 (Sun) - *Daylight Savings Time begins*
- Mar 18th (Mon) - Post meeting, 8pm in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5th Ave NW)
- Mar 29th (Fri) - District 4 Spring meeting in Leola (see page 1).
- Apr 1st (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5th Ave NW).
- Apr 15th (Mon) - Post meeting, 8pm in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5th Ave NW).

- Apr 21st (Sun) - *Easter*
- May 6th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5th Ave NW).
- May 20th (Mon) - Post meeting, 8pm in Schriver's fellowship Hall (414 5th Ave NW)
- May 25th (Sat) - Running For Veterans, 5k run. 7:00 am at Wylie Park, under the Flag.
- May 27th (Mon) - *Memorial Day*