



Commander's Column

Fellow Legionnaires,

This is the first newsletter of a New Year. New Years are symbolic, normally, with not much to separate Dec 31st from January 1st other than the dropping of a ball in Times Square, maybe a kiss at midnight. This year, though, it really does feel as if changing the calendar from 2020 to 2021 is a bit more of a literal new start, then normal.

2020 was a tough year for many. Partisan politics continued to get worse, the SARS-CoV-2 virus exploded around the world and brought Covid-19 and all the problems attendant with it. But, as 2021 approaches, things are looking up. Vaccines have started to ship, as I write this, and will be in distribution by the time you are reading it. The election cycle is over and we have again shown the world that it is possible to have a peaceful transfer of power, despite our differences - and that, despite forces, foreign and domestic, trying to define us by our differences, in the end, there are still more things that unite us, then there are that divide us. 2021 looks to be a truly New Year.

So what does this mean to us as Legionnaires? What does the new year have in store for the Post?

First, I want to assure you all that the post is on solid ground. We've canceled a lot of our normal events over the past year, including our biggest fund raiser (monster burgers) to help keep our members and our community safe, but the hard work and dedication of our volunteers over the past few decades has built a solid financial base for the post. One that has allowed us to weather 2020, and still support programs in the community.

We are still sponsoring a contestant in the District Oratorical contest on the 10th of January (which will be held in Aberdeen, at Plymouth Church), and making plans for our annual memorial service in February. Soon we'll be getting applications ready for the 2021 sessions of Boys State, Youth Trooper Academy, and Legion Baseball. While it is still just the start of winter, the "boys of summer" will be back on the field before we know it.

Advocacy for veterans rights and benefits is ever on-going, as well, of course, as a big part of what The American Legion does.

The post scaled back in 2020, but we were still active then, and we will be more active yet in the new year. We hope that

you will choose to be active with us.

Volunteers are always needed to keep the post active and strong, so if you are interested in helping with a post program, or even starting a new one in the new year, please let us know, individually, or at a post meeting.

Dale Strom
2nd Vice-Commander

From the Adjutant

Greetings Legionnaires. I certainly hope and pray that each of you are healthy and ready for the end of the pandemic. I want to take a moment to ask you all to pray for our Post Commander as he is battling the effects of COVID-19.



Please practice social distancing, wear a mask and wash your hands often. We cannot stress this enough. Also check on your fellow Veterans to make sure they are doing ok.

We have noticed membership renewals have slowed up considerably so I want to stress the need to renew, and to help your local Post grow by signing up Veterans. Just a few of us cannot carry the load. Dues notices have come out, so please drop a check in the mail or renew on-line at Mylegion.org. Also feel free to call me.

As always, we continue to look for members to carry on the final salute to our fallen veterans. We have done over 52 funerals this year. Please contact us if you are interested. I can be contacted at 225-1647 or Mel Volk at 380-0725.

Due to the continued the COVID-19 pandemic Post 24 has elected not to start up Monster Burgers. We will look at a possible start-up date for Fall of 2021.

Finally, if you are looking for a new US Flag we now have some on hand. You can call me or Mel Volk.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Past Commanders Memorial

The post will be holding our 65th annual Past Commanders Night and Memorial on Monday, February 15th, 2021. Current plans are to spread out in the Ball Room at City Lights, if the pandemic is still in place.

The Memorial is a chance to recognize our

Roll Call
2019 Post Officers

Commander	Steve Nemmers
1st Vice Commander	Pat Steele
2nd Vice Commander	Dale Strom
Adjutant	Gary Warne
Finance	Mel Volk
Americanism	Brian Bengs
Chaplain	Dan Vetter
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	Brian Bengs
Recording Secretary	Lloyd Just

fallen comrades from the past year, and to honor all the people who have helped lead the post in the past. If you get a chance to attend, we hope you will take it and join us.

Aberdeen Area Veterans

Annual Meeting

Aberdeen Area Veterans, Inc was formed by Aberdeen veterans groups - including Post #24 of the American Legion - to, among other goals, build and operate a facility that will serve as a post home to the groups. AAVI will be holding their Annual Meeting - a chance for members of the groups to stop in and learn about the plans and progress for the facility, as well as asking questions and providing input on how the building could better serve Aberdeen - on **January 9th at 1:00pm**. The meeting will be held in the Aberdeen Labor Hall - at 617 South 15th Street.

Don't Forget

Post Meeting is 8:00pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Post Home (inside City Lights, 316 South 2nd St, Aberdeen)

Post Constitution amendments to be voted on Dec 21st

Sidney L Smith, Post #24 of The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, will be voting at the December 21st regular meeting, to approve changes made to our Constitution and By Laws.

The changes are being requested after Commander Nemmers directed post Legal Officer Bengs to review, and update if needed, the post constitution following the LEGION act by Congress, which changed eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion.

To see the modified constitution that will be voted on, see the post's website (aberdeenlegion.org).

TAPS

The following members transferred to Post Everlasting since February of 2020:

Kenneth C. Stuart

Robert Ackerson

Lawrence Walth

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

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

Upcoming Events:

Dec 21st (Mon) - **Post meeting**, 8pm in meeting room A at City Lights. Voting on amending Constitution and By Laws (see above)

Dec 25th (Fri) - *Christmas*

Jan 1st (Fri) - *New Years Day*

Jan 4th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm in meeting room A at City Lights.

Jan 9th (Sat) - Aberdeen Area Veterans annual meeting. 1:00pm in the Labor Hall.

Jan 10th (Sun) - District Oratorical Scholarship contest, Plymouth Church, Aberdeen.

Jan 18th (Mon) - **Post meeting**, 8pm in meeting room A at City Lights.

Feb 1st (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm in meeting room A at City Lights.

Feb 15th (Mon) - Past Commander's Memorial night, 8pm in the Ballroom at City Lights