The American Legion
"For God and Country"
Sidney L Smith Post No. 24
WWW.AberdeenLegion.org
Volume 2024 Issue 1
The Gas Alarm
Jan-Feb 2024

Commander's Column



Fellow Legionnaires, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season, and that you handled the first storm of winter well.

Its another new calender year for the post, and that means we will soon get busy again. The oratorical scholarship contest was already run for the post level, and districts are coming up soon. The Boys State application process is open, and we should start seeing applicants to review soon. Past Commanders night and memorial is just around the corner, as are the April elections of new officers to lead your post in the coming year. Baseball may not be on our minds in the blizzard, but it, too, will be starting pre-season meetings before long. Overshadowing this activity, to some extent, there is also the need to consider new fundraisers and revenue streams for the post, now that Monster Burgers are not available to us.

Membership, as the saying goes, *pays for membership*. It is not a funding mechanism for the post to conduct its activities. We need members for the unity, and for the voice it gives us in Pierre and Washington, but membership dues have not been a significant part of the post budget since I've been a member. We need to actively raise funds, in order to conduct the programs and community support that make the post what it is. Monster Burgers have been the primary source of revenue for most of the past 25 years, but now we need to find new options. If you have thoughts, please talk with a post officer, or bring them to a post meeting. We are, in no way, heading for an immanent fiscal crisis, but we need to be proactive in this area.

Dale Strom
Post Commander

From the Adjutant

Greetings Legionnaires!



I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year.

I know you have heard this before but if you have not renewed your membership please write a check for $40.00 and mail it in to us. Our PO Box is 2052. You can also renew on line at: mylegion.org or call me at 605 216 1647.

I want to thank the 360 members who have renewed 2024 membership. If you know a veteran who is not a member please encourage them to join our ranks. There is strength in numbers especially when our reps are in Pierre and Washington DC.

We heard from National Commander Seehafer who spoke of the 2023-2024 Legion theme "Be The One". Be the one who will reach out to help a fellow Veteran and their family to prevent Veteran suicide. We can do this if we pull together as a American Legion family. Please reach out to those needing support whether just to talk or get professional help.

We always have openings for members who would serve on military funeral rites and Color Guard detail. I want to thank those who share the load in this function but with anything more hands is welcomed.

Congratulations is in order to Aspen Kline who won the local Post oratorical contest. Aspen, who is a freshman at Aberdeen Central HS, will advance to the District 4 contest to be held Jan. 7th at Plymouth Church.

Final word - there are many veteran benefits that may be available for you. Contacting the local veteran service office is a must if you have questions, etc. They have the knowledge and expertise to assist you. I know there are law firms who advertise they can help but please contact your local VSO first!

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Past Commanders Night

Just as a reminder, the Past Commanders Night memorial service has been moved from February to April. More information on the event will be published in the next newsletter.

Oratory

The post level of the Oratorical Contest was won by Aspen Kline of Aberdeen Central High School. She will compete in the District contest January 7th at the Plymouth Church (431 W Melgaard) in Aberdeen. Doors open at 3:00 and we appreciate any members (or the general public) who wish to attend and hear the speakers.

PUFL members dues

Paid Up For Life rates are based on age (and Post Dues), so to purchase a PUFL as a member of Post #24, the current rates are:

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
18-29	$1,535	60-69	$815
30-39	$1,399	70-79	$599
40-49	$1,229	80-89	$429
50-59	$1,025	90+	$329

Rates will go up in July of 2024 (for the 2025 membership cycle). If you are interested in purchasing a PUFL for yourself, or someone else, please contact the post Adjutant (or the post email, below).

Roll Call
2023 Post Officers

Commander . . . . . Dale Strom
1st Vice Commander . . . . . Pat Steele
2nd Vice Commander . . . . . Brian Bengs

Adjutant. . . . . Gary Warne
Finance . . . . . Mel Volk
Americanism . . . . . Steve Nemmers

Chaplain . . . . . Darvin Vetter
Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Larry Ligtenberg
Asst Sgt at Arms . . . . . Betty Weber

Children And Youth . . . . . Henry Artz
Athletics . . . . . Conald Burgard
Employment . . . . . Gary Warne

Historian . . . . . Dale Strom
Service. . . . . Pat Steele
Legal Officer . . . . . Brian Bengs

Recording Secretary . . . . . Jeff Steele

Post Contact Information

Email: Post24@aberdeenlegion.org
Mail: Sidney L Smith, Post #24
PO BOX 2052
Aberdeen, SD 57402-2052

Don't Forget

Our Post Meetings are 7:00pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Post Home (inside *City Lights*, 316 South 2nd St, Aberdeen)

AAV annual meeting

The Aberdeen Area Veterans annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan 13th, at the Labor Hall (617 S 15th St, Aberdeen). The doors will open at 12:30pm with the meeting coming to order at 1:00.

All members of Post 24 should have already received a newsletter from Aberdeen Area Veterans with details of the meeting and a summary of program, but the Annual Meeting is your chance to hear from the Board of Directors, and to ask them questions, about progress on the Veterans Memorial Building, and the programs AAV has run for veterans in the area.

TAPS

The following veterans transferred to Post Everlasting in the past two months:

David Beckel *
Lloyd E Brick *
Herbert L Brosz
Timothy A Fugman
Donald Henry Krege
Leslie Calvin Lechner
Russell E Podoll
William Streifel *
Teresa L Trepanier
James Ullrich *

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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:

Jan 1st (Mon) - N*ew Years Day*, no Executive Committee meeting

Jan 7th (Sun) - District Oratorical Contest, Plymouth Church, 3:00

Jan 13th (Sat) - AAV annual meeting (see above)

Jan 15th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Feb 5th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Feb 16th -17th - Midwinter Conferences in Deadwood.

Feb 19th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Mar 3rd (Sun) - District 4 Meeting in Groton (time TBA)

Mar 4th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Mar 18th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.