The American Legion
"For God and Country"
Sidney L Smith Post No. 24
WWW.AberdeenLegion.org
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Commander's Column



Happy New Year

I hope this finds everyone well and rested up after the holiday season. I am looking forward to the new year and everything it will bring. 2024 is in the rear view mirror and I am over half way through my year as your commander. Talking about being commander, in only 4 short months we will once again have elections for the officers of your post. If you or someone you know is interested in stepping up for a position let me or any other post member know.

We lost a few good members this last year, some moved away and others transferred to post everlasting. With that we need to keep up recruiting efforts to keep our post membership growing. We are always looking for ways to help out veterans and getting involved with our community. If you have any ideas of what you would like your post to be involved with bring them up at the next meeting.

Make sure to check out the calendar in this newsletter so you don't miss any post activities that are happening in the next couple months. Reminder, post meetings are the 3rd Monday each month at City Lights starting at 7 pm.

I am always available by phone, text or email if you have anything you would like to bring to my attention or to discuss.

Darvin Vetter
Post Commander
605 824-0081
djvetter@live.com

From the Adjutant



Greetings Legionnaires

I hope each one of you had a blessed Christmas and wishing each of you a very happy New Year. Hard to believe 2024 has come and now gone.

Post 24 had a busy November and December. The calendar coming up involves the District 4 Oratorical Contest on January 5th, 1PM at Plymouth Church - 431 W Melgaard St. On February 14-16, the annual Min-Winter Conferences will be held at Cedar Shores Resorts, Oacoma, SD.

Membership renewal reminder: If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2025, please do so as it expired on December 31st. Your continued support is vital to our mission, whether it is at Washington, DC in the Halls of Congress, at the State Capitol in Pierre, or locally in Aberdeen and the surrounding area. Dues are $45 which can be mailed to PO Box 2052, or call me at 605 216-1547. Additionally, you can pay on-line at MyLegion.com. A big thank you for your service and membership in The American Legion!

Please plan to attend Post Meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm in City Lights. Also, please note we have a need for members to help out on the military rites and/or Color Guard details.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Aberdeen Area Veterans

The annual meeting of Aberdeen Area Veterans will be held Saturday, Jan 11th, in the Labor Hall (617 S 15th St, Aberdeen). The doors will open at 12:30pm with the meeting coming to order at 1:00.

This is your chance to stay informed on the project to create a Veterans Building in Aberdeen that will not only be the post home for The American Legion and other Veterans Service Organizations, but will also provide programs of its own to help area veterans and their families.

Significant changes have taken place with the project in the last two months, so we do encourage everyone to attend this meeting, stay informed, and offer your thoughts on the project going forward.

Post officers needed

The post currently has open officer positions at 1st Vice Commander (who is also the Membership Committee Chair) and Legal Officer.

We are also looking for someone who would be willing to fill the Recording Secretary role - taking minutes at the Post and Executive Committee meetings and reading the minutes back at both.

Election of new officers for 2025-2026 are only a few months away, as well, so the need for leadership in the post is, as always, ongoing.

If you have an interest in filling any of these roles, please contact the Commander or Adjutant.

Roll Call

2024 - 2025 Post Officers

Commander . . . . . Darvin Vetter
1st Vice Commander . . . . . {open}
2nd Vice Commander . . . . . Vern Preszler

Adjutant. . . . . Gary Warne
Finance . . . . . Mel Volk
Americanism . . . . . Dale Strom

Chaplain . . . . . Pat Steele
Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Larry Ligtenberg
Asst Sgt at Arms . . . . . Sid Beckler

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

Historian . . . . . Dale Strom
Service. . . . . Mark Wolf
Legal Officer . . . . . {open}

Recording Secretary . . . . . {open}

Oratorical Scholarship Contest

The post level of The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship contest was won by Ada Sharp, a Freshman at Aberdeen Central HS. Ada will compete in the District 4 contest on January 5th, 1:00pm at Plymouth Church (431 W Melgaard Rd).

As Aberdeen is hosting the District contest again, we appreciate any members who can attend, whether as volunteers or just audience members.

Operation Homefront

Started in 2002, Operation Homefront provides support to Military and Veteran families through various programs. The organization is supported, in part, by The American Legion, and we have cooperative efforts with them. One of these efforts is the *Holiday Toy Drive* with Dollar Tree.

(Continues on next page)

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)





Operation Homefront (Continued)

Dollar Tree stores, such as the one in Aberdeen, have collection boxes available in Nov and Dec to receive toys for Veteran and Military families. Local posts of The American Legion (or National Guard units, in some locations) collect and help distribute them. This year, the Aberdeen store collected over 900 items, and an ad hoc committee sorted, bagged, and delivered them to the CBOC and to Department of Social Services.

Thanks you to committee members Steve Nemmers, Henry Artz, Charles Aldentaler, Kurt Preszler, Carrie Johnson, and Doug Roggow for taking the time and effort to help make this program happen in Aberdeen this year.





TAPS

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

Mark Ray Darling

Joseph Elsperger*

Marvin Kopecky*

Larry Nupen*

Raymond L. Schnable*

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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Upcoming Events:

Jan 5th (Sun) - District 4 Oratorical contest. 1st speaker starts at 1:00pm at Plymouth Church in Aberdeen

Jan 6th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Jan 11th (Sat) - Aberdeen Area Veterans annual meeting. 1:00pm (doors open 12:30).

Jan 20th (Sat) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Feb 3rd (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Feb 14th - Feb 16th - Midwinter Conferences, Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shores in Oacoma, SD.

Feb 16th (Sun) - Department oratorical contest, 10:00am, Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shores in Oacoma, SD

Feb 17th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Mar 3rd (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Mar 9th (Sun) - *Daylight Savings Time* begins

Mar 17th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.