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



Fellow Legionnaires,

A former NEC from SD used to use the metaphor, "Life is like driving a car". There is a big windshield, and only a small rearview mirror - meaning we are best served by looking forward more often then looking back. Yet, we do need that small rearview mirror from time to time. Knowing what is behind us, knowing the road that we've traveled so far, can help to guide where we are going. So, in this newsletter, I want to talk about where we, as a post, have been, so we can think about where we want to go.

When I first joined The Legion back in 1998, the post was coming off some hard years. We had only one asset - a liquor license - and were what is now termed "underwater" - the post had more debt outstanding then our single asset was worth. It took years and years of hard work, by some very dedicated members, to reverse our financial condition and get the Post "back in the black". It took many more years to slowly build up our resources to the point where we could stop worrying about being able to pay our bills.

The post had to make some hard choices, and scaled back many of our programs and activities out of financial necessity. Two decades of feeling like we needed to pinch pennies into copper wire were required, to get the post back to financial stability.

Those two decades worth of work, however, HAVE gotten us back on track, and we should start looking at expanding our programs again.

We must remember that view in the mirror, and do everything we can to avoid repeating that particular chunk of history, but we do have the ability to expand our impact on the community... we just need some ideas on ways that the post can help veterans and their families going forward.

So, if you have thoughts on things that the post could be doing, please bring them to a meeting. We will also need people to help with these projects, so be prepared to chair the committee in charge of your idea, but bring those ideas forward.

Lets get back to looking out that big front windshield, and lets make sure it shows us a view of your Legion Post being active in Aberdeen, and the area around it.

Dale Strom
Post Commander

From the Adjutant



Hope your summer is faring well. Your Post 24 just returned from the Annual State convention where a slate of new officers have been elected to lead us for another year. They will need your full support behind them.

We heard from the leading National Commander candidate who spoke of the 2022 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 to talk or get professional help.

We were proud present a $1000.00 check to the Milbank American Legion Post who have a capital building fund to build a American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame. Since Milbank is the birthday site of American Legion Baseball it is fitting for a hall of fame to be built there. They are currently accepting donations. Feel free to mail such to the following address Milbank Ball Diamond Association , PO Box 70, Milbank, SD 57252. Also you can visit birthplaceoflegionbaseball.com for additional information on this adventure.

Additionally I want to remind members or eligible members that we are in need of a few cooks for our main fundraiser "Monster Burgers". Many of us are not as young as we use to be so it is time to step aside and let some new hands to cook those burgers and fries. We have a few hands to do the set up but many more are needed. Please - Be the One!

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Veterans Suicide prevention Movie

Aberdeen Area Veterans will host a free showing of *Thank You for Your Service*. This is a film is about understanding, and helping to prevent, veteran suicides in the US.

They also plan to have counselors on hand after the film to talk with anybody who feels they need assistance and/or have been feeling suicidal. (This is still tentative at this time.)

The movie will be shown at the Capitol Theater (Main St, Aberdeen), on Saturday, Aug 6th at 4pm and is free to everyone.

Roll Call
2022 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 . . . . . Sid Beckler

Children And Youth . . . . . Henry Artz
Athletics . . . . . Tom Perrizo
Employment . . . . . Gary Warne

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

Recording Secretary . . . . . Jeff Steele

South Dakota State Chili Cook Off

Post #24 is one of the co-sponsors of the State Chili Cook Off. The event will be held Saturday, August 20th at Centennial Village on the Brown County Fairgrounds (this is during the Fair). Public tasting starts at 2pm, but we are always looking for Cooks and Judges. If interested, please contact the post.

(Post24@aberdeenlegion.org).

Post Meeting Time Changed (For Summer)

Post #24's meetings over the four summer months (May-Aug) will be moved up one hour to start at 7:00pm. This applies to both the regular (floor) meeting and the executive committee. We will return to 8:00 meetings in September.

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)

* *May - August, then back to 8:00*

Membership Milestones

Congratulation, and sincere thanks, to the following, for their continuing membership in The American Legion:

Ron Angerhofer	70 Years
Wayne Fogel	50 Years
Charles Gugel	50 Years
Arnold Huizenga	50 Years
Marvin Kopecky	50 Years
Ronald Lindner	50 Years
Darnell Madsen	50 Years

TAPS

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

Harold Alfred Krage

Joseph A Gruenstein

Curtis V Walker

Delos E Woodard

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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Upcoming Events:

July 4th (Mon) - *Independence Day* - NO Executive Committee meeting

July 13th (Wed) - Volunteer's picnic

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

Aug 1st (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Aug 15 to Aug 21 - Brown County Fair

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

Aug 20th (Sat) - SD State Chili Cook Off at Centennial Village in the Brown County Fairgrounds

June 12th (Sun) - Legion Riders "Teddy Bear Ride" - 12:00 registration at C&S Motorsports

June 16-19 - SD Legion Department Convention - Watertown

Sep 5th (Mon) - *Labor Day* - NO Executive Committee meeting.

Sep 12th (Mon) - Tentative restart date for Legion Monster Burgers