The American Legion
"For God and Country"
Sidney L Smith Post No. 24
WWW.AberdeenLegion.org
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The Gas Alarm
Jul-Aug 2023

Commander's Column



Fellow Legionnaires,

Welcome to summer! Two months ago, writing this column, there was still snow on the ground from a late spring, now we are into a warm, and dry, summer. As the seasons change, your American Legion post continues to work for veterans, and for the good of the community. Since that last newsletter, we hosted the Memorial Day programs in Aberdeen, sent Aberdeen students to Boys State, and continued our support for new veterans building in Aberdeen. We also continue to advocate for veterans, whether members or not, and, of course, we continue to be there to provide military funeral rights to our fallen comrades in arms. The seasons may change, faster then we sometimes hope, but your American Legion strives on.

What are YOU doing to help us?

Dale Strom
Post Commander

From the Adjutant



Greetings Legionnaires!

Hopefully your summer has been good for you.

I know that I, as well as other Adjutants, have pleaded with you in the past concerning the need for volunteers to assist with the funeral details. We have been very busy, as of late, with 26 (and counting) funerals already this year, with most held since the ground thaw in late April. Summer brings vacation plans, and so many other activities, that pull volunteers away. The future looks bleak for the Post to continue to conduct military honors if we are not able to find others to help fill in the ranks. Please consider volunteering for this worthy cause.

Commander Strom and myself attended the State Legion convention, earlier this month. One issue I learned about there is that a number of families have been approached by private firms to help (for a fee, of course) with obtaining Veteran benefits following the death of a spouse. Please contact your local county Veterans Service Officer instead! There is no fee, as it's their job to help the family obtain those benefits. Please help to spread the word. The VSOs are well trained, and anxious to serve veterans and their families.

You can receive emailed newsletters to follow what the American Legion is doing for veterans by subscribing at: https://www.legion.org/newsletters (this does require that you have a "My Legion" account). The VA also has an internet weekly newletter - VetResources, and, of course, there is the American Legion magazine. Be informed of your veteran rights.

The American Legion depends on volunteers to make life better for Vets. Please understand we cannot accomplish our goals without members - many more members are needed!

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Congratulations to the following Legionnaires for achieving long term continuous membership:

- Louis Thares	75 years
- Harry Preston	60 years
- Charles Blumhardt	50 years
- Don Bremer	50 years
- Bob Bucholz	50 years
- Gary Eldevik	50 years
- Lawrence Gruenstein	50 years
- Russell Stone	50 years
- Bob Torigian	50 years

THANK YOU!!

Volunteer's Picnic

The Post wishes to thank *everybody* who has volunteered to help our events and activities in the past year - members and non-members alike. To do so, we are hosting our annual volunteers picnic, but we do need your help to make sure that we include everybody on the list.

If you have volunteered in the past year, and are interested in attending, please let us know. You can email post24@aberdeenlegion.org, or call the adjutant (605 225-1647) to RSVP for the picnic. Each volunteer is also welcome to bring a guest to the event.

Further, if you KNOW OF any non-member who has helped in the past year, please share this information with them.

The picnic will be held on Wednesday, July 19th, and we'll start serving (burgers, brats and sides) at 6:00pm.

Football Books / Gun Raffle

The Post is currently running our anual "Football Books" fund raiser, selling 100 chances ("books") that provide 19 chances for the purchaser to win, with the winner determined by the score of Minnesota Vikings football games (along with the half-time and final scores of the Super Bowl). Books are $25 each.

We are also still selling $20 raffle tickets for 5 guns to be given away during the 2023 Turkey Shoot, Oct 27th. Details and the list of guns can be found on the post web page (aberdeenlegion.org). If you would like tickets to sell, or for yourself, please call Mel Volk (605 / 380-0725)

Bridge Dedications

The Post Color Guard was on hand June 22nd for the Cy Kaiser memorial bridge dedication in Mina. This is one of twelve SD bridges being named for veterans this year as part of the "Fallen Heroes Bridge Dedication" program that has been running since 2019. For more on the program, please see the State's website: https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources (Then click on "Bridge Dedications")

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

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)

Veterans' Information Seminar

Wednesday, July 13th, 2023

10:00am (Benefits overview)

1:30pm (Claims assistance)

The DEC (720 Lamont St)

The Aberdeen DAV will be hosting an informative seminar on veterans benefits, lead by DAV national Service Officer Owen Richards, at the Dakota Event Center (DEC) in Aberdeen. Please spread the word to other veterans, and families, who may have questions about benefits earned from their service, or who need help filing a claim with the VA.

TAPS

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

Reinhold Delzer
Rex L Hanson
Daniel Kaup
Donald H Lehr
Melvin Lee Mullner*
Raymond D Preszler
Richard Schooley
Lorren Gene Weber*
Gary Allen Feiock
Edger I Head
Don Kessler
Ronald A Leighty*
Thomas Piatz
William H Reuschline
Donald Sjomeling

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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Upcoming Events:

Jul 3rd (Mon) - there will be NO Executive Committee meeting this month

Jul 4th (Tue) - *Independence Day*

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

Jul 19th (Wed) - **Post volunteers picnic** 6:00pm. Location will be sent out to attendees (see article on page 1).

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

Aug 19th (Sat) - South Dakota State Chili Cook Off, Centennial Village at the Brown County Fairgrounds. Public tasting tickets go on sale at 12:30.

Aug 21st (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Sep 4th (Mon) - *Labor Day*
- no Executive Committee meeting

Sep 16th (Sat) - Legion Riders POW/MIA awareness ride, all street legal vehicles welcome. Registration at 10:30am, Wylie Lake, ride leaves at 11:00.