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



Fellow Legionnaires, this will be a very short message, as the space in this newsletter has already been used up. I know the adjutant will hit on this as well, but please, if you have the time, consider volunteering for the Honor Guard. While it does require availability at short notice, the program is not that time demanding, and it means so much to be able to provide this service to the community.

With that said, I will wish you all a pleasant spring, as we look forward to another great year for the post.

Dale Strom
Post Commander

From the Adjutant

Greetings Legionnaires!



I begin this article with a sad heart as we lost a faithful active long time member of the Post - Lloyd Just to Post Everlasting. Lloyd served all positions from Chaplin to Post Commander. He retired from the North Dakota National Guard as Command Sergeant Major after serving well over 30 years. He also served on the Post Honor Guard for quite some time. My condolences to his family and friends.

While on the subject of Honor Guard we have many positions to fill if we are to continue this great service for deceased veterans and their families. We have lost faithful members either to death or/and bad health. I am sure the average age of each of us is 70 plus. Please contact either myself at 216-1647 or Mel Volk at 380-0725. We have the uniforms so please say yes.

Looking ahead we are seeking new membership to fill the ranks of leadership in the Post. Election is coming up the 3rd Monday of April. You can make your announcement as we are currently accepting nominations for all positions. Please Be The One!

2024 membership dues are due and can be paid at: mylegion.org or mailed to PO Box 2052, Aberdeen, SD 57401. Additionally you can call me at the phone number listed above. Please note The National American Legion has announced a $5.00 increase due to higher cost of operations so they are offering members who have not paid 2024 dues a chance to pay for 2024,25 &26 at the $40.00 rate each year. If you have paid for 2024 they are offering the same rate but for 2025,26, and 27. This offer is only available thru the National American Legion website (legion.org/renew and legion.org/join. Check this out as you could save $$$ for 3 years.

Finally I want to touch on Boys State. Applications are open for high school Boys who are either Juniors or Seniors. This program has encouraged many young men to go on to be leaders in many communities, State and National levels. Please promote this program especially to your children, grandchildren or in your circles such as church. Home schooled boys are eligible. The cost is $250.00 which will be paid by American Legion Post 24. We accept and seek donations to this worthy cause. The dates are May 27-31 2024 and will be held on the campus of Northern State University, Aberdeen SD.

See you down the road. May God Bless you and the USA.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Past Commanders Night

The Past Commanders Night memorial service will be held on Wednesday, May 8th. Doors will open at 7:00pm, with the memorial service starting at 7:30, and the event will be held in the City Lights Event Center at 316 S 2nd St, Aberdeen.

Oratory



Congratulations to Aspen Kline, of Aberdeen Central, who represented the Post, and District, in the 2024 Oratorical Scholarship contest. Aspen placed 3rd in the state level competition, which was held Feb 18tn, at the Department's Midwinter Conferences in Deadwood, SD.

Post Elections

Reminder that the post will be electing new officers, for the 2024 year, at the April regular meeting. If you are interested in being an officer, or know of someone who would be a good one, please let the post Commander or Adjutant know.

Nominations will be accepted off the floor at the April Meeting, but it can be advantageous to announce your interest prior to then. In addition to the officers listed under "roll call" to the right, there are also two openings on the Post Executive Committee that will be filled.

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	Brian Bengs

Boys State

Registration is still open for the 2024 session of SD American Legion Boys State. The session rons from May 27th to May 31st, and HS Juniors or Seniors may both apply to attend (but you may only attend once). If you know of a boy who may be interested, they can apply here:

https://www.southdakotaboysstate.com/boys-state-application/

Honor Cords

The post will once again be presenting "Honor Cords"to local veteran graduates. Tentative date is May 1st, more to come.

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)

American Legion Drinking Fountain

Post 24 recently made a donation to the City of Aberdeen to sponsor a new drinking fountain on the walking path near the Soccer Complex on the south side of town. Post Adjutant Gary Warne (left), along past post commander Steven Nemmers (right), who chaired the ad hoc committee on the project, presented the sponsorship check to Robin Bobzien (center) with the city.

The fountain will be identified as donated by the post, and we are considering raising funds to sponsor more fountains in the future.



TAPS

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

Lawrence B Benson *

Gerald Biegler *

Leo F Crompton

Lloyd Just **

Cy Kaiser

Gregory Allen Taylor

Philip VanDover

* Denotes a member of Post 24
** Past Post Commander

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Upcoming Events:

Mar 3rd (Sun) - District 4 Meeting in Groton Legion Hall, starting at 1:00pm

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

Mar 10th (Sun) - *Daylight Savings Time* begins

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

Mar 31st (Sun) - *Easter*

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

Apr 15th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center. *Election of 2024 Post Officers*.

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

May 8th (Wed) - Past Commanders Night, Memorial Service, 7:00pm in City Lights Ball Room

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

May 22nd (Wed) - placing flags at veterans' graves, 6:00pm, Riverside Memorial Cemetery.

May 27th (Mon) - *Memorial Day*. Information on programs will be in the next newsletter.