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



Greetings Legionnaires

Spring is in the air and with that comes change. One of those changes is I have the pleasure of serving as your commander for this next year.

For those that don't know me let me introduce myself. I started my military career in 1984 when I enlisted in the South Dakota Army National Guard. I served in the guard for 18 months before I enlisted in the Air Force. I served 21 years in the Air Force and retired from active duty in 2007. My wife Jan and I have three grown children. Jan and our son Ben are both Air Force veterans and members of Post 24. Jan and I enjoy gardening, camping, and spending time with friends and family.

I have been a Legion member for 11 years, and active in Post 24 for the past 6 years. One program that I am involved with is being a member of the Honor Guard and I find it very rewarding to be able to honor our fallen comrades by providing military honors at funerals.

Looking forward to serving as your commander this next year. You can reach me at djvetter@live.com or (605) 824-0081.

Darvin Vetter
Post Commander

From the Adjutant

Greetings Legionnaires!



Please help me welcome our new Post 24 Commander - Darvin Vetter. We are pleased to announce that he stepped forward to lead us for the upcoming year. Please give him your full support, and attend the post meeting. Also, I want to thank Dale Strom for leading the past 3 years. He has put in a number of hours serving veterans plus working full time. Thank you Dale for a job well done!

Be sure to sign up for the 3 year membership program by paying $120.00 for the years of either 2024 to 2026 or 2025 to 2027. With dues heading to $45.00 eff. 7-1-24 you can save money. You will have to pay on line at mylegion.org or call the National Legion Headquarters 800-433-3318. Either way I want to thank everyone who has paid their membership for 2024. If you have not, please consider renewing which helps the American Legion step up for Veteran benefits.

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. Post members are welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

Moccasin Creek Clean-up/Fountain

In November the post passed a motion to do fund raising for an in-stream fountain to be placed in Moccasin Creek, and to consider ways to help clean up the creek as it flows through Aberdeen.

The post is looking for volunteers on the committee, both to help with fund raising and manageable ideas for cleaning the creek up. If interested, contact the post Adjutant, or mention your interest at the next meeting.

BASEBALL: Veterans and Military Appreciation Day - Free Game

Aberdeen Hardball Association, and the Smittys Legion team, will have free admission to veterans and current military members at the June 29th games. All post members are encouraged to attend, as there will also be a tribute to Past Commander Tom Perrizo , an avid supporter of Legion Baseball, and long time athletics chair for the post. The games start at 3:00 and 5:00

Post Elections

New officers were selected at the April Meeting, and are shown in the Roll Call box at right. The Adjutant and Recording Secretary are presumptive at this point, they will be named by the new Commander this month.

Both Charlie Aldentaller and Sid Beckler were also elected to the post executive committee for three year terms, and outgoing commander Dale Strom is an automatic appointment to the commitee as well.

We are still looking for a second vice for the post, so if you are interested, or know someone who might be, please let the commander know.

Roll Call

2024 - 2025 Post Officers

Commander . . . . . Darvin Vetter
1st Vice Commander . . . . . Brian Bengs
2nd Vice Commander . . . . . .

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 . . . . . Brian Bengs

Recording Secretary . . . . . Brian Bengs*

Continuous Membership

Raymond Schnabel	- 60 years
Rolland Aman	- 50
Lee Bain	- 50
Dean Click	- 50
Larry Fischer	- 50
Robert Kruse	- 50
James Lensegrav	- 50
Melvin Volk	- 50
Dennis Werlinger	- 50

We cannot thank these members enough for their unwavering support!!

Certificates will be handed out at the May post meeting, if you are able to attend, or will be mailed if you can not join us that night.

Honor Cords

The post will once again be presenting "Honor Cords"to local veteran graduates from NSU, and high school seniors who are going on to military service. The ceremony is May 1st, at the Jewett science building (12th & State), starting at 6pm.

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)

Memorial Day schedule

Three short programs (prayer, *Tap*s, riffle salute):

Riverside Cemetery (GAR monument) 8:00
St Mary's Cemetery (Chapel) 8:45
Sacred Heart Cemetery 9:15

Main program will be at Sunset Memorial, starting at 10:00am
speaker - Courtney Steffen, State Commander of The American Legion
please bring a lawn chair if you wish to sit
In case of inclement weather, the program will move to Shriver's Fellowship Hall

Placing flags on Veteran Graves at Riverside, Wed, May 22, 6:00pm
Retrieving flags at Riverside, Wed, May29th, at 6:00pm

TAPS

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

Terry Dean Huffman *

George Imbery *

David Lynn *

Harry L Preston *

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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Upcoming Events:

Apr 29th (Mon) - Veteran's appreciation game, Fossum Field , 2:00pm

May 1st (Wed) - Honor Cord ceremony, Jewitt Center (NSU), 6:00pm

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

May 8th (Wed) - Past Commanders Memorial Service - 7:30 start, Ballroom in City Lights event center

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

May 22nd (Wed) - placing flags on veteran graves, Riverside Cemetery, 6:00pm

May 25th (Sat) Running for Veterans 5K event - 7:00am registration, under the Flag at Wylie Park.

May 27th (Mon) - *Memorial Day* - see schedule above

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

June 9th (Sun) - Legion Riders Teddy Bear Ride - 11:00am registration, C&S Motorsports

June 14th (Fri) - *Flag Day*

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

June 20th - June 23rd - State Convention, Pierre