The American Legion
"For God and Country"
Sidney L Smith Post No. 24
WWW.AberdeenLegion.org
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The Gas Alarm
Nov-Dec 2021

Commander's Column



Fellow Legionnaires,

As I write this, I am getting ready to head over to the post to cook Monster Burgers, and our early crew has already been there a few hours doing their Monday routine to get everything ready. A lot of work goes into this fund raiser every week, but if its spread out over several people, none of them need to be overly taxed - or at least that is the theory. The reality is that, as with much of your Post, a few members, roughly 5% of the total, end up doing the bulk of the work. This doesn't have to be the case! A few more helping hands would ease the burden, so if you have the time, we'd love to have your help! Whether you can be there from 2-5 for prep, 5-7 for cooking/serving, or after 7 to help with cleanup, we would love to have you. Monster Burgers are what keeps our post running, and have for some time now, but if we burn out our help, this fund raiser could end up having to be shut down, and the future of the Post could be in jeopardy. So please, consider lending a hand.

Speaking of volunteers and fund raising; I do want to thank everybody who helped out with the Post's annual Turkey Shoot on the 15th of October. Crowds were down again this year, but the event went well for the people who where there.

The post had a busy fall, in addition to the two events above, we participated in the NSU homecoming parade, did a flag disposal education program, numerous funerals and Color presentations, and participated in the 9/11 remembrance that was held this year, on the 20th anniversary of the attacks. Planning is already underway for our spring activities and we're looking forward to 2022, even as we finish up the last two months of 2021.

Dale Strom
Post Commander

From the Adjutant



Hard to believe the final two months of 2021 are upon us. This means that Post 24 is making plans for our Early Bird supper, which is held on the 10th of Nov each year for members only who have paid up for 2022. If you have not paid up, the latest renewal notice has been mailed out.

The Veterans Day program is set to be held at Aberdeen Central High School gym 10am on Nov 11th.

We have started up Monster burgers at City Lights every Monday from 5-7pm. A 3/4 lb burger, which is easily big enough to feed two, plus condiments for $11.00

Please remember the American Legion exists to work for Veterans. Please join as it takes many to get the job done.

Be thankful for our freedoms to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Oratory Contest

The post will be holding the local round of The American Legion 2022 Oratorical Scholarship Contest on Sunday, December 5th at the Plymouth UCC on Melgaard Road and 5th St. Contestants for this public speaking event can be freshmen through senior year students, and each will give two speeches on the US Constitution as part of the event. The doors will open at 2:00pm and the first contestant will take the stage at 3:00.

Even if you don't know any contestants, the event is still interesting to watch, and we'd love to have you in the audience.

The District level of the contest will also be held in the same location, on January 16th.

Early Bird membership dinner

The post will be holding our annual Early Bird Dinner on Nov 10th with a social hour at 5:00pm and the meal at 6:00pm. This is a free meal for all members who have renewed their dues for the coming year (2022) by the start of the meal. You will be able to renew and pickup your membership card at the meal, if you like.

Bell Ringers needed

Anybody who is interested in volunteering a few hours during the holidays to serve as a Bell Ringer for the Salvation Army, please let the post know. We will have a crew doing this again this year.

American Flags Available at Post

The Aberdeen Post does have flags available for sale, if you are looking for one. We have 3x5 and 4x6 flags, either nylon or poly-blend, that are well suited to flying in SD weather. Please contact the Post Adjutant if you are interested.

Roll Call

2021 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	Dan Vetter
Sergeant at Arms	Larry Ligtenberg
Asst Sgt at Arms	Sid Beckler
Children And Youth	Elizabeth Maier
Athletics	Tom Perrizo
Employment	Gary Warne
Historian	Dale Strom
Service	Pat Steele
Legal Officer	Brian Bengs
Recording Secretary	Lloyd Just

Membership



District Commander Bob Thomason, with post Commander Strom and Adjutant Warne

The District 4 commander recently stopped by and presented the post (see photo) with a "Go Getter plaque" for reaching our membership goal in 2021 (the last membership year). This was the first time in over a decade that the post had hit 100% of our goal, and it would be great if we could do it again in 2022.

As the Adjutant mentioned, the second round of 2022 notices have been sent out by National, so please, if you have not done so already, send in your dues for the new membership year.

Don't Forget

Post Meeting is 8:00pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Post Home (inside *City Lights*, 316 South 2nd St, Aberdeen)

SUICIDE AWARENESS

More than 20 veterans take their own lives by suicide every day! We need to reduce that to zero. Buddy checks are an important part of Veterans helping Veterans. Take the time to reach out to veterans even if they are not Legion members. The National Commander has started a program called "Be The One." He wants us all to be the one that helps those veterans in need. The VA has a hot line, 1-800-273-8255. If you or someone you know needs help, please use the hot line. Be The One to make a difference.

Honor Flight

Honor Flight offers air travel, hotel accommodations, and a group tour of the veterans' memorials in Washington DC, all at no cost, to veterans. Space on the flights are prioritized by era of service - WW2 veterans get preference, then Korean War, and then Viet Nam, with the goal of giving veterans a chance to see the memorials raised in their honor. The trips are paid for by donations, including the SD American Legion, who are sponsoring a full flight. If you a know of a veteran who would like to join a flight, please contact the post, or look for Honor Flight on-line to find them in your area.

TAPS

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

Thomas Berg
Marvin M Bucholz
Melvin Fischer
Elvin Dumdei
Josheph W. Gilling
Charles D Gustafson
*Weston Plagman
Frederick Steitzer
Theodore W Zahn

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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Upcoming Events:

Nov 1st (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Nov 7th (Sun) - Daylight Savings time ends

Nov 10th (Wed) - Early Bird membership dinner, 6pm meal in the Ball Room at City Lights (see article on page 1)

Nov 11th (Thr) - *Veterans Day*

Program 10:00 am in Aberdeen Central High Gymnasium

Nov 15th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 8:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Nov 25th (Thr) - *Thanksgiving Day*

Dec 5th (Sun) - Post level of the HS Oratorical Scholarship competition.

Dec 6th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 8pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Dec 7th (Tue) - Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor

Dec 20th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 8:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Dec 25th (Sat) - *Christmas*

Jan 1st (Sat) - *New Years Day*