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 2023

Commander's Column



Fellow Legionnaires, this is the last newsletter for 2023, another year is getting close to turning. Fall is clearly in the air, with the temps falling into the 40's and 50's now, and a chance of snow in parts of the area by the time this newsletter is mailed.

Fall for our Legion post, of course, means the return of some Americanism programs geared toward high school students. The post level of The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program is just around the corner, set for December 10th. If you know of any student interested in competing in this public speaking contest, please have them contact their school counselor's office, or reach out to the post.

Boys State applications will also start to open soon, even though the program is next summer. If you know of a High School Junior or Senior, please encourage them to speak with their counselor about Boys State (and American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State). Boys State, and the Oratorical Scholarship contest are two outstanding civics and leadership programs for HS students, that The American Legion puts on each year.

As we wrap up the calendar year, its also not to soon to start thinking of the next "Post Year". Election of officers will happen in April, and it would be great to see some new leadership step up between now and then. The post can use new thoughts, programs, and direction - new leaders. Can you be one of them?

Dale Strom
Post Commander

From the Adjutant



Greetings Legionnaires! It is hard to believe this year is 2 months away from a New Year 2024! By the time you are reading this column we'll have completed our annual Turkey Shoot and I want to thank everyone who partook in this fund raiser. We are looking forward to the Early Bird membership meal set for Nov. 10th and ringing Salvation Army bells at Runnings on Nov. 25th.

I would like remind our readers about what our State Commander Courtney Steffen has promoted as her motto: "Pursue Purpose." She is saying we need to pursue a strong and united effort to serve our fellow veterans, communities, state and Nation through our programs and events.

At our Post meetings we at times struggle to find our purpose. We must always keep this in mind: serve Veterans with our many programs whether local or beyond is our main purpose. What is needed to many hands with a united mindsight and energy to do so. I know there are different opinions but we can as a post be successful if we unite and grow in membership.

Please join us at our post meetings, recruit others to join and keep an open mind for ideas and fellowship. We meet on the 3d Monday of each month, City Lights 7pm.

Dues are still a bargain at $40.00. Reminders are out so call me (216 1647) or mail a check to PO Box 2052.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Bell Ringing

The Post is once again supporting the Salvation Army by providing bell ringers for their kettle fund raiser. We will be at Runnings on Saturday, Nov 25th, please feel free to stop by and say hello if you are in the area.

Turkey Shoot

While the odds are good that you will receive this newsletter after the 27th, we are going to add a plug here, just in case you get it earlier. The Post's annual Charity Night (Turkey Shoot) is Friday, Oct 27th from 7:00pm to roughly 10:00pm at the City Lights event center (316 S 2nd St) in Aberdeen.

Come in and play games for food prizes, and please share the word with others.

Oratory

The post level of the Oratorical Contest will be December 10th at the Plymouth Church (431 W Melgaard) in Aberdeen. Doors will open at 12:45 (contestants need to arrive earlier) and the first speaker will start at 1:00)

PUFL (Paid Up For Life) membership

Its been announced that the National American Legion will be increasing dues in 2025, and while not yet official, it is likely that the Department of SD will also have an increase in either 2025 or 2026. With the rise in dues coming, now may be a good time to consider becoming a paid up for life (PUFL) member of The American Legion.

PUFL membership rates for The American Legion are based on age, and can be higher, particularly for younger members, then lifetime membership in other organizations. For some members, though, it may be worth the cost as it gives you a lifetime of membership without having to worry about dues (or dues increases) again.

If you purchase your PUFL now, you can avoid that 2025 dues increase. Please contact the Post Adjutant if you would like more information on the PUFL program.

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

Post Contact Information

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Mail: Sidney L Smith, Post #24
PO BOX 2052
Aberdeen, SD 57402-2052

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)

Million Veteran Program (VA)

MVP researchers use genetic, health, lifestyle, and military background information to understand how genes affect health and illness. Understanding differences in our genes can help explain why some people get diseases and respond to certain treatments while others don't. This can also help health care providers offer better preventative care and treatments of illnesses and disease.

Individual genetic information is not currently returned to our MVP partners. However, Veterans, families, and their providers can use findings from MVP to make important health care decisions.

If you would like to participate, and help the VA reach their goal of one million veterans, you can sign up at at www.mvp.va.gov or call 866-441-6075 for more information

TAPS

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

Douglas Ray Hoikkala
Terrance Yun
Robert Williamson Jr *
Myron Walth *
Fred Wesley Karjalainen

* Denotes a member of Post 24

The American Legion, Post #24
PO Box 2052
Aberdeen, SD 57402-2052

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Upcoming Events:

Oct 27th (Fri) - Post *Turkey Shoot* (see details above)
Nov 5th (Sun) - *Daylight Savings Time* ends
Nov 6th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights
Nov 10th (Fri) - Post "Early Bird Feed" membership dinner. City Lights event center, 5:00 social, 6:00 meal.
Nov 11th (Sat) - *Veterans Day*
Nov 20th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.
Nov 23rd (Thr) - *Thanksgiving*
Nov 25th (Sat) - Ringing Bells for Salvation Army all day at Runnings
Dec 4th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights
Dec 10th (Sun) - Post Oratorical Contest 1pm Plymouth Church
Dec 18th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.
Dec 25th (Mon) - *Christmas*