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,

There are a few, seemingly disconnected, items which have come to mind recently, that I want to talk about - the post Turkey Shoot, the fall District Meeting, and Monster Burgers.

The Turkey Shoot is coming up in two months on October 27th. This is not the traditional night for the event, which had always been held the night before the pheasant opener. Instead we will be having it one week later, as we did last year, due to a scheduling conflict with another even happening in the same space on our traditional night.

The District 4 Fall Meeting is coming up in four weeks (September 23rd), and yet I can not print the location and time here in the newsletter, because the District Commander is still looking for a host. No post has stepped up to provide a venue for the meeting. This is, in part, because so few have the ability to do so - including Post #24.

Finally, Monster Burgers. This program has done more in the past 20 years then any other to both provide funds for the post, and keep the Legion name active in Aberdeen. We were set to start up again this fall, but are not in a bit of a holding pattern as we try to meet with the new owners of City Lights and work through an insurance/liability issue. If a solution can not be found, Monster Burgers may become a thing of the past.

Aside from timing - all three events are things we are currently dealing with as they are scheduled to happen in the next few months - these three things share one other common aspect, from the Post's perspective. That common factor is all three would be more easily dealt with if the Post just had our own home. A place where we controlled, or at least had significant influence over, the scheduling of events.

I have been a member of Post 24 for roughly a quarter century, and in that time, we've never had our own post home - office and meeting space, fortunately, but not a building where we could schedule events and functions.

We have had some tremendous hosts over that time, first with the VFW, then the Eagles, and most recently with City Lights, but we've been guests in all three locations and have had to work our schedule around that of our hosts. It has mostly worked well, and those organizations have my deep thanks for the help they've given us. We've been lucky, and have helped make our own luck by being a benefit to our hosts over that time, but eventually that luck could run out, so it is good to have a plan for the future in place.

I believe we have that plan, with the Post's involvement in creating, and helping lead, Aberdeen Area Veterans - an organization dedicated to building a new veterans memorial center in Aberdeen.

The center, when built, will be home to not only our post, but also the Aberdeen chapters of the VFW, 40/8, and Marine Corp League. It will be a place our Post can call home for generations.

Building it, however, is not going to be easy and the fund raising alone is a multi-year project. A project that I am glad we started, particularly at times like these when the limitations of not having a post home seem to keep popping up.

If you would like to know more about Aberdeen Area Veterans, or wish to share your thoughts on the program, feel free to talk with me before or after the post meeting. You can also check out the website at aberdeenvets.org

Dale Strom
Post Commander

From the Adjutant



Greetings from the Adjutant. I certainly hope each of you have had a good summer. Post 24 is gearing up for fall activities as I type this article.

We are planning to resume Monster Burgers, with no start date yet due to complications with the owners of City Lights, but we will let you know when it is finalized. Also the annual turkey shoot is planned for Oct. 27th plus a gun raffle tickets are being sold - $10.00 each. The winning tickets will be drawn at the turkey shoot. Please place this date on your calendar!

I want to encourage Legion members to contact your local Veterans Service Officer (VSO) as the VA has made several announcements concerning veteran benefits that you may qualify for. Specifically the PACT Act, open enrollment for combat veterans, and pharmacy changes. There are deadlines established so please do not delay in contacting your local VSO as it's their job to help the family obtain those benefits.

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

Please help to spread the word. The VSOs are well trained, and anxious to serve veterans and their families.

Also American Legion members can qualify for discounts so be sure to ask retailers where you shop.

The American Legion is only effective when we support our volunteers who go to Washington DC and /or Pierre on our behalf. Now is the time to unite with one voice. There is power in numbers as we alone cannot accomplish needed veteran goals .

The 2024 membership drive is in full swing. Encourage fellow veterans to join our ranks! Dues are still $40.00. You pay by mail, on-line, or call a Post 24 membership worker.

I am available at 216-1647.

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

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)



2023 Turkey Shoot

Friday, Oct 27th
7:00pm
City Lights Event Center

Come out and play fun games for food prizes, including cheese, beef sticks, and of course, frozen turkeys.

The post is also running a gun raffle, with multiple chances to win on the same ticket. Tickets for the raffle can be purchased that night, or in advance.

TAPS

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

Barry E Idler
Terry Dickman*
Darlene Jangula*
Walter Killion
David Azure Sr
Joseph Geier
Ronald E Holland
Tom Piatz*

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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Upcoming Events:

Sep 4th (Mon) - Labor Day
- there will be NO Executive Committee meeting this month

Sep 16th (Sat) - Legion Riders POW/MIA awareness ride. Registration 10:30am at Wylie Lake

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

Sep 23rd (Sat) - District 4 Fall meeting

Oct 2nd (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm in meeting room A at City Lights

Oct 7th (Sat) - Veteran Bridge Dedication - Pierpont community center.

Oct 16th (Mon) - **Post Meeting** - 7:00pm in meeting room A at City Lights event center.

Oct 27th (Fri) - Post *Turkey Shoot* (see details above)

Oct 30th (Mon) - tentative start of Monster Burgers.

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.

Nov 11th (Sat) - *Veterans Day*