

# Sidney L Smith

post #24 of

## The American



## Legion

**2006 - 2007**

**YEARBOOK OF**  
**Sidney L Smith**

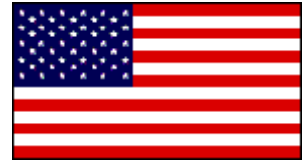
post #24 of

**The American**  
**Legion**

**ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**FOR 2006 TO 2007**

**Compiled by: Charles D Strom - Post Historian**



# *Introduction*

## **History - The American Legion**

**In late January, 1919, as the first World War drew near to completion, a group of officers met at Faubourg St. Honore in Paris France. All four were combat line officers (at the battalion or regimental level);**

**Lt. COL. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (son of our 26<sup>th</sup> US President), from the 1<sup>st</sup> Division,**



Lt Colonel Donovan

**Lt. COL. George White, general HQ of the AEF in France,**

**Lt. COL. William Donovan, part of New York's "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>", and**

**Major Eric Fisher Wood, of the 88<sup>th</sup> Division.**



Lt Colonel Roosevelt

**With a lead role taken by Roosevelt, these four men conceived the idea of a veteran's organization, similar to the Grand Army of the Republic that had thrived after the conclusion of the Civil War. With a potential membership pool of over two million servicemen from the war, most of whom had been unfamiliar with Europe in any but the vaguest of ways, the organization would be a tremendous opportunity for fellowship as servicemen started returning home. Several names were considered, including "Liberty League", "Legion of Honor", and "American Crusaders".**

**General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing - head of the AEF - was initially opposed to the idea, but as it's popularity grew in the ranks of the officers and**

enlisted men he agreed to give the subject a chance. An organizational meeting was set at the Inter-Allied Officers' Club in Paris for the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of March in 1919. This event, which came to be known as the "Paris Caucus", is considered the official beginning of the organization.

The Paris Caucus, consisting of approximately 1,000 officers and enlisted men, adopted a temporary constitution, and chose The American Legion as the name of the organization. It also elected an executive committee to complete the work of establishing The American Legion.

The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the US. A boost was given to the Paris Caucus when President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France to participate in the peace treaty conference at Versailles; Wilson would also give his endorsement to The American Legion when they held their next organizational meeting.



President Woodrow Wilson

This second caucus was held in St. Louis, Missouri during May of 1919. There, the American Legion constitution was completed and a temporary draft was submitted to the membership. Included in the Legion's mission were relief, employment, and Americanism programs.

Congress granted the Legion a national charter on September 16, 1919 and the first national convention was held in Minneapolis Nov 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> of that year. In Minneapolis The American Legion adopted a permanent constitution and elected officers to head the organization.

The charter was amended in 1942 to admit World War II veterans and again in 1950 to include veterans of the Korean War. Later it included soldiers



General Pershing

who had served in conflicts in Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf and has been open since August 2, 1990 until congress closes the dates.

The Legion's major concern has always been the veterans. It played an important role in the creation of the US Veterans Administration and the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights for World War II and Korean Veterans. Also important has been the community, youth, and Americanism.

The American Legion temporary national headquarters, set after the St Louis Caucus, was located in New York City, but delegates to the first convention chose Indianapolis over Washington DC as the permanent home for the national organization in a close (361-323) vote.

The Legion does, however, still keep an office in Washington DC, just three blocks from the White House, to support frequent visits to the seat of government by the National Commander. Also located here are offices of an executive director, and operations for Legislative, Economics, National Security, Foreign Relations, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Media Relations.

The American Legion's national headquarters is located at 700 N Pennsylvania St, in Indianapolis, Indiana and is part of a development known as the Indiana War Memorial Plaza.



National HQ - American Legion



# History - South Dakota

## Department of The American Legion

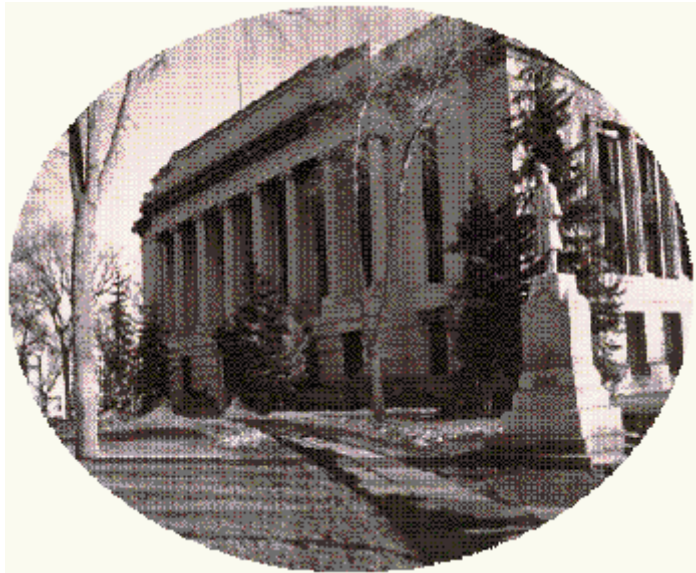
The South Dakota Department of The American Legion was organized simultaneously with the national organization. South Dakota Adjutant General William A. Morris named Theodore R. Johnson of Sioux Falls to select a committee of representative ex-service men to attend the first caucus in St Louis, Missouri, May 8-10, 1919.

After the first national caucus, a temporary South Dakota organization was formed at Vermillion on May 15, 1919 with Theodore R. Johnson as chairman. The first state convention was held in Sioux Falls on July 14 and 15, 1919. Myron L. Shade of Mitchell was elected the first Department Commander. Forty-eight posts had been organized by convention time.

The South Dakota Department now consists of about 260 posts with about 26,000 members.

One of the American Legion programs with South Dakota roots is American Legion baseball, now a nationwide program. It was conceived at the state convention at Milbank in 1925. Frank Sieh of Aberdeen originated the idea. A granite monument at Milbank commemorates the formation of Legion Baseball there.

The South Dakota American Legion Department Headquarters is located in the Codington County courthouse in Watertown. The South Dakota Legion contributed to the



Codington County Courthouse - home of the South Dakota Department of The American Legion.

**construction cost of that courthouse and thus was granted rent-free space in the courthouse for the life of the building.**

# **History - Aberdeen SD & Sidney L Smith, Post #24**



Like most towns in the great plains, Aberdeen was started as a railroad town. Charles H Prior, the town site agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St Paul railroad filed the first papers at the land office in Watertown, part of the Dakota Territory, for a town to be located at the spot where his employer's rail line was expected to intersect the Chicago Northwestern's proposed line. Alexander Mitchell, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee, & St Paul, named the town-to-be Aberdeen, after his own hometown in Scotland. The first plat of land was deeded on the 3rd of January, 1881 and the first train arrived July 6th with the post office established that August. In 1885, Aberdeen was named the Seat of Brown County.

The railroad continued to play a large role in the growth of Aberdeen, after the initial two lines met in 1881, seven more were added so that by 1906 nine sets of tracks lead into what would become known as the Hub City; four lines for the Chicago, Milwaukee, & St Paul, two lines for the Chicago Northwestern, one line for the Great Northern, and two lines for the Minneapolis & St Louis.

The convergence of rail lines made Aberdeen a natural stopping point for military troop trains; starting when South Dakota's First Infantry Regiment was welcomed home here by President McKinley in October of 1899 after returning from duty under General McArthur in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. The rail lines also played a vital role in delivering recruits to the US Army in both World Wars, and when the USO and Red Cross built a canteen in the Milwaukee Rail depot in 1943, they couldn't have known that it would become one of Aberdeen's most memorable locations.

From it's opening on the 14th of Aug until just before Christmas, the canteen provided over 150,000 free meals to troops passing through the station; a remarkable endeavor, but the real history was still to come.

Local farmers, still eager to contribute to the canteen despite being well past the harvest season, donated pheasants from recent hunts to the canteen and started a trend that would lead to the canteen becoming unofficially renamed the "Pheasant Canteen". With an average of over 500 soldiers per day traveling through the depot, the Pheasant Canteen continued to give a free meal to every serviceman, highlighted by the now famous pheasant sandwiches. Any soldier



Recreation of the Pheasant Canteen at Dakota Prairie Museum

arriving at the depot on their birthday would also receive a special cake, and there was a decorated tree each Christmas and colored eggs each Easter. When the Pheasant Canteen closed on the 31st of March, 1946, between 510,000 and 600,000 servicemen had been feed, all at no cost to themselves or the military. Every meal was donated by the residents of Aberdeen and 40 other towns within a 75 mile radius.

Of course, support for the serviceman was nothing new to the Aberdeen area.

The VFW had formed a presence here as early as 1903 (fourth oldest continuously active post), and The American Legion followed 1919 when the call first went out to constitute posts. By 1921 the American Legion was running their own veterans employment program in the city, and had a theatrical troupe that performed annual plays at the local theater, along with a post band.

The post chose the name of Sidney L Smith, in honor of Private First Class Smith who was killed in action while serving as a dispatch runner in Soissons France, July 20<sup>th</sup> 1918 as part of Co. L, 18th U.S. Infantry, 1st Div.

While born in Canton, Il (1896) and having gone to military school in Roswell, NM, Sidney L Smith had moved to Aberdeen in 1915 and had joined

the military as part of the South Dakota national guard. He was stationed at Camp Pontis in Mobridge, SD when he transferred to the 148th Machine Gun Battalion. He later transferred again to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, 18<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Company L where he saw action at the Battle of Cantigny, and was in the trenches for 70 days at Montdidier, France. In Fosh's big drive, Smith's company took part in the battle of Chateau-Thierry, and then Sessions, where he was listed as missing in action for 9 months before Congressman Royal C. Johnson assisted the Red Cross' efforts to determine his



Sidney Laurence Smith

fate. Smith's status was changed from MIA and a telegram was sent to his family from the adjutant general's office at Washington, DC, it reads as follows:

*"Pvt. Sidney L. Smith, Infantry previously reported severely wounded in action between July 18 and July 24, now reported Killed in action July 20." [1918]*

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## **Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion**

**For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;**
- to maintain law and order;**
- to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;**
- to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;**
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;**
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;**
- to make right the master of might;**
- to promote peace and good will on earth;**
- to safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;**
- to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.**

## **Thanks/Acknowledgments**

**Sincere thanks is given to all of the following for all their help in providing the information used to in this yearbook:**

**Charemon Dunham, Historian for the Department of South Dakota, for the information on the national and state organization's histories.**

**The Alexander Mitchell Library and the Dakota Prairie Museum, in Aberdeen, SD, for the information on Aberdeen's origins and military history.**

**The-roundup, Honolulu, Hi (<http://www.the-roundup.com>), for all their information on Sidney L Smith in their family genealogy.**

**The Aberdeen American News, Aberdeen, SD, for their coverage of post activities and events throughout the year.**

**All members of Post 24 who contributed photographs for use in this compilation.**

# Sidney L Smith

post #24 of

## The American



## Legion

# The Year that was 2006

by Charles D. Strom, Historian

# Chapter One: Roster of Post Officers



2006 Post Commander - Al Sebert



First Vice Commander - Sam Olson



Second Vice Commander - Steve Nemmers



Chaplain - Greg Vande Kamp



Adjutant - Gene Schumacher



Finance - Rich Kezar



Sergeant at Arms - Curt Mislitz



Assistant Sergeant at Arms - Sid Beckler



Historian - Dale Strom



Service - Tom Gohn

## Chapter Two: Post Committee Chairs



Americanism - Dale Strom



Athletics - Tom Perrizo



Employment - Garry Warne



Children and Youth - Paula Beckler

## Chapter Three: Post Chronicle

Commander Al Sebert and the 2006 officers for post #24 started their term on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, when they were duly elected by the members of the Sidney L Smith post, convened in regular session at the VFW building, 821 Circle Drive, Aberdeen, SD. The complete slate of officers, are as follows:

<u>2006 Post Officers</u>	
Commander .....	Al Sebert
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice .....	Sam Olson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice .....	Steve Nemmers
Finance .....	Rich Kezar
Chaplin .....	Greg Vande Kamp
Sergeant @ Arms .....	Curt Mislitz
Asst sgt@Arms .....	Sid Beckler
Historian .....	Dale Strom
Employment .....	Gary Warne
Athletic .....	Tom Perrizo
Americanism .....	Dale Strom
Service .....	Tom Gohn
Children and Youth .....	Paula Beckler
Adjutant* .....	Gene Schumacher

\* Adjutant Schumacher was appointed by the commander and approved by the floor in the May regular meeting.

In a shift from recent years, the election process for the 2006 post officers featured several nominations off the floor;

Commander: A floor nomination for Al Sebert started of the election process and pitted him against nominations committee candidate Dick Adams. In a close vote, Sebert edged out the win.

First Vice: Another floor nomination ran Sam Olsen against committee candidate Paula Beckler, and another hand vote was taken, with Olsen getting the nod.

Second Vice: Committee choice Steve Nemers ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Finance Officer: Committee choice Rich Kezar ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Service Officer: Committee choice Greg Vande Kamp was opposed by a floor nomination for Tom Gohin, who won the election.

Sergeant at Arms: Committee choice Curt Mislitz ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Assistant Sgt at Arms: Committee choice Sid Beckler ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Chaplain: Committee choice Greg Vande Kamp ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Historian: Committee choice Dale Strom ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Employment Committee Chair: Committee choice Gary Warne ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Athletic Committee Chair: Committee choice Tom Perrizo ran unopposed and was selected by unanimous ballot.

Americanism Committee Chair: Committee choice Al Sebert withdrew after being elected commander, a floor nomination for Dale Strom resulted in a unanimous ballot.

Children & Youth Chair: A floor nomination for Paula Beckler resulted in a unanimous ballot.

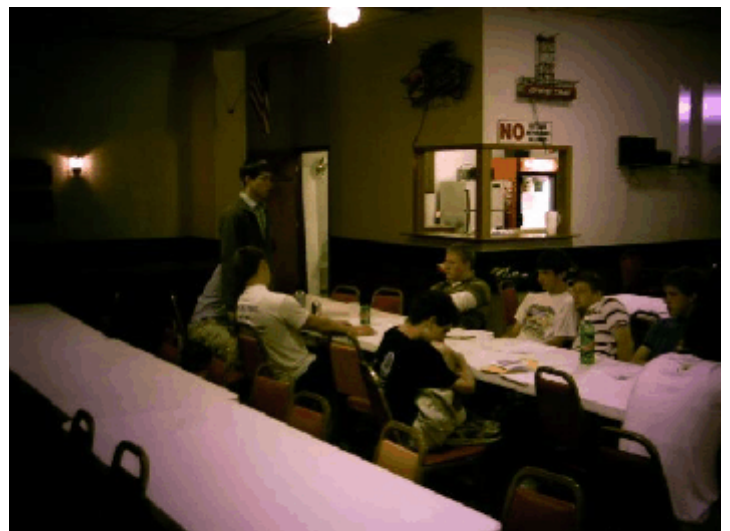
Even with a relatively minor turnover in the officer ranks, the “old guard” were still important to getting ready for the start of the new legion year as May is always one of the busiest months for the post.



**Sunshine scribes from 2005 Boys State were on hand for the 2006 attendees to view at the orientation.**

May 7<sup>th</sup> was the local orientation for the students selected to attend Boys State from all three Aberdeen schools. This was only the second year that the post has conducted the optional session, but it was well attended with eleven of the sixteen selectees participating.

Taylor Ford, a 2005 Boys State participant, spoke on his experiences and added to the information provided by Americanism officer Strom. Only one parent (Gary Marx) was present this year, but he was glad that the session was held, and said he'd found it informative and helpful.



**2005 Boys State attendee Tyler Ford speaks at orientation**

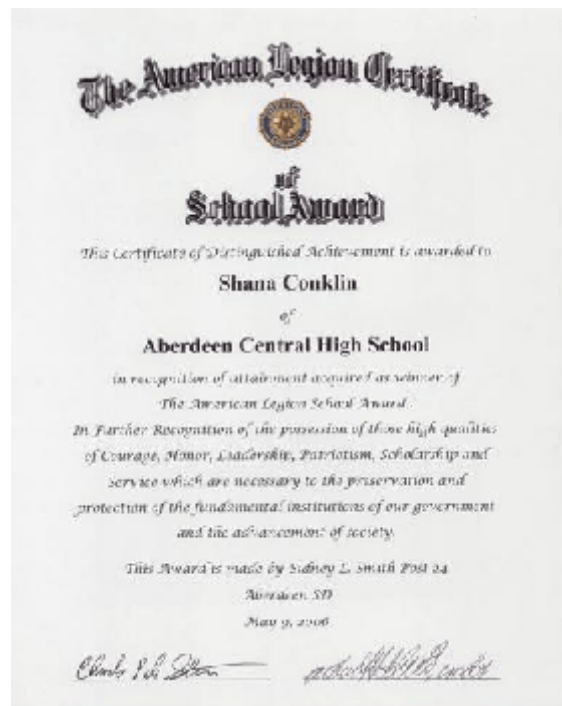
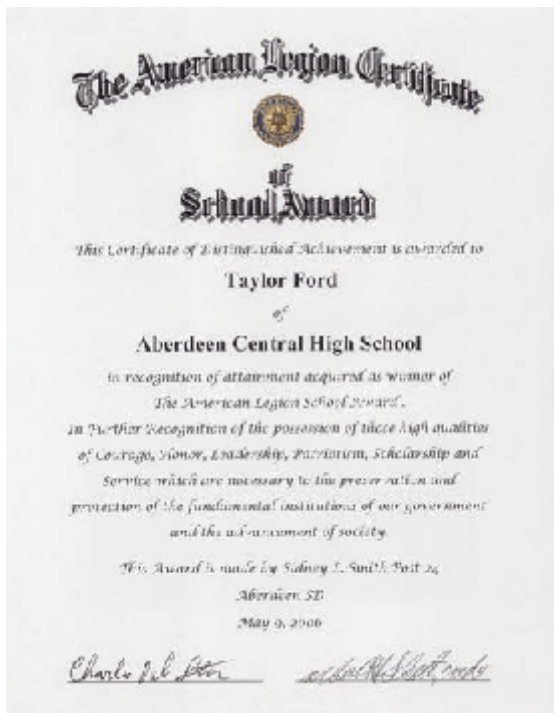
A few days after orientation, on Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, was the presentation of citizenship medals to two students from Aberdeen Central High School, *Shana Conklin* and *Taylor Ford*, along with



Awards table at Aberdeen Central High's 2006 awards night

recognition of the twelve Central High selectees for Boys State in 2006, *Eric Aas, Sean Crawford, Andrew Hanson, Matthew Itterman, Steven Jacobson, Jamie Link, Trevor Lundberg, Andrew Mach* (journalism city), *Nathan Marx, Sam Merkel, Lee Pederson, and Spencer Werth.*

Americanism officer Strom presented both sets of awards on behalf of the post.



One week later, Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>, the same awards were presented for Aberdeen Roncalli students. Chaplain Vande Kamp awarded the two citizenship medals to *Susan Stoebner* and *Adam Bledsoe*. Americanism officer Strom presented certificates to the three Boys State attendees from RHS in 2006; *Tony Bock*, *Sean Solberg*, and *Jordan Weber*.

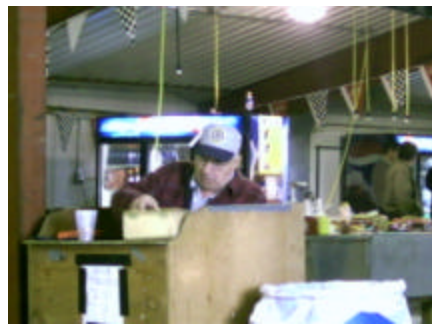


**Chaplain Vande Kamp with the Aberdeen Roncalli citizenship award winners**



**Americanism Officer Strom presenting Boys State certificates at RHS**

Between the two high school awards nights was the first weekend of horse racing for the 2006 season. Second Vice, and activities chairman, Steve Nemmers had started calling up volunteers a few days after taking office, and had fourteen members ready for the first two days of the event.



**Ed Lambert sets up the ticket booth for the first day of races in 2006**



**Larry Nupen, Al Sebert, and Vern Bunsness in the club house at the horse races opening weekend.**



**Ed Lambert, Vern Bunsness, Kenny Stuart, Gene Schumacher, and Steve Nemmers (left to right) at the Program booth for horse races.**

The Post's role once again was to sell beer concessions and programs under the grandstand, and beer, pop, and programs in the clubhouse. This standing arrangement with the NAHRA

(Northeast Area Horse Racing Association), along with the sale of advertising for the programs, is one of the posts three major



**The “paycheck” for volunteers at the horse races**

fund raisers each year. It is somewhat labor intensive (averaging almost 600 man hours, including the sale of ads), but most of the time is spent just talking with the customers, sharing stories, and “maintaining quality control” of the product. It is also one of the very few

jobs where the Post members can claim they literally work for peanuts, as the NAHRA once again provided a thirty-five pound box of salted-in-the-shell peanuts for both the grandstand and clubhouse volunteers to snack on while they worked.

The weather was as cool as we’ve come to expect for horse racing that first weekend, but at least the rains held off this year and a full slate of nine races were run each day.

After a week of high 70's and clear skies, the race workers were



**Ken Stuart prepares to work the ticket box before the races on the second weekend. Also shown is Ed Lambert.**

looking forward to a brisk second weekend, only to have it cloud over mere hours before the first race. With temps down in the upper forties and steady winds, the crowds were much lower than anticipated both days. Still the crews were there both days, ready for what business did come in.



**Tom Perrizo, Gene Schumacher, and Glen Miller insert the tip sheets into the program books prior to the first race.**

The last weekend, was, as it always seems to be, the busiest.

Sandwiched between the work done on the Memorial Day program, and with



**Americanism Officer Strom and Commander Sebert retire the American Flag after one of the days at horse races.**

many of the post's members taking part in that important program during the morning of the last day of the races, it never fails this weekend is also the most crowded at the races as well. When all was said and

done after the weekend, however, the fund raiser was a success

once again.

As an added bonus, a “tip jar” set up under the grandstand pulled in an extra \$84 during the event, and the workers agreed that the best use for it was as a donation to the VA clinic in Aberdeen. As they do not take cash donations, the money was used to purchase coffee, juice boxes, crackers, and cookies for the waiting room. Two separate sets of these items were



**Second Vice Steve Nemmers and Commander Al Sebert present a box of snack foods to Leonard Severson, director of the Community Based Outreach Clinic of the VA in Aberdeen. The snacks were the first of two donations purchased with tips collected by workers at the horse races.**

8:45 AM - Order of Services at St. Mary's Cemetery

Master of Ceremonies ..... Al Walman, Commander VFW Post #17

ROLL CALL OF THE DEAD: Read by Al Walman, Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 World War 1 - 57 dead; World War 2 - 171 dead; Korean War - 38 dead;  
 Vietnam War - 14 dead; Peacetime - 6 dead; Desert storm - 1 dead  
 Total of 267 deceased Veterans buried in St. Mary's Cemetery

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED VETERANS: Father Gregory Tschakert  
 St. Mary's Church

FIRING SQUAD - Salute to the deceased

TAPS.....John Nelson

9:15 AM - Order of Services at Sacred Heart Cemetery

Master of Ceremonies ..... Al Walman, Commander VFW Post #17

ROLL CALL OF THE DEAD: Read by Al Walman, Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Spanish War - 2 dead; Civil War - 8 dead; World War 1 - 98 dead;  
 World War 2 - 120 dead; Korean War - 21 dead; Vietnam War - 11 dead;  
 Peacetime - 3 dead; Desert Storm - 1 dead  
 Total of 264 deceased Veterans buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED VETERANS: Father Edward Pierce  
 Sacred Heart Church

FIRING SQUAD - Salute to the deceased

TAPS.....John Nelson

purchased, one set right after the races that was delivered in June, and another set that was dropped off in September.

## MEMORIAL DAY RIVERSIDE CEMETERY PROGRAM

Monday, May 29, 2006  
8:00 AM

The program arrangements, coffee and donuts, entiers and color guard, taps, firing squad are furnished through the volunteer services of the members of The American Legion and The VFW.

7:00 AM ..... Coffee and donuts at the VFW Club Building  
7:45 AM ..... Assemble at the VFW Club Building, 821 Circle Drive

### 8:00 AM Ouster of Service at Riverside Cemetery

Master of Ceremonies ..... Al Sebert, Commander, American Legion Sidney L. Smith Post #24  
Invocation by Chaplain Greg Vande Kamp, American Legion Sidney L. Smith Post #24

### ROLL CALL OF THE DEAD: Read by Al Sebert, Commander

The American Legion, Sidney L. Smith Post #24

Civil War - 98 dead; Indian War - 2 dead; Spanish War - 19 dead;

World War 1 - 442 dead; World War 2 - 449 dead; Korean War - 67 dead;

Vietnam War - 44 dead; Peacetime - 8 dead; Desert Storm - 1 dead.

Total of 1130 deceased Veterans buried in Riverside and Riverside Memorial Cemeteries.

### Deposit of wreaths at the Grand Army Monument:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Arlene Griffiths

The American Legion Auxiliary - Romaan Kennerling or Jackie Omland

Eagles Auxiliary - Debra Bode

Girl Scouts of The USA Troop #168 - George Tougal

Boy Scouts of America - Troop #51 - Allen Olsen

### FIRING SQUAD - Salute to the deceased

TAPS ..... John Nelson

## 2006 MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Sunset Memorial Gardens  
Monday, May 29, 2006 • 10:00 AM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES .....Richard Kezar  
ADVANCE OF COLORS .....Sidney L. Smith Post No. 24 American Legion Color Guard  
STAR SPANGLED BANNER .....Donna Misslitz  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE .....Girl Scouts of the USA Troop #168  
INVOCATION .....Pastor Richard Riedel - Plymouth Congregation United Church of Christ  
GENERAL LOGAN'S MEMORIAL DAY ORDER OF MAY 5, 1868 .....Dale Strom  
RECOGNITION OF FORMER POW'S Syd Mortenson, William (Bill) Fry, Richard Grandpre .....Richard Kezar  
RECOGNITION OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS .....Richard Kezar  
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER FOR ALL POW'S AND MIA'S

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

District 14 Commander of The American Legion .....Delano Heupel  
District 14 President of The American Legion Auxiliary .....June Malsom  
Commander of The American Legion Sidney L. Smith Post No. 24 .....Al Sebert  
President of The American Legion Auxiliary .....Romona Ketterling  
Commander of C.C. Croal Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 17 .....Al Waltman  
State Dept. Chaplin of Veteran of Foreign War Auxiliary .....Diane Hickenbotham  
District #6 Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary President .....Mary Pictz  
President of C.C. Croal Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary .....Arlene Griffiths  
Seam Squirrel of the Cooties .....Al Sebert  
Commander of The Disabled American Veterans .....Allan Ochsner  
President of The Eagles Auxiliary No. 632 .....Deb Ihde  
Dakota State Madam President of FOE .....Donna Misslitz  
Chef de Gare 40 et 8 Locale No. 146 .....Sam Olson  
Cabane No. 146 .....Marcella Lepp  
Girl Scouts of the USA Troop #168 .....George Toupal  
Sioux Council Boy Scouts of America Troop #51 .....Allen Olsen  
Knights of Columbus .....Ath Degree Honor Guard  
Interpreter for the Deaf .....Nancy Schlichenmayer  
ADDRESS OF THE DAY .....MAYOR MIKE LEVSEN

Patriotic Medley Somebody Bigger Than You & I - Battle Hyman of the Republic  
- America The Beautiful - God Bless America .....Donna Misslitz

### ROLL CALL OF THE DEAD: Read by Richard Kezar

World War 1 - 110 dead; World War 2 - 449 dead; Korean War - 156 dead; Vietnam War - 54 dead;  
Peacetime - 30 dead; Desert Storm - 4 dead; Iraq 2.

Total of 805 deceased Veterans buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens

### SALUTE - AMERICAN LEGION FIRING SQUAD

TAPS .....John Nelson  
Benediction .....Pastor Richard Riedel - Plymouth Congregation United Church of Christ  
Retiring of Colors .....Sidney L. Smith Post No. 24 AMERICAN Legion Color Guard

**Complimentary BBQ and Chips will be served in the Mausoleum Building after the program.  
Please bring your lawn chairs.**

### PROGRAM SPONSORED BY

The American Legion Sidney L. Smith Post No. 24  
The Veterans of Foreign Wars, C.C. Croal Post No. 17

**In case of inclement weather, the program will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars  
821 Circle Dr.**

As mentioned above, the last weekend of horse races is also Memorial Day weekend, so Post 24 was busy with other activities throughout the days surrounding it.

The Wednesday prior to Memorial Day the post, along with volunteers from a local Cub Scout group, went out to Riverside Cemetery and marked the graves of servicemen with miniature American Flags. In all, 1123 of our comrades in arms are interred between Riverside North, and Riverside South.



**Local Cub Scouts helped place flags at the sites of service members in Riverside Cemetery**

The flags were left until the Thursday after Memorial Day, when Legion members went out to collect them and store them again for the next year.

Riverside Cemetery is also the first site visited for Memorial



**Monument to the Grand Army of the Republic at Riverside Cemetery**

Day ceremonies, with a group gathered at 8:00 Monday morning at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial. After Chaplain Vande Kamp's invocation,



**Auxiliary president Jackie Ohmland and Commander Sebert at the Grand Army of the Republic monument.**



the roll call of each era was read by Commander Sebert, and wreaths were presented by area organizations (VFW Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary, Eagles Auxiliary, Girl Scout troop #168, and Boy Scout troop #51). The Sidney L Smith color guard then rendered the 21 gun salute, and John Nelson played *Taps*.



Roll Call, prayers, the salute, and *Taps* were also held at St Mary's Cemetery (8:45) and Sacred Heart (9:15), with Al Waltman, commander of the VFW in Aberdeen, as the MC. John Nelson and the Post Color Guard performed at all three services.



**Sidney L Smith firing squad (color guard) at Riverside South for the first program of Memorial Day, 2006**



**Color Guard marching Colors during opening ceremonies**



**Color Guard preparing for the main program at Sunset Memorial**



**Gary Warne (flag) and Larry Nupen (rifle) posting the Colors during the opening ceremonies at Sunset Memorial**



**Nancy Schlichenmayer (interpreter for the hearing disabled) and Rich Kezar (Master of Ceremonies and officer in Post #24) welcome guests**



**Girl Scout Troop 168 leading the Pledge of Allegiance**



**There was a nice crowd present for the main program held at Sunset Memorial**



**VFW Auxiliary prepares to place their wreath at the podium.**



**Knights of Columbus, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Honor Guard, approach to make their presentation.**

Then it was on to Sunset Memorial Gardens for the main Memorial Day program. Along with the full opening ceremony (advance of the Colors, national anthem, pledge of allegiance, and invocation), the reading of General Logan's orders, and the recognition of special guests, this program included the official roll call of service members from each era, Taps, and the 21 gun salute, as well as music, a moment of silence for POWs/MIAs, and keynote speaker, before the closing ceremony (Taps, benediction, and retiring of the Colors). The keynote speaker was Aberdeen Mayor, Mike Levson. The Firing Squad for Memorial Day consisted of:

- Commander - Gordon Campbell
- American Flag - Gary Warne
- Legion Flag - Curt Mislitz
- VFW Flag - Elton Herman
- SD Flag/rifle - Vern Bunsness
- Rifles - Paula Bekler, Ed Lambert, Larry Nupen, Larry Schaunaman, Ken Stuart, and Greg Vande Kamp.



**Keynote speaker, Mayer Mike Levsen of Aberdeen, at the podium with Nancy Schlichenmayer (signing for the hearing impaired) giving his address**





# Boys, Girls State begins Monday

Activities for boys in Aberdeen

By Erin Hendricks  
American News Writer

Starting Monday, high school juniors from across the state will put leadership skills into action at the 64th annual South Dakota Boys and Girls State.

Boys State is at Northern State University, while Girls State is at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. The program, which runs through June 3, includes activities ranging from student campaigns to visits from government dignitaries.

This year, the Sidney American Legion Post 24 will send 16 boys from Aberdeen to the event. A total of 470 boys will participate in the program and stay in NSU's dormitories.

The purpose of the program is to immerse high school students in a government-oriented environment. Upon arrival, students are divided into 22 cities and encouraged to run for different levels and positions of government.

"It's really funny when you see some of these boys campaign for office," said Gene Schumacher, a registrar for

Boys State and adjunct for the local legion post. "I watched one man maneuver last year and it was unbelievable."

The Aberdeen Legion sponsors all of the boys from Aberdeen. Those students are selected by their schools as worthy candidates before undergoing a review process from the Aberdeen Legion board, Schumacher said. Orientation officers from across the state also meet with Boys and Girls Staters to prepare them for upcoming workshops.

**Boys' schedule:** Students start their day around 7 a.m. After a daily flag ceremony, room inspection begins around 8:30 a.m. On Wednesday, the participants will assemble at 8:45 a.m. into county political units. At 11 a.m. they will gather into a general assembly before hearing from Brookings County Commissioner Don Larson and Brown County Commissioner Deb Knecht. Wednesday will also include a campaign ethics session from state Treasurer Vern Larson.

Several other high-profile politicians are scheduled to visit the area high schoolers. Such figures include Gov.

See VISITORS, Page 4B

Memorial Day is also the first day of Boys State in South Dakota. This event, held on the campus of NSU here in Aberdeen attracts some of the best and brightest high school boys (between their Junior and Senior years) from across the state and provides them an intense week of study in the field of civics and government.

The Post's direct role in this event was fulfilled when our list of attending students

## Visitors: Politicians scheduled to make appearance

Continued from Page 1B

Mike Rounds, State Supreme Justice David Gilbertson and possibly Senators John Thune, R.S.D., and Tim Johnson, D.S.D., Schumacher said. Gov. Rounds will address students Friday at 5:30 p.m. The National Commander for the American Legion is speaking Thursday at 8:45 p.m.

**Newspaper experience:** In addition to regular programs,

14 students will have the opportunity to participate in a daily newspaper called the *Sunshine Scribe* as part of Newspaper City. Reporters cover election results and run campaign ads as a mock-style professional publication. The activity is run by Pat Leary, owner of Harold's Printing in Brookings.

"We always try to put out a paper with less mistakes than the year before," Leary said.

Leary himself attended Boys State in 1952 while he was a junior at Mobridge High School. The experience provided an opportunity to witness the atmosphere of a

real news printing company firsthand.

"We went to a printing room where they put together different articles — that's an experience I've never forgotten," Leary said.

One of the biggest sections promoted by The *Sunshine Scribe* is its sports tournament coverage, he said. The students can compete in athletic events in order to release excess energy. Closing days at Boys State are usually dedicated to publishing a final eight-page tabloid including Friday's final results in the run for governor and lieutenant governor.

Working under the

constraint of compressed time schedules, the most common thing Leary hears from students at week's end is "I didn't think we could do it," he said.

Leary often leaves students with one piece of seasoned advice before they leave Boys State.

"One thing I tell them is if they stay in South Dakota, they're going to hear about some of these kids at Boys State (in the future)," he said. "They're going to be county commissioners, they're going to be in legislature, they're going to be mayors."

Clipping from Aberdeen American News (May 28<sup>th</sup> 2006, page 1B and 4B)

was submitted to Department Headquarters and the local orientation was held (see page 25), but post adjutant Gene Schumacher, who is also the registrar of Boys State, was on hand as the boys started arriving.



Thursday is Legionnaire Day at Boys State, where members from across the state are invited to attend and witness the activities that go on at this important event, which the Department of South Dakota has sponsored for 65 years. It is always a good day as those members who attend get to interact with some of the best and brightest of the State's youth, and see first hand how great this program really is.



In 2006, Legionnaire Day took on added significance as it also featured a visit by National Commander Thomas Bock, who paid visits to local posts while in Aberdeen, and also spoke with the Boys Staters while here.



**Legionnaires from across the state attended "Blue Cap" day at Boys State, which was highlighted by a visit with National Commander Thomas Bock**



**Larry Nupen and Commander Sebert listen to National Commander Bock's presentation to Legion members during his visit to Aberdeen**



**State Commander Phil Anderson and National Commander Bock both addressed Legionnaires during the National Commander's visit.**



**Gene Schumacher (left) and Larry Nupen (right) of Post #24 speak with the national commander during his visit to Aberdeen.**

## Boys State speaker lauds war on terrorism

*Says U.S. 'making progress' within Iraq*

**By Erin Hendricks**  
*American News Writer*

Thomas L. Bock wants to know why the mainstream media repeatedly portrays the war on terrorism as a failure.

The Vietnam veteran and national commander of the American Legion posed this question and many others to legionnaires at Northern State University in Aberdeen on Thursday afternoon.

"In Iraq there are 18 provinces, and 15 of those have two or less reportable incidences a day," said Bock, whose son served in Iraq for one year. "There are three or four hot spots the media focuses on. . . . We're not

losing in that war, we're making progress. It's not over, and we're not giving up."

Bock recently met with the city council members from Kirkut, Iraq, where officials thanked the United States and coalition forces for securing their freedom, he said. He promoted the U.S. military's success in establishing new schools, electric capabilities and water supplies across Iraq. A one-year term as national commander has led Bock across the world, from Okinawa to Bosnia to Guantanamo Bay and to the Oval Office. Flashing a trademark grin, Bock joked that he was

**See LEGION, Page 10A**



*American News Photo by John Davis*

**Discussing the issues:** American Legion National Commander Thomas Bock, center, talks to area Legion members during his visit to Boys State on Thursday in Aberdeen. Issues affecting veterans — including a recent data theft and health care — were among the topics he discussed.

**Clipping from Aberdeen American News June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006, page 1A (continuation on page 10A from the AAN is attached to next page)**

# Legion: South Dakota 41st state on big tour

Continued from Page 1A

trapped into becoming the national commander.

"I never dreamed of being national commander, but it kind of evolved as different opportunities arose. What a thrill," he said.

South Dakota marks Bock's 41st state on his nationwide tour, and his visit coincides with Boys State festivities this week. Boys State allows high school students to dabble in government campaign practices on a local and national level. The program, which takes place in states all across the country, is sponsored by the American Legion. In addition to a luncheon with legionnaires, Bock described his experiences as a national commander to Boys Staters on Thursday night at the Johnson Fine Arts Center.

**Praise for Boys State:** Before assuming his current position, Bock was heavily involved in Boys State in his home state of Colorado. He described the program as a workshop giving youngsters an opportunity to create one entirely new government from scratch.

"It's an experience of creating ... an unthreatening experiment where students learn by trial and error — what a great environment," he said. Later at the luncheon, he told Legion members, "You're touching young men's lives; you're changing them forever. It makes me proud to be associated with an organization that touches young men's lives."

Throughout his luncheon speech, Bock showed several angles of his personality. Sometimes he cracked jokes; other times he appeared agitated about society's treatment of veterans. As a defender of the largest wartime veterans' organization, which boasts 2.7 million men and women, Bock said he works to

implement policies, not set them.

**Data theft:** Recent major developments in veteran affairs includes the theft of data files containing information on 26.5 million veterans. This incident has ensured the American Legion works as a watchdog and advocate for veterans' rights, Bock said. He expressed confidence in the secretary of Veterans Affairs, the VA inspector general and the FBI's abilities to secure the lost information.

Bock is also working to develop funding for a health care system for veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"We want to make the VA a Medicare provider," Bock said. "We have the world's largest health care system and they don't know how much funding they have next year ... the budget and war is costing the country a lot of money — funding veterans is an extended cost of funding the war."

**Flag burning:** The American Legion hopes to pass a constitutional amendment making it illegal to burn the American flag — an act of desecration and disrespect, Bock said. Efforts to make that change have been 17 years in the making, and Bock believes the amendment is close to passing, Bock said.

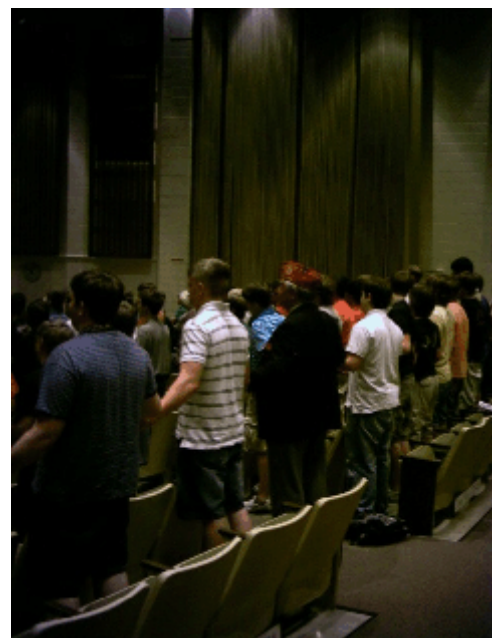
Maurice Reiner, the director of Boys State, said Bock's visit to NSU has made it a "very special year." That is because the national commander's busy schedule usually cuts into time allotted for guest appearances, he said.

"You can tell he has enthusiasm for the program," said Reiner, referring to Bock's past work at Boys State in Colorado.

Later, he added, "To have him visiting us is special and exciting."



National Commander Bock Speaks to 2006 Boys State assembly



Commander Bock Joined the audience in holding hands during *God Bless America*

Clipping from Aberdeen American News (June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006) page 10A -continuation of article shown in clipping on page 42 of scrapbook



**National Commander Bock speaks with Aberdeen Boys Stater Sean Crawford**



**(Left to right) Greg Vande Kamp, National Commander Bock, Post Commander Sebert, and Aberdeen Boys Stater Sean Crawford**



Clipping from Aberdeen American News (June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006) page 1A

**Boys State offices, Aberdeen attendees**

***Tony Bock:*** State Representative

***Sean Crawford:*** Federalist Party Chairman, Federalist Party Keynote Speaker, State Senator, City Mayor

***Matthew Itteman:*** PUC

***Jamie Link:*** State Senator

***Trever Lundberg:*** State Representative

***Sam Merkel:*** Governor, State Representative, County Treasurer, City Mayor

***Lee Pederson:*** State Representative, city Alderman

***Sean Solberg:*** City Alderman

***Jordan Weber:*** State Representative

***Spencer Werth:*** State Senator, city Alderman

# Smittys nab first wins of season

## American Legion Baseball

### Nightcap rally completes sweep against Milbank

By sports staff

Michael Babcock's single scored Spencer Locke with the winning run in the seventh inning as the Aberdeen Smittys downed Milbank 3-2, completing a sweep of an American Legion baseball doubleheader at Fossum Field on Thursday.

The Smittys won the first game 9-4.

Locke was hit by a pitch to start the seventh inning of game two, and advanced to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Lucas Jung. After Milbank recorded an out on a fly ball, Babcock delivered the game-winning hit.

The Smittys had five hits in the game, all singles.

Jordan Kline, who pitched the seventh inning in relief of Jung, drove in Aberdeen's other two runs. Jung pitched six innings, striking out nine and walking three.

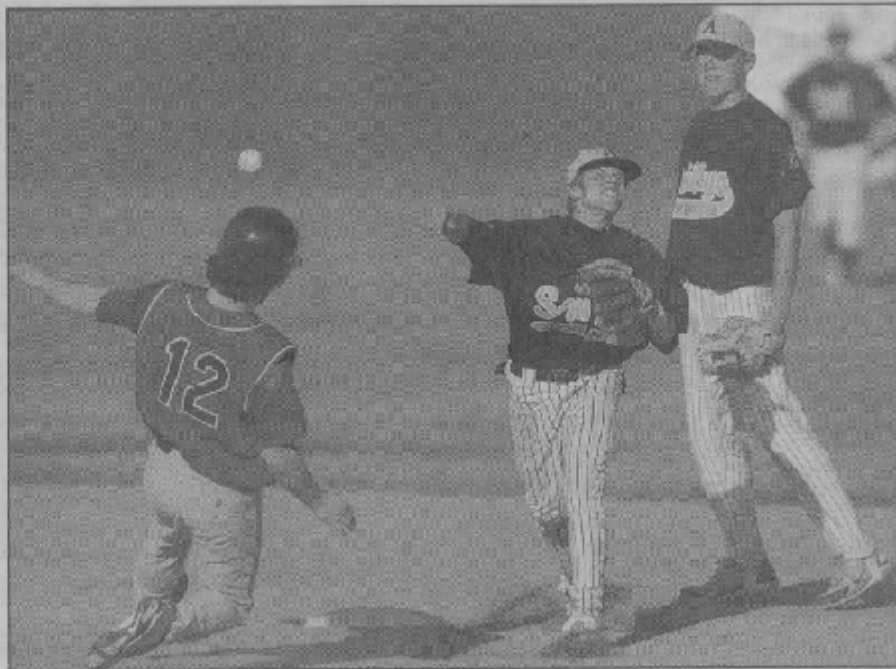
Milbank's Jeff Fish had two hits and Jeremy Hepper had a double.

A six-run fifth inning highlighted the Smittys win in game one. Justin Link contributed a two-run single during the inning. Jung and Babcock also drove in two runs each for Aberdeen, which overcame a two-run deficit.

Aaron Kappes and Jordan Foster each had two of Aberdeen's 11 hits in the opener, with a triple for Kappes. Fish had two hits for Milbank.

Coach Alex Ferguson said the wins were just what the Smittys needed.

"We got swept by Watertown (Wednesday) so it was good to get back on



American News Photos by John Davis

**Turning two:** Mike Babcock of the Aberdeen Smittys, center, throws to first base after getting the force out at second base on Milbank's Brent Martinson, left, during Thursday's first game. Babcock's throw to first was in time to turn the double play. Watching at right for the Smittys is Dan O'Keefe.

**"Different guys seemed to step up for us all night."**

**Coach Alex Ferguson**

and get two wins over a scrappy Milbank team," said Ferguson.

Ferguson added that the Smittys did well to battle hard against Fish, who pitched a complete game in the nightcap.

"Their pitcher kept us off balance but we got some timely hits and ran the bases really well," said Ferguson. "The feeling after the first game was good.

Different guys seemed to step up for us all night."

Starting pitching for Aberdeen was a positive as well, said Ferguson.

"Both pitchers gave us good games with six innings, that always helps," he said.

The wins evened the Smittys' record at 2-2. Aberdeen will have a few days off and be back in action Monday and Tuesday with back-to-back home doubleheaders. Jamestown, N.D., visits Fossum Field on Monday and Fargo Post 2 comes to town on Tuesday. Both nights are 5:30 p.m. starts.

Milbank	101 020	0-4	7 0
Aberdeen Smittys	101 061	x-9	11 3

Garrett Cook, Dan Amdahl (5) and Brent Martinson; Aaron Gellhaus, Sam Hentzman (7) and Justin Kline, 3B — Aberdeen, Aaron Kappes.

Milbank	000 010	1-2	7 2
Aberdeen Smittys	000 020	1-3	5 0

Jeff Fish and Martinson; Lucas Jung, Kline (7) and Kiro, Eric Carlisle, 2B — Milbank, Jeremy Hepper.



**Pitch to the plate:** Aaron Gellhaus delivers a pitch for the Smittys on Thursday against Milbank at Fossum Field. The Smittys are back in action with home doubleheaders against Jamestown on Monday and Fargo Post 2 on Tuesday.



June is also time for the Department Convention, and delegates from Post 24 packed up to head down to Brookings to take part in the meetings there. Resolutions were considered, and the course of the South Dakota Department of The American Legion through the last year and into the future was discussed. Delegates from Post #24 attending the 2007 Department Convention were:

Paula Beckler  
Sid Beckler  
Ed Lambert  
Larry Nupen  
Tom Perrizo  
Gene Schumacher  
Dale Strom  
Gary Warne

Also attending the convention from Aberdeen was our Law Enforcement Officer of the year, Daryl Van Dover, who was chosen for the same honor at the Department level.



**The Aberdeen Legion's 2006 Law Enforcement Officer of the year receives the same award from the Department of South Dakota at the 2007 Convention in Brookings.**



**Five of Post #24 delegates (left to right) Gary Warne, Gene Schumacher, Ed Lambert, Sid Beckler (back turned), and Tom Perrizo converse in the hall during the convention.**



**SD Senator John Thune was not able to address the convention in general session, so he spoke with delegates the day before the first session convened.**



**Three of Post #24's delegates listened to Senator Thune**



**Senator Tim Johnson was one of many speakers who addressed the assembly during the Department Convention**



**Representative Stephanie Herseth was also present to address the convention**



**Gary Warne presents his report on employment to the Department Convention in Brookings.**

In addition to the normal committees, banquets, and general sessions of the convention, Post delegates also participated in the “Legion Olympics”, a fund raiser for Special Olympics that was organized by Department Children and Youth chairwoman Sam Vaughn.



**Paula Beckler speaks with other delegates and DSO Warren Aas between sessions at the Convention**



**Post #24 team in the “Legion Olympics, (left to right) Paula Beckler, Tom Perrizo, Dale Strom, Gary Warne, Larry Nupen**



**Gene Schumacher also took part in the olympics, as a member of the Department’s team, and won a medal.**



The 2006 Central Plains Regional American Legion baseball tournament, came to Aberdeen in August. The team from Lawrence Kansas defeated South Dakota's own Rapid City, Post #22, team

# Bases loaded with volunteers

*Many people donate time, talent to help with Central Plains Regional Tournament*

By Erin Hendricks  
American News Writer

As plenty of baseball players head onto Fossum Field this weekend, Susan Ellingson of Aberdeen will be getting her own taste of the action — at nearby concession stands.

Ellingson, a volunteer concessions worker, said baseball is a summer pastime and family affair. So when major season events roll around, like this weekend's American Legion Baseball Central Plains Regional Tournament, she makes sure to take at least two days off from work.

"This is our vocation," she said.



Her oldest son, who is 24, used to play baseball. Her second oldest coaches the Aberdeen 13-14 A team and plays for Presentation College and her youngest plays with the 13-14 A team. Ellingson's husband will also do volunteer work throughout the weekend, she said.

Ellingson is one of many who volunteer their time throughout the summer at baseball facilities such as Fossum Field and North Softball Complex. A large majority of those volunteers are parents of children who play or have played on Aberdeen Smittys teams, said Barb Newman, the baseball concessions stand manager.

"Volunteers with the baseball organization is what makes this organization successful," said Newman, who began volunteering six years ago, when her son started



American News Photo by Dawn Dietrich-Siddi

**Here to help:** Aberdeen Central freshman Alison Kusler is one of the volunteers at the tournament. She was in charge of root beer floats Thursday, playing baseball.

Newman, an art teacher at Central High School during the off-season, now has a paid

**See TOURNEY, Page 7A**

**Inside**

*One member of the Aberdeen Smittys missed a few games while training with the S.D. National Guard.*

**Page 1D**

*Game coverage from the first day of the Central Plains Regional.*

**Page 1D, 4-5D**

*Photos from the first day's games.*

**Page 6D**

Clipping from Aberdeen American News, Aug 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, page 1A

## Tourney: Nearly 100 parents give their time during Smittys season

*Continued from Page 1A*

position as manager of concessions operations. With five Smittys teams and an average 18 players on each team, Newman said, at least 90 parents volunteer per season.

A significant number of additional outside volunteers pitch in as well, she said. An official tournament committee of parents, young baseball players and members of the Aberdeen Baseball Organization formed one year ago, said Todd Heintzman, president of the organization.

Heintzman noted volunteers are the backbone of that organization.

"We couldn't do it without volunteers because there are not enough people in the organization," he said. "There are 40 people involved with organizing the tournament in some shape or form."

From garbage collectors to decorating concessions, the scale of volunteer duties ranges far and wide. A grounds committee is in charge of watering baseball fields; one person is responsible for finding national anthem singers; other volunteers decorate banquets and spirit billboards for players' backyards. Newman said she once spent an entire summer as a bus driver for Smittys teams.

Newman's husband, Terry, spent Thursday afternoon as the official cook of Fossum Field. Using two large grills, the firemaster provided concession stands with a ready supply of burgers, brats and hot dogs.

"We keep 10 over there at a time," he said, gesturing to a nearby stand. "When they get down to four they start yelling at me."

Several feet away from Newman, Alison Kusler, 14, of Aberdeen was preparing root beer floats. She preserved sausages by wrapping them in tin foil and placing them in a large refrigerator for later use. Kusler said she first got interested in volunteer work through the Newmans — friends of her family — and that she enjoys the social dynamic of her work environment.

"I like seeing a bunch of people that I know and stuff like that, just being out here," she said.

At the front entrance to Fossum Field, Jan Schuchman and Brenda White joked and greeted visitors while collecting entrance fees. Both teachers at Lincoln Elementary School, the two referred to the baseball environment as their social life.

"You're going to baseball tournaments and that's your vacation," Schochenmaier said, "but it's fun, and it goes fast."

Aside from giving back to the organization, White added that volunteer work offers the advantage of being able to watch all of her son's performances.

"At least I know where he is ... until night time anyway," she said.

for the right to advance to the American Legion World Series in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Post #22 kept the series tight and forced a final game, but dropped that one 10 runs to 2.

Story Continued on page 7A of same issue



A few members of Post #24 traveled to the Department Commander's Homecoming in Virgil, SD on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. Those attending were Ed Lambert, Larry Nupen, Gene Schumacher, Dale Strom, and Greg Vande Kamp.



**Greg Vande Kamp (back to camera) and Larry Nupen (3<sup>rd</sup> from left facing camera) spoke with other Legionnaires at the Commander's homecoming**



**Gene Schumacher and Ed Lambert at the homecoming**

With the first Monday in September came the return of Monster Burgers. A great fund raiser and also a good PR program, Monster Burger Mondays draw a large crowd every week. With an average attendance of close to 250 people, the Legion Monster Burger is a crowd pleaser and a great source of income for the post. Of course, that income comes with a large price tag in man-power as at least 9 (a normal crew is actually 12) people are required just during the three hours of cooking and serving, and additional people are needed for the hours of preparation. Work normally starts just after noon to patty out the hundred and twenty pounds of hamburger, slice and butter the five inch buns, and prepare



**Gene Schumacher, Al Sebert, Tom Perrizo, and Vern Bunsness were part of the crew that made Monster Burgers successful.**



**Sid Beckler (fries), Gene Schumacher (burgers), and Ed Lambert (buns) ran the grills almost every week.**



**Roncalli High School football team at Monster Burgers after winning state title.**



**August (Augie) Braun took the orders most Mondays**

the onions, tomatoes, lettuce, pickles and condiments. The kitchen crews put in long hours to make the event a success, and they do it every Monday (except holidays) from the start of September until the end of April.

### **“The Crew”**

Gene Schumacher

Ed Lambert

Sid Beckler

Vern Bunsness

Al Sebert

August Braun

Rita Braun\*

Greg Vande Kamp

Larry Nupen

Gary Warne

Other members helped as needed, but these 10 people were present for almost every Monster Burger Night from Sept 2006 to April 2007.

\*Non-member

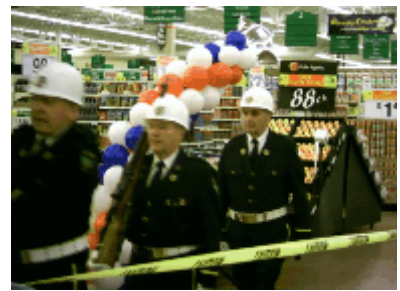
On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, the Sidney L Smith post #24 Color Guard was on hand at the grand opening of the new Wal-Mart Supercenter to present the Colors during the ceremony to officially open the store.



**Greg Vande Kamp and Gary Warne with the American flag**



**Vern Bunsness and Lary Nupen with the State flag, and commander Gordon Campbell**



**The Color Guard commander, Gordon Campbell (right) marches the unit out..**

This was just one example of the many events where Sidney L Smith's honor guard posted the Colors at civic events, helping to promote Americanism, while also keeping The American Legion in the public eye. Vern Bunsness is the contact point/organizer of the Color Guard, Gordon Campbell is the unit commander, and post members Paula Beckler, Bob Gilborne, Elton Herman, John Kippley, Ed Lambert, Curt Mislitz, Larry Nupen, Gene Schumacher, Larry Schaunaman, Al Sebert, Ken Stuart, Joel Traphagen, Greg Vande Kamp, Gary Warne, and

Bob Weishaar all contribute as needed.

The Fall District 14 convention was held in Eureka on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and several members from Post #24 made the short trip up to attend.

Steve Nemmers, Larry Nupen, Al Sebert, Gene Schumacher, Dale Strom, and Greg Vande Kamp were in attendance from Sidney L Smith to here presentations from the Department and District officers.



**Larry Nupen prior to the District 14 fall meeting**



**Gene Schumacher and Greg Vande Kamp waiting for the meeting to start.**



**Chaplain Vande Kamp speaks with DSO Warren Aas after the District meeting.**



**Steve Nemmers, Al Sebert, and Larry Nupen conversing after the District 14 fall meeting in Eureka**



**The post entry in the parade was identified with signs on each door.**



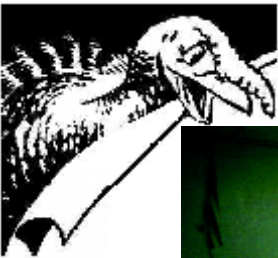
**Greg Vande Kamp, Al Seberty, and Steve Nemmers (left to right) along with the Post #24 entry in the Gypsy Day parade.**



**Second Vice Steve Nemers (middle) and Commander Al Seberty (right) chat with a member of the Aberdeen VFW while waiting for the parade to start.**

The morning after the District 14 Fall Conference (Saturday, Sep 30<sup>th</sup>) was the Gypsy Day parade in Aberdeen. Gypsy Day is Homecoming for Northern State University, one of the two colleges in Aberdeen (and also the site of Boys State), and Sidney L Smith once again entered a vehicle with the Post Commander riding in it.

In addition to Commander Seberty and Second Vice Steve Nemmers (driver), Greg Vande Kamp and Dale Strom walked beside the vehicle for the parade route and tosses out candy to the kids along the way. All four members wore their Blue Legion caps, and this event is just one more small way of keeping the post's name in the minds of area residents.



## “Turkey Shoot”



**Curt Mislitz, Gary Warne, Al Sebert, and Larry Nupen where part of the crew on hand to set up for the Charity Night**

October is always the time for one of the posts three biggest fund raisers, the annual Charity Night, or “Turkey Shoot”. Held the night before the opening of Pheasant hunting in the state (Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> this year), the event always draws a good crowd of locals, along with some out-of-state hunters.



**The Calm Before the Storm**



The night of fun and games, with prizes ranging from candy bars to the 10 pound turkeys that give the event it’s common nickname, requires more members to help out then any other single event on the post calendar, but is well worth the effort as it remains a popular attraction to draw the general public out to the post, and is also one of the Post’s large fund raisers (as mentioned above).



**The storm itself - a view of the crowd at the annual charity night**



## Workers for charity night were:

**Prize purchasing and Advertising** - Rich Kezar, Ed Lambert, and Gene Schumacher.

**Finance** - Charles Gugle and Rich Kezar.

**Door Prizes** - Curt Mislitz and Glen Miller

**Big 10 Wheel** - August Braun, Larry Lightenberg, Sean Nelson\*, Jim Reecy, and Leonard Wrangler

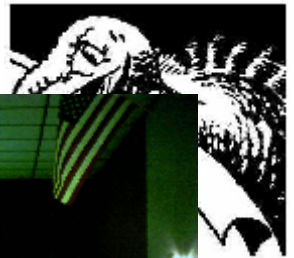
**Horse Races** - Paula Beckler, Sid Beckler, and Jim Rieck

**Chuck-O-Luck** - Rod Barr, Lloyd Just, and Steve Nemmers

**Showdown** - Don Craft, Marv Kopecky, Don Lout, Jim Schock, and Dennis Serling

**Bingo** - Travis Brist, Conald Burgard, Steve Craig, Sanro Fink, Dennis Kaup, Larry Nupen, Al Sebert, John Shaner, Dale Strom, and Gary Warne

**Paddle (turkey) Wheel** - Darrel Ausborn, Jerry Biegler, Vern Bunsness, Ed Lambert, CJ Nesseim, Paul Norton, Sam Olson, Jerry Rau, Earl Schultz, Dale Strom, Greg



Rich Kezar (left) kept track of the bank for the charity night, also pictured is Ed Lambert.



Steve Nemmers works the Chuck-O-Luck wheel.



Larry Nupen was one of the callers for Bingo.





Larry Lightenberg and Lenard Wrangler work the 10# wheel

Vande Kamp and Dan Zinter.

November saw another rise in Post activity, starting with the Veterans Day Program at Aberdeen Central High School.

The program was held early again in 2006 as Veteran's Day was on a Saturday and the high school was closed for conferences that Friday. In an concession made to assure that students would be able to attend the program,

the Aberdeen VFW, primary organizers of the event, agreed to host the main program on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November at the high school, and then have a smaller ceremony at their post home on Veteran's Day itself.

 <b>Veterans Day Program</b> <b>November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006</b> <b>10:00 A.M.</b> <b>Aberdeen Central High School</b> 	
Master of Ceremonies.....	Earl Schultz
<small>(Please stand and salute)</small>	
Advance of the Colors.....	American Legion Color Guard
National Anthem.....	Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary Chorus
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Sarah George
Invocation.....	Plymouth Congregational Church..... Pastor Richard Riedel
Musical Selections.....	Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary Chorus
<small>(Directed by Susan Appl, Peggy Bunsness, Mary Marion, and Joell Rachel)</small>	
Recognition of POW's and MIA's.....	Earl Schultz
<small>(Moment of Silent Prayer for all POW/MIA's &amp; Service Members Overseas)</small>	
Recognition of Gold Star Parents.....	Earl Schultz
<b>Introduction of Organizations</b>	
<small>(Please hold your applause until all have been introduced)</small>	
Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #17.....	Al Waitman
President, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #17 Aux.....	Arlene Griffiths
Commander, VFW Cooties Pup Tents #14.....	Al Sebert
Commander, American Legion Post #24.....	Al Sebert
President, American Legion Post #24 Auxiliary.....	Ramona Ketterling
Chef De Gare Locale #146 40et8.....	Sam Olson
President, Cabane Locale #146.....	Marcella Ann Lepp
Commander, Disabled American Veterans.....	Allan Ochsner
Commandant, USMC League, Det. #B52.....	Ron Angerhofer
Jr. Vice President, VFW Dept. of S. Dak. Aux.....	Diane Hickenbotham
American Legion County Commander.....	Dale Strom
Armed Forces Salute.....	Aberdeen Central Symphonic Band <small>(Under the direction of Jerome Letcher)</small>
Address of the Day.....	The Honorable Senator John Thune
God Bless America.....	Aberdeen Central Symphonic Band
<small>(Audience Participation)</small>	
Announcements.....	Earl Schultz
Benediction.....	Please Stand..... "Uncover"..... Pastor Richard Riedel
Retiring of the Colors.....	American Legion/VFW Guard
<b>THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS PROGRAM</b>	

**Program Guide for the 2006 Veteran's Day Program held at Aberdeen Central High.**

The day before Veteran's Day is also the traditional date of the Post's annual Early Bird feed, coordinated by the First Vice (membership chairman) - Sam Olson. The event features a free supper for all members who had their 2007 membership paid prior to 6:00PM on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Part of the membership team was on hand to collect dues for those members wishing to get in before the deadline.

The meal was very well received again this year with just over 200 members attending. Oyster stew is a big part of the tradition, and fried chicken was also available; along with potatoes, corn, and a dinner roll. There was also



**Gary Warne, Larry Nupen, and Ed Lambert (left to right at table) collect membership and hand out cards at the Early Bird dinner.**



**Members went through the food line and were served by staff of the Airport Café, who catered the**



**The early bird is the largest gathering of Post members each year, with roughly 1/4 of the post attending.**



cake for desert.



**One phase of Government Day was a tour through the Dakota Prairie Museum.**

Brown County Government Day was held for the second time in the calendar year of 2006 on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. After the program was held in April, many of the area schools who had participated expressed a desire to move the event to fall so a second Government Day was held and November set as the new date for the event in the future.



**Judge Flemmer took time to address two groups of students for government day. Each group represented 1/2 the students and lasted for 30 minutes.**

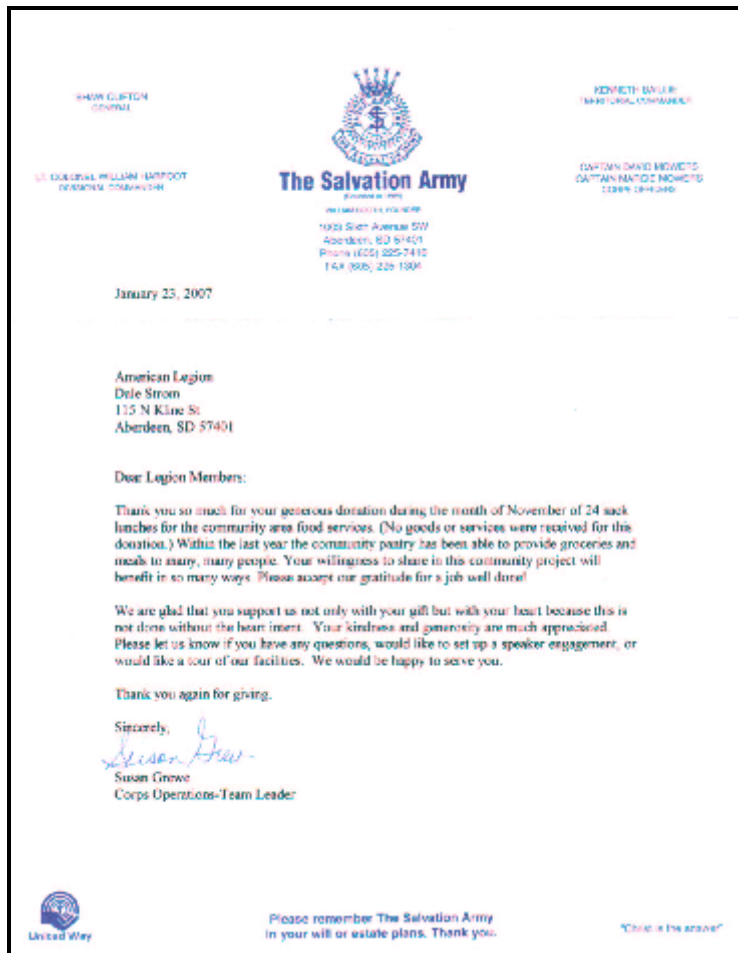
Government Day activities included tours of the Brown County Jail, Brown County Juvenile Detention Center, Dakota Prairie Museum, and the four main offices for the county; Register of Deeds, Equalization, Treasurer, and Auditor. Each group also got to sit in for



**One of the two large groups waiting to visit with Judge Flemmer. Helping to chaperone this group were Steve Nemmers (far right) and Greg Vande Kamp (left of door)**

part of the County Commissioner's meeting, and the 7 smaller groups were merged into two larger ones who each had a chance to spend ½ hour with Judge Flemmer of the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court.

As the "hosting" post, as well as the post with the largest delegation of students for the event, Sidney L Smith again provided the sack lunches. Other posts were asked for reimbursement for their students, but Aberdeen picked up the tab for the County Commissioners and other guests. The extra lunches that had been ordered were then donated to the Aberdeen branch of the Salvation Army.





**Greg Vande Kamp and Larry Nupen look up members who have not paid their 2007 dues.**

One week after the Early Bird Dinner (see page 61), which is normally the last large influx of membership, the post membership committee got together to conduct a “calling party” to contact members who had not yet renewed their dues for 2007.



**Ed Lambert calls members identified by Nupen and Vande Kamp to see if they would like to renew their membership for 2007.**

They got together on Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November to get a last jump on membership before the holiday season. Unpaid members were identified and called, if they were home and wished to pay their dues, runners were available to drive to their house and collect them.



**Al Sebert was also working the phones, and Adjutant Schumacher was on hand to fill out membership cards as renewals came in.**

In February DSO Warren Aas came to Aberdeen to conduct an orientation session with the Army Reserve 452 Ordinance Co at the armory. The briefing was initiated by Post #24 to help the unit adjust to life back from Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq. Beyond the initial planning, however, the bulk of the work was done by the Department Service Officer. It featured speakers from the VA Education and VA Medical departments to answer questions these new veterans might have about their benefits and what steps they should take to secure their rights in the future.



**Members of the 452<sup>nd</sup> Army Reserve listened to a briefing on VA benefits**



**DSO Warren Aas conducted the briefing with help from members of the SD Veterans affairs office.**



**Kevin Reiter, in Air Force dress uniform, played *Taps* (with the automated bugle) during the ceremony. Behind him can be seen the poppy studded crosses.**

In addition to looking after our new comrades, February was also a time to remember fallen comrades from the past as the Post held their 51<sup>st</sup> annual “Past Commander’s Night and Memorial Service”. The event, held in lieu of the regular February meeting, recognizes all past Post Commanders, including a meal for those who can make it, and a memorial service. This service honors all of the Post’s deceased past commanders, as well as all members who have transferred to Post Everlasting

in the prior 12 months. As the roll call of these members is read, those past post commanders in attendance at the memorial, rise and place a paper poppy with the name of the deceased onto a white cross. When the memorial is finished, family are given the opportunity to take the poppy with their member’s name on



**Post Commander Sebert (left) presents Gary Warne with a Special Recognition award. Also present are Paula Beckler, president of the past commander’s association, and Department Commander Gunner Baatrup.**

Two new additions were made to the program this year. The first was a camera attached to an overhead projector to allow family members, as well as others in the audience, to see the poppies being placed into the crosses, and the second was a POW/MIA ceremony.

It has become something of a tradition for commanders and guests at the meal to be assessed fines for various infractions, the President and the secretary of the Past Commanders decided that this year the fines would be used to provide more donations of coffee, juice, and cookies to the Aberdeen CBOC.



**One of many traditions at Past Commanders Night is to present the attending Department Commander with the flag set that was used during the ceremony. Post Commander Sebert (left) and president of the past commanders Paula Beckler (right) are show here presenting the flags to Commander Baatrup**

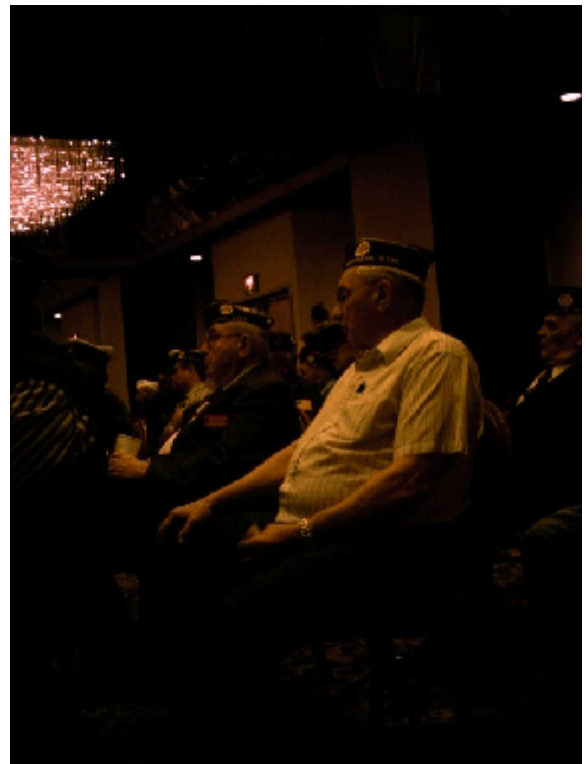


**First of two donations made to the Aberdeen CBOC with funds raised at the Past Commanders Dinner.**

February came to a close with Post delegates attending the Mid-Winter Conference in Huron on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. After a relatively mild winter, the first blizzard hit during this weekend but four members of Post #24, Ed Lambert, Gene Schumacher, Dale Strom, and Gary Warne, still attended the event.



**Gene Schumacher, as registrar of Boys State, gave a report at the midwinter convention.**



**Ed Lambert, one of four members of Sidney L Smith who attended the midwinter.**



DATE

Dear **Boys State applicant**

I have received your application to attend the 2007 session of South Dakota Boys State as a representative of **Your High School**. As the Americanism chairman for the Aberdeen post of The American Legion, I want to thank you for your interest in the program.

The next step in the selection process is a personal interview with the Boys State selection committee. The interview itself will take approximately 20 minutes, and there is a short questionnaire to be filled out prior to interviewing that will take from 20 to 30 minutes as well. Interviews will be conducted on the 4th and 11th of March (both Sundays) and will be slotted every half hour between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Each slot will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you have a preference of date or time, please contact me immediately to reserve your slot.

The interview is a required part of the selection process, and all applicants must attend. If you have a legitimate reason to be unable to interview on either of these two days, but still interested in attending Boys State, please inform me and I will try to arrange for another time. Note, however, that the Committee reserves the sole right to determine what is or isn't a legitimate reason to reschedule.

The interviews will be held at the VFW building (821 Circle Drive, Auto Plaza) in Aberdeen. If you need instructions on how to get there, please be sure to ask.

Each slot will be reserved for the start of the actual interview, so please keep in mind the time needed to fill out the questionnaire. If you select the 4:00 slot, you should plan to arrive no later than 3:30 (and plan to be there until 4:30).

To schedule your interview, or if you have any questions, please contact at one of the following. If you leave a message to request a time, please provide alternates in case your primary choice is already taken:

Email (preferred): Dale\_Strom@yahoo.com

Mail: 115 North Kline, Aberdeen, SD 57401

Phone: (605) 216-3458

Thank you again for your interest,

Dale Strom,  
Americanism Officer

ps. Please remember that Boys State is May 28th to Jun 02, and if selected you will be expected to attend all days and not leave the campus of NSU.

March was a busy time for the Americanism Committee, Boys State Interviews were held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> for all applicants received from the three high schools. Each applicant had already filled out their essay on why they wanted to attend Boys State before the interviews were scheduled. They were also asked to fill out a short questionnaire, and two draw two random topics out of a hat and select one of them to write an essay on when they arrived for the interview. Each applicant then had a personal interview with the selection committee.



**Steve Nemmers (left) and Al Sebert, along with Dale Strom (not pictured), made up the committee that selected the Boys Staters for Aberdeen.**

The selection board this year consisted of Americanism Chair Dale Strom, Commander Al Sebert, and Second Vice Steve Nemmers, with support from Greg Vande Kamp and Kevin Reiter who handed out the questionnaires and kept track of the applicants for the committee.

Members on the committee again commented on the character of the students that apply for this prestigious program, and felt that Aberdeen would again be well represented at Boys State this year.

The American Legion Boys State program was started in Illinois in 1935 and is primarily designed to help participants understand and appreciate the principles and workings of Government, at the national, state, county, and local levels. Along with this, however, is an implied emphasis on the values, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship. Applicants should have a firm understanding of these concepts already, and the selection committee requests that you fill out this short form to help us gauge your understanding and awareness of these areas.

1) Is the Constitution of the United States of America a Liberal document, or a Conservative one, and why?

2) What is the greatest benefit of living in this country?

3) Who is the Senior Senator from SD, and why do they have that title?

4) There are five (5) specific freedoms granted by the First Amendment, can you name all of them?

5) What do you see as the greatest threat to the country?

**Why do governments exist?**

**Write about the headline story in either today's or yesterday's Aberdeen American News, and how the subject of the story might directly affect you. ....**

**State how many laws are enumerated in the Bill of Rights, and describe one section of the document.**

**Constituents are the most powerful people in an elected government, who are they and what do they do?**

**What is the greatest benefit of living in this country?**

**There has been much talk recently about the TIF that was granted to the beef packing plant to be built south of Aberdeen. What is a TIF and why are they granted?**

**There were 4 Constitutional amendments and 7 initiated measures on the ballot in the 2006 general election. Pick one of these and describe what its goal was, whether or not you supported it, and why.**

**Why is our current President considered a "Lame Duck"?**

**There are four former US Presidents on Mt Rushmore, name all four in order of presidency and one reason why each was considered among our nations best**

**The US Constitution specifies a division of power to create checks and balances, name the branches of government it defined, and some of the checks/balances of each.**

**What are the three biggest problems (not threats) faced by the country or state or county or city?**

**Pick one of the three, how would you fix it?**

**What is your opinion on the government response to natural disasters?**

**What do you see as the greatest threat to the country?**

**What should the state do about the State Fair?**

**List of random questions that were available to be drawn at interview**



*American News Photos by Dawn Dietrich-Sohl*

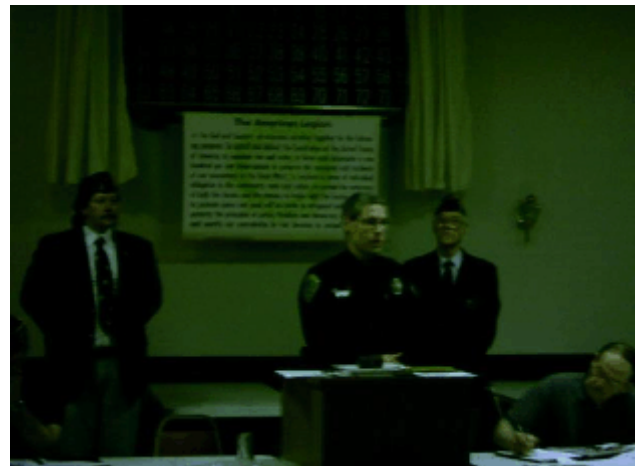
**Police officer, firefighter/EMT of the year**

In the photo at left, VFW Commander Al Sebert, left to right, presents Aberdeen police officer Keith Theroux with the police officer of the year award along with VFW Americanization officer Dale Strom. In the photo at right, Sebert, left to right, presents Aberdeen Rural Firefighter Kenton "Zook" Warrey with the firefighter/EMT of the year award along with Warrey's fire chief Derwin Kampa and Strom. The awards were presented Monday evening at the American Legion in Aberdeen.

**Clipping from Aberdeen American News, March 20th, 2007, page 5B ... we are not sure when the American Legion became the VFW (or what an "Americanization" officer is) but at least they had the names correct.**

The Americanism Committee also selected the Post's second annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and first annual Firefighter/EMT of the year.

Officer Keith Theroux of the Aberdeen Police department was selected as the LEO of the year. Requests for applicants had been sent out to the Aberdeen Police, Brown County Sherif, SD Highway Patrol, SD Department of Game Fish & Parks, US Marshall's office, and the Federal Bureau of



**Officer Theroux (center) addresses the March meeting of Post #24 after being awarded the plaque for Aberdeen Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - 2006**

Investigation in January and the committee looked at the received nominees from all responding organizations before selecting Officer Theroux.



**Americanism Officer Strom presents Captain Warrey with the Aberdeen American Legion FireFighter/EMT of the Year award for 2006**

Captain Kent “Zook” Warrey, of the Aberdeen Rural Fire Department, was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Fire Fighter/EMT of the Year award. Captain Warrey is a volunteer fireman, and has been with Aberdeen Rural for seven years. He is a family man and an asset to the community, and makes a great first recipient of this award.

Recognition of both men was made at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, with several guests present to see the presentation, and the Aberdeen American News ran a feature on both men (shown on next page) to help spread the word of the great job that has been done by both of them in the Aberdeen community.

**By Emily Arthur  
Aberdeen News Writer**

The new neighborhood watch signs look nearly perfect to Aberdeen Police Officer Keith Theroux.

Still, there's a slight worry — not with the signs, but with what could be done to them.

"These could be a target if we put them up where I want to," said the 35-year-old Theroux. "But we'll have to live with it. It's important that they're there."

The signs alerting the public that there are neighborhood watches present are needed, Theroux said. And so is the work that Theroux continues to do as an officer, Capt. Dawn McNeil of the Aberdeen Police Department said.

Not only does Theroux run the neighborhood watch programs in Aberdeen, he's also heavily involved with the DARE program, the South Mohr Cleanup project and National Night Out. In addition, he does security assessments around town, helps out for the schools and is certified in a number of areas. Theroux's involvement is also part of the reason he was recently named local police officer of the year by The American Legion. The Aberdeen Police Department nominated him after considering several quality candidates within the department, McNeil said.

"He's involved in so many

**Officer Keith Theroux of Aberdeen Police Department named local police officer of year**



*Aberdeen News Photo by Dawn McNeil*  
Involvement: Officer Keith Theroux, who is in charge of Aberdeen's neighborhood watch programs, checks out new signs Wednesday during his shift.

**In a nutshell**

- Aberdeen Police Officer Keith Theroux was named the local police officer of the year by the American Legion.
- Officials from the Aberdeen Police Department said Theroux received the honor because of his community involvement, dedication to the job and his professional life.

community things," he said. "All of these things take a tremendous amount of time, commitment and desire. It's really a positive thing for our community."

Theroux said he's just doing his job.

"Whenever the city sends me into different training programs, they're packed with new ideas and philosophies," he said. "I always get excited. When I see a new program, I can't wait to get people involved."

That's part of the reason he excels at his job, Aberdeen Police Chief

Don Langer Jr. said.

"He's doing an excellent job," Langer said. "The reasons he got the honor are because of his involvement in the community, his dedication to the job and his professionalism."

It's an honor that Theroux is happy to receive.

"It's a big deal," said Theroux, who has been a police officer for almost six years. "To me, it's an even bigger honor knowing that it comes from the American Legion. I have a great deal of respect for all of them."

**Honored by Legion**

**Capt. Kent Warrey of Aberdeen Rural Fire Department named firefighter/EMT of year**



*American News Photo by Gale Brown*  
Loves his work: Kent Warrey has a hard hook on his fire truck since college.

**By Emily Arthur  
Aberdeen News Writer**

When the fire call came in to the Aberdeen Rural Fire Department on Wednesday, Capt. Kent Warrey was sitting at the station.

"We were there training and we were just talking about what happens when the alarm sounds," said Warrey, who was one of the firefighters called to a fire near Richmond Lake. "It went off, and then it was six different jobs all at one time. You're nervous and you're excited, but it was also thinking about how I didn't get to say

goodbye to my wife and kids."

Warrey, 31, of Aberdeen has experienced the many emotions that come with being a firefighter. He's been volunteering at Aberdeen Rural since 2000, and recently, he was named local firefighter/emergency medical technician of the year by the Sidney J. South post of The American Legion. Warrey was first named firefighter of the year in his own department before winning the honor at the county level.

"For me, it's a big accomplishment, but it isn't just about a single person," said Warrey, who is originally from Michigan. "This is also an honor for the other 23 members of the fire

department."

Warrey first got involved with the firefighting world as a college student in St. Cloud, Minn., where he went through two firefighting programs and was hooked. He's also a certified emergency medical technician and will soon be working on becoming a paramedic. The married father of two hopes to make firefighting his career. Currently, he works full time at Twin City Park, works part time as an EMT for Aberdeen Ambulance and works part time as a bartender at the Zoo. All of that is in addition to volunteering as a firefighter with Aberdeen Rural.

"Being a firefighter has always been a childhood dream," said Warrey, whose friends and acquaintances know by the nickname "Zook." "I like being outside. I don't like to be stuck in an office somewhere."

He also enjoys the family-type atmosphere of the fire station.

"We adapt the family into the fire department," Warrey said. "It really is a brotherhood and sisterhood."

It is by his family as well. Warrey has a twin brother who is involved in law enforcement.

"He always used to give me crap about going into burning houses," Warrey said. "He couldn't understand how I did it."

Now, he can. Warrey's brother recently joined a fire department where he lives.

"He loves it," Warrey said. "Now, we both know how it feels."

**In a nutshell**

- Capt. Kent Warrey of the Aberdeen Rural Fire Department was named local firefighter/EMT of the year.
- Warrey has been with Aberdeen Rural since 2000.
- Although he's a volunteer now, Warrey said he'd like to make being a firefighter and EMT his career someday.

American Legion Post #24 Aberdeen SD Website


The American Legion Sidney L. Smith Post No. 24  
"For God and Country"

WELCOME to Aberdeen American Legion Post #24 Web Site. This department in the WEB media is almost too much for your Korean Era Commander. However, we hope to bring into our "Youthing" assistance the "New Era" Veterans who desire information on the American Legion, and especially as it pertains to Aberdeen's Post No. 24.


While I am new to the WEB World, I am not new to the need for Veterans Organizations. In my nearly 70 years belonging, I have seen the need to work both at the Local and National Levels to maintain or keep from losing educational and health related services to the people who have served our country. If we believe the promised benefits should always be there for Veterans, we need to put our money where our mouth is, and be ready to stand up and be counted. Otherwise, sit down and watch those services deteriorate.

Our Post is very active in Veterans and Youth activities throughout the year. We meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 8 P.M. You can become an active member and get to meet with your comrades or just become a member knowing your organization is working for YOU.

At Robert, Commander, Post #24



**Post #24 of The American Legion, located in Aberdeen, SD, is named in honor of**



**Pvt. Sidney L. Smith, Infantry**  
Killed in action July 20, 1918

March saw the Post's first foray into the World Wide Web when it was decided at the regular meeting to set up our own web page at *AberdeenLegion.org*. It is hoped that the page will provide a contact point for some of the younger potential members, as well as a place to advertise upcoming events and recent post activities.

April 16th, 2007 was the last meeting of the 2006 Post year, and ended with the election and swearing in of the 2007 officers. Before that, however, there were some presentations to be made (along with the regular post business).



Commander Sebert presented First Vice (and Membership chair) Sam Olson with the 2007 Post Go Getter plaque, awarded to the post for attaining at least 95% of goal by the Legion's birthday. The plaque stays with the post, but was presented to the membership chair at the meeting to recognize his work.



**Commander Sebert (right) congratulates membership chairman Olson for helping to lead the post to Go Getter status for 2007 memberships.**

A special presentation was also made to Dave xxxxxx for taking second place in the State Legion Bowling tournament held in Huron. Team captain Greg Vande Kamp awarded the



**Greg Vande Kamp (left) presents the bowling award to Dave.**



**Commander Sebert (right) presents Dale Strom with a certificate for Post Legionnaire of the Year.**

Kamp awarded the plaque to him.

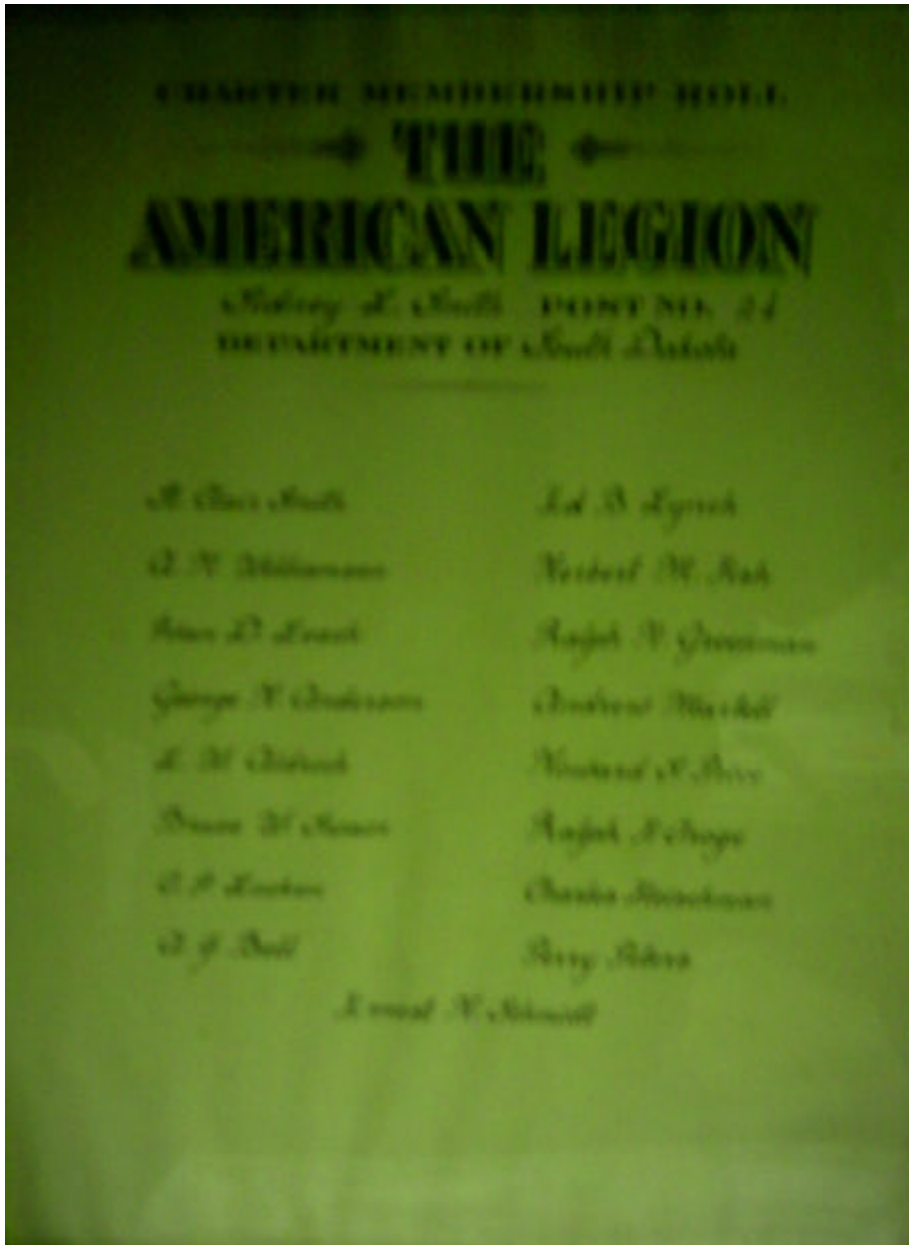
Also give out to Dale Strom was a certificate for being selected as the Post Legionnaire of the year for 2006.



**2007 officers are sworn in by adjutant Schumacher at the end of the April Meeting. Pictured are (left to right) Greg Vande Kamp (Sergeant at arms), Al Sebert (Chaplain), Steve Nemmers (Commander), Tom Perrizo (Second Vice), Dale Strom (Historian), Paula Beckler (Americanism), and Rich Kezar (Finance). Not shown, but present - Sam Olson (First Vice), and Sid Beckler (Assistant Sgt at Arms).**

# APPENDICES

## Charter Members



St Clair Smith  
A.N Williamson  
Jordan D Leach  
C J Locken  
A J Bell  
Ed B Lynch  
Herbert M Fish  
Ralph N Greenman  
Andrew Martell  
Howard J Price  
Ralph F Troge  
Charles Fleischman  
Perry Peters  
Ernest H Schmidt





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