

Company Clerks Report

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Volume 2018 Issue 2

Newsletter Date 15-Mar-

VFW C.C. Croal Post # 17 Aberdeen SD 57401

COMMANDER'S CORNER SEAN JOHNSON

This has been a busy time of the year for us during this time we have had Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, FF, EMT, Police of the Year. We also have had some Legislative bills that we supported. We had a good turnout at the Legislative Conference the biggest support went to the bills for the east side cemetery. This bill is doing well and should pass. I want to acknowledge my crew who has put in a great amount of work to accomplish what we needed to do to get all of our programs we support accomplished this year. We were proud to add kids day and we will be looking forward to more next year. We supported a veteran put in a door into his house that will accommodate his wheel chair, We have helped three homeless Veterans. We have done well during this time we have had Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, FF, EMT, Police of the Year. We did good at our membership but can always be better, we need Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans to become Active. We are the Veterans that are going to continue to make this group go. We are currently looking into possibility, feasibility of a building for all of the veterans organizations in Aberdeen. We will need the younger participation because we are the veterans that will use it in the future. We are starting a committee to help decide somethings veterans of all ages would like to see happen in a potential building. We have made sure all paperwork is in for State Judging second week in May. This next month we finish the news letter and we will also finish our yearly activity book.

Sincerely,



Sean Johnson

STATE'S INFO JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER SEAN JOHNSON

Greetings from the State Commander and the State Line Officers. I have had the privilege this year of running the membership committee. The State of South Dakota is doing well so far here are the post standings

Dist. 1

5 posts 100 % or above
2 posts at 97 % or above
5 Posts at 90 % or above

Dist. 4

2 posts at 100 %
3 posts above 97 %
6 posts above 90 %

Dist. 6

3 posts at 100 % or above
3 posts at 97 % or above
6 posts at 90 % or above

Dist. 7

4 posts at 100 % or above
2 posts at 97 % or above
3 posts at 90 5 or above

Dist. 10

6 posts at 100 % or above
2 posts at 97 % or above
3 posts at 90 % or above



We are still needing 204 members to be recruited to reach our goal of 100% this year. We would like all posts to work to achieve at least 90 % by mid to the end of March, so please keep working membership. Now is the time for your post to have membership drives!!!

Sincerely,

Sean Johnson

**ADJUTANT CLIFF NOTES
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS PATRIOTS PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY 2017**



The Veterans of Foreign Wars promotes Americanism in schools with essay contests for grades 6-8. Patriot's Pen (PP) and grades 9-12 for Voice of Democracy (VOD). Each year the National VFW has a different theme that the students are to write on. Post 17, in Aberdeen, has the surrounding schools of Fredrick, Groton, Ipswich, Leola, and Warner and all public and private schools in Aberdeen. Local prizes for the VOD \$200-1ST place, \$125-2nd place, and \$75-3rd place. PP is \$75-1st place, \$50-2nd place, \$25-3rd place. Once all essays are received they are turned over to local judges after personally

identifiable information is removed. The first place winners are sent forward to the District for judging and from the District to the State for judging. Once the winners of the State are announced at a ceremony they go forward to National. At National the Winner of the (PP) is awarded \$5000.00 and the (VOD) is awarded \$30,000.00 for scholarships. District and State levels have different prizes. This year VFW Post 17 received 36 Patriot's Pen essays from the schools of Aberdeen Holgate, Warner Public, and Leola Public We received 12 Voice of Democracy from Aberdeen Central, Leola Public, and Aberdeen Christian, We would

also like to commend those that submitted essays as it is apparent that they put much effort into the writing but also the content which reflects their Patriotic feelings of our Flag and Country. Lastly we would like to recognize also Kerry Konda, Traci Kappes, Abby Zens, and Shannon Northrop, who are the teachers from the schools that had student who submitted essays

Cliffs Out
Dennis Nelson Chair
Phyllis Donat Co Chair

This Year We had
A (PP)-5th at
State (VOD) 4th at
State and 2
Teachers 1st At
State Go Post 17
and Aberdeen!!!!!!

**ADJUTANT CLIFF NOTES
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS TEACHER OF YEAR 2017-2018**

There are three categories for Teacher of the Year in the VFW Competition. Elementary, Middle School, and High School teachers are considered and judged by their packet which includes resume', letters of support, and teaching in the classroom that encourage the student to learn about and study Americanism. They may also utilize the local Post 17 to come into the classroom and do what is called "Veterans in the Classroom" This can be planned in advance with the teacher on the subject, material,

show and tell and or Q&A. The local entries are generally determined in advance and once it is narrowed down it then is brought before the candidate to get his or her permission and the application is then put together. It goes from Aberdeen VFW to State VFW. Once the State has reviewed the applications, they determine the winner in each of the categories. During the legislative conference in Pierre, the State will have an awards banquet at which time the teachers who have won the state will be

honored and speak to nearly 200 state VFW members attending. This will also be the time that the state essay contest winners will also be honored. This years winners Elementary school level Heather Rowan and Middle school level Megan Wollman Both from Aberdeen!!!!

Keith Wilkinson Chair
Dennis Nelson Co Chair

CHAPLAINS BREAK JERRY MILLS



The office of Chaplain is one of the eleven elected offices of C.C. Croal Post No. 17 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Aberdeen South Dakota.

There are a number of duties and responsibilities the Post Chaplain is delegated with but the main ones are

1. In a non-sectarian way, be prepared to listen to fellow comrades/sisters and provide aid and spiritual comfort in times of stress, sickness, bereavement

- 2. Work with local Service Officer to aid members and families in their time of need
- 3. Remember privileged communication from Post Commander or Officers is Confidential Uphold high ideals of the organization in any advice offered.
- 4. Be prepared to offer the ritual prayers at each post meeting. When called upon, offer appropriate prayers at initiations, installation of officers: dedications, or memorial services of comrades.
- 5. As a part of the post memorial team provide opportunity for the

contact with a grieving family, thereby providing a caring ministry to them.
6. Use the persuasion of the office to promote harmony and unity within the post.

CHAPLAINS BREAK JERRY MILLS

Additional Chaplain’s Duties and responsibilities can be:

1. Post’s official representative at Religious and Civic Affairs.
2. Pastoral Caregiver
3. When called upon, conduct and/or participate in memorial or funeral services
4. Send cards to sick and bereaved and hospitalized
5. Participate in parades services, Veterans day programs and POW/MIA services.
6. Present Memorial bibles to deceased members families
7. Create respect for the office of Chaplain

2017 –2018 Chaplain Ministries from Post 17

1. Visit to Veteran in nursing homes and care centers
2. Distribute playing cards to local nursing homes spouses and widows with crutches and wheelchairs.
3. Invocation and Benediction at the Veterans day program. Identified and assisted veterans with needs.
4. contributed military service uniforms and memorabilia and information to for Dacotah Prairie Museum display to honor Vietnam Veterans

Blessings to all
Jerry Mills



GOLD MEDAL AWARDS IN HEROES CIRCLE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER RAY DURBAND

“Thankyou from protecting us from harm. Thankyou for putting your lives in harm’s way every day to keep us safe you are real life heroes, and while we don’t show it enough, we appreciate everything you do for us”. Most all of us probably have met someone in our community who we could call “a hero of daily life”, a person who is unselfishly giving of their money or time or talents. Using your life for others living a life but not for yourself having a helping and serving attitude. Emergency Medical Technicians, Firefighters, Police Officers serve in this capacities daily. A vast majority of them do this voluntarily in the many small

communities around the state. Whatever the emergency or type of danger, EMT’s, Firefighters, Police Officers are always there. The bravery and heroism of all these professionals is worthy of our respect and appreciation. Remember the origin of the word “hero”, is someone who protects and watches over. Protecting and watching over other people means that many times these individuals lay aside their personal wishes. Each year, VFW C.C. Croal Post 17 selects a Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter, and Emergency Medical Technician, to receive the Gold Award from Candidates nominated by their peers. Applications then go

to state and are judged for an award at the state convention in June. Once at state then they go to National for a chance to win an award at the convention. This Year Police were Chris Gross Briston Bruce APD, John Berndt SDHWYP EMTP Keith Sharisky Firefighter Josh Poppin AFR

Gold Medal Awards Chairperson
Junior Vice Commander



“Greater Love
Hath No Man
Than This That a
Man Lay Down
His Life for His
Friends”.
Strive for this
Attitude!!!!

Surgeons Ward Jeff Harms

Hello my name is Jeff Harms. I am Post 17’s Surgeon, and Poppy Chairman. My duties include seeing members families and visiting veterans in the nursing homes of Aberdeen. Three or four homes were visited almost every other month. Dennis Nelson, Sean Johnson, and I bring a program made up of memorabilia from a prior wartime, as educational time for the residents. Our visits usually last an hour.

We concentrate on sharing stories and we have cookies and coffee. On Christmas we brought white coffee cups full of goodies with our visit. At Manor Care we were going to use them for an art project. Manor Care also had a dinner for post members that came for Veterans Day Commemoration had post members sharing their stories. At the Bethesda Home, I visited the rooms and handed out white coffee cups with goodies during holidays.

I showed a video that the 452nd Reunion Committee made of their reunion. I also showed pictures and memorabilia from Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. Mother Joseph Manor did not have any visits this so far this year. As of this writing, February 9th, I am planning to set up a visit for March. We had a successful year with Poppies and ringing the bell. Thanks Jeff Harms

Thanks Jeff Harms Surgeon





Quartermaster Bank of knowledge and Equipment

Hello Comrades this year has gone by fast, working with the commander to keep us on the straight and narrow. We have moved our possession's from temporary storage to a more semi permanent storage. We were able to purge some of the stuff we wont need and we in turn received monies for it. The commander and I were able to move our monies into investments and to the bank and we are doing well.. We have completed several Audits and 2 Post inspections, so far and all is in Order from District and Department Inspectors. We were able to give \$4,500.00 to the Boy Scouts for a new trailer and they matched the donation. We also were able to cover 30 Honor Society Shirts, for \$ 300.00. We helped to Homeless Veterans for \$ 270.00 We helped a Veteran Put a Handicap door on his House for \$ 500.00. That is all for now the commander and I won Quartermaster and Commander of the year of South Dakota VFW. We are well on our way to win again.

Numbers Out Davin Johnson

Trustees Audit Forum

Trustees- what is a trustee's responsibility to the post and its members? The post trustees are there to audit the financial books of the post. On a monthly the trustees review the Post Quartermaster, Post Adjutant and any other post sponsored activity. These reports are then sent Quarterly to the Department and Inspector.

The post trustees have completed three quarterly reports so far this year. All reports have been found to be accurate and without error. I am happy to report that your posts financial health is excellent. This reflects credit upon the superb job that the Post Commander, Post Quartermaster and Post Trustees are doing in their respective positions.

Adjustments Out

Darvin Vetter

**We demand
Accuracy and
through this we
will grow....
Thru Growth we
become the
driving force of our
post!!!**

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Fulfilling Our Nations Promise

The (DPAA is part of the U.S. Department of Defense agency tasked to find and collect the remains of all Americans unaccounted for from past Conflicts (World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Bosnian War. Eighty Eight Thousand members are still missing. (DPAA) is manned by 400 Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Department of the Navy Civilians. Each Year team members each year travel throughout the world to find and excavate sites where remains are believed to be located .the remains are then collected and sent back to the main laboratory for identification. Forensic Anthropologist's try to identify the remains once identified the are sent to the family for burial with full military honors.

Remains Returned and Honored this Year

Army PFC Lamar Newman

Korean War

Marine PFC Arnold Harrison

World War II

Army SFC Alfred Bessinger

World War II

Navy Fireman 1st Class Charles Ogle World War II

Army SFC Harry Harkness

Korean War

Marine Pvt George Patrick

World War II



Thanks Mr. Kelly McKeague

National Defense Bill Signed Into Law

President Donald Trump signed the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law on Dec 12. The law which still must go through the appropriation phase as of press time, authorize 626.4 billion in discretionary, or negotiated, funds for Defense Programs and another 65.7 billion for operations overseas, including in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Global War on Terrorism.

VFW Supported Items in Law

- 2.4% Base Pay Increase
- Preservation of Dual Military With Dependent Rate Housing
- Grandfather Clause to Tricare Increases
- Permanent Extension of Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance
- Review and Declassification of Documents if more than 100 people are exposed and sick for a toxin
- Expanded Protection for Victims of Sexual Assault
- Premobilization and Transitional Tricare benefits for Reserve components members activated under orders 12304b
- Thanks VFW Magazine
- Dave Spiva



Surefire Tips for Successful Membership Recruiting Vfw's Deputy Director of Membership offers proven advice for today's recruiters

When VFW Membership Deputy Director Rick McKenna presents at membership recruiting workshops, he reminds VFW recruiters to be on the lookout for indicators of whether or not someone is a veteran. Look for bumper stickers or license plates in a parking lot, he said. Apparel is another way to determine if someone might be a veteran. Just last fall, McKenna said, the Knights of Columbus were canvassing the neighborhood. He noticed that one man came to the door had on an Army hat. McKenna started a brief conversation and asked if he could call the man at a later time when it was most convenient for him. McKenna told the man that he would like the opportunity to tell him a little more about the VFW. They agreed upon a time, and a week later, that man became a VFW member.

"It's not always going to go that smoothly," McKenna said "But if you don't put yourself out there, you'll never know. You have to quit being afraid of being told no." McKenna said one of the most important things for a recruiter to remember is to be respectful of the potential recruit's time. Keeping the introductory conversation to 3-5 minutes key. "There's really nothing worse than a recruiter being pushy." McKenna added "That's when you will lose a potential member." Likewise, McKenna said to make sure to actually follow up in a timely manner. In other words, if you say you are going to call or visit in a few days, be sure to do it. Here are tips of which McKenna said every recruiter should be aware:

1. Use everyday words when Speaking
2. Don't use Profanity
3. Neat Professional Appearance
4. Always Say Thankyou
5. Address recruit as ma'am or sir
6. put away all devices phone etc..
7. Shake hands
8. Acknowledge others into talking with the Veteran

"Whether you are working a membership booth at the county fair or approaching someone in the grocery store parking lot, there are four basic steps in recruiting," McKenna said. They Are:

1. Opening Introduction
Introduce yourself and make it clear you are with the Veterans of Foreign Wars because not everyone will know what VFW stands for.
2. Qualifying Question
Use specific questions to determine if the veteran is eligible.
3. Show VFW Facts
Offer Brochures and present facts about the VFW to illustrate what the organization does and why it is important for them to join.
4. Ask to Join

If you never ask them to Join they never will !!!

McKenna said the VFW Membership Department has a wide range of products to help in recruiting. Call 1-888-Join-VFW to ask about the complete line of membership merchandise. "The longevity of our great organization is reliant on good recruiting practices," McKenna said. "Being courteous and respectful will go a long way in recruiting. And remember, don't get discouraged never give up. Janie DY House

**Membership is
our #1
responsibility and
it starts with us
as individuals and
goes to us as an
organization!!!**

VFW C.C. Croal Post # 17



POSTPOST 17 INFORMATION

C.C. Croal Post 17 Aberdeen S.D. 57401
Meetings 2nd Thursday of Month
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Yelduz Shrine 802 South Main Street

C.C. Croal Post 17 Auxiliary Aberdeen S.D.
Meetings 2nd Thursday of March
Time 7:30 p.m.
Yelduz Shrine 802 South Main Street

Website: aberdeenvfw.org

Facebook: VFW Post 17 & Auxiliary

Davin Johnson
quartermaster@aberdeenvfw.org
Sean Johnson
seanjohnson@abe.midco.net

Phone 605-228-1636
P.O. Box 334
Aberdeen S.D. 57401

Commander	Sean Johnson
Senior Vice	Tom Leonholdt
Junior Vice	Ray Durband
Quartermaster	Davin Johnson
Adjutant	Dennis Nelson
Chaplain	Jerry Mills
Surgeon	Jeff Harms
Judge Advocate	Lynn Hovel
Trustee 1	Keith Wilkinson
Trustee 2	Chip Swanson
Trustee 3	Darvin Vetter
Post Srvc Offcr	Aaron Walberg
Sgt of Arms	Herb Brose
Guard	Chip Swanson