

*ALA Department of Wisconsin  
District 7*

# NEWSLETTER

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May, 2026

# District 7 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park



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## A big big Aloha District 7!

Hello District 7 and Happy May,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. We just wrapped up the Spring Conference and I couldn't be more excited about the many upcoming things going on in the District. (I promise I will share more a little further down.) Additionally, we voted in our new Officer Team and I am so happy to be able to serve you for another two-year term. I couldn't be more excited for my incoming officers to officially start following the Department Convention (some are familiar faces, some are newer faces, and some just shimmer positions) but I'm looking forward to spotlighting them and our District Chairmen in our May, June and July Newsletters.

I'm honored to send a huge "Thank You" to my officer team for the past 2 years. It was truly a blessed two years full of learning, laughter, a few tears, some frustration, and a ton of fun and memories that will last me a lifetime, as I hope you all will too. I sincerely can not thank you all enough, and I'm looking forward to the next 2 years with you all!

That being said we will get into some of the very exciting things coming up in the District.

### **District 7 Spring Conference**

Our Spring Conference was held on Saturday, April 18th at LaCrosse Unit/Post 52. I would like to again thank Unit & Post 52 for hosting and all of their hospitality. I would like to send an extra "Thank You" to all who were able to attend. It was a great day!

We started our morning family style with the Legion, Sons, and Riders where we listened jointly to a speaker talk on the importance of Membership.

We also determined that our Fall Workshop will be Saturday, September 19th in Sparta. Please mark that on your calendar and plan to attend. I would like to see at least 1 representative from each unit at our Fall Workshop.

We then went to recess and enjoyed a lovely meal and great comradery. Following lunch we broke apart and resumed our meetings individually.

We started with our District 7 Memorial Service.

We heard reports from many committee chairs followed by all units in attendance. They shared one big focus and man, are you all truly inspirations! **I am so proud of all that you and your units are accomplishing in our communities and for our veterans. Way to go District 7! Keep it up!**

Some of the other big topics from the day are included below with more details.....

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## History Books

Thank you to the Units who took the time to make and submit a history book, as well as our outgoing Historian Vickie Dux for submitting one for the district. This is something I would like each unit to focus on in the District this year. If you are not putting together a history book or history scrapbook, this is something I'd truly like your units to work on. This is a way to truly preserve the things we are doing for many generations to come. **I would like to see an increase in submitted history books next year.**

## District Freedom Honor Flight Fundraiser

I want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to Big Boar from West Salem for all of their help with making and serving food when asked to help take pressure off hosting locations and an even bigger shout out to all the units that have taken the time and energy to hold a fundraiser. Plan to hold a fundraiser to help raise money to ensure our veterans continue to have this great opportunity to travel from our District. If your unit has not yet held a fundraiser for this, we ask that you please consider doing so.

Our District 7 ALA Freedom Honor Flight Fundraiser will be co-hosted with Sparta Unit & Post 100. Thank you, Sparta, for taking this on. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact me for further information or attend the fundraiser committee meeting on Saturday, May 30th at 1pm at Unit/Post 100 Sparta.

## District 7 Picnic

Black River Falls Unit 129 jumped both feet in and took on the task of hosting the Summer District 7 Picnic. This event is just going to be a day of fun and commentary. As details are confirmed, information will be sent out to all. Thanks again to Black River Falls Unit 129 for taking this on!

## District 7 Fundraiser

Once again District 7 Auxiliary will have a fundraiser later this year.. Tomah Unit 201 will host this fundraiser. Our fundraising efforts enable our District to continue helping veterans, communities and units. Due to Neillsville, West Salem and Bangor hosting District 7 fundraisers, we have had the ability to make very charitable donations over the past two years. I would love to continue to see us positively impact our District. If you would like to join this committee, please reach out to me. Remember, the more the merrier and this can be fun! As information is available, it will be sent out.

## Traveling Workshop

Over the last 2 years I've heard loud and clear the wish for more help from the District level to the units, and that events are always so far away due to the size of our District. So after much brainstorming and planning, I would like to announce on behalf of myself, the incoming officer team and committee chairmen, we are thrilled to be offering traveling District Workshops this fall/winter.

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We feel education and support are very important to not only our membership but the future of our organization. We are setting up a team of District 7 leaders willing to travel to units for these informational workshops. We will start each workshop with an educational segment, where we will cover a topic of the Unit's choosing or a topic agreed upon by the hosting unit and our team. Following that, there will be an opportunity for questions, networking and work time.

For this to truly be a success we need you! We will be asking that at least one Unit from each County host a workshop. If more than one Unit in each county is willing to host, then we are more than happy to hold multiple workshops in a county. Ideally these workshops would be held on a Saturday, or possibly Sunday. But if you truly believe that your unit would do better hosting Monday-Friday we can definitely see what we can arrange as you know what works best in your unit far better than we do.

These workshops will be open to all ALA members. We truly believe that education and a sense of community will continue to strengthen, grow, and all around improve our great organization. If your unit is willing to host a workshop or would like more information on hosting a workshop please reach out to me, so we can set a date and topic for your unit or answer questions you might have about hosting. I'm hoping to get Workshop dates, times, and locations out as soon as possible to allow people time to plan to attend and to ensure successful events.

#### [Officer Team & Committee Chairman](#)

It was Election Year! So I would like to first start by thanking all of the 2024-2026 Officers and Committee Chairmen. It's been a wild two years and I could not have done it without each and everyone of you. So many times over the last 2 years I was asked how I manage it all, and my answer has always been simple.....I dont!!! I have a whole support team that shows up, supports me, and allows me to look successful publicly because of all they do behind the scenes and that is the honest truth. I would not be able to accomplish most of what we get done without all of you, and all of our members. It is only together that we are able to accomplish all that we do in our District!!!! So again I can not thank you all enough for your commitment to the District these last couple of years!!!

I would also like to take a moment to welcome all of the incoming Officers and Chairmen for the 2026-2028 year. The District has a lot of exciting things coming these next two years and I can not wait to see all that we accomplish together. Most importantly, on behalf of our entire officer team and committee chairs, we can not wait to help serve you all!

#### [2026-2028 Officers](#)

President - Jesse Elmhurst  
1st Vice President- Janalee Kapusta  
2nd Vice President- Helene Stein  
Treasurer- Pat Smith  
Secretary- Diane Weggen  
Chaplain- Vickie Dux

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Historian- Jackie Finck  
Sargent at Arms - Nichole Schmidt  
Sargent at Arms- Anna Rosemeyer

**Committee Chairman**

Parliamentarian - Pat Smith

**Americanism-**

**Children & Youth-**

Community Service- Diana Dalton

**Education-**

Junior Activities- Julianne Hyma

Leadership- Anna Rosemeyer

Legislative- Diane Weggen

Membership- Janalee Kapusta

**National Security-**

Poppy Program- Virginia Kodl

Public Relations- Christina Petranovich

VA &R- Helene Stein

**ALABGS-**

As you can see we still have some available Chairman positions available. If any of the available open positions that are in **bold print above** call to you, please reach out to me about becoming a District Chairman. If you have never considered becoming a District Chairman, please pray on it and see if you feel called to help with any of the open chairs. I know that we have a perfect Chairman somewhere in our district for these positions and I can't wait to hear from you because we would love to have you on our team!!

**Meet the 2026-2028 Officers & Chairman**

I would like to introduce our incoming officers and chairmen over the next few months.

Starting first with our District 7 outgoing Historian & Incoming **District Chaplain**, my friend for over a decade, **Vickie Dux**. Vickie is a pillar of her Unit serving currently as her Unit President. She is endlessly helping in her community, even formerly serving as her Legion Hall's General Manager when they were in need. She is an active member of her church, a wonderful mother, grandmother, sibling, and friend. Vickie has served in various roles on a unit, county, and District level and we are so excited to have her continuing to serve the District for another term.....now please take a minute to get to know Vickie in her own words.



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“Coming from a proud military family and being a 37-year Auxiliary member of Unit 73/Neillsville, I felt I wanted to do more to show my commitment to Veterans. Four years ago, I volunteered to fill the District Historian position, not really knowing my responsibilities, but I soon learned. During the four years I made 3 history books, 2 photo history books, and 1 photo trifold and received several certificates. I enjoyed developing these books. The time has come that I felt my talents could be used elsewhere. For that reason, I have decided to retire from the District Historian position and take on the Chaplain position. Incidentally, I hold the Clark County Chaplain position besides being President of our Unit 73. Believing God comes before Country makes this position change very comfortable for me. If anyone has any suggestions or needs, please contact me.

God Bless You.” -Vickie Dux

### **District 7 Facebook Page**

If you have not yet joined our District Facebook page please be sure to join and see all the exciting things going on in the District. Additionally, if you have an event you would like added to our Facebook page please forward it to Christina Petranovich!!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BMzCDgjR2/>

### **Chaplain Retreat**

A Chaplains’ Retreat at Camp American Legion is being held from June 1-5, 2026. It is open to anyone who serves as Chaplain for The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion or Legion Riders. The retreat will be on a first come, first served basis and includes free lodging and food. Bedding is provided, but attendees should bring their own toiletries and towels. A free will offering will be collected on Wednesday for Camp American Legion to help defray costs.

Registration is due by May 15, 2026 or until the retreat reaches capacity, whichever comes first, so please submit your application as soon as possible. Details are provided in the attachments.

If you have any questions, please contact Darrel ‘AJ’ Feucht at 920-623-5625 or [colonelaj@outlook.com](mailto:colonelaj@outlook.com)

### **Membership**

From Department 1st Vice President and Former District President Christina Petranovich

“I am writing today to ask for your help. National has set a goal of 95% for membership by June 12, 2026, Female Veterans Day.

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We have such an amazing, kind and caring President in Sue Hembrook, so let's honor her by helping Department reach that goal."

Please put out another big push on membership; maybe that's calling members needing to renew or maybe that's carrying around membership forms and asking someone new. Because if you know me, you know you're not completely dressed each day until you have a Membership form handy.

We can do this together, I know we can!!!

### **Upcoming Events**

**Freedom Honor Flight District Fundraiser Meeting**- Saturday, May 30th @ 1pm at Unit/Post 100 Sparta.

**Chaplain Retreat**- June 1-5th at Camp American Legion  
Registration is above and due by May 15th

**Department Convention** - July 16th-19th in Appleton, Wisconsin

You can register online or by paper....I have included the online link

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/107th-department-convention>

Our District has lots of fun stuff planned during Convention, and we hope to see you all there!!!

**District Summer Picnic**- Details to come soon

**National Convention**- August 28th-September 3rd in Louisville, Kentucky.

Department is offering a bus for travel. Cost is \$300 per person. If interested please register ASAP to ensure you have a seat if this is something you are wishing to do.

Registration can be done online or by paper. For more information please reach out.

**Fall District 7 ALA Family Workshop**- Saturday, September 19th at Unit/Post 100 in Sparta.

Registration details to come towards the end of summer.

**Fall Traveling Workshops**- Dates, Times, Locations, and topics coming in the next few months

**Clark County ALA Fall Meeting**- Tuesday, October 20

**District Freedom Honor Flight Fundraiser**- Will be held at Unit/Post 100 Sparta. Information to come in the next Newsletter

**District 7 Fundraiser**- Will be hosted at Unit/Post 201 Tomah this Fall/Winter. More details to come in the next couple of Newsletters.

If you have upcoming events you would like listed in our events list please send all information you would like included of your event. Thank you!!!

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**In closing**

I would like to conclude this newsletter with a prayer from our incoming Chaplain Vickie Dux Heavenly Father,

Thank you for being our ever-present help in times of trouble. We thank you for the servicemen and women in our military currently serving around the globe. We ask that you would be with them and help them in times of trouble. We pray that you would draw near to them as they spend long periods of time away from their families. We thank you for the freedom we enjoy because of their work. Give them the strength to overcome everything that stands against them today. Sustain them through your unfailing love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN