

ALA District 7 Newsletter

August 2026

We Are Planning to Take District 7 to New Heights!

Hello District 7!!!!

Welcome to our August newsletter! As we begin another exciting month, I continue to be inspired by the dedication, compassion and teamwork shown throughout our District. Every fundraiser, community service project, meeting, and volunteer hour demonstrates the incredible impact we can make when we work together.

This year's theme of taking District 7 to new heights is already becoming a reality. Whether we're raising funds to send veterans on the Freedom Honor Flight, welcoming new members into our American Legion Family, supporting our communities, or simply lending a helping hand where it's needed most, each of you plays an important role in our success. No contribution is too small, and together we truly can accomplish amazing things.

As you read through this month's newsletter, I hope you'll find opportunities to become involved, attend upcoming events, and continue building friendships across our District. Thank you for everything you do to serve our veterans, military families, youth, and communities. I am honored to serve as your District President and look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events.

Together, let's continue reaching new heights!

For God and Country,

Jesse Elmhurst

District 7 ALA President

A Prayer from the District Chaplain Vickie Dux

Let us all be very thankful.

We ask for blessing on all our newly elected Post and Auxiliary officers who were elected last month at the Department Convention. May they have a successful year. We are grateful for those whose term has just ended and thank them for a job well done.

Bless all the men and women who serves/served to protect our country. Please observe a moment of silence in honor of these proud Veterans.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

District 7 American Legion Family Freedom Honor Flight Fundraiser

We are still working hard as the District 7 American Legion Family toward our goal of raising enough money to sponsor an entire Freedom Honor Flight. I want to thank everyone who has already hosted a fundraiser, as well as those who are planning one. If your Unit, Post, Squadron, or Riders Chapter has not yet hosted an event, I encourage you to discuss the possibility of organizing one. Every effort helps us move closer to our goal.

As many of you know, we were offered the opportunity to partner with Big Boar in West Salem to cater Freedom Honor Flight fundraisers held throughout our District. It is with heartfelt sympathy that I share the passing of Quinten Morris, co-owner of Big Boar, who recently lost his life in a motorcycle accident.

During this difficult time, I ask you to consider sending a card to the Morris family to let them know they have the support of our District. Thank you for your kindness, compassion, and consideration.

In happier fundraising news, District 7 has partnered with Sparta Post/Unit 100 and the Sparta Area Freedom Honor Flight Committee to host a Casino Night Fundraiser on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at the Sparta American Legion.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased in advance (which is encouraged) from: Sparta American Legion Hall, Christina Petranovich, Diane Weggen, Virginia Kodl, Tim Hyma and Jesse Elmshorst.

Because this is a District fundraiser for our entire American Legion Family, I am asking each District Unit to consider donating a raffle basket valued at a minimum of \$75. Raffle baskets may be dropped off at the Fall Workshop on Saturday, September 19, in Sparta, or

you may contact me at 715-937-8246 to arrange pickup.



Thank you all for your continued dedication and support as we work together toward this incredible goal!

District 7 Picnic

It's official! Black River Falls Unit 129 has volunteered to host the District 7 Picnic, and the entire American Legion Family is invited! Please share this invitation with your Units, Posts, Squadrons, and Riders.

Date: Saturday, September 5

Location: Andrew Blackhawk Pow Wow Grounds, Black River Falls

The festivities begin at 10:00 a.m., with Grand Entry at 1:00 p.m.

All veterans are welcome to participate in Grand Entry. If you plan to participate, please arrive by 12:00 noon dressed in your military uniform, Legion uniform, or Legion Riders attire. Units are also welcome to bring their flags to participate in Grand Entry. If you need assistance carrying your flag, please contact me and I will do my best to arrange help.

Unit 129 will be providing complimentary refreshments for all District attendees at their Auxiliary food stand. The featured meal will be Fry Bread Tacos.

The District 7 Auxiliary is donating the taco meat, while Unit 129 is providing the fry bread, fresh produce, and cold toppings. We are looking for donations: paper plates, disposable coffee cups, napkins, plastic silverware, Taco sauce (Mild, Medium, and Hot), Salsa, olives, baked goods, bottled water and coffee. If you or your Unit would like to donate any of these items, please contact me at 715-937-8246 by Friday, August 28, to let me know what you will be donating and to arrange pickup.

Thank you for helping make this District Family Picnic a success. I look forward to seeing everyone on September 5!



District 7 Fall Workshop

The District 7 Fall Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 19, at Sparta Post 100.

Registration is expected to be approximately \$20 per person. Please RSVP me at 715-937-8246 so we can accurately plan for meals and workshop materials.

Additional workshop information will be included in the September newsletter. I hope to see representatives from every Unit in attendance!

District 7 ALA Fundraiser

Save the Date! October 24 at Tomah Post 201

More information, including ticket prices and purchasing locations, will be shared in the September newsletter. District fundraisers allow us to continue giving back to our veterans, communities, and programs.

Once again, I ask each Unit to consider donating a raffle basket valued at a minimum of \$50. Please bring donated baskets to the Fall Workshop on September 19 or contact me at 715-937-8246 to arrange pickup. As always, I look forward to seeing you there!



Pilot Traveling Membership Workshop

During our visits throughout the District, we've heard many members say that travel distance can make it difficult to attend conferences, workshops, and training sessions.

That inspired a new idea—let's bring the workshop to you!

We are excited to launch a pilot Traveling Membership Workshop, with hopes of expanding to additional locations in the future.

Our first workshop will be: Saturday, October 10 at La Valle

Topic: Membership

Although open to all members of the American Legion Family, this workshop will primarily focus on Auxiliary Membership. Our membership team will provide training and be available afterward to answer questions and offer assistance.

Registration information will be included in the September newsletter. We ask everyone to pre-register so we can prepare enough materials for all attendees.

News from Department Convention

We wrapped up Department Convention a few weeks ago, and what an incredible experience it was! It truly was an opportunity to refill our American Legion Auxiliary cups.

If you've never attended a Department Convention—or if it's been a while—I strongly encourage you to mark next year's dates on your calendar now. July 22-25, 2027.

Department Convention is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Network with members from across Wisconsin.
- Learn successful ideas from other Units.
- Celebrate our District's member & unit accomplishments.
- Participate in important decisions affecting our organization.

This year, District 7 had 17 registered delegates. Next year, I'd love to see that number doubled—with alternates as well! Your voice and your vote matter, and together we can ensure District 7 is well represented.

This year, Amy Luft was elected Department of Wisconsin President. President Amy's special project is raising funds for all five Wisconsin Honor Flight Hubs. Her theme for the year is:

The ALA Airlines Are "Helping Our Heroes Take Flight!"



Wisconsin's Honor Flight hubs are located in Appleton, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee and Wausau. As a District, we will continue focusing our fundraising efforts on the La Crosse Honor Flight Hub, which serves our area.

I invite each of you to join us as we continue lifting our District to new heights—supporting our veterans, strengthening membership, serving our youth and communities, and making a difference every day through your volunteer service.

President Amy has also launched a PUFL Raffle, with the winner to be drawn at next year's Department Convention.

No. 00012 — Please write legibly —	AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Department of Wisconsin P.O. Box 140 • Portage, WI 53901 Drawing: July 24th, 2027 @ 1:30pm Madison Marriott West 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr. Middleton, WI 53562 Tickets: \$20 each		Fundraising Raffle Grand Prize: One (1) American Legion Auxiliary Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Membership (Value \$1,000) Lic. #: R0008037A-35691 You need not be present to win!
	Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ American Legion Auxiliary Raffle July 24th, 2027	No. 00012	

If you're interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Senior Vice President Christina Petranovich or me.

Congratulations! I would also like to congratulate our very own Past District President Christina Petranovich on her election as Department Senior Vice President.

Christina, we know you will continue to do amazing things for your Unit, District, Department, and our organization. On a personal note, thank you for being such an incredible mentor and friend—not only to me but to so many others. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to serve inspires all you meet. I truly don't believe you've ever met a stranger.

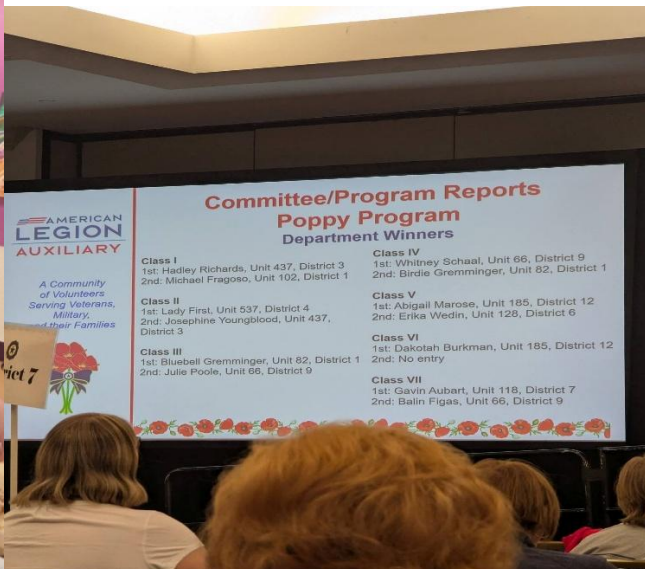
Congratulations, Christina!

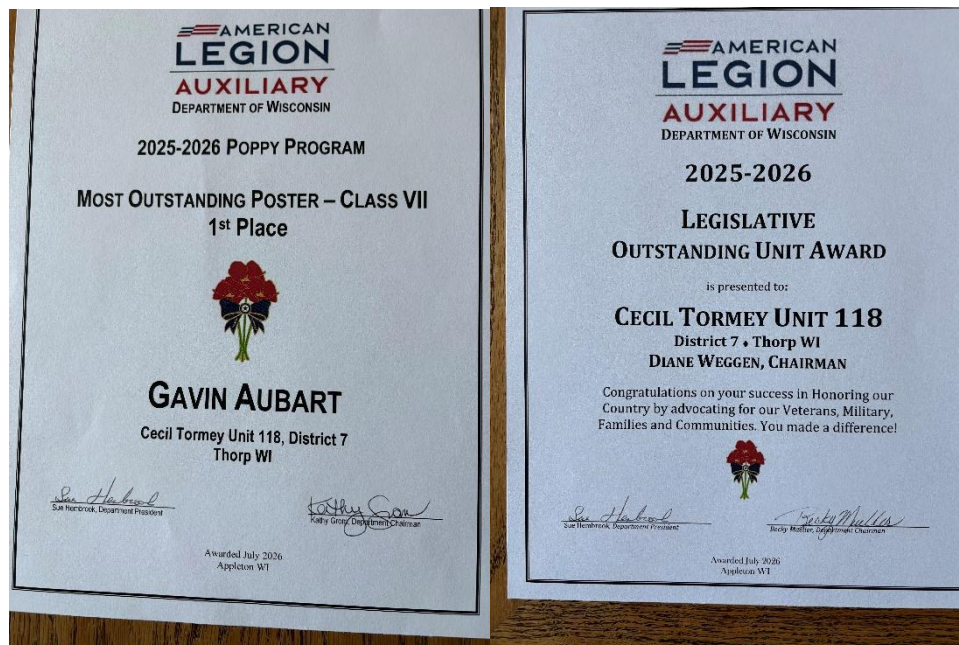


District 7 Awards Several District 7 Units received Department awards and recognitions this year! Congratulations to everyone whose hard work and dedication were recognized.

I've included photos highlighting some of our award recipients.

And of course, we also had a wonderful time reconnecting with longtime friends and making many new ones along the way!









Dates to Remember

August

August 4 – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday (1790)

August 7 – Purple Heart Day

August 10 – Agent Orange Awareness Day

August 22- Camp Victory Open House and Cabin Dedication



August 28–September 3 – ALA National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky

August 29 – U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (1916)

September

September 5 – District 7 Picnic, Black River Falls

September 12- AL D7 Riders- Legacy Run, Holmen

*If possible please try to come out to support our riders.....it is truly a great event!!!

September 19 – District 7 Fall Workshop, Sparta

September 19 – ALA in the Know, Eau Claire

September 26 – ALA in the Know, Verona

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS DISTRICT 7
LEGACY RUN



Veterans and General Public Invited - Cars Welcomed

Saturday September 12th, 2026

Registration Begins 9:00 AM at

American Legion Post 284, 419 First Ave. W, Holmen, WI

Breakfast Buffet Available 9:00 - 11:00

\$20 Rider - \$20 Passenger - Kickstands Up 11:00

140-plus Mile Tour of the Scenic Coulee Region with Ride Raffles & 4 Stops

Ride Ends at American Legion Post 284, Holmen, WI

Meal Available After Ride

End of Ride Includes Basket Raffles

Check Out Our Facebook Page for Updates

[American Legion Riders District 7 Legacy Run | Facebook](#)



All Proceeds Towards Veterans Programs

Legacyrun.district7@gmail.com

October

October 3 – District Freedom Honor Flight Fundraiser, Sparta

October 3 – ALA in the Know, Park Falls

October 10 – Traveling Membership Workshop, La Valle

October 24 – District Fundraiser, Tomah