

DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER

Dear Lord,

This month we have many important dates to be thankful about. They are: Tuesday, November 8th, Election Day—Be sure to vote. American Legion Auxiliary Birthday, Thursday November 10th -- Happy Birthday! Armistice Day, more popularly known as Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th -- a day honoring all those who served in the military, and Thursday, November 24th -- Happy Thanksgiving Day!

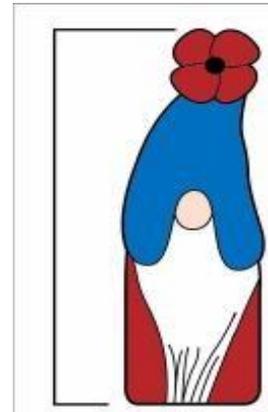
Thank you, all Veterans, for serving our country in wartime, peacetime and still serving our country. It takes courage for a soldier to risk life and limb for this country.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for our American Legion Family for their support and dedication to our Veterans and their families. Pray and be especially thankful for those still serving our country who cannot be home with their families.

In the Lord's name, we pray.

~Amen.

--Chaplain Joanne



DISTRICT 7 NEWS

District 7 Dues are currently being collected. Only those units that have paid their district dues and have sent a 2022-2023 Unit Officer form to department will have voting rights at Department Convention. Please see the attached page of this newsletter for the amount your unit is responsible for as well as a payment coupon.

All District 7 dues should be sent to:

**District 7 Treasurer Pat Smith
800 West Avenue N #112
West Salem, WI 54669**

Next Clark County ALA meeting: Tuesday March 18th, 2023 hosted by Greenwood.

If your unit has not already done so, please return your completed 2022-2023 Unit Officer Form. No membership awards can be won without it turned in. Also remember: a member cannot hold an office if their dues have not been paid. If you are an officer for the 2022-2023 year, please get your dues paid asap. Thank you!

The District 7 Executive Committee is looking at possibly hosting a Purse/Bag Bingo Fundraiser for the District. More information will be presented as we work out needs, location, and so on. Please reach out to any of the officers (listed on the last page) with any ideas or suggestions you may have. Thank you!

JUNIORS

Saturday, September 10, 2022, was the department junior conference in the Green Bay area. Honorary junior officers were elected after conducting

a proper meeting and an informative presentation about bullying. Patriotic bracelets and necklaces were made and then all in attendance came together and knotted a tie blanket that was then presented to Wisconsin Department President Linda Coppock. Following a delicious lunch, the day finished with an afternoon at the NEW Zoo & Adventure Park.

National has issued a challenge to all juniors and SAL—work the patch programs BUT you are also challenged with earning “The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Patch” and “The Children of Warriors National Patch.” Information is found on the department website and both forms are attached to this newsletter. Junior and SAL members are asked to earn \$5.00 for each year of their age. It can be as a group or individually. You must explain how you raised the money and each junior fills out the form and sends the money directly to national. (Please send a copy to Department Juniors Chairman Laura Calteux.)

AMERICANISM

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, part of Americanism is “the **...practices essential to American culture.**” American Legion Auxiliary’s Americanism program promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship is essential to American culture.

Now is the time for you to identify all Americanism activities you participated in and/or promoted since April 1. Then, report those activities for me to prepare District 7’s Americanism mid-year report for Central Division.

How many parades did your unit (and # of members) walk/ride in to support the American Legion? Who among your members fly the American flag? When do your members say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and/or sing the national anthem?

Go to the website for the Americanism 2023 Essay Contest information. This year's theme is "What does patriotism mean to you?"

Americanism Activities

Fly the American flag; Encourage family, friends, and neighbors to fly the flag

Know basic flag etiquette; Recognize those exhibiting flag protocol

Share flag etiquette info with others and encourage support for the flag amendment

Demonstrate respect for the flag (stand, remove hat and hand salute) at public events

Say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Sing the National anthem

Attend/conduct/sponsor a flag retirement ceremony

Fold Pocket Flags and send to soldiers serving abroad

Sign up at www.legion.org to receive notifications on when to display the flag at half-staff

Wear The American Legion Family brand; Dress in red, white, and blue on patriotic holidays

Walk or ride in parades as an Auxiliary member; Participate in "I Spy" Activities

Attend or participate in patriotic holiday programs; Volunteer for a local patriotic event

Write a letter to the editor reminding all the significance of patriotic holidays

Promote the Americanism Essay Contest

Vote; learn about the candidates and vote; Encourage others to vote

Work to "Get Out the Vote"

Support, promote and assist with American Legion programs

Any questions, please ask. dsweggen@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE

TELL CONGRESS: PASS THE AFGHAN ADJUSTMENT ACT

Here's the story of why the American Legion is asking Auxiliary members to contact our legislators to take this action.

In the summer of 2021, our soldiers and Marines heroically evacuated tens of thousands of Afghan allies who fought with us against the Taliban. Now it's time for Congress to honor this nation's promise to our Afghan allies with real and lasting safety through the bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act.

Since July 2021, more than 70,000 at-risk Afghans have been relocated to the United States and have entered on what is called, "humanitarian parole" - allowing them to temporarily stay and work in the U.S. for up to two years. Despite fleeing from the Taliban, there is currently no direct pathway for lawful permanent residency and stability in the U.S. for most of our new Afghan neighbors.

Without an adjustment act that creates this path, most Afghans would be forced to navigate the backlogged, complex and paperwork-intensive asylum process. Access to qualified and affordable legal representation, loss of critical documentation and required evidence during the hurried evacuation, the impact of trauma, and backlogs in processing all create significant barriers that make the immigration process seem insurmountable.

The only viable pathway to protection for Afghans is the passage of the recently introduced Afghan Adjustment Act (H.R.8685/S.4787) which would provide our new Afghan neighbors with access to a more streamlined and efficient lawful permanent residency process. This legislation echoes adjustment acts that Congress historically passed for every other generation of U.S. wartime evacuees.

Act Now! Tell Congress they MUST pass this critical legislation and ensure that this country keeps its promise to those who served our country's military.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

DISTRICT 7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION:

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715-512-0628
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2nd VP – Jesse Elmhorst
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SECRETARY – Kristina LeCloux
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HISTORIAN – Vickie Dux
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bcvranch@frontier.com

SERGEANT AT ARMS – Virginia Kodl
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715-669-5432 kodlvirg@yahoo.com

ASS'T SERGEANT AT ARMS – Nicole Schmidt
315 Edgewood Avenue
Tomah WI 54660
608-343-9720 nicholemason17@gmail.com

CHAIRMEN:

MEMBERSHIP – Helene Stein
(contact information above)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Jesse Elmhorst
(contact information above)

LEGISLATIVE – Allysha Osburn
207 W Franklin Street
Thorp, WI 54771
715-512-0618 allysha.petranovich@gmail.com

VA & R – Virginia Kodl
(contact information above)

POPPY – YOUR NAME HERE

JUNIORS – Katarina Petranovich
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EDUCATION – Nichole Schmidt
(contact information above)

AMERICANISM – Diane Weggen
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Stanley WI 54768
715-644-2668 dsweggen@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE – Valerie Mason
427 Michigan Avenue Upper
S. Milwaukee, WI 53172
715-305-1520 valzzz3@yahoo.com

LEADERSHIP – Jesse Elmhorst
(contact information above)

NATIONAL SECURITY – YOUR NAME HERE

PUBLIC RELATIONS – YOUR NAME HERE



CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' PATCH

The National Presidents' Scholarship provides scholarships to deserving children of our nation's veterans and servicemembers who have sacrificed greatly due to their parents' dedication to defending America and our values.

A special Junior patch has been created for our Junior members and SAL youth to be involved in raising money for the National Presidents' Scholarship Fund. Help get the word out to all our members! We hope every Junior and SAL youth will be involved in some activity to raise money for scholarships, which are funded by the Educating Children of Warriors Fund. Most Juniors and SAL youth will become eligible for this scholarship, so they may be personally impacted by their fundraising efforts.

Any Junior or SAL youth can earn this patch if they raise at least \$5 for each year old. For example, a 17-year-old would raise a minimum of \$85 (17 x \$5 = \$85.)

Donations can be raised a variety of ways. Juniors and SAL youth can solicit donations from family, friends, Legion Family members or contribute themselves. Fundraising activities can be coordinated, such as bake sales or other sales, etc. Funds can be raised individually or as a group, but each Junior or SAL youth receiving this patch needs to have raised the required minimum funds for their age. The goal is for the youth of our organization to be involved and aware of the scholarship project. Checks should be made out to *National Treasurer, American Legion Auxiliary* with *National Presidents' Scholarship* in the memo line.

Get involved today!

To receive the patch, complete the following and send it with the donation to:

**American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Development
3450 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268**

Name of Junior/SAL: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Unit/Squadron: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Amount raised: \$ _____ (\$5/year of age) Department of: _____

Optional: Tell us about how you raised the money (You may use the back of the page if needed):



NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL PATCH

Since 2000, the Auxiliary has co-presented NVCAF, alongside the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs. Carrying out the Auxiliary's mission of Service Not Self, members, units, and departments make generous monetary donations to help carry out this event. Best of all, Auxiliary members have had the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with these heroes who participate, leading to a life-changing experience for many. "What surprises me is how giving the ALA is, how unselfish they are," said a performer. "I've had the time of my life here." The week-long Festival showcases the creative achievements of veterans receiving treatment at VA medical facilities. Veterans participate in many categories, including visual arts such as painting, sculpting, and drawing, as well as creative writing, dance, drama, and music.

A special Junior patch has been created for our Junior members and SAL youth to be involved in raising money for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Any Junior or SAL youth can earn this patch if they raise at least \$5 for each year old. For example, a 17-year-old would raise a minimum of \$85 (17 x \$5 = \$85.)

Donations can be raised a variety of ways. Juniors and SAL youth can solicit donations from family, friends, Legion Family members or contribute themselves. Fundraising activities can be coordinated, such as bake sales or other sales, etc. Funds can be raised individually or as a group, but each Junior or SAL youth receiving this patch needs to have raised the required minimum funds for their age. The goal is for the youth of our organization to be involved and aware of the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Checks should be made out to *National Treasurer, American Legion Auxiliary* with ***National President's Project 2022-2023*** in the memo line.

To receive the patch, complete the following and send it with the donation to:

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters

Attn: Development

3450 Founders Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46268

Name of Junior/SAL: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Unit/Squadron: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Amount raised: \$ _____ (\$5/year of age) Department of: _____

Optional: Tell us about how you raised the money (You may use the back of the page if needed):
