

DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER

August 2022

AUGUST PRAYER

Bless all our newly elected Post and Auxiliary officers that were elected last month at the state convention, may they have a successful year. We are grateful for those whose term has just ended, and we thank them for a job well done.

~Amen.

--Chaplain Joanne

Remember to vote on August 9th at the polls.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS:

President Linda Coppock's Special Project:

President Linda wants every unit to give back to the organization in one way or another. All donations can be placed towards the general fund or any of the programs we offer. As I go through the information I learned at convention, I will be highlighting several programs. Here are some easy ways to donate or raise money for them:

- Donate a set amount like \$20.00 for each deceased member of your unit
- Basket raffles
- Bake sales
- Encourage donations from individuals in your unit by issuing citations for their donations



- **Designate a specific fundraiser for a specific program (ie: this month's fish fry is for raising money for M. Louise Wilson Education Loan Fund) and so on**
- **Encourage members to bring change to the monthly meeting and do a collection**
- **Do a "Dollar Drive" at a meeting or function**

There are many ways to raise money for our programs. Be creative and let me know what your units are doing to raise funds. I would love to share your wonderful ideas with the rest of the district! Maybe there's a citation with your unit's name on it for outstanding fundraising!

ALA EMERGENCY FUND

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members in areas devastated by a natural disaster, such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or other severe weather. The applicant must have received damage to the primary residence and/or been displaced or evacuated from the residence and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter. Grants may be awarded up to \$2,400. Applications are on the website.

M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

The purpose of the fund is to aid women veterans, and the mothers, wives, daughters, granddaughters, grandmothers, and sisters of honorably discharged veterans to attain a higher education. If living, the veteran is required to be a member of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary. A copy of the veteran's DD214 (discharge papers) is required. An interest-free loan of \$800.00 may be paid annually and can be renewed for up to five years, for a total loan limit of \$4,000.00, to women enrolled in college on a full-time basis. There shall be no interest charge unless the loan is in default. The usual time for processing a loan is approximately a month. All loans must be co-signed by a responsible party, usually a parent or guardian. **If you know of a member that would qualify for this, have them send an email to Joan Chwala: ctr68552@centurytel.net Joan will get them the information needed to apply. ***Interest Free! Pay back can be as low as \$50 per month after graduating from college/tech school.*****

BADGER GIRLS STATE

What is American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State?

It is promoted as a government and leadership conference where the entire delegation will become a fifty-first state and will function according to the laws of the State of Wisconsin. Each day will focus on the various aspects of state government, God & Country and will include daily prayers. Other days at Girls State will be given to the various activities of government. Girls State is not a recreational program. It is a school of government training for which the girl has been selected by her school and the local Unit. She should come prepared to apply herself diligently to the program as it is scheduled. The citizens are divided into political parties, the Federalists and Nationalists. They develop their own party platforms and formulate their own issues.

The girls "learn by doing" as they function on city, county, and state levels by electing officials in the manner prescribed by regular election procedures and conducting business on those levels. Every girl is encouraged to participate in some level of the governmental process.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

For those who are not familiar with Christmas Gift Shop, this program began a long time ago. It allows veterans in long-term care facilities to select gifts to send to their loved ones at Christmas time. Gift Shop volunteers visit the veterans with sample gifts and take their orders. Gifts are wrapped and returned to the veteran to give to their family when they visit. The program has changed many times over the years. In the past, members donated items that were used as gifts. Most

recently, due to lack of space to store the items, the exact number of gifts needed are ordered on Amazon. A large group of very dedicated volunteers meet on a Sunday morning and wrap all the gifts.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The department website has a listing of the needs and wants of each of our facilities that are homes and medical centers for our Veterans.

Needs/Wish List:

- [Chippewa Falls Veterans Home](#)
- [Dayton Care Center](#)
- [King Veterans Home](#)
- [Middleton/Madison VA](#)
- [Minneapolis VAMC](#)
- [Oscar G. Johnson VAMC](#)
- [Tomah VAMC](#)
- [Union Grove Veterans Home](#)
- [Zablocki VAMC](#)

VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Veterans have opportunities to develop new skills and progress toward their recovery through the creative arts therapy offered by this program. The veterans experience a renewed sense of pride through their participation.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Information will be sent to schools reminding them of the many ALA scholarship opportunities available to high school students. All national and department scholarship applications can be downloaded from the department website. This year, the National President's Children of Warriors scholarship must be completed online and submitted directly to the national organization; paper applications will not be accepted. All other applications are still in paper format. Units are encouraged to contact their local school(s) to promote scholarship opportunities and to provide unit contact information so students know how to complete the required 'certification of unit sponsorship' section. Please encourage eligible students to apply! **Cash donations will be used to fund the Department President's Scholarships, Wisconsin Child Welfare Scholarship, scholarships for Wisconsin's candidates who do not win a national scholarship, and the National President's Children of Warrior's Scholarship.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and Youth encompasses many programs along with supporting Legion Baseball, Badger Boys, ALF (American Legion Family) Dogs, Hometown Heroes, Boys & Girls Club etc.

HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS GRANT FUND

This fund helps women veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless. Unfortunately, this has become an even bigger problem with the covid pandemic and with the cutback in jobs.

OTHERS THINGS DISCUSSED AND LEARNED AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The bowling tournament for 2023 will be just one weekend. It will be held on April 15th and April 16th 2023 in Madison.

ALA IN THE KNOW

Sessions are \$25 per person. Reservation deadline for all sessions is SEPTEMBER 1st 2022. Registration forms are available the department website.

- Saturday 9/17/2022 Loyal WI 54446
- Saturday 9/24/2022 Hortonville WI 54944
- Saturday 10/08/2022 Stevens Point WI 54481
- Saturday 10/22/2022 Grafton, WI 53024

POPPY

Large poppies will need to be pre-ordered. Large poppies will be \$1.50 each. Small poppies will be \$0.18 each. Last year poppy orders were just under \$16,000. This year they were over \$75,000! One of the newest contests for Poppy are the window displays. Get local businesses to decorate with the poppy, take pictures and submit! District 7 has a poppy poster that has advanced to National competition. Good Luck Kallee LeCloux Class VI from Unit 118 Thorp!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Send photos with reports of units that are doing community service.

LEGISLATIVE

Pass all information on to the members in your units. They are sent via email, in the department mailings and they are posted on the department's website.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Congratulations to Karen Degney, National Security Chair for your award!

PROJECT STUFF SACK

This is a project conceived by the 2021-2022 American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth Committee as an opportunity to assist all departments with active participation in the initiatives of the ALA Children & Youth program. Funded by a 2021 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant, Project Stuff Sack will give every department the opportunity to make a positive difference for children by gifting them comfort items, toys and supplies. Please reach out to me for more information.

PARADE OF CHECKS

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin was able to present a check in the total of \$2,345.00 to National President Kathy Daudistel from our parade of checks! Thank you!

DUES

Dues will increase in the coming year. Why? Just for an example—Girls State fee is \$400 per girl to attend but the actual cost for just one girl is more than \$2,000 per girl. This is just one example of many factors in making this decision.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY

All past presidents from the units, county, district, and department are invited to become members. The dues are only \$5.00 per year. Besides sponsoring several scholarships, PPP will be handing out a "Mentor of the Year" award. Details will be available at a later date.

STANDING RULES

Standing rules should be reviewed with a group. When sending them in, please include a name and address for any questions that the chair may have.

FLY FLAGS FOR HEROES

National Commander for the Sons of the American Legion, Mike Fox, spoke at convention. He has started Fly Flags for Heroes along with Preston Sharp. It is a crusade to place one million flags and honor our veterans across the nation. All we are asked to do is pick a day, any day, to place American flags on veterans' graves at our local cemeteries. After you place a flag, go to flyflagsforheroes.com and log the number of flags you placed and where. You can do it as an individual or as a group. They have exceeded the goal of 1 million flags and are currently at 1,823,993 flags placed but don't want to stop until all veterans have been honored.

HISTORIAN

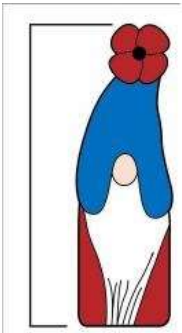
Recording your history should be an important chairmanship for your unit. Department judged 5 history books. ***Congratulations to District 7 Unit 118 Thorp and Donna Olkowski, unit historian, for having the winning history book at Department this year!***

CHAPLAIN

Only three prayer books were submitted to department. All three won awards. Thank you everyone that submitted prayers, poems and inspirational quotes to Donna Jensen for Department President Diane's Prayer Book. Diane was presented with her prayer book at convention!

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Join us at our Junior Conference being held on Saturday, September 10, 2022, in the Green Bay area at 9 am. We'll start with a meeting to elect our Honorary Junior Officers, work on a project and the patch program, have lunch and then head to the Zoo. Bring your family and especially any Sons of the American Legion members. If you have any questions, please call Laura Calteux at 414-379-2943. The registration form can be found on the department's website. Registration needs to be in by August 20, 2022.



G.etting N.ew & O.ld M.embers E.xcited! (GNOME)

MEMBERSHIP:

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD WINNER FOR 10 NEW IN 2022 JESSE ELMHORST FROM UNIT 73 NEILLSVILLE!

Members who recruit a New 2023 member will receive a GNOME pin. Only one entry/pin per recruiter. Entry forms must be received at Department PRIOR

As of 7/06/2022 – District 7 is in 5th Place and is at 93.93% of reaching our goal. Our goal this year is 2044 paid members. We currently have 1920 paid members, needing 124 members to reach 100%.

- Get in touch with your juniors. If your unit does not have junior members, you are missing out! What an awesome way to boost your membership and prepare for future leaders!
- Units that obtain 100% or reach the requirements for membership awards will only be considered for the award if they have the 2022-2023 Unit Officers Form sent in and on file. If you haven't already done so, turn them in asap. Thank you to those units that already have this completed!
- The first award a unit can earn is having atleast one paid member in before August 4, 2022. (EXCLUDES PUFL'S)

Next Clark County ALA meeting: Tuesday October 18th, 2022, in Owen.

National convention will be held from August 27th - September 1st, 2022 in Milwaukee Wi. For anyone planning to attend National Convention, here is a public service announcement: if you own or drive a Kia or Hyundai, consider getting a steering wheel lock because there has been a rash of thefts of this type of vehicle in the Milwaukee area. You may even want to consider leaving this type of vehicle home. My car was recently stolen from downtown Milwaukee while it was parked in a hotel parking garage. There is a gang of armed youth, mostly middleschoolers, called the "Kia Boyz" terrorizing the neighborhoods of the city and posting their thefts on YouTube.

"ALA In The Know" will be held on Saturday September 17, 2022 in District 7 at the American Legion Post 175, 302 N. Union Street, Loyal Wi 54446. Please plan on attending in our own district unless one is held closer to you. I want to see an amazing turnout for District 7. Thank you!

~Christina Petranovich, District 7 President

****NEW SUICIDE HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER "9-8-8" WENT INTO AFFECT ON JULY 16, 2022!**

DISTRICT 7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION:**PRESIDENT – Christina Petranovich**

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POPPY – YOUR NAME HERE

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