

ALA Department of Wisconsin

District 7

NEWSLETTER

March-April 2026

District 7 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park



Hello District 7!!!!

Hello District 7!!!

I would like to start this Newsletter with a prayer. With the conflicts going on overseas and the military lives recently lost, along with so many lives being impacted, I feel it is important we focus on lifting everyone up through prayer.

“Heavenly Father, today we lift up the families of those who gave their lives for our freedom. For every grieving heart missing someone deeply, we ask that You bring peace that only You can give. Surround them with love, comfort, and the gentle reminder—they are not alone.”

-Amen

I would like to remind you all that Department President Sue has a year celebrating America's 250th Birthday. In celebration of our great Nation's Milestone Birthday, each District was given a National Park!!! District 7 received the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. That being said, we will have some fun themed stuff in regards to this National Park from now through the Department Convention. So be sure to be attending the different District activities!!!

Speaking of President Sue, Department Chaplain Sandy Mack has put out the following request for President Sue's prayer book.....

“Could you please ask your units to send a prayer, song, poem along with name and unit, also who the author is. I would greatly appreciate it.”

If this is something your unit is interested in doing please send to Department Chaplain or my self and I'll send it to her, as soon as possible. Thank you!!!

Membership

Touching on the Department, our former District President and current Department First Vice President Christina Petranovich is in charge of Department Membership this year with big goals of getting the Department Membership to **100** !!! This is something that hasn't been done since our very own Virginia Kodl did it during her term as Department President. I would like to start by thanking the following Units for their explosive efforts in making it to **100 Membership Goals** (or above) Unit Wide.....

Rome 65, Owen 123, Humbird 320, Black River Falls 129, Northfield 541, Wonewoc 206, Bangor 40.

I'd also like to add some honorable mentions moving in at 80% or greater Membership.... I challenge these units to aim for **100** membership by the end of the month, I know you can really explode and get there!!

Neillsville 73, Thorp 118, Loyal 175, Black River Falls 200, Taylor-Hixton 368, Melrose 439, Mauston 81, New Lisbon 110, Camp Douglas 133, West Salem 51, La Crosse 52, Holmen 284, Onalaska 336, La Crosse 417, Sparta 100, Tomah 200, Wilson 508, Baraboo 26, La Valle 242, Spring Green 253, Reedsburg 350, Plain 398, Coon Valley 116, Westby 155, Chaseburg 202, Ontario 467!!!!

To all other Units not listed above, many of you are so close!!! I challenge all of you to make it a goal to explode to at least 80% by the end of March!!! I would like to see District 7 show up on an eruptive level for Christina and would like to see District 7 hit 100% Membership by the end of May, if not sooner!!! So please be reaching out to your members who haven't paid their dues yet and maybe those who fell off a few years ago. Once we have checked in with all of those people, I challenge you all to ask someone new to join!!!

I will include a screenshot of Membership Totals for District 7 as of 3/24. Our District is currently in 7th place of 12 so as a District we have room to improve our membership as well!!!!

100% UNIT		100% COUNTY		2026 Membership processed as of 03/24/26				
		UNIT	CITY	2026 GOAL	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
07	Adams	0065	Rome	18	0	22	22	122.22%
		Total		18	0	22	22	122.22%
	Clark	0073	Neillsville	100	3	77	80	80.00%
		0118	Thorp	146	22	116	138	94.52%
		0123	Owen	12	0	12	12	100.00%
		0175	Loyal	85	3	68	71	83.53%
		0238	Greenwood	37	2	22	24	64.86%
		0320	Humbird	14	3	16	19	135.71%
		Total		394	33	311	344	87.31%
	Jackson	0129	Black River Falls	14	0	18	18	128.57%
		0200	Black River Falls	16	0	13	13	81.25%
		0368	Taylor-Hixton	22	0	18	18	81.82%
		0439	Melrose	25	0	20	20	80.00%
		0541	Northfield	33	1	35	36	109.09%
	Total		110	1	104	105	95.45%	
	Juneau	0081	Mauston	58	11	42	53	91.38%
		0110	New Lisbon	20	0	18	18	90.00%
		0115	Elroy	28	0	20	20	71.43%
		0133	Camp Douglas	21	0	19	19	90.48%
		0206	Wonewoc	23	0	24	24	104.35%
		Total		150	11	123	134	89.33%
	La Crosse	0040	Bangor	47	4	48	52	110.64%
		0051	West Salem	170	10	143	153	90.00%
		0052	La Crosse	89	0	76	76	85.39%
		0284	Holmen	135	10	108	118	87.41%
		0336	Onalaska	134	4	126	130	97.01%
		0417	La Crosse	18	0	17	17	94.44%
0507		Mindoro	18	2	12	14	77.78%	
Total			611	30	530	560	91.65%	
Monroe	0100	Sparta	62	5	45	50	80.65%	
	0201	Tomah	97	5	79	84	86.60%	
	0309	Kendall	20	1	14	15	75.00%	
	0508	Wilton	43	0	38	38	88.37%	
	Total		222	11	176	187	84.23%	
Sauk	0026	Baraboo	37	2	31	33	89.19%	
	0172	North Freedom	15	1	8	9	60.00%	
	0242	La Valle	25	0	20	20	80.00%	
	0253	Spring Green	7	0	6	6	85.71%	
	0350	Reedsburg	29	0	24	24	82.76%	
	0398	Plain	15	0	12	12	80.00%	
	Total		128	3	101	104	81.25%	
Vernon	0116	Coon Valley	40	2	31	33	82.50%	
	0155	Westby	25	0	20	20	80.00%	
	0202	Chaseburg	45	3	34	37	82.22%	
	0315	Stoddard	12	0	8	8	66.67%	
	0467	Ontario	46	2	41	43	93.48%	
	Total		168	7	134	141	83.93%	
Total				1801	96	1501	1597	88.67%



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
 2930 American Legion Dr – PO Box 140 Portage WI 53901
 608-745-0124 Email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org Website: www.amlegionauxwi.org



HONOR OUR COUNTRY, SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

In celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States, the Wisconsin Membership theme will highlight National Parks, with each District being assigned one.

2026 Membership Totals Processed as of March 24, 2026

District	Goal	Total	Goal %	Place	To Reach 100%	
St. Croix Riverway	First	1374	1195	86.97%	9th	179
Denali	Second	2286	2068	90.46%	5th	218
Everglades	Third	2375	2174	91.54%	3rd	201
Apostle Islands	Fourth	470	450	95.74%	1st	20
Badlands	Fifth	136	99	72.79%	12th	37
Grand Canyon	Sixth	1096	992	90.51%	4th	104
Hawaii Volcanoes	Seventh	1801	1597	88.67%	7th	204
Yosemite	Eighth	1188	1013	85.27%	11th	175
Glacier	Ninth	1437	1287	89.56%	6th	150
Yellowstone	Tenth	1751	1500	85.67%	10th	251
Redwood	Eleventh	663	619	93.36%	2nd	44
Great Smoky Mtns.	Twelfth	864	754	87.27%	8th	110
	Headqtrs	419	218	52.03%		201
Total:		15,860	13,966	88.06%		1894

National standings were not available at the time of distribution.

- ~ We are up to 91 Units at/above 100%.
- ~ Seventy-five Units are within 3 of goal.
- ~ You all have been working it and IT SHOWS! We have gained 43 New Members in the past two weeks. (not including those that were returned for missing information) Ytd. we're still 30 members behind BUT this is the largest amount of new members for a two week period in a long time. **2026 New members can be submitted up until August 28th.**
- ~ **Get your final changes in now.** As of next Tuesday 3/31/26, what is in the system for name, address, paid, etcetera is what NATIONAL will be sending to their printer for the 2027 cards and rosters. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN TO STOP** sending in any changes, payments, new members etcetera, it just means those changes won't be on the 2027 cards and rosters you will receive in July. Those with ALA MIS access can pull real time rosters at any time for the most up-to-date information.
- ~ Member Change forms can be submitted via email: alawi@amlegionauxwi.org.

**REMINDER - PAST DUE
 EVERY UNIT MUST RETURN THESE FORMS**

If your unit has not already done so, please submit the following form ASAP.
 These forms can be saved to your device and attached to an email; send to alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

2027 Unit Dues Billing Amounts due no later than March 20, 2026

https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_66309509ef224b68b7a3abd3eb897768.pdf

AS SOON AS YOUR UNIT KNOWS/HAS ELECTIONS

2027 Unit Dues Collection Person due no later than May 22, 2026

https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_c44d544e49ad4e25a892f311bc11dd9d.pdf

2026-2027 UNIT OFFICER FORM IS NOW AVAILABLE

Even if your officers don't change a new form needs to be submitted EVERY year.

https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/files/ugd/8bea47_444c90c9ddab4b1f8dfd5a0898ed2f7c.pdf

On to other Department News.....

Impact Reports

I am patiently awaiting Impact reports. This is such an exciting opportunity for me to be able to better see all the exciting things happening throughout our District. But it's not just the District that is helped by sharing this information, it is the Department of Wisconsin, National, and even Congress. Without these reports so much of what we do as an organization wouldn't be so publicly known and we would struggle to make the impact that we do for our Veterans without it.

To get on board with National, the Department of Wisconsin is transitioning to electronic reporting. Paper will still be possible however Electronic is highly encouraged as at some point it will likely be required. That being said, I'd like to see as many units as possible report electronically this year. If you have any questions please contact me.

Regardless of how you submit, I am expecting to hear from every unit in the District. If I don't hear from you by April 15, be ready to hear from me!

Note from President Sue:

“ I am challenging you in this endeavor to support the online process. At the Department Convention, I will have an award for the top 3 districts with the highest percentages of online reporting.”

Department Bowling

Department Bowling is just around the corner and we as District Presidents have been asked to send out the following

The Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary State Bowling Association's (WALASBA) Annual 9-pin Tap Tournament is scheduled for April 11-12 at Weston Lanes in Weston, hosted by Wausau Unit 10. To date, only seven teams have committed to participate.

Anyone interested in bowling should submit an entry form to Tournament Director Jenni Syftestad by March 20th (entry form with tournament rules is attached). This is a FUN tournament and a great way to socialize with other members of the American Legion Auxiliary. If you don't have four members within your own unit who would like to bowl, please consider creating a team with members from neighboring units. Can't find four fun friends? Contact Jenni and maybe she can match you up with others who want to bowl.

For more information, please visit the department website (<https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/bowling>) or contact Jenni Syftestad at syftes@chorus.net and REGISTER TODAY!

Please consider nominating someone for the following



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Unit Member of the Year recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. The Nomination form can be downloaded from the Department of Wisconsin website at amlegionauxwi.org/leadership and are due to the Leadership Chairman by **March 15, 2026**.

Requirements:

- Open to senior members in good standing who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President.
- Accomplishments and activities must be achieved during the 2025-2026 ALA year. You may add other relevant information, as needed.
- Units must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities together with the nominee's name and address.

A Unit Member of the Year from each department will be recognized annually at the American Legion Auxiliary Department and National Conventions.

SALUTE TO SERVICEMEMBERS AWARD

Established in 2003, this award honors one enlisted servicemember (pay grade E1-E9) from each branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force) as well as the National Guard/Reserve.

Requirements:

- The nominating person submits a narrative discussing the reason for the nomination.
 - <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers-Award-Form>
- A picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photograph),
- Endorsement from a member of their command group must be included.
- The nominating form, along with all supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by **June 1, 2026, 5:00 PM EDT**.

The servicemember will be invited to speak to the general assembly of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention as a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary. If operational requirements prevent the servicemember's attendance at National Convention then other arrangements for their presentation to the general assembly will be made.

LEADERSHIP

Betty Stone, Dept Chrm
bjstone626@hotmail.com
715-452-5329
Unit Member of the Year Award

NATIONAL SECURITY

Bob Shappell, Dept Chrm
bobshap@aol.com
414-899-4067
Salute to Servicemembers Award

Poppy Poster Information Reminder

This is a friendly reminder about the ALA Wisconsin Poppy Poster Contest, an annual opportunity for students to honor veterans through creativity and patriotism. Please contact your local schools and organizations to promote our children's participation. Without your support, we could not have such a great response from our talented youth.

Important Wisconsin Deadlines

April 1: Units submit the Poppy Award Cover Sheet with narrative for "Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program."

May 1: Units select one winning Poppy Poster from each class and forward them to the Department Chairman (with completed Poppy Poster Cover Form).

May 1: Units also submit their Little Miss Poppy nomination.

Contest Eligibility & Classes

Students may participate through local schools or youth groups sponsored by an ALA Unit. Contest classes are:

Class I: Grades 2–3

Class II: Grades 4–5

Class III: Grades 6–7

Class IV: Grades 8–9

Class V: Grades 10–11

Class VI: Grade 12

Class VII: Students with special needs

Official Poster Rules

Posters must be created on 11" x 14" poster board.

Each poster must include a fitting slogan of no more than 10 words.

Articles such as a, an, and, the do not count toward the word limit.

The words "buddy" and "buy" may not be used.

Posters must feature the red Flanders Field poppy as the central theme.

Work must be the student's own, completed under the supervision of the sponsoring ALA Unit or school.

Only one winning poster per class may be forwarded by each Unit.

On to District News!!!!

Spring Conference

Please note the location change. Spring Conference will be held **Saturday, April 18th in LaCrosse at Post 52**. This will again be a Family Spring Conference. We will spend our morning together as an American Legion Family and break apart after lunch for formal business to be conducted for each organization.

I am requesting that all units please plan to attend the Spring Conference, we will hold our memorial service and I ask you all to please send me a list of all members who have passed away since our last spring Conference.

Just a friendly reminder, it is our year to elect Officers. I am currently still looking for someone to run for Chaplain and Sergeant at Arms. If you are interested in running for either of these positions please reach out to me. If you are planning to attend please RSVP to me directly ASAP so we can get a better head count on food. You can pay your lunch and registration (\$15) the day of the Conference at the door.

We will have some items for Auction to help raise money for the district. We are not asking units to send baskets. Raffle items are being provided by leadership. What I am asking is that every unit, please plan to make a donation of \$25 or more towards the district-wide Honor Flight Fundraiser at the Spring Conference in lieu of sending raffle baskets.

Additionally Unit 52 may also be doing raffles so please come ready to help support all the causes.

Freedom Honor Flight Fundraiser

This is a friendly reminder that the District American Legion Family is working on fundraising for the Freedom Honor Flight. We highly encourage you to talk with your units about hosting a fundraiser for this group effort. Big Boar can cater food at cost for the event; the only requirement is that there is an upcharge that goes to the Freedom Honor Flight. More information will be included in our next newsletter but if this is something you would like more information on sooner, please reach out to me and I would be more than happy to get it all to you.

District 7 Fundraiser

It is that time of year again that we are looking for a Unit to host our District Fundraiser. Please talk with your units as I will be looking for a location commitment for hosting at the conference. Please remember if you are holding a fundraiser please mail all proceeds to Pat Smith and in the memo area label Freedom Honor Flight. Thank you!!

District Dues

Please remember if you have not mailed your District Dues please do so by Tuesday, March 31st as they are due to Pat Smith very soon.

I still have the following units needing to mail their dues, if your unit has mailed your dues and you are on this list please reach out to myself or Pat Smith. Please also ensure checks have District Dues labeled in the memo line.

Baraboo 26- \$12.95

Black River 200- \$4.90

Camp Douglas 133- \$7.35

Chaseburg 202- \$15.75

Coon Valley 116- \$14.00

Elroy 115- \$9.80

Kendall 309- \$7.00

French Island 417-\$6.30

La Valle 242- \$8.70

Mauston 81- \$19.95

Melrose 439-\$8.75

Mindoro 507- \$6.30

North Freedom 172- \$5.25

Northfield 541- \$11.55

Ontario 467- \$16.10

Plain 398- \$5.25

Rome 65- \$6.30

Sparta 100- \$21.35

Spring Green 253- \$2.45

Stoddard 315- \$4.20

Taylor-Hixton 368- \$7.70

Tomah 201- \$33.60

Westby 155- \$8.75

Wilson 508- \$15.05

Wonewoc 206- \$8.05

I am looking forward to seeing you all in a couple weeks at the District Conference. Until then God Bless you all and continue to watch over and guide you.