



DISTRICT 7 MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



Unless You've been a Soldier *By Clive Sanders*

*Unless you've been a soldier,
You just won't understand.
The things that we have seen and done,
In the service of our land.
We have trained to live in combat,
To cope with awful sights.
They shouldn't be seen by anyone,
And keep you awake at nights.*

*We don't discuss the wounds we have,
To the body or the mind.
We just put our hurts behind us,
And turn our memories blind.
We are proud we served our country,
And remember those we lost.
For the freedom that you have today,
They paid the awful cost.*

*May we never forget their sacrifices of yesterday,
today, or tomorrow.*

*Let us pray:
May our military forces be guided, protected, and
strengthened at home and abroad.
Please protect them from helmet to boot.
May every man, woman and child appreciate the
privilege of loving and living on American soil.
Thank you to each one of our Veterans for the
immeasurable sacrifices made,
The incredible bravery you have shown, and your
undeniable commitment to this nation's freedom.
May we be forever grateful and protected.
In God's name we pray,
~Amen.*

District 7 Spring Conference

The District 7 Spring Conference will be held Saturday, March 23, 2024. West Salem Unit 51 will host. Attached is the registration form.

During this meeting, we will be putting together blankets for the Tomah VA Facility. Contact Helene Stein for more information on this (see last page of this newsletter). Unit Historian books should be presented at the spring conference for judging to go on to department.

POPPY POSTERS NEED TO BE JUDGED AT THE UNIT LEVEL AND SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN, KAY GROSSKOPF, BEFORE MARCH 15, 2024. THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED AT DISTRICT THIS YEAR.

Kay Grosskopf, Department Chairman
5909 Grandview Road, Larsen, WI 54947

kkgross44@gmail.com ☎ 715-881-1843

Freezin' for a Reason Update:

PDP Diane Weggen and I enjoyed an evening in the frigid cold, in a cardboard box, to raise money for Veterans In Crisis. I am happy to report that the District 7 ALA has raised \$1040.00! Thank you to everyone that donated!

2024 ALA WISCONSIN BOWLING TOURNAMENT

2024 Tournament Info:

- **Where:** Sports Page Bowl
 - 1174 W Broadway Avenue, Medford WI 54451
 - Flag presentation, pledge, greetings, and announcements start at 10:30 am with bowling beginning at 11:00 am.
- **When:** April 6-7 & April 13-14
 - Saturday shifts: 11:00 am & 2:00 pm
 - Doubles & Singles
 - Sunday shift: 9:00 am
 - Teams

Clark County ALA Spring Meeting

The Clark County ALA meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, April 16th, 2024, at 7pm. Hosting unit is Thorp Unit 118.

District Dues:

Per the Red Book: "Each unit shall pay to the district treasurer dues at the rate of \$0.35 cents per member. Membership is based on the number of paid-up members at the end of the previous year as shown in the current issue of the Red Book published by Department."

The 2024 District Dues need to be paid by or before the District 7 Spring Conference on March 23rd, 2024.

Please pay on or before Spring Conference:

BRF 129--\$3.50
BRF 200--\$5.95
Camp Douglas 133--\$7.35
Chaseburg 202--\$17.50
Coon Valley 116--\$16.45
Elroy 115--\$9.80
Holmen 284--\$45.50
Kendall 309--\$7.00
LaValle 242--\$8.75
Melrose 439--\$11.90
Mindoro 507--\$6.30
Onalaska 336--\$50.75
Plain 398--\$8.05
Reedsburg 350--\$12.25
Spring Green 253--\$2.45
Stoddard 315--\$5.60
Taylor-Hixton 368--\$7.35
Westby 155--\$9.45
Wilton 508--\$14.70

Dues should be sent to:

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

****Please indicate "District Dues" in the memo.****

MEMBERSHIP 2024



"HERO"

As of February 13th, District 7 is in 7th place for membership. Our goal is 2112 members. We are at 78.17% of our goal with 1651 members paid. That's just 461 members away from our district being 100%! The Alaskan Dog Sled Race is well underway so let's get Hero (District 7's dog) to the front of the pack!

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHALLENGE

C&Y Chairman Margaret Larson had challenged every unit in Wisconsin to donate \$1 per member to the Child Welfare Foundation. With the Department of Wisconsin being one of the larger departments in the ALA, this challenge would make quite the impact! For the units of District 7, we requested that you send your donations to the district treasurer, so that we could keep track of which units participate. *Thank you to Neillsville Unit 73, Thorp Unit 118, West Salem Unit 51, and the LaCrosse County 40 & 8. You will receive the 100% Per Capita Banner from CWF! \$479.00 was sent to CWF from these 4 units. Thank you for your generosity!*



LEGISLATIVE

All members of the American Legion Family are strongly encouraged to sign up for Legislative Action Alerts and to contact their representatives when action is required to support our veterans. Visit

<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/AmericanLegion/home> and click on the link to sign up for action alerts.

Unit Officer Forms:

If your unit reaches a membership goal, your unit will be disqualified for any awards if the unit officer form has not been turned into Department. Please complete and send in asap even if all positions are not filled. You can always send an updated one later. Thank you to those units that have already sent them in.

Upcoming Events Around

District 7:

- **Greenwood #238** Friday night fish fry the third Friday of month, September to April.
- **Camp Douglas #133** has meat raffles on Tuesday evenings.
- **Neillsville #73** every Friday-Fish Fry
- **Sparta #100** Omelet Breakfast the second Saturday of every month September to April.
- **Thorp #118** Ham Bingo March 8
- **Thorp #118** BBQ Chicken Dinner April 25th
- **Tomah #201** Friday Night Fish Fry 5pm until gone – March 1st, 15th, & 29th, April 5th & 19th, and May 3rd.
- **West Salem #51** Fish & Shrimp March 1st, March 15th, & March 29th.
- **West Salem #51** Bingo March 4th at 6:30pm
- **West Salem #51** Auxiliary Breakfast March 10th 8-11
- **West Salem #51** Corned Beef Dinner March 18th
- **West Salem #51** hosting District 7 Spring Conference March 23rd
- **Wonewoc #206** Breakfast every Sunday from 8am-11am. \$10 All you can eat.
- **Wonewoc #206** Dinner every Friday from 12noon-6pm \$8.00
- **Wonewoc #206** Euchre every Monday. Doors open at 11am, game starts at noon.

Please contact the units for more information and times. If your unit has upcoming events, please let me know so that I can include them in the next newsletter.

District 7 Fall Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 14th, 2024, hosted by Unit 100 Sparta.

YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT FORMS

2023-2024

Why report these numbers?

Every hour, every dollar that The American Legion Auxiliary members invest in our mission of helping veterans adds up. It not only gives each member a sense of pride in belonging to the world's largest patriotic organization, but it allows us to demonstrate our effectiveness to the world. Each small sum of numbers gets added into the collective numbers that are called Impact Numbers. These numbers proclaim our impact and make membership in the ALA meaningful.

These numbers are also reported to The American Legion, which includes them in its annual report to Congress. To make this process easier for you, it has been simplified and the form has been condensed to include only essential information. If you aren't sure, giving an estimate is better than not reporting at all.

How to complete the Impact Report Form

1. **Each ALA member** should fill out the Member Form and give it to his/her Unit President by April 1, 2024.
2. The Unit President (or designee) compiles all the member data on the Unit Form and adds any additional data not reported individually by unit members. **This form then gets forwarded to the District, President by April 15, 2024.** The District President consolidates the unit reports and forwards the numbers to Department by May 1, 2024.
3. It is more important that information is reported in one section of the form only, rather than worrying if the right category has been selected. For example, if you provide a service for children, it should go in either Service for Military Families (for example, camps for military children only) or Service for Children & Youth (camps open to any child), but not in both places. But please report it somewhere.
4. Please round to whole dollar values (for example, \$149.50 should be \$150).

Report Simplifications

1. All service for military – whether active duty, retired, or reserve – is combined in one section.
2. Each section has better defined examples of the service that should be reported.
3. **For Units and Districts: “Line numbers” and “Obtain Total From” columns** assist in transferring data from form to form. For example, units can find the number of Volunteer Hours for Military Families on Line 5 of the Member Form.

A downloadable fillable monthly tracking worksheet is available on the Department website under the Annual Report Forms tab: www.amlegionauxwi.org.

Thank you for taking the time to REPORT your VALUABLE SERVICE and helping us TELL OTHERS about our INCREDIBLE IMPACT!

REPORT DEADLINES:

Member Reports are due to Unit Presidents by April 1, 2024.

Unit **Impact** Reports are due to District Presidents by April 15, 2024.

Unit **Narrative** Reports are due to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2024.

District Impact Reports are due to Department by May 1, 2024.

Department Chairmen Reports are due to National Chairmen by May 15, 2024.

Department Year-End Impact Report is due to National Headquarters by June 1, 2024

*****PLEASE REMEMBER:*****

**IMPACT REPORTS TO DISTRICT
PRESIDENT & NARRATIVE
REPORTS TO DEPARTMENT! DO
NOT SEND THE NARRATIVE
REPORTS TO DISTRICT!!!! THANK
YOU!**

BE THE ONE

To **ASK** Veterans in your life
how they are doing.

To **LISTEN** when a Veteran
needs to talk.

To **REACH OUT** when a
Veteran is struggling.



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

*For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;
To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion;
To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*

MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of Service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

DISTRICT 7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION:

PRESIDENT – Christina Petranovich

W9020 Hixwood Road
Thorp WI 54771
715-512-0628 christina.petranovich@yahoo.com

1st VP – Helene Stein

30752 Exodus Avenue
Warrens WI 54666
608-343-3008 stitchkeeper@hotmail.com

2nd VP – Jesse Elmhurst

W4462 Sand Road
Neillsville, WI 54456
715-937-8246 Elmhorst2016@gmail.com

SECRETARY – Kristina LeCloux

PO Box 78
Thorp WI 54771
920-265-7187 klecloux@msn.com

TREASURER / PARLIAMENTARIAN – Pat Smith

800 West Ave N #112
West Salem WI 54669
608-786-4441 pms112ws@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN – Joanne Biesek

S2533 Gold Rush Court
Reedsburg WI 53959
608-678-6543 joannebiesek@gmail.com

HISTORIAN – Vickie Dux

1707 E Upham Street
Marshfield, WI 54449
715-384-9023 / 715-660-1506
bcvranch@frontier.com

SERGEANT AT ARMS – Virginia Kodl

N15109 Fisher Avenue
Thorp WI 54771
715-669-5432 kodlvirg@yahoo.com

ASS'T SERGEANT AT ARMS – Nichole Schmidt

315 Edgewood Avenue
Tomah WI 54660
608-343-9720 nicholemason17@gmail.com

CHAIRMEN:

MEMBERSHIP – Helene Stein

(Contact information above)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Jesse Elmhurst

(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 – Christina Petranovich

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JUNIORS – Katarina Petranovich

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715-512-0887 kpetranovich@yahoo.com

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 Elmhurst

(Contact information above)

NATIONAL SECURITY – Christina Petranovich

(Contact information above)

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Christina Petranovich

(Contact information above)

7th District Spring Conference

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Location: Berg Hemker Olson American Legion, Post 51
148 Leonard Street S, West Salem, WI

Registration: 8:00 - 9:00, refreshments, muffins &
Getting to know each other

Program: 9:00 am

Cost: \$12.00 (\$2 for registration & \$10 for a light lunch)

All units should bring a raffle basket/items. All baskets/items will be raffled off at the end of the event and proceeds donated
Any questions please contact Unit 51 President- Brooke Parr 608-797-9613

Make checks payable to: ALA Unit 51

Mail payment and registration to:

Nicole Vidal

121 Acorn Lane

West Salem, WI 54669

Registration deadline: March 15

Prizes for the unit that registers first, the unit with the most members in attendance and the unit that traveled the furthest distance and additional door prize drawings as well

7th District Spring Conference Registration:

NAME	NAME

Unit # & Location _____

Check # _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Finance and Budget
Internal Financial Controls
Audit Checklist for Units

The following questions are designed to help your unit or district prepare for the annual audit.

The executive committee has a "fiduciary" responsibility for the finances of the organization and needs to ensure proper controls are in place.

If you check "No" for any question you may need to re-evaluate your procedures.

Guidelines/Recommendations	Is your Unit complying?	
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Accounting requirements	Yes	No
Are proper books and records kept of all transactions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Budgets	Yes	No
Are annual budgets prepared and approved by the unit to cover income and expenditures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Collection income	Yes	No
Are public collections undertaken within legal requirements for public collections?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are collection boxes (ex: Poppy Cans) numbered & record kept of their allocation and return?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all collection boxes sealed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are collections counted in the presence of the collector and a receipt given to the collector from a duplicate pad?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is money paid directly into the unit's bank account?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fund-raising events or campaigns	Yes	No
Are records maintained for each fund-raising event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For ticket income are:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Records kept of all persons issued with tickets to sell, and their ticket numbers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Records kept of which tickets sold?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reconciliations made of money received against tickets sold?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are similar records kept for sponsored (dinners, golf outings, auctions, etc.) events?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Banking and custody procedures	Yes	No
Are incoming receipts banked promptly and regularly (at least weekly)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the safe custody ensured for all valuables held on premises?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are keys to the safe or cash box signed for?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is insurance held to cover contents of safe or cash box?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is all incoming money banked and no amounts held over for petty cash /replenishment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is money that belongs to the unit held separately from any individual officer/staff member?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there controls over receipt books issued by the unit/ district?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

American Legion Auxiliary
Officer and Committee Training Guide
 Department of Wisconsin

Checking income records	Yes	No
Are regular checks made to ensure records are accurate?		
Are checks made by someone other than the original recording officer?		
Are any restrictions placed on donated income?		

Controls over expenditure	Yes	No
Are all expenditures properly authorized?		
Is there supporting documentation (receipts, etc.) required and maintained for expenditures?		
Are check books, etc. kept in secure place with access only by nominated persons?		
Is the preparation of payments undertaken by someone other than the authorizing officer?		
Is a written statement of policy and practice on payment procedures available to members?		

Controls over purchases	Yes	No
Are invoices checked against orders made?		
Is the quality and quantity of goods supplied checked against orders made?		
Is inventory of stock taken regularly?		
Are authority levels for placing orders documented?		
Are payments only made against original invoices?		

Payment by check	Yes	No
Do you comply with any stipulation in the governing document about who can sign checks?		
Are there at least 2 signatories on the bank mandate?		
Is there a policy that a nominated signatory may not sign a check made payable to themselves?		
Is there a policy of not signing blank checks?		
Is every effort made to minimize cash payments?		
Are all stubs completed at time of payment?		
Are monetary limits placed on any individual's check signing recorded in writing?		

Payment by cash	Yes	No
Are all payments by cash made from a petty cash account?		
Is petty cash drawn from the bank and not from incoming money?		
Do all payments have supporting documentation?		
Is supporting documentation authorized by someone other than the cashier or claimant?		
Are amounts of claim entered on a petty cash voucher?		
Are all payments noted in a petty cash book?		
Are all replenishment withdrawals from bank noted in the petty cash book?		
Are regular checks made of petty cash records by someone other than the cashier?		

Bank accounts	Yes	No
Are secure records held of all accounts?		
Are regular bank reconciliations carried out?		
Are instructions to open/close accounts properly authorized and/or reported to the members?		
Are checks made to ensure that there are no dormant accounts?		
Are bank statements regularly inspected by officers not assigned bookkeeping duties?		
Are cross checks made between bank records and the income and expenditure records?		