



## DISTRICT 7 SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



*Dear Lord,  
September 15<sup>th</sup> is National POW-MIA  
Recognition Day. Let us be thankful of  
the many men and women who have served  
our country and those still serving.  
Bless our Legion Family members that  
are ill, disabled or in nursing homes. We  
pray for their recovery.  
Watch over our Veterans and our active-  
duty military that are protecting our nation  
which allows us life, liberty and  
preservation.  
We thank you dear Lord,  
~Amen.*

~Chaplin Joanne

### DISTRICT 7 FALL WORKSHOP:

The District 7 Fall Workshop will be held on  
**Saturday, September 9, 2023.** Registration starts at  
8:00am, Meeting at 9:00am. Fee is \$15.00. It is  
being hosted by, and held at, the Legion Hall --  
Neillsville Unit 73 -- 6 Boon Blvd, Neillsville WI  
54456.

Please call 715-937-8246 if you plan to attend and  
did not get your registration sent in yet.

*Each unit is asked to please bring an item or basket  
for our district auction. \*\*\*Items should not be  
used or partially used, thank you.\*\*\**

#### **Attendance Incentive!!!**

Each unit that brings at least 5 members to the Fall  
Workshop will be entered into a drawing for \$50 to

be used for your unit's membership! What do I  
mean? If you have a member or a few members  
that are finding it difficult to pay their dues, you can  
use this money towards their dues. (\$10 for 5  
members in need -- just as an example.) The  
winning unit will be drawn before the end of the  
meeting.

*Special Request for a representative from Humbird  
Unit 320, Thorp Unit 118, and Neillsville Unit 73,  
please plan on attending the Fall Workshop. 2023  
Convention Citations will be presented at the  
meeting.*

### **"MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR VETERANS" PURSE FUNDRAISER:**

District 7 is sponsoring "Make A Difference For  
Veterans" Purse Fundraiser!

When: Saturday, October 21, 2023

Where: American Legion Post 73, 6 Boon Avenue,  
Neillsville WI 54456

Doors open at 4:00pm for Raffles, Cocktails and  
Social Hour

Dinner at 6:00pm

Raffle Drawing at 8:00pm

Cost: \$25.00 per ticket (AFTER 10/01/2023 \$30.00  
per ticket)

## ***ATTENTION DISTRICT 7 UNITS AND MEMBERS:***

Members of the committee will be traveling around the district, visiting each unit bringing purses and tickets. Each unit is encouraged to take a purse and fill it with items to be raffled off the night of the event. Examples for filling the purse (or purses--you can take more than one) are cash, lottery tickets, jewelry, or just about anything! Be creative! You can also make raffle baskets that include the purse. Committee members will also be giving each unit tickets to sell for the event.

This is a District 7 fundraiser. We anticipate being able to make several donations for the benefit of our Veterans.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Tomah VA is currently looking for volunteers for the following programs:

- Coffee Carts (in Tomah, LaCrosse, Rapids, Wausau & Owen – usually only mornings until coffee is gone.)
- Compassion Contact Corps (virtual – phone calls)
- DAV Drivers (Tomah, LaCrosse, Wausau)
- No Veteran Dies Alone
- Loving Spoonfuls
- Honor Escorts
- Mass/Worship Volunteers (Mass Fri & Sat / Protestant Wed)
- Musical Volunteers

Anyone can call Tomah VA Center for Community Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE), (formerly Voluntary Service), at 607-372-1727 and Debbie will get you signed up!

New event we need help with and ALA is sponsoring (Dates will vary on this event):

2023 marks the 100th anniversary of VA providing healthcare to women Veterans. We will be hosting 100 minutes celebrating 100 years at every CBOC and a larger program at the main facility during the celebration week. The northern tier (Wisconsin Rapids, Wausau & Owen) clinics will be visited on 9/12: LaCrosse on 9/13: and Tomah will host a large event in building 455 on the actual anniversary of 9/14/2023. We are inviting VISN partners as well as community/media partners to highlight and celebrate the advancement in care for women Veterans.



### **MEMBERSHIP 2023 – 2024**

In honor of newly elected National President Lisa Williamson's home state of Alaska, the Department of Wisconsin is having our very own Iditarod Membership Race! Each district has their own dog in the race and District 7's dog is Hero! Let's push our membership to 100% and beyond and put Hero in the lead!



## MINNEAPOLIS VA

The Minneapolis VA is seeking donations for their Women's Appreciation Event. The items must be dropped off BEFORE SEPTEMBER 26, 2023. The items will be used for the women Veteran patients attending the event. The event is meant to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the women's clinic and will be held at the Base Camp in Fort Snelling. For drop off, donors may bring items to the Main Entrance of the VA and call 612-467-2050 and they will come down and pick them up. (SEE ATTACHMENTS FOR ITEMS AND DONATION FORM)

OUR NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL  
COMMANDER IS DANIEL J.  
SEEHAFFER OF WISCONSIN!

# 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.

### National President Focus:

For the 2023-2024 ALA administrative year, the national focus is to increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic by embracing The American Legion's Be the One initiative – be the one to save one. A few experiences of people close to National President Lisa Williamson have led to this focus for our members. The goal is to destigmatize getting help when it comes to thoughts of suicide.

The American Legion's Be the One initiative is not just the Legion's, but The American Legion Family's with all three leaders – American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and the ALA – focusing on this important issue for the 2023-2024 ALA administrative year.

2023-2024 ALA National President Lisa Williamson will be going above and beyond in her role as national president, by not only helping to raise awareness about the Be the One initiative, but also to raise funds for the American Legion Auxiliary's greatest need – Spirit of Youth (SOY) Scholarships. Beginning in fiscal year 2024, the ALA will increase the number of SOY scholarships by 49, bringing the total number of scholarships awarded to 67. This will bring the total amount awarded to \$100,000, the most the Auxiliary has ever awarded for SOY scholarships. With your help, the ALA can will help more students fulfill their educational pursuits in preparation to lead in the future.



*“Enhancing the Lives of our  
Veterans, Military and their  
Families – One Day at a Time.”*

Wisconsin Department President Maggie Geiger's theme.

## Dogs2DogTags

The purpose of Dogs2DogTags is to create an opportunity to save at-risk, rescued, and donated dogs, train them, and place them with deserving service members who have been diagnosed with post-combat stress and anxiety. They provided significant treatment options to Veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Canine companionship can make a real difference in the fight against an incredibly high suicide rate among our Veterans, while saving the lives of deserving canines.

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT MAGGIE GEIGER'S SPECIAL PROJECT.**

## DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN FALL JUNIOR CONFERENCE:

WHERE: Turning Rivers Youth Camp N885 Youth Camp Rd. Campbellsport 53010

WHEN: OCTOBER 21-22, 2023

FROM: 1pm Saturday until 2pm Sunday

Join us at Camp Hometown Heroes for our Fall Conference and learn about the camp, and what it does for military children, our American Legion Auxiliary, and what you can do for our veterans, and military. There will be hiking, crafts (lots!), outdoor cooking, and learning about wilderness survival.

Bring your sleeping bag and pillow for a fun weekend with friends!

If you have any questions, please call Laura Calteux at 414-379-2943. (Registration Form Attached)

## 2023-2024 MISSION TRAINING & NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS:

The national organization is hosting Mission Training sessions and National Junior Meetings. Dates and locations are listed below. Mission

Training: Would you like to learn more about working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary? Would you like to network with national leaders and other members who share your passion and enthusiasm for helping our veterans? During the 1-day Mission Training conference, you'll be inspired while learning more about working the ALA's core programs in an interactive and fun environment. Many of the American Legion Auxiliary Mission Outreach programs will be covered during this conference. National Junior Meetings: If your Junior is 8 years old or older, they are invited to a national Junior meeting! They will have the opportunity to meet new friends, do a service project for caregivers, and have tons of fun! The meetings are on a Saturday to correspond with the Mission Training conferences.

- 11/4/2023: Cincinnati, OH (Embassy Suites Cincinnati Rivercenter Covington)
- 11/4/2023: Providence, RI (Marriott Providence Downtown)
- 2/3/2024: Lincoln, NE (Marriott Lincoln Cornhusker)
- 2/3/2024: Nashville, TN (Hilton Nashville Airport)
- 1/27/2024: Las Vegas, NV (Tuscany Suites & Casino)

Registration opens soon! Check out the national website for details ([www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org))



## **DISTRICT 7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION:**

### **PRESIDENT – Christina Petranovich**

W9020 Hixwood Road  
Thorp WI 54771  
715-512-0628 [christina.petranovich@yahoo.com](mailto:christina.petranovich@yahoo.com)

### **1<sup>st</sup> VP – Helene Stein**

30752 Exodus Avenue  
Warrens WI 54666  
608-343-3008 [stitchkeeper@hotmail.com](mailto:stitchkeeper@hotmail.com)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Jesse Elmhurst**

W4462 Sand Road  
Neillsville, WI 54456  
715-937-8246 [Elmhurst2016@gmail.com](mailto:Elmhurst2016@gmail.com)

### **SECRETARY – Kristina LeCloux**

PO Box 78  
Thorp WI 54771  
920-265-7187 [klecloux@msn.com](mailto:klecloux@msn.com)

### **TREASURER / PARLIAMENTARIAN – Pat Smith**

800 West Ave N #112  
West Salem WI 54669  
608-786-4441 [pms112ws@gmail.com](mailto:pms112ws@gmail.com)

### **CHAPLAIN – Joanne Biesek**

S2533 Gold Rush Court  
Reedsburg WI 53959  
608-678-6543 [joannebiesek@gmail.com](mailto:joannebiesek@gmail.com)

### **HISTORIAN – Vickie Dux**

1707 E Upham Street  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
715-384-9023 / 715-660-1506  
[bcvranch@frontier.com](mailto:bcvranch@frontier.com)

### **SERGEANT AT ARMS – Virginia Kodl**

N15109 Fisher Avenue  
Thorp WI 54771  
715-669-5432 [kodlvirg@yahoo.com](mailto:kodlvirg@yahoo.com)

### **ASS'T SERGEANT AT ARMS – Nichole Schmidt**

315 Edgewood Avenue  
Tomah WI 54660  
608-343-9720 [nicholemason17@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:allysha.petranovich@gmail.com)

### **VA & R – Virginia Kodl**

(Contact information above)

### **POPPY – Christina Petranovich**

(Contact information above)

### **JUNIORS – Katarina Petranovich**

W9020 Hixwood Road  
Thorp WI 54771  
715-512-0887 [kpetranovich@yahoo.com](mailto:kpetranovich@yahoo.com)

### **EDUCATION – Nichole Schmidt**

(Contact information above)

### **AMERICANISM – Diane Weggen**

16266 361<sup>st</sup> Street  
Stanley WI 54768  
715-644-2668 [dsweggen@gmail.com](mailto:dsweggen@gmail.com)

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE – Valerie Mason**

427 Michigan Avenue Upper  
S. Milwaukee, WI 53172  
715-305-1520 [valzzz3@yahoo.com](mailto:valzzz3@yahoo.com)

### **LEADERSHIP – Jesse Elmhurst**

(Contact information above)

### **NATIONAL SECURITY – Christina Petranovich**

(Contact information above)

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS – Christina Petranovich**

(Contact information above)