

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin District 7 August 2024 Newsletter

Hello District 7!

In honor of Purple Heart Day on August 7th a prayer for that is how I would like to start my first newsletter.

“A Prayer for Purple Heart Day”

By Martha Leahy

A purple medal – a badge of honor
A badge of military merit
For wounds received and lives lost
Given to those who gave of themselves,
so others could be saved.

A purple medal – a sword and a shield
Deflecting the bullet or the bomb
Diverting the hurt meant for another
Bravery without thinking first of themselves

A purple medal worn over the heart
A medal that is a shield
Either keeping our memories from coming
out
Or blocking those memories from getting
inside.

A purple medal – is it enough, by itself, to
reward the hero?
Not by itself – it takes comrades,
government, citizens, all
To speak in one voice – to speak the words
loud and clear:
Thank you, brave soldier.

A purple medal –
let’s take a moment to think about the cost
Of earning the purple medal that hangs over
the heart:

If your tradition is to pray, say a prayer for
those who earned the Purple Heart.
If your tradition is to respond by doing
something– reach out to a veteran or their
families and let them know you care.
If your tradition is to simply say thank you,
then give thanks.

In the silence, let us each reflect on the
meaning of this purple medal to us.

(Silence)

To the millions of veterans who have earned
the Purple Heart, we say thank you.
To the millions of family members who live
with the injured or with the memory of
loved ones lost, we say thank you for your
sacrifice.
To the millions of personnel yet to be added
to their numbers, we say thank you.

May all these veterans be thanked for their
courage, fearlessness and commitment to
those with whom they served.
And many blessings be upon recipients of
the Purple Heart.

Amen.

Hello and Happy August Everyone!!!

I wanted to start out by thanking the past officer team for all the hard work and dedication they put in these past two years by helping continue to build and grow a strong district. It truly doesn't go unnoticed. We are truly blessed in the 7th District to have such dedicated mentors and leaders for our membership.

Next I would like to introduce myself, my name is Jesse Elmhorst and I am so excited to be your newly installed District 7 President. I can not wait to meet as many of you as possible as well as see what the next 2 years have in-store for District 7 as a whole. I know we are capable of great things!!!

I currently live in Neillsville, WI with my husband Dana and our 4 young children Barrett(14), Della(7), Evelyn(5), and Nina(1). In addition to our kiddos at home we have our bonus daughter Brittany, son in law Tyler, and grandson Derek who also live in Neillsville. We are an American Legion Family through and through with everyone of us belonging to a part of the American Legion Family. I openly joke that we barely got Nina out of the hospital and she was a registered member of the Auxiliary and any future kiddo I'll just bring the membership card with to the hospital, 😊.

That being said, it will not be uncommon over the next two years to see my husband, children, or grandson out and about with me at many of the different activities and events. I would like to take this time to encourage any other members that are in the same or similar season of life to not let your kiddos be a deterrent in attending Auxiliary functions..... bring them with you when possible! It's one of the best ways I have found to instill a strong sense of Americanism within our youth by simply including them in it.

As I said before I am looking forward to meeting as many of you and attending as many things as I can within the district over the next two years. If there is something you would like me to attend or to try and help with please reach out. I will do my best to be there or assist in any way that I can along with the rest of our officer team.

Just as past President Christina asked, I would also like to encourage you all to please send me the upcoming events and activities happening in your units (and posts) so we can include those activities in our newsletter and hopefully help draw in some extra people to your events.

I would also love to hear about any accomplishments big or small happening in your units, as well as members who are going above and beyond so I can shout them out in our newsletter. And just maybe your ideas will help inspire other members to do something similar in their own units!!!

Over the next couple of months I also plan to introduce our other officers and committee chair members in the newsletter to help us all get to know one another, as well as make sure you all know who you can reach out to if you or your unit need help with something.



August Top News

ALA DEPARTMENT of Wisconsin Convention

The Department Convention was held this year in Appleton, Wisconsin at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel & Convention center.

I would like to thank our District, Clark Co and the Thorp Unit for endorsing our very own Past 7th District President Christina Petranovich on her quest for Department 2nd Vice President, it is with great privilege I am able to let those of you who may not know yet that Christina was voted in as the Department 2nd Vice President at Convention. Congratulations Christina we can't wait to see all that you accomplish with the Department this coming year!!!!

Our new Department of Wisconsin President Becky Mueller of District 9, Unit 106. President Becky's theme for the year is

“Serving our Veterans, Military, and Each Other from the Depths of our Hearts” 

President Becky has not one but 2 special projects she would like to focus on over the next year.

- 1.) Raise awareness of Wisconsin 1,800+ POW/MIA Soldiers. The UW Recovery and Identification Project works to find and identify missing US Military personnel and return them to their families. President Becky asks that YOU reach out to these families that are still missing their loved ones. To remind them that we care and to encourage them to submit DNA samples to the project to help the efforts in reunification of their missing loved one.
- 2.) President Becky will be collecting funds to go towards our Auxiliary Emergency Fund to help serve other members in a time of need. President Becky has a goal to raise a \$1 for each member in the department. Donations can be made and sent to Department, please memo that the donation is for President Becky's Special AEF Project or by using the sheet online.

I personally knew nothing about this program until 2 years ago this July. Our house had caught fire after being struck by lightning and ended up a total loss. We were temporarily displaced and needed to come up with some real plans on what we would do next. It was immediately following

our fire that several members throughout our district and neighboring districts reached out to tell me about this program. Although it was a program we opted not to use as we had other options and resources available it was a resource I was so grateful to have been offered and been eligible to use had we truly needed it.

I would like to see all units within District 7 mail \$1 per member of your unit (or more if you wish) to this special project as challenged by Department President Becky. As this is such a truly valuable resource to our members (who are right here) if they should ever be in a position to need those kinds of resources. The first unit to send me confirmation of completing this goal will receive a prize and certificate for being the first to complete this goal request!

If your unit would like Becky to attend any of your events please fill out a request form and submit it to the Department Headquarters.

It was President Maggie's Convention and these 2024 Convention Citations were given during convention

President's Award for Excellence – St. Nazianz Unit 477

Americanism – Certificate of Recognition to Green Lake Unit 306

History – Certificate of Participation to Chilton Unit 125, Patricia Katalinick, Historian

Leadership – Certificate of Recognition to St. Nazianz Unit 477

Legislative – Certificate of Participation to Neenah Unit 33

Membership – Over 100% Certificates & Ribbons to St. Nazianz Unit 477

National Security – Certificate of Recognition to Omro Unit 234

Poppy Poster Award – Natalie Myers, sponsored by Winneconne Unit 364

In addition to several other topics President Maggie also brought in a guest speaker from her special project Dogs to Dog Tags. If you have not had a chance to learn about this program I would highly encourage it. The organization trains dogs to live with veterans, and is based out of Wisconsin!!! Very cool program for our local veterans if they are looking for a furry companion as each dog and veteran are paired together on-site.



Membership News

Hi to all of District #7:

I'm Diana Dalton from Baraboo, WI and I have been the President of the Reedsburg Unit #350 for 5 years now. I'm the new Membership Chairman for 2025.

Membership is EVERYONE'S Responsibility, and we have people who will come to your unit if you need help in any area.

I have a lot of families that have served in the Military, and my HEART is in doing SERVICE back to them now. We need to have people to become Members in our District, reach out to serve our VETERANS locally.

Our Membership goals are as follows:

75% for 1 UNIT is \$100.00 by September 15th,2024

85% for 1 UNIT is \$100.00 by October 15th,2024

95% for 1 UNIT is \$100.00 by November 15th,2024

100% for 1 UNIT is \$100.00 by December 15th,2024.

May the "BEAT GO ON" to pay our Membership dues online or over the phone by these deadlines for all.

We are Serving our Veterans, Military and each other from the depths of our HEARTS.

Membership Chairman

Diana Dalton



Legislative News

Take time to sign up for Action Alerts.

If you haven't already signed up for alerts from the American Legion please do so, this is another way we can serve our veterans, and the American Legion Family. To receive action alert's, go to the American Legion National website www.legion.org

Click on Programs, under programs select Legislative, on the right side of the screen you will see Grassroots Action center; by signing up you will receive action alerts, as well as other legislations that you can send an email to your representative, vote as often as you can. It will automatically bring up your representatives according to your zip code.

This is our latest request from The American Legion to support our veterans. Urge your Senators to support the **Major Richard Star Act as an Amendment!**

Currently combat-injured veterans face a reduction in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive. The **Major Richard Star Act** aims to rectify this by allowing combat-injured veterans to receive both their earned retirement pay and disability compensation without offset. Your action in advancing this crucial legislation is essential and greatly appreciated. Contact your Senators today!

Thank you for your support, let's make sure our veterans receive the benefits they deserve!

Diane Weggen

District 7 Legislative Chr.



Open District Positions

We have several open positions on our district team looking for the perfect candidate to help fill them, and gain the knowledge needed to assist other units in our district in the following areas.

Officers and chairman do not need to have prior experience with the position or chair but will be expected to have a positive attitude, willingness to learn, and desire to help other members when in need.

If any of the following sound like something you or someone you know might be interested in please reach out to me for further information.

- Assistant Sergeant at Arms
- Poppies
- Juniors
- Education
- Americanism
- Community Service
- National Security



Fall Workshop

Fall Workshop registration will be mailed/emailed out shortly. Please be watching for that information in the coming days. Thank you!



Important Upcoming ALA Dates to know

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

ALA IN THE KNOW

Three ALA in the Know Conferences are scheduled for this fall:

September 14, 2024 at Legion Post 98 in Cumberland

September 28, 2024 at St John's Lutheran Church, Gillett

October 5, 2024 at Legion Post 288 in Cedarburg

Registrations are due August 1, 2024. Registrations forms were included in the recent dept mailing and on the website.

**The next Clark County ALA Meeting will be hosted by
Humbird Unit 320 on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm.**

ALA National Convention

New Orleans, Louisiana

August 23rd-August 29th, 2024

ALA General Sessions

Monday, August 26th 8am-11:30am

Tuesday, August 27th 8am-Noon

Wednesday, August 28th 8am-Noon.



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 – Jesse Elmhurst
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2nd VP – Helene Stein
30752 Exodus Avenue
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SECRETARY – Janalee Kapusta
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TREASURER / PARLIAMENTARIAN – Pat Smith
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CHAPLAIN – Joanne Biesek
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HISTORIAN – Vickie Dux
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SERGEANT AT ARMS – Nichole Schmidt
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nicholemason17@gmail.com

ASSISTANT SERGEANT AT ARMS –

CHAIRMEN:

MEMBERSHIP – Diana Dalton
(Contact information see 1st VP)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Janalee Kapusta
(Contact information see Secretary)

LEGISLATIVE – Diane Weggen
16266 361st Street
Stanley, WI. 54768
(715) 644-2668
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VA & R – Helene Stein
(Contact information see 2nd VP)

POPPY –

JUNIORS –

EDUCATION –

AMERICANISM –

COMMUNITY SERVICE –

LEADERSHIP – Christina Petranovich
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christina.petranovich@yahoo.com

NATIONAL SECURITY –

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Christina Petranovich
(Contact information above)



District 7 Fall Workshop
Saturday, September 14th, 2024

Location: O L Arnold - D K Slayton American Legion, Post 100
1116 Angelo Road, Sparta, Wisconsin 54656

Registration: 8am-9am with light refreshments provided by ALA Unit 100 while getting to know each other

Program Start: 9am

Cost: \$15 (this is to cover lunch; Roasted Chicken, Veggie, Coleslaw, Dinner Roll, Chips, Soda and Dessert)

This fall conference I am asking that instead of all units sending raffle baskets, you instead please send new hats, gloves, mittens, socks and coats to donate to veterans in need this coming winter. The Unit that brings the most items will win a prize!!!

We will also still be having a little auction with Pat Smith at the end (we just won't be having baskets provided by the units this time for the auction).

I am asking that anyone planning to attend please call me at 715-937-8246 or email me at jesseelmhorstwi@gmail.com to RSVP that you're coming.

If you plan to mail a check please do so no later than Wednesday, September 4th. Otherwise, I ask that you pay \$15 at the door.

Checks can be mailed to: American Legion Post 100
Attn: ALA Tim Hyma
1116 Angelo Road, Sparta, Wisconsin 54656

We will also be handing out prizes to the first unit registered, unit with the most members in attendance, unit that traveled the farthest distance

We will also have door prizes to possibly win just for attending!!!!

7th Dist Fall Workshop Registration

Names:

Table with 2 columns and 6 rows for registration names, numbered 1 through 12.

Unit # & Location: _____

Check #: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____