



## DISTRICT 7 JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

God, we remember the courage and determination of our founding fathers. We remember the brave patriotic men and women who gave so much for us. We thank them that we are a free nation and a free people. It is through them that we carry forward the ideals of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. We pray for our elected officials, for sound government, and just laws. Make us ever proud to be Americans. We ask that You rekindle the flame of compassion within us so that we might show real care for our fellowman. Teach us to be sensitive to the needs of others. Grant that as Americans and as a Legion Family, we may continue to help our veterans and those in need. Be with us and guide us, we pray. ~Amen.

### 2024 ALA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

#### American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Wisconsin

*Thursday-Sunday, July 11-14, 2024*

**Official Call:** The 2024 American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention will be called into session at the Hilton Paper Valley, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the department convention is to elect officers for the 2024-2025 administrative year; elect delegates and alternates to the national convention; amend the department constitution, bylaws and standing rules as needed; receive reports of the department officers and chairmen; recognize outstanding unit achievements; and transact business as may be brought before the convention body.

**Representation:** Representation in the department convention shall be by unit in accordance with the provisions of the department constitution. **Units with less than ten paid members or whose district dues have not been paid shall have no representation.** Delegates to department convention shall be unit members duly elected for that purpose.

**Registration:** All attendees to the 2024 Department Convention must submit a registration form and \$30 per person to The American Legion by July 6, 2024. Registrations after July 6th will be \$35.

**Voting:** All delegates must be registered by 8:00 am on Saturday, July 13th and seated within their District for voting at 9:00 am. Business will resume as soon as voting is completed.

**Housing Blocks:** Housing has been arranged at the Hilton Paper Valley hotel. Discounted room rates will be available until June 11, 2024 or when the room block is filled, whichever comes first. Additional hotels in the area:

#### **Hampton Inn Appleton - Fox River Mall**

350 Fox River Drive

920-954-9211

Room Block: Wisconsin American Legion  
\$114.00 plus tax

#### **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott**

130 S Nicolet Rd.

920-939-8181

\$119.00 plus tax

#### **La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham**

3800 W College Avenue

920-734-7777

\$129.00 plus tax

#### **Four Points by Sheraton Appleton**

300 Mall Drive

920-993-1200

\$139.00 plus tax

**Deceased Members:** Names of deceased members that are sent to Department Headquarters by April 26, 2024 on a Member Data Form will appear in the Joint Memorial Service Program.

**Installation:** Installation of 2024-2025 Department Officers and District Presidents will be on Saturday, July 13th upon conclusion of convention business.

## MEMBERSHIP 2024

As of June 26<sup>th</sup>, District 7 is in 8<sup>th</sup> place for membership. Our goal is 2112 members. We are at 83.43% of our goal with 1762 members paid. That's just 350 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!



### REMINDERS

NEW 2024 members must be received at Dept. HQ prior to August 31<sup>st</sup>. **MAKE SURE ALL APPLICATIONS ARE LEGIBLE, COMPLETE AND LISTED ON A DUES PAYMENT FORM.** (They will receive a 2025 dues notice but, they do have until 12/31/24 OR they can pay both years at the same time and the unit can submit them as new first and then as 2025 renewal after the units receive their packets in early July.)

Per National's governing documents, all new members received after September 1<sup>st</sup> HAVE TO GO IN FOR 2025.

There is NO deadline for renewing 2024 dues. Please continue to submit them if received. Make sure to let that member know that we will be starting to collect for the 2025 dues soon, so they don't get confused and think they are paid up only to get behind again.

As of Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, anything received, such as name changes, deceased, new members, payments, transfers, etc. will be processed but WILL NOT be reflected on your 2025 roster or cards being mailed to the units in early July to the person and address listed on the 2025 Dues Collection form.

## 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.

## 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 are included in the recent dept mailing and on the website.

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

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## **CONVENTION FUNDRAISER**

**President Maggie's project is in support of Dog's 2 Dog-tags. "Saving our vets one dog at a time."**

**For God and country, we will raise funds together at the Department Convention to be held July 11th - July 13th 2024.**

**I am asking every unit to please bring a donated basket for the raffles. I ask that they have a card with listed items and title of a donating unit, district, or member(s). Please wrap them in cellophane.**

**Everyday different baskets will be raffled off. On Saturday, any unclaimed baskets will be priced to be bought outright.**

**There will also be a unique side fundraiser in honor of President Maggie's project.**

**If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. I look forward to a successful convention.**

**Thank you!**

**Crystal Shaw, Dept Fundraising Chair  
crystalspres@gmail.com  
262-672-8205**

## **Incoming Leadership for District 7:**

The Spring Conference was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, in West Salem with Unit 51 hosting. Elections were held and the following members were elected as your new, upcoming District Executive Committee.

- District 7 President – Jesse Elmhurst
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Diana Dalton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Helene Stein
- Secretary – Janalee Kapusta
- Treasurer/Parliamentarian – Pat Smith
- Chaplain – Joanne Biesek
- Historian – Vickie Dux
- Sergeant At Arms – Christina Petranovich
- Asst Sergeant At Arms – Nichole Schmidt

Chairmanships:

- Membership – Diana Dalton
- Legislative – Diane Weggen
- Leadership – Christina Petranovich
- VA&R – Helene Stein

If you are interested in becoming involved at the District level and/or are interested in becoming a chairman for District 7, here is the list of open chairmanships:

- **Americanism**
- **Children & Youth**
- **Poppy**
- **Juniors**
- **Education**
- **Community Service**
- **National Security**
- **Public Relations**

Do not worry that you may not know what to do, we will hook you up with the information you need, a mentor, and the person chairing this at the department level.

Please reach out to:

Jesse Elmhorst  
W4462 Sand Road  
Neillsville WI 54456  
715-937-8246 / elmhorst2016@gmail.com

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## To the Auxiliary Members of District 7:

This is my last newsletter. I wanted to thank each and every one of you for all your support, patience, encouragement, prayers and help throughout my tenure as your President. I have learned so much and have been amazed at all the wonderful things each of you do for our veterans, your communities, your units and for each other.

I look forward to your continued prayers, support, and encouragement as I continue my leadership journey. The needs of our veterans, military and their families are my greatest motivation.

I can't wait to see all of you at Department Convention!

~Christina

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



 AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY

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# 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.

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](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 Elmhorst**

W4462 Sand Road  
Neillsville, WI 54456  
715-937-8246 [Elmhorst2016@gmail.com](mailto:Elmhorst2016@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 Elmhorst**

(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 Elmhorst**

(Contact information above)

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

(Contact information above)

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

(Contact information above)