

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Wisconsin  
District 7 Newsletter  
February 2025**



**An opening prayer from Dist 7 Chaplain Joanne Biesek**

Hope flies on wings like angels' wings.

Hope sings no matter the darkness or the light. Hope lives on when we have the faith that we can believe good things for and from ourselves.

Amen

**Hello District 7, Happy February!!!** I can not believe we are already a month into the 2025!!!

Spring is on the way and for that I am grateful! However, I am also all too aware that between the holiday months wrapping up and the winter season still going strong, this time of year can be an extremely hard time for some people mentally.

That being said, I would like everyone to take some time this month to make a buddy call to at least one person (but the more you can, the better). Maybe the person you are going to call might just be lonely and need a friendly conversation, maybe they were alone for the holidays for the first time this year, maybe they have been struggling lately, maybe you just haven't seen them in a while. Regardless of the reason or why you choose the buddy/buddies you do, we need to be reaching out to one another. We need to be making open lines of communication and a sense of belonging, the normal within our community.

That available communication and sense of community can make such a positive impact on someone's life, it could literally be lifesaving! I would also like to take this time to encourage anyone who is struggling to please reach out to someone you trust. If you feel like you have no one, then please feel free to reach out to me. I am always only 1 phone call away..... and tomorrow needs you!!!!

Next I would like to remind all Auxiliary Members that if you have events happening in your units that you would like put in our newsletter please forward me that information so it can be included. I also like to know so I can hopefully make some of these different events as I cannot express how much joy it brings me to watch the units in District 7

help make our communities and our veterans' lives better. You all truly make a difference and can not be thanked enough.

Lastly I am extremely excited to announce that this year's Spring Conference will be Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Unit 201 Tomah. I am even more excited to announce that we will be holding our Spring Conference American Legion Family Style. District 7 Commander Chet and I have organized that both conferences will take place the same day at the same location. We will have individual organization settings for business matters within our own organizations as well as we will have combined topics for presentations and to fellowship. This is truly something we are both putting a ton of effort in as it is something we are hoping becomes a great success and something we can continue to work towards doing in the future. Registration will be going out with the March Newsletter however I wanted to get a save the date out right away as I am hoping for a great turn out!!!!

### **News From Helene from Tomah VA**

Tomah VA is honoring all veterans this week Feb 9-15. I have selected Monday Feb 10 for ALA at this time. If you would like to join me please let me know. You need not be here for the entire morning. If you can do the afternoon, we can plan that also.

"We are looking for organizations to sponsor coffee cart at the main entrance (building 400 in Tomah) each day (February 10-14) 7:30am-11:30am. IF there is enough interest, we will also offer afternoons. The organization would be responsible for 1-3 volunteers during their timeframe and for bringing in the special treats (i.e. donuts, muffins, fruit, cookies, cupcakes, snacks, etc) including sugar-free options to distribute when greeting Veterans. There will also be coffee available, but the organization has the option to bring their own or add special creamers."

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Helene Stein

Tomah VA Hospital Representative

### **Legislative Report**

Diane Weggen - Legislative Chairman  
[dsweggen@gmail.com](mailto:dsweggen@gmail.com) or 715-644-2668

One of the best and easiest ways to support veterans, the military, their families and our communities is to promote legislation that helps them.

To promote legislation, take time to sign up for Action Alerts. Are you and any of your members signed up for Action Alerts? Please let me know if you have signed up or have any questions.

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](http://www.legion.org) then...

**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 legislation to be passed that you can send an email to your representative/senators about. It will automatically bring up your representative/senators according to your address and zip code.

Are you and/or any of your members signed up for Action Alerts? Please let me know if you are, or if you have any questions.

### **Updates on Bags for Homeless Veterans**

As most of you know we have been collecting supplies to make bags for the homeless Veterans. My original goal was to have all these collected at Mid-Winter and distributed shortly after. However, my family decided to kick off New Years with all sorts of sickness. That being said I did not make Mid-Winter as I had a kiddo in and out of the hospital that week with respiratory issues and a couple more running high temps, along with other nasty symptoms with whatever bug was going around. So, I am currently working on meeting up with everyone to finish gathering items that were collected within the district towards this project. I'll be sure to take pictures this month when they make it to their new locations and submit them in next month's newsletter. Again, I would like to thank you all so much for your efforts in this project!!!

### **District 7 Membership News**

We are currently in dire need of getting our unit dues paid and submitted to Department. If your unit has not done this please do so soon!

I would however like to congratulate the following units in District 7 for reaching 100% or MORE!!!!

In Clark County

Unit 123 Owen @ 109%

Unit 320 Humbird @ 111%

In Jackson County

Unit 129 Black River Falls @ 100%

In LaCrosse County

Unit 40 Bangor @ 106%

In Monroe County

Unit 309 Kendall @ 100%

Congratulations to you all and to the rest of the units please be working to reach your 100% so many of you are so close!!!

### **Mid-Winter Update**

As I stated above I was unable to attend do to the amount of sickness going on in our home. I, however, heard from some of the District 7 Officers and Membership at large that were able to attend that they learned a lot. After reviewing the slides from Mid-Winter presentations, I too learned a lot and am so excited to hopefully attend next year. I have included directions below with a link from department in case you or someone you know might also be interested in checking out the presentations at Mid-Winter.

Several people asked for copies of the presentations from the ALA session at Midwinter Conference. The general presentation, legislative presentation, and Juniors presentation are now available on the department website under Programs > HQ-General Info (<https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/hq-generalinfo>). Please share this with anyone who may be interested.

### **Official Family Updates on Camp American Legion 100th Anniversary**

Camp American Legion is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend this milestone celebration. For those interested in going, you may want to make hotel reservations early. The northwoods is a great summer getaway destination and rooms may be hard to find closer to the date of the

event. A list of hotels in the local area is attached for your information. Please share this with other Legion Family members who may be interested.

### Hotel Information

Minocqua – AmericInn Minocqua  
25 Rooms are blocked under "Camp American Legion"  
700 Highway 51 North for Friday (13<sup>th</sup>) and Saturday (14<sup>th</sup>)  
Reserve by 13 April  
Minocqua, WI 54548 (715) 356-3730

Waters of Minocqua  
8116 US Route 51  
Minocqua, WI 54548 (715) 358-4000

Quality Inn  
8729 US 51  
Minocqua, WI 54548 (715) 245-5104

Rhineland -  
Quality Inn  
668 W Kemp St  
Rhineland, WI 54501 (715) 369-3600

AmericInn  
648 W Kemp St  
Rhineland, WI 54501 (715) 804-0588

Holiday Inn Express  
1958 Navajo St  
Rhineland, WI 54501 (715) 420-2201

\*More information will be released closer to June\*

### **Important Information from American Legion District 7 Commander Chet**

\*The District Oratorical Competition will take place on February 22nd at Post 100 in Sparta. We will need volunteers to help out. Please canvas your posts and see if anyone would like to volunteer.

All students who sign up for Oratorical will compete at the District Competition. We will certify a winner and an alternate to compete at the Department level.

If your post/county has any contestants, it is highly encouraged and recommended that you host your own local competition. This will provide the students more opportunities to hone their speech.

Here is the link for more information: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>

\*The La Crosse County Council is hosting a special event on March 29th, 2025, to coincide with Vietnam War Remembrance Day. The event is Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home-50th Anniversary. Its purpose is to commemorate the **50th Anniversary** of the end of the **Vietnam War**. The event will be at Struck-Klandrud Post 336, [736 Sand Lake Rd, Onalaska, WI](#). Doors open at 11am, welcome/introductions begin at 12pm. We will

honor and salute the brave men and women who served during the war. We'll have inspiring stories from special guest speakers and dignitaries. Attendees will enjoy lunch catered by **Big Boar BBQ** provided at no cost to attendees. The event is open and free to any **Vietnam Era Veteran** and a guest.

The ask is to promote this event through the District and the Dept. We've invited all the local posts and now are starting to branch out into the community farther to reach as many as possible. This is an RSVP event and "tickets" for the event are at eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vietnam-veteran-welcome-home-50th-anniversary-tickets-1069930353489?aff=oddtcreator>

The site goes live on Saturday, December 7th.

We are limited on space, so reserving tickets is a priority for anyone interested in attending. If anyone has issues with registering they can reach out to me directly for assistance. Your assistance in promoting this noble event is appreciated.

### **Upcoming District 7 Dates to Know**

**Tomah VA ALA Honoring All Veterans- Monday, February 10, 2025, in Tomah**

**District 7 American Legion Oratorical-  
February 22nd at Post 100 Sparta In Sparta, Wisconsin**

**LaCrosse County Council 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War- March 29, 2025, in Onalaska, Wisconsin**

**Spring Conference - Saturday, April 19, 2025, Unit 201 in Tomah, Wisconsin**

**District 7 Spring Fundraiser- Just want it on your radar.....all details will be posted in the March Newsletter.**

**Camp American Legion 100th Anniversary-  
June 14, 2025, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin**

**District 7 Summer Picnic- More information to be given by the March newsletter; currently hoping for end of June time frame**

**Department of Wisconsin Convention-  
July 17-20, 2025, in Green Bay, Wisconsin**

**National Convention-  
August 22-28 in Tampa Bay, Florida**

## **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

## **ALABGS Reminder from Department**

If your Unit sponsors delegates to Badger Girls State, the \$500 registration fee per delegate and registration form was due to Department on January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you forgot about that deadline, please get it sent in immediately! The form is on the Department website.

February is a great time to visit your high school contact person for ALABGS, look at those delegate applications, and be part of the selection process for the girls your Unit will sponsor. ALABGS will be held this year June 15 – 20 on the UW-Oshkosh campus. Volunteers are needed for the 2025 ALABGS session. Anyone interested in helping for the week or even a few days should contact Chairman, Danyelle Thompson, at [alabgs.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:alabgs.chairman@gmail.com)  
A list of opportunities is posted at [www.alabgs.org](http://www.alabgs.org)

## **Americanism Essay Reminder**

Americanism Essay Contest. The Essay Cover Sheet, Criteria and Rubric sheet, and Flow Chart are all located on the Department website: [www.amlegionauxwi.org](http://www.amlegionauxwi.org)  
The essay title this year is: “What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?” Units select from the submitted essays

the top one from each category. Send only these top essays to the Department Chairman, Diane Burkhalter, by March 15th.



## **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:**

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ASSISTANT SERGEANT AT ARMS-

## **CHAIRMEN:**

### **MEMBERSHIP – Diana Dalton**

(Contact information above)

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Janalee Kapusta**

(Contact information above)

### **LEGISLATIVE – Diane Weggen**

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### **VA & R – Helene Stein**

(Contact information above)

### **POPPY –**

### **JUNIORS –**

### **EDUCATION –**

### **AMERICANISM –**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE –**

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### **NATIONAL SECURITY –**

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

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