



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

An opening prayer from Chaplain Joanne

Dear Lord,

On March 15th of this year, 106 years ago, the American Legion was formed, the auxiliary was formed the following November.

Let us pray for all our Veterans who have done so much for our Country.

We pray for the Veterans who are sick at home and in the hospital.

This is not the year to get everything you want.

This is the year to appreciate everything you have,

God Bless America!

Happy March District 7!!!

Spring will officially be here this month, so I am hoping the spring weather comes too!!!

I am excited to share some personal news as it impacted some of my planned Auxiliary activities this month. I would like to start by thanking anyone I had to reschedule with for your understanding and flexibility. Next I would like to thank my officer team for picking up activities I might not have been able to make.



My husband Dana, our kiddos at home (Barrett, Della, Evelyn, & Nina) and myself are excited to welcome the newest member of the family Ruby Opal who decided to come a few weeks earlier than we had originally planned. She arrived on February 19th at 6lbs 11oz, 19.3 inches long. I am however happy to announce we are both doing great, and the whole family is already in love with her. Additionally, Ruby has already made her first Auxiliary outing with me this to Bangor!!!

Following up on last month, I hope you all took time last month to reach out to make a buddy call. This is something I would like to see us all continue to do each month, because I truly believe that forming a community within only makes us all stronger and healthier.

I was blessed to have made it to a few different units this last month before sweet Ruby made her appearance, and I continue to look forward to making it to see all the units in District 7. I would like to remind all units to please share with me the activities you have going on so I can share them here with everyone in District 7 and hopefully we can make it to each other's events. Additionally, I love making it to your many different meetings and functions so please let me know if you would like me to attend something and I'll certainly try my best to be there.

District 7 Spring Conference

Spring Conference will be Saturday, April 19th, 2025, at Unit 201 in Tomah.

Registration/Social time will be from 8am-9pm and will officially start at 9am.

We will be having an American Legion Family Spring Conference. The Legion and Auxiliary will both be meeting in Tomah that day. We will have parts of our day together and others apart so we can cover our respective individual organization business as well.

District Commander Chet and I are truly looking forward to this being an American Legion Family Style event. I am aware it is a busy weekend for all, but I'd really like each unit to make it a goal to send someone (however the more, the merrier) from your unit to attend.

Attending Spring and Fall Conferences allows us the opportunity to learn about what other units are doing, share what we are doing, and gain knowledge of different programs and activities available to us, offer a space to have questions answered, have some great comradery, and so much more.

As most, if not all of you know, the 7th District Auxiliary is a regular supporter of the Tomah VA. This is something District 7 has always taken great pride in and something that is truly benefiting our local Veterans and their families. And as all of you now know my family was so blessed to have recently added baby Ruby. In planning for Ruby's arrival this got our 2nd Vice & VA&R Rep Helene and I talking about a program the VA runs where it holds a Baby Shower in June to help gather baby supplies for local Veterans and their families with a baby shower. Items collected are then given to veteran families when they have their baby. I will have Helene cover more about this program at our conference as well.

From that conversation it was decided that for our Spring District Conference Community Service Project I would like to hold a 7th District Baby Shower and donate all collected items to this program. I have included a flyer of items they are trying to collect for their baby shower in June, as a starting point for ideas of items I would like us to collect. I am asking that each unit please try to collect baby items from now until the Spring Conference and then bring them to the Spring Conference. If for some reason someone from your unit

can not make it to Spring Conference please let me know and I can plan a time to meet and gather items your unit collected for this activity if your unit chooses to participate. I would like to try and get a picture of all donated items and units that were donated to the baby shower that day as well. The unit with the most baby items donated will win a prize!!!

Unit 201 will be holding a basket raffle, and the ALA District 7 will be holding a 50/50 & small auction of items hosted by our one and only Pat Smith so be sure to bring some cash if you want to participate in that fun as well!!!

I hope to see you all then!!!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OowSCHYsoWriM0InaTqieecck0_iliXE_kbWKWDEcn8/edit?usp=drivesdk

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-gwicKzFIYBuRMWxy2l1j2R9nPdqCm85/edit?usp=drivesdk&oid=105342281585547140131&rtpof=true&sd=true>

TOMAH VA MEDICAL CENTER

VOLUNTEER ROUNDUP

Volunteer Recruitment Fair

APRIL 21, 2025
2:00 P.M. – 3:00PM P.M.

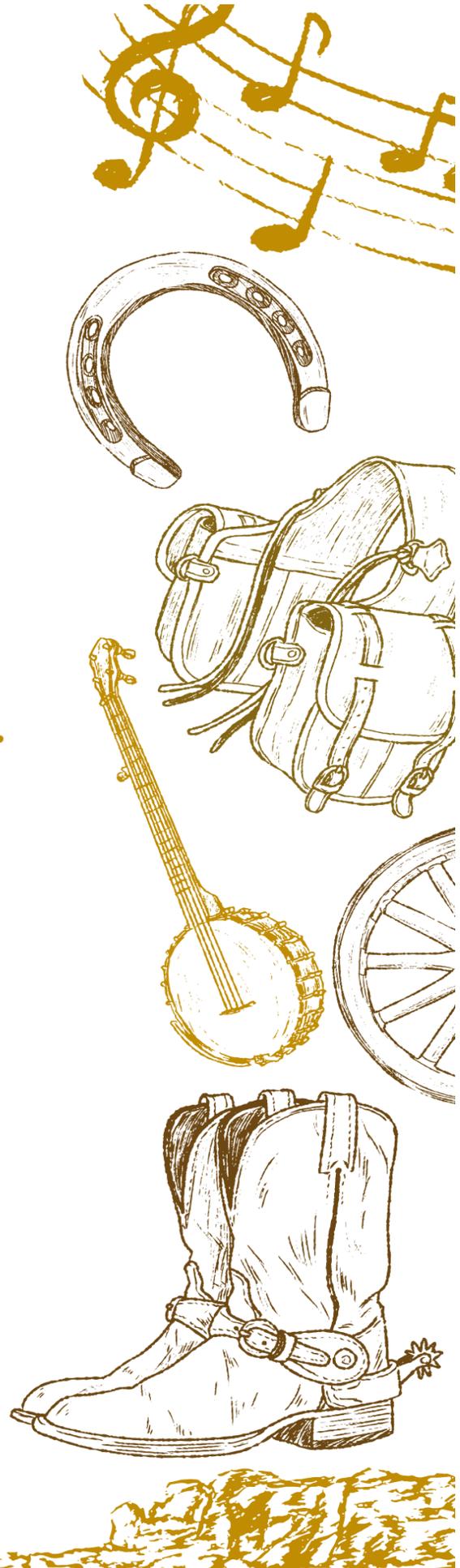
Tomah VA Medical Center
Building 455, Veterans Hall

We invite you to meet our Tomah VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE). Together, we will explore new volunteer opportunities, understand the onboarding process, and learn about the benefits of volunteering. Together, we can make a positive impact in the lives of our Veterans.

For more information,
please contact our CDCE office at:
608-372-1727
VHATOMVoluntaryService@va.gov



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Tomah VA Medical Center



Impact Reports

A friendly reminder that impact reports need to be completed. I only currently have 2 units from the 39 needed. You can either plan a time for me to get them from you in person, mail them to me at W4462 Sand Rd Neillsville WI, 54456, or email them to me. Please do this soon! If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Update on Bags for Homeless Veterans Project

Unfortunately, I had planned to meet a few different units to finish collecting items they had collected and then deliver bags at the end of February. However, with baby Ruby coming early this was a project that had to be put on hold. After talking with multiple units, I have decided that all items will be due to me by the Spring Conference and will be delivered the following week of April 21st-25th. I will have a total bag count and list of places distributed in the May Newsletter. So, if you still have items for the Homeless Veterans Bags or would like to still help I am still taking items. Please contact me for a pickup date if you or someone from your unit are unable to attend Spring Conference as that will be the last day I collect items for this project. Thank you all for your time and efforts in this project.

District 7 Membership News

We are still currently in need within many of our units to get our membership 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 Adam's County
Unit 65 Rome @ 100%

In Jackson County
Unit 129 Black River Falls @ 100%

In Clark County
Unit 123 Owen @ 109%
Unit 320 Humbird @ 111%

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, please keep it up!!!

Additionally, I would like to remind all units in the district that District 7 Dues are due to Pat Smith this month. If your unit has not paid your dues please get them sent to Pat, so you can remain in good standings. Thank You!!!

Important Information from American Legion District 7 Commander Chet



*The District Oratorical Competition took place on February 22nd at Post 100 in Sparta. Hazel was sponsored by Stoddard post and won with a score of 280 out of 300. On March 29th she will be competing at Ripon College for the Regional competition and then hopefully the Department competition later that day.

*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 went live, Saturday, December 7, 2024

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.

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 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.

Upcoming District 7 Dates to Know

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

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

District 7 Spring Fundraiser- Saturday, May 17th from 10am-2pm in Bangor

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

**District 7 Summer Picnic- More information to be given in the April
newsletter; but it is still tentatively planned for June.**

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

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



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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