



# 7<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT NEWS

## OCTOBER 2022

AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA  
PLEASE SHARE WITH POST MEMBERS



*Our Legion  
 Family*

**COMMANDER**  
 Karen Welander  
 C 320.368.0760

**VICE CDR AT LARGE**  
 Jan Ekert  
 C 320.339.9927

**MEMBERSHIP DIR**  
 Jan Ekert  
 C 320.339.9927

**VICE CDR – AREA A**  
 Carl Wilson  
 C 320.304.5333

**VICE CDR – AREA B**  
 Donald Brehmer  
 C 320.304.1884

**VICE CDR – AREA C**  
 Rueben Nathe  
 C 320.593.8654

**VICE CDR – AREA D**  
 John Jones  
 507.469.7995

**ADJUTANT**  
 Carol Jackson  
 C 320.979.4016

**FINANCE OFFICER**  
 Chip Manson  
 C 320.737.0014

**CHAPLAIN**  
 David Ecker  
 C 605.237.4736

**SGT AT ARMS**  
 Keith Seidler  
 C 320.309.3411

**HISTORIAN**  
 Victor Gades  
 C 320.288.6610

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**  
 Dean Knutson  
 320.766.0502

### ■ GREETINGS MIGHTY SEVENTH -

Have you finished your legion work for the day? I'm just finishing mine:

- CPR monthly worksheet done, membership goal if 55% done and the renew/rejoin report done.
- The scholarships have been advertised to membership so they can advertise their existence and availability for financial assistance to descendants of veterans.
- Still looking for a firefighter and law enforcement of the year to nominate for an award. Looking at all 7<sup>th</sup> District posts if they know an outstanding person that will represent their community for the state/national award.

It is so important that we keep all veterans and their families striving for excellence in these challenging times.

The fund for hospitalized veterans can assist by providing emergency assistance in cases of financial hardship.

This is what the American Legion stands for: Veterans helping their fellow veterans. Go and do good work for our fellow veterans.

Freedom is not Free  
 Commander Karen

### **CORRECTIONS TO LATEST DIRECTORY**

In the front cover section on page 10, please put an asterisk (\*) next to the Chokio, Clinton, and Hanley Falls posts. They each have a family Post home. They do not have a bar and are not open to the public. Also go to the list of Posts and add a Y(yes) to the post home part.

### ■ CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Here we are in October already. So many things going on, ball games, parties, fall harvest, and much more. October is the month we honor the teachers and staff in our schools. Beside parents and grandparents, teachers are probably the most influential people in their lives. Many Posts honor the teachers and staff with a small token gift or a dinner hosted in their honor as a thank you for a difficult job well done. We must keep them in our prayers.

Veterans Day is on the horizon and is always a special day for the Veterans that are still with us. It is not a day for sadness but rather a day for remembering and being thankful that we are still here. Keep all the troops and Veterans in your prayers.

Dave Ecker  
 District 7 Chaplain

### **ONE MORE CORRECTION**

Please update the Kingston Post 483 Commander. The current commander is Dean Hedlund, 16001 45<sup>th</sup> St NW, Annandale, MN 55302. His phone number is 320-274-3355. Email address: drhedlund@windstream.net.

### **MN FALL CONFERENCE IN ST CLOUD**

The fall conference is training time for all members.

Before you hold that fall raffle at your post go get the training from the MN Gambling Control Board. They provide handouts to us and will even email slides of their presentation to you. If anyone is interested, I still have the slides from the July Department Convention. I will forward them to you so you can train your post.

This year's fall conference is Oct 27 – Oct 29. Although you can register at the door, only those who are preregistered will receive a booklet. The conference is being held in St Cloud.

Knowledge is powerful.  
Commander Karen

#### **▪ JUDGE ADVOCATE**

Happy Fall to the Seventh District!!!!

Just wanted to remind posts that if they have not looked at and reviewed and updated their Constitution and By Laws recently it should be done. If there's ever any major change as to how you conduct your meetings or if a motion is passed on any major events it needs to be recorded in your By Laws. These should be reviewed and updated at least every 3-5 years.

On another note, I am chairman of the Employment Committee and would like to know if there are any communities in the Seventh District that has a business that employs Veterans. I will be sending letters out to Commanders of various posts asking for information to this effect as I have the application forms that are needed to be filled out to nominate a business for recognition of the employment of Veterans.

Hope to see you at the Fall Conference at the end of October.  
Have a Safe Fall!!!!

Judge Advocate  
Dean Knutson

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

The Pearl Harbor Rally is now at the SPICER Post 545 on Dec 3. It begins at 11 with a social hour & membership turn-in. Lunch at noon, program at 1 p.m. Meal cost is \$15 payable at the door.

### **NEW CONTACT INFO FOR CHIP MANSON**

Hi All! A year ago my email and cell phone were hacked. Many people were receiving emails from me that really weren't from me. And then started receiving hundreds of junk emails daily. And then, I started to get all kinds of "junk" on my cell phone. I held off until after the District 7 convention to make the change but I've now switched over to my new cell phone number and new email address. For those of you who want/need to contact me, please update your contact lists. My new info is:

cell: 320-737-0014

email: [chip.manson@gmail.com](mailto:chip.manson@gmail.com)

Thanks!

Chip, District 7 Finance Officer

#### **▪ SCOUTS – BSA EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR**

Eagle Scout of the Year nomination packages can be submitted anytime between November 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>. District 7 Scout BSA Committee Chair Chip Manson MUST receive packages no later than February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Applications can be found at this legion.org website: [16ACY1021 Eagle Scout Nomination Form.pdf \(legion.org\)](#)

District 7's selected Eagle Scout receives a \$500 scholarship and then competes at the Department (State) level. The winner of this level receives (I believe) \$1,500.

The Department winner then will compete at the national level. This winner receives \$10,000 scholarship and three runners up receive \$2,500.

REMINDER: Depart and Nat'l winners MUST have earned a Scouts BSA or Venturer-level Religious Badge.

Please contact District 7 BSA Committee Chair Chip Manson if you have any questions. Phone 320-737-0014. Mail completed packages to 9001 Hwy 9 NW, Sunburg, MN 56289

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

The American Legion has a commitment to education, believing a strong education program is vital to instill a sense of personal obligation and responsibility in today's youth. This week is American Education Week, an opportunity to recognize those who are making a difference in providing quality education to today's youth. The national observance will be during the week of Nov. 14-18, 2022.

During American Education Week, Legion posts can:

- Honor educators by presenting a certificate of appreciation.
- Exhibit student work and special projects within the post.
- Sponsor a poster, art, or essay contest for students.
- Obtain a signed proclamation by the mayor.
- Use spot announcements on radio and TV
- Write a letter to the editor.
- Present flags, subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine, copies of American history documents.
- Enlist Boys/Girls State and Oratorical participants as speakers for civic groups, schools, and assemblies.
- Provide a speaker and a program for the students on or about Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

To assist the post and unit chairpersons with the public relations effort, the following items are included as suggestions. These items must be retyped with blanks appropriately filled before submitting the release to newspapers, radio, and television stations.

## Suggested news release

Plans for community participation in the observance of American Education Week, (insert dates) were released today by

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ of The American Legion by Post  
Commander \_\_\_\_\_  
and Unit President \_\_\_\_\_.  
Representing Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ on a special planning committee  
for the annual observance are: \_\_\_\_\_.

For more than 90 years, The American Legion, its Auxiliary and professional groups have advocated on behalf of schoolchildren. Though the reasons for their initial activities have changed, these groups and others continue to lead the way in seeking the aid and assistance of every concerned American for better schools. American Education Week is not just for parents and educators, it's for everyone. With the aid of statistics, it is quite apparent that many citizens have not visited their local schools since their own graduation from high school. Exercise your right and responsibility and visit the school of your choice. This week should remind each of us that we have a duty and a responsibility to see that our children are prepared to take up the roles of citizens and leaders in the years to come.

## Suggested broadcast announcements

**30 Seconds** Today, America remains strong because of its educational values. The American Legion has a long-standing interest and commitment to American education. The Legion is proud to be a co-sponsor of American Education Week. Remember (insert dates)...and visit your local school.

**30 Seconds** Education...protecting the foundation of freedom that we as Americans cherish. American Legion Post \_\_\_\_\_ is proud of \_\_\_\_\_ schools. That's why we support American Education Week... (insert dates). We realize that the future of America lies in the hands of today's youth. Join The American Legion and Auxiliary, visit your local school during American Education Week, (insert dates).

### **Suggested proclamation for American Education Week**

#### **Proclamation**

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees--be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or paraprofessionals, food service or librarians--work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, \_\_\_\_\_ serving  
as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ do  
hereby proclaim Nov 14-18, 2022 as the observance of  
American Education Week.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

Bill Kuperus  
District 7 American Education Committee Chair

### **▪ VA & REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

A total of 26 resolutions were passed by the delegates to the 103rd American Legion National Convention held recently in Milwaukee, WI. Listed below are the 9 resolutions that fall under the VA&R Program. All resolutions are available to view online in the Legion Digital Archive. To locate the Digital Archives go to the American Legion website (legion.org), scroll down to Digital Archives, select Recently Added, select the Resolution you wish to review, select View/Open.

VA&R resolutions passed at the 2022 American Legion National Convention-

Resolution No. 6: Increase Cancer Screenings by the Department of Veteran Affairs

Resolution No. 9: Burial Allowance Following Hospice Care

Resolution No. 11: Value of Lay Evidence

Resolution No. 31: Care in the Community Eligibility for Canceled Appointments

Resolution No. 32: Behavioral Health Autopsy Program Updates

Resolution No. 33: Disability Rating Criteria

Resolution No. 43: Expedite Burial Eligibility Verification

Resolution No. 54: Expansion of Eligibility for Pension Benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Resolution No. 64: Codification of the Department of Veterans Affairs Solid State Program

Post Service Officer (PSO) training will be offered at the upcoming Fall Conference. Training will include the following-

...Assisting veterans leading up to and including introducing them to the County Veterans Service Officer.

...Knowledge of how to partner with other organizations that assist veterans.

...Learn about the MN Veterans Assistance Fund and how to investigate and complete the application.

...Training on suicide prevention and intervention; tools to help posts.

Keith Seidler  
District 7 VA&R Committee Chair