



7th DISTRICT NEWS

AUGUST 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
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 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
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JUDGE ADVOCATE
 Dean Knutson
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■ GREETINGS MIGHTY SEVENTH -

Summer brings changes in the American Legion leadership. I am the new district seven commander Karen Welander. I am an eighteen-year member of the Legion and a previous Seventh District commander in 2015-16. My project is the Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. We all need a little help from time to time. The veterans we assist with all the programs we support fulfills the last sentence of the preamble which is "devotion to mutual helpfulness". It certainly applies to this project.

The successful events all posts do require planning and a successful event should start planning 90 days before. As you read this the planning you do for Veterans Day should be starting. Make it special for all veterans. Don't make it a member only event - include all and welcome all to make it a success. We are the American Legion Family so include a representative from your SAL and the auxiliary in your planning. More ideas the better.

We have constitution and by-laws which are how we operate our posts. Please pull them out, go over them, and update these important documents. If you want help, any of the officers of the district can assist a post to get this accomplished. These are working documents and reviewed annually as required by the department and national constitution and by-laws.

If you need any help to be a successful post let me know and I will be there for you. I may have a different perspective than you have but it's all for the good of the American Legion and supporting all veterans.

God Bless the USA
 Commander Karen

VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE

Greeting to all, I hope all of you are ready for this upcoming Legion year. We all need to work together for the betterment of the care our Veterans get. With the passing of the PACT act we are on the way to accomplishing that, but we can't stop there. When each of us signed on the dotted line and put on the Uniform we were made promises and we need to keep reminding our Legislators both at home and in Washington of their promises to us. Now on to other things, keep in mind that we have comrades out there who may be struggling financially, have medical needs, or just need an ear or someone to talk to. Suicide prevention is a top agenda item along with helping those in need. We need to work together as there is strength in numbers. Remember those who are serving in your prayers, keep their families in your thoughts. If you find someone who is needing help and are not sure where to steer them, feel free to give them my phone or email address. My phone is 320-339-9927 (cell) or 320-406-2700 (home) feel free to leave a voice message on either, email is Jancrs1@gmail.com. There are a few things within the District that are important to each and every post. I am not sure if all of you know the effect of all of those reports that we need to complete and send to both the District, the Department and some even to National. The Consolidate Post Report (CPR) plays a significant role in telling the United State congress how much the American Legion works on meeting the needs of our Veterans, it gives our National Commander the information he needs when he testifies before Congress. Much of the information that goes into your CPR comes from some of the other reports that you fill out. Your Post Officer report lets the District, Department and National know who is responsible for various tasks within your Post. Please let's work together to get all of these in by their deadlines. Call me if you need help.

Proud to have served,

Jan Ekert, District 7 Vice Commander at Large

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

We are into another membership year and as your new Membership Director I am part of the group as your District 7 Membership Director. Here are some important dates relating to the submission of your memberships. The first cutoff date for memberships is September 19, 2022, if you are submitting your memberships via MyLegion.org they should be in by September 9 to insure they are counted. If you are using snail mail or the paper submission form, it takes about 3 days to get from the post office to Department and all renewals need to be at Department by September 13. If they are not, a second renewal notice will be sent. In my message about the importance of filling out forms, make sure you have sent your current Office Report to both the District and to the Department if your membership chair has changed. If the Department does not have your updated list of current officers, guess who gets their address on the renewal notice: the old membership chair. We need to continue to work on getting new members at our posts and trying to find out why the younger generation of soldiers are not joining us. How about inviting them to a meeting or two to see what we are about, let them know about the benefits to themselves, their families, and even for their teens who are about to go off to college. Right now, Minnesota's Veteran population is somewhere around 304,000. According to the figures from our Department membership Director the American Legion in Minnesota has about 20% of those Veterans. We need to increase those numbers. Other important upcoming dates: The Harvest Rally will be held at Legionville September 10, Fall renewal cutoff October 21 (renewals to department by October 11), Department Fall Conference October 27-29, 2022 in St Cloud, Veterans Day is the National Target date of 65% membership renewals. If anyone is needing other ideas about how to increase membership get a hold of myself or our District Commander. I look forward to hearing from you with questions, ideas or just to talk.

Jan Ekert
District 7 Membership Director

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

School is about to start in most of our communities. Everyone needs to watch out for the children going off to school, many going for the first time.

Let us all remember in our prayers those children that are in the School Safety Patrol. They are out in all kinds of weather watching their fellow classmates, friends and all of the school children at key street crossings.

Continue to pray for the welfare and protection of all of America's troops serving all around the globe.

Dave Ecker
District 7 Chaplain

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The 2023 District Convention is scheduled to be held May 20, 2023 at the Spicer Home Post. Normally held in June, it will be in May next year. More information will be coming.

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

Thanks!
Chip, District 7 Finance Officer

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Every year, American Education Week is held a week before Thanksgiving. This year, it starts on November 14 and ends on November 18. American Education Week is celebrated to remind and reinspire us to make education in America even better, as we celebrate the pace-setting contributors to the education system.

This week is a time when all who work in public schools – teachers, administrative staff, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, substitute teachers and many others – are recognized for providing quality education and support to today's youth.

Each day for American Education Week has a theme.
Monday, Nov. 14: Kickoff Day; Tuesday, Nov. 15: Family Day; Wednesday, Nov. 16: Education Support Professionals Day; Thursday, Nov. 17: Educator for a Day; and Friday, Nov. 18: Substitute Educators Day.

American Education Week is a time to celebrate the American education system. Legionnaires can be promoting our values within the classroom.

Those ideas include:

- Provide an outdoor class on flag education.
- Allow students to interview you as a veteran over Zoom or in person.
- Create a video on the U.S. Constitution that focuses on your oratorical contest.
- Promote the American Legion School Award program to recognize students who demonstrate strong qualities of character and good citizenship.

American Education Week was first celebrated on December 4–10, 1921, after the alarming rate of illiteracy was recognized and a meeting was held in 1919 by the American Legion and representatives of the National Education Association (NEA). The aim of this special

Week was to create awareness about the need for education and garner support to fund schooling systems. In the years that followed, American Education Week gained sponsors that impacted the American education system.

Bill Kuperus, American Education Chairman

SCOUTS – BSA EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Any Eagle Scout of the Year nomination packages must be delivered to me NLT (no later than) [February 1st](#). Now is the perfect time to remind those Scout Troops in your area about this excellent scholarship & award/recognition program and about the deadline for submitting their package. We will send out the nomination form as soon as the national office releases it (normally mid-to-late December).

Please contact District 7 Scouts BSA Committee Chair Chip Manson if you have any questions. Phone 320-737-0014; email chip.manson@gmail.com.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Congratulations to all the new officers who were elected into office this year for the 2022-2023 membership year of the American Legion. Remember, you were chosen to represent your posts to the best of your availability and we need to work together as one team to accomplish the task at hand. Familiarize yourself with the proper procedure for conducting a meeting, understand your posts Constitution and By Laws and conduct your meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order as the revised copy.

I look forward to working with the various posts of the District and with the District leadership to help the Seventh District always stay a strong part of the American Legion in the Department of Minnesota. Have a great Summer and hope to see some of the posts throughout the year at the District Leadership Training Sessions.

Dean Knutson
District 7 Judge Advocate

A WORD FROM OUR 2022 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

The final Membership report is out from the Department and the Seventh District finished in Second Place just behind the Sixth District. We finished at 96.24 or at 5302 memberships turned in of our goal of 5509. Congratulations to Millerville and Herman Posts for reaching the 100% mark of membership. For the year, we had 20 posts achieve their goal and had 34 posts that were 3 members or less of 100%.

I would like to Thank everyone for their hard work with membership this year and all the support that you gave me. As the new year begins, we need to help each other out as much as we can to ensure the Seventh District remains strong within the Department of Minnesota. We are working for the good of the American Veteran.

Dean Knutson
Membership Director 2022

DISTRICT 7 – AREA C

First let me thank you and your Posts for the 2022 memberships. Area C Posts were over 90% of their GOAL last year. Wow-- that is GREAT!! Your membership proves that fellow Veterans do care about Veterans, their benefits, their families, our Country and the communities where you live. Our 2023 Membership recruiting has begun and needs your help again.

Note: I am in my second year as Area C Vice Commander and don't want to die in this position. Please ask your membership if any might have some interest, any age young or old who would consider running for Area C Vice Commander or any other D#7 position next year? Have them contact me, I will support & mentor/train them for these positions. Somebody needs to do these tasks for the district. It is important. If you need any information, have questions, or need assistance about the American Legion, Dist 7 committees or any Post issues, please contact me, as I am here to help!

Rueben "Rube" Nathe - Phone 320.593.8654
E-mail: Ruebenn@hutchtel.net

FINAL 2022 MEMBERSHIP 100 PERCENT CLUB

<u>2021-2022</u>			
Post	Name		%
29	Morris		102.09
58	Browns Valley	2of3	101.72
72	Appleton		100
87	Alexandria	*	101.23
104	Litchfield	!!	101.56
173	Tracy	*	101.15
180	Renville	!!	110
204	Echo	*	106.67
205	Fairfax		102.78
237	Balaton	2of3	100
253	Lowry	2of3	100
278	Brandon	*	100
308	Franklin	!!	110.53
325	Starbuck	*	104.76
357	Ashby		101.05
378	Herman	*	100
527	Millerville	2of3	100
536	Nassau		100
545	Spicer	!!	103.59
629	Chokio	*	100
1998	Prairie At Large		135.71
* 2yrs in a row			
!! 3 yrs in a row			
2of3 two of past three years			