



7th DISTRICT NEWS

April 2025



*Our Legion
Family*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMMANDER

Carl Wilson
C 320-304-5333

VICE CDR AT LARGE

Pete Flannery
C 507-213-7800

MEMBERSHIP DIR

Jan Ekert
C 320-339-9927

VICE CDR – AREA A

Victor Gades
C 320-288-6610

VICE CDR – AREA B

Jacob Hurst
C 320-295-2443

VICE CDR – AREA C

Don Dufner
C 320-493-5824

VICE CDR – AREA D

John Jones
C 507-469-7995

ADJUTANT

Mark Kern
C 320-221-5277

FINANCE OFFICER

Chip Manson
C 320-220-3001

CHAPLAIN

David Ecker
C 605-695-2409

SGT AT ARMS

Keith Seidler
C 320-309-3411

HISTORIAN

Karen Welander
C 320-444-6105

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Richard Wog
C 320-905-3028

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

FROM THE SEVENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER - CARL WILSON

Greetings 7th District:

I hope everyone is doing well. It looks like the nice weather is about to show up and we can all start to enjoy some time outside, which is a good thing, but now is the time of the year that we need to remember that the deadlines for submitting forms to Department are coming up. I myself have to get the forms done for my post. If anyone has questions on the forms, please reach out to a District officer and they will help you. Some of the forms go to Department and some go to our District Chairman first and then the Chairperson sends it on to Department. I am also starting to get a lot of invites to different functions, and I will try to make as many as possible.

This year has been a learning experience for me and at the start of the year I was hoping to have better communication within the 7th District, and the post of the District. Well, some posts have communicated well while others have not communicated at all. I do know some posts are going through hard times, and these posts tell me that things are good, and in reality things are not. The District leadership is here to help, not to bring the post down, I do not understand why post insist on not letting leadership help.

We are in the planning stages of the District Convention which will be hosted by Echo post in May. It is at this time that everyone will have a voice in electing new leadership for the 2025-2026 year. I hope many of you attend this District Convention. We will also be voting on changes in the Districts Constitution and By-Laws that will be sent out to all the post in the 7th District for your review and input. At this convention we will also be selecting the host post for next year's
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***MARK YOUR CALENDERS *
7TH DISTRICT HAPPENINGS:**

**District 7 Convention
Post 204 Echo
May 17**

DEPARTMENT EVENTS:

**Department Commander's Testimonial,
April 5, 2025
Northern Lights Casino & Hotel**

OTHER EVENTS:

**Minnesota Legion College Spring 2025
April 24-27, 2025
15000 Minnesota 115
Little Falls, MN 56345**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Dave Ecker

Easter is just around the corner. Easter is a very important time in the Christian religions. God sent His only Son to earth to save all of us from our sins. Easter is a time to rejoice in the fact that Jesus gave His life so that our sins are forgiven. That most generous gift was given to all so that we can all go to
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<p>Committee Chairpersons</p> <p>American Education Bill Kuperus 320-905-1868</p> <p>Americanism/Oratorical Ruben Nathe 320-593-8654</p> <p>Legion Baseball Joe Dollerschell 320-894-8181</p> <p>Blood Program Jan Ekert 320-339-9927</p> <p>Boy Scouts Chip Manson 320-220-3001</p> <p>Boys State Donald Brehmer 320-843-3361</p> <p>Children and Youth Karen Welander 320-444-6105</p> <p>Employment Karen Welander 320-444-6105</p> <p>Junior Shooting Sports Carl Wilson 320-304-5333</p> <p>Law and Order Carl Wilson 320-304-5333</p> <p>Legionville/Safety Patrol Victor Gades 320-288-6810</p> <p>Legislative Mark Kern 320-221-5277</p> <p>Legion Softball Hal Meyer 507-530-4412</p> <p>National Security/Foreign Relations Jan Ekert 320-339-9927</p> <p>Public Relation & Media Pete Pedersen 702-553-5713</p> <p>Rehabilitation Advisory Keith Seidler 320-309-3411</p> <p>Sons of the American Legion Cal VanHorn 320-589-3495</p> <p>American Legion Riders Garylee Davenport 320-224-1895</p>	<p>Continued from Page 1</p> <p>Mid-winter and District Convention. If your post is interested in hosting one of these conventions please send our District Adjutant a letter of interest.</p> <p>In closing I would like to remind everyone of my commanders project (Soldier 6). I have received some donations for this project and am very grateful to those that have donated. I will be taking donations until I am no longer your District Commander and I'm hoping to get closer to the goal that I set for this project.</p> <p>Thank You</p> <p>Carl R. Wilson District 7 Commander Serving Veterans from the Past to The Future.</p> <p>**ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS, ADJUTANTS AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORS**</p> <p>Please update your Post roster. There are many instances where members need to be contacted, and the information is not correct or is missing altogether. Go around your meeting and ensure all phone and email information is current. In one instance both phone numbers were blocked and there was no e-mail address in mylegion.org. In the near future we will be able to send a newsletter through mylegion.org at no cost to the District. Let's get this done. Remember that when the address is not correct or missing your members are not getting their Legionnaire or their Legion Magazine. Please send any changes in your Post leadership contacts to the District Adjutant Mark Kern at markkern3@hotmail.com and we will get the District Directory updated and out to each post via email and hardcopy.</p> <p>ADJUTANT'S CORNER Mark Kern</p> <p>Just a reminder that if you or another member of your Post wants to run for a District or Department Office, please submit your Post endorsement to myself as soon as possible. Please also forward Post endorsements for any members wanting to run for any of the delegate positions for the district. I have received the following endorsements: Garylee Davenport – Delegate to National Convention Pete Flannery – District 7 Commander Chip Manson – Delegate to National Convention</p> <p>Continued on Page 3</p>	<p>Continued from Page 1</p> <p>Heaven. Much like today's troops that go into harm's way each and every day so we can enjoy the freedoms that we all enjoy, Jesus gave everything for us. All this was done without complaint. Say a prayer for those troops that are in harm's way that they may come home safely. All gave some, some gave all.</p> <p>Dave Ecker 7th District Chaplain</p> <p>AREA VICE COMMANDERS NEWS – Vice Commander at Large Pete Flannery</p> <p>Hello Seventh District</p> <p>I hope everyone is doing well and has enjoyed the mild winter weather so far. I just have a few items of interest, first we are always looking for posts that can host the district midwinter conference or the convention. You don't necessarily have to host it at your post, if you do not have enough space, you could reach out to your community centers, etc. to possibly be able to host. If you are interested, please contact one of your district officers or your adjutant. And the other point I want to bring up and I've said this before is if you have new members in your post that want to get involved. Invite them to these different events. Bring them with you and your SAL members are encouraged to attend as well. As you all know, membership is not easy, but we need participation to keep our organization</p> <p>Continued on Page 3</p>
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<p>Auxiliary Officer/Contacts</p> <p>President Sandy Wersal 320-354-4517</p> <p>1st Vice President Jennifer Hurst 707-419-1428</p> <p>2nd Vice President Kathy Schmiedeker 320-295-2104</p> <p>1st Executive Committee Member Cassandra Mahoney 320-305-0436</p> <p>2nd Executive Committee Member Pamela Gades 320-589-2147</p> <p>Secretary Mary Kuperus 320-212-3278</p> <p>Treasurer Bev Dresser 320-354-5390</p> <p>Immediate Past President Hope Wilson 320-304-0809</p> <p>Chaplin Samantha Stai 320-295-2330</p> <p>Parliamentarian Hope Wilson 320-304-0809</p> <p>Sgt-at-Arms Robyn Scott 320-434-0431</p> <p>Advisors Wanda Seidler Cheryl Gilmer-Schauman Karla Minnick</p> <p>Honorary Junior Officers</p> <p>President Brooklyn Mahoney</p> <p>Vice President Riley Wolbeck</p> <p>Secretary Riley Wolbeck</p> <p>Historian Miley Mahoney</p> <p>Sgt-at-Arms Miley Mahoney</p> <p>Chaplin Coral Hurst</p>	<p>Continued from Page 2</p> <p>Chip Manson – Post endorsed for Board of Publications</p> <p>Hal Meyer - Delegate to State and National Convention</p> <p>Pete Pedersen – Delegate to State and National Convention</p> <p>Karen Welander – Delegate to National Convention</p> <p>Karen Welander – Department Vice Commander for 2 & 7</p> <p>The review of the District Constitution and By-Laws are posted on the District web page (American Legion Minnesota District #7). The Constitution and By-Laws will be voted on at the District Convention in May. These should be reviewed with your Post Membership and issues and concerns should be emailed to myself and the District Commander.</p> <p>Mark Kern 7th District Adjutant</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR Jan Ekert</p> <p>Hello “Mighty Seventh” A word to the area Vice Commanders make contact with the Posts in your area and see if you are able to help them with any issues, concerns and their membership renewals. For the week of March 12, 2025, the 7th District remains in 5th place which is 0.39% behind our sister district which for those of you who are not familiar with sister districts is the 2nd. I love being competitive with my daughter. That does not happen often. Let’s keep it up. Talk with both your members that have renewed to see if they know any of your Posts members who have not renewed, perhaps they can encourage them to renew. As of the date of writing this article, we have 38 posts that have met or exceeded the 90% goal set for March 12th, we also have 17 Posts that have already met or exceeded the April 12 target goal of 95% and 9 Posts that have met or exceeded the 100% goal set for May 14th. This does not mean that we need to let down on talking to Veterans about the American Legion, how they can benefit our posts, district, and the department and how the American Legion is there in their time of need. Keep pushing forward. Let’s move onward and upward. Call me, your Area Vice Commander or our District Commander if you need any help. Membership is a job that all of us need to work with.</p> <p>Jan Ekert 7th District, Membership Director</p>	<p>Continued from Page 2</p> <p>running strong. So, feel free to contact myself or one of my fellow district officers with questions you may have. We’re happy to help with any questions or concerns that you have, that’s part of our job. You can find our numbers included in this newsletter. Thanks for the jobs you do, and your membership in the American Legion.</p> <p>Pete Flannery Vice Commander At Large</p> <p>COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES:</p> <p>Blood Committee Chair Jan Ekert</p> <p>The Blood Reports are slowly coming in. I want to emphasize that when completing the report, the numbers are not limited to having a Blood Drive at your post. It encompasses any Blood Donations your Post, Auxiliary, SAL and Rider members may have donated elsewhere. You need to ask at your meetings, ask your auxiliary, SAL and Riders as well. Remember that the report encompasses the Legion Family. Remember the Blood that we donate saves lives, and with the climate in our world today that is one of the most important donations that we can make. There is a significant shortage of Blood available in both our local and National Blood Banks and knowing the</p> <p>Continued on Page 4</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Auxiliary Committee Chairman</p> <p>Americanism Wanda Seidler 320-309-3528</p> <p>Children and Youth Donna Barbknecht 320-262-9321</p> <p>Community Service Robyn Scott 320-434-0431</p> <p>Constitution & Standing Rules Kathy Schmiedeker 320-295-2104</p> <p>Education Pamella Lubenow 320-793-6773</p> <p>Auxiliary Emergency Fund Kathy Kessler 320-905-2090</p> <p>Finance Pam Gades 320-589-2147</p> <p>Girls State Sandy Wersal 320-354-4517</p> <p>History Karla Minnick 320-894-4835</p> <p>Junior Activities Ashley Kuperus 320-894-7850</p> <p>Leadership Mary Kuperus 320-212-3278</p> <p>Legislation Jennifer Hurst 707-419-1428</p> <p>Membership Jennifer Hurst 707-419-1428</p> <p>Memorial Samantha Stai 320-295-2330</p> <p>National Security Pat Ecker 320-695-2409</p> <p>Past Presidents Parley Hope Wilson 320-304-0809</p> <p>Poppy Ashley Stai 320-894-7850</p> <p>Public Relation Pam Gades 320-589-2147</p> <p>VA&R Deanna Knutson 507-530-3222</p> <p>Memory Book Ashley Kuperus 320-894-7850</p>	<p>LEGIONVILLE Victor Gades</p> <p>We just completed the spring meeting to discuss upcoming events and needs of the camp. Legionville is in need of replacement for 4 basketball stations (pole, backboard, hoop and net). If your Post would like to donate \$600.00 towards one basketball station. Send your donation to the Department and earmark it for Legionville basketball pole replacement. One larger project needed for this year is sewer line repair and/or replacement to the cabins. Last year cabin 7 had its sewer line replaced at a cost of \$2000.00. The original sewer lines were installed in 1954 and are old clay piping. Getting 70 years surrounded by tree roots is pushing the limits of clay pipe. Replacement will be plastic when replacement happens. Donations will also be accepted to help accomplish this project.</p> <p>Also increasing the campers sent to Legionville will help towards a successful year.</p> <p>Upcoming dates for the 2025 Camp sessions June 15-20, 2025 June 22-27, 2025 July 6-11, 2025 July 13-18, 2025 July 20-25, 2025 July 27 – Aug 1, 2025</p> <p>Other Events using the facilities.</p> <p>Work & Play Weekend 15-18 May 25 contact Richard Cross if you plan to help Junior fun weekend 8-10 Aug 25 Camporee 4-7 Sep 25 ALR Romp 11-14 Sep 25 Disabled Turkey Hunt 28-30 Sept 2025 Zgoda Deer Hunt 30 Sep-5 Oct 25</p> <p>Victor Gades Legionville Chair,</p> <p>Children and Youth Chairperson Karen Welander</p> <p>All posts have received their Children and Youth Report form. If you have Continued on Page 5</p>	<p>Continued from Page 3</p> <p>importance and the lifesaving difference that even 1 pint of Blood or Plasma can make in a person's life. These reports are to be sent to me as the Districts Blood Chair and should have arrived at your Posts early in January of 2025, and sent to me no later than April 10, 2025. These reports are due to the Department at the end of April and as the Blood Chair I will select 3 Posts in our District who are eligible for recognition and Awards. They should include the number of Units donated, did your Post sponsor a Blood mobile Drive and how many units were donated through your Posts efforts. Please fill out the report and get the credit for what your Post is doing.</p> <p>Jan Ekert Blood Committee Chair</p> <p>VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION Keith Seidler</p> <p>All the posts in the 7th District should have received their Annual Post Service Officer Report Form in the mail. Please follow the instructions sent out with the form. For every paid legionnaire in your post, \$.25 of their dues is donated to Veterans rehabilitation. That calculated total plus any other donations should be noted in line item #17. Therefore, line item #17 should not be left blank. If you have questions or suggestions on improving my instructions, please contact Continued on Page 5</p>
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misplaced it give me a call and I will mail you another one. If you need help completing the form, please call 320-444-6105. I can assist you over the phone or come to your post to discuss and complete the form together. There are always posts in the district that think they have a negative but haven't noted their volunteer hours for children's events that should be counted. This includes watching a youth basketball game or church youth choir. Our youth have more esteem looking at all the people supporting them. If you have a negative report you can complete the bottom of the form and mail it to me, email khwelande@gmail.com a negative, or just call or text. Thank you for supporting the youth in your community. You will never know how much of a difference this money/volunteering does.

Karen Welander
Children and Youth Chairperson

Baseball Chair
Joe Dollerschell

2025 promises to be another banner year for District 7 baseball and the 40-50 teams that will call our district home. We are well on our way to equaling, or exceeding, our number of 2024 teams. Here are some deadlines required by the national organization that must be met for teams to be considered an official American Legion team.

4/1 – teams are asked by our state baseball board to complete their registrations by this date so that substates can be organized by their directors. This is done on a national registration web site. Meeting this deadline helps everyone with scheduling and provides plenty of time for roster questions to be ironed out before the season.

5/15 – coaches must have their 3 trainings completed. Background check(annually), Child Safety Awareness(annually), and Concussion Training (every 3 years) are the 3. Coaches who also coach for their local school teams will have already fulfilled these and American Legion will honor that.

5/15 – team registrations fees are due to national. These fees cover national, state and admin fees. Total team registration will be \$300 for a senior team and \$250 for a junior team.

5/15 – teams must purchase insurance through the official national insurance provider by this date. For seasonal coverage, it will cost \$278 for a senior team and \$211 for a junior team. Teams can opt to purchase an annual coverage

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me. Thank you to the posts for the response to the completed annual reports that I have received to date. Important dates in April and May: Veterans Day on the Hill and Memorial Day.

Veterans helping Veterans!

Keith Seidler,
VA&R 7th District Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary
Sandy Wersal

March had the units and posts celebrating the Legions Birthday, with a lot of parties. Happy Birthday to the Legion.

Congratulations, goes to the American Legion Auxiliary to make over 85% in membership before the March 15th goal. Way to go, Minnesota!! It takes everyone to work on the membership program. Keep asking!

Annual report time is approaching fast. Units the reports so important, take the time to fill them out and mail them in. Due soon is the Minnesota Girls State reservations to the department office by April 1st. Date June 15-21, 2025. The girl's paperwork will all be done online this year.

As we get closer to finishing this auxiliary year remember my theme "Veterans have a special place in our hearts." I thank You for all you do each day.

Sandy Wersal
7th District President

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package for a slightly higher amount.

6/15 – rosters are due to national. This involves what is called a “Form 2” which includes basic information about the player and medical and insurance data provided by a parent – who must sign as well.

As you can see, team coaches and managers will have a lot of administrative hoops to jump through to put a legion team on the field. Of course, this is in addition to costs for uniforms, game umpires, baseballs etc. I encourage all our local American Legion Clubs to do whatever they can to assist the teams that represent them. It could be financially (fundraisers) or administratively (help those coaches out with those behind-the-scenes tasks). Remember, these teams will be representing you on the field and out in public in other ways. The smoother things go for them, the better your organization will look.

Joe Dollerschell

District 7 MN Legion Baseball

320-894-8181

