



# 7<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT NEWS MARCH 2022

AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA  
**PLEASE SHARE WITH POST MEMBERS**



*Our Legion  
Family*

**COMMANDER**

David (Chip) Manson  
C 678.997.4714

**VICE CDR AT LARGE**

Karen Welander  
C 320.368.0760

**MEMBERSHIP DIR**

Dean Knutson  
C 320.766.0502

**VICE CDR – AREA A**

Carl Wilson  
C 320.302.5333

**VICE CDR – AREA B**

Donald Brehmer  
C 320.304.1884

**VICE CDR – AREA C**

Rueben Nathe  
C 320.593.8654

**VICE CDR – AREA D**

Harley Wahl  
507-763-3149

**ADJUTANT**

Carol Jackson  
C 320.979.4016

**FINANCE OFFICER**

Cal VanHorn  
C 320-389-3495

**CHAPLAIN**

David Ecker  
C 605.237.4736

**SGT AT ARMS**

Garylee Davenport  
C 320.224.8195

**HISTORIAN**

Jan Ekert  
C 320.339.9927

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**

Richard Wog  
320.905.3028

**FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER**

District 7 can be proud of our many accomplishments this year- and we're not done yet. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row District 7's Oratorical Champion won the Minnesota Championship – a tribute to our contestants and our judges! Thank you Oratorical Chair Rueben Nathe! We also had two high-quality Eagle Scout of the Year applicants this year. Both applicant packages will have met the MN Scouting Selection Committee March 12<sup>th</sup>. I had the honor of presenting the District 7 Eagle Scout of the Year certificate and scholarship at an Atwater Post special event March 13<sup>th</sup>. Watch for announcement/stories in District 7's Facebook page.

I'm still hoping local Armories, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Fire Fighting organizations will step up and recognize individuals for the Outstanding Enlisted Member, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Fire Fighter of the Year awards. We have Committee Chairmen ready and willing to help them put the application together and get them submitted for evaluation.

And, we already have 11 legion posts that have joined the 100% club! They are: Browns Valley Post 58, Appleton Post 72, Tracy Post 173, Renville Post 180, Echo Post 204, Fairfax Post 205, Franklin Post 308, Starbuck Post 325, Nassau Post 536, Chokio Post 629, and Prairie At Large Post 1998. Congratulations to all and thank you for your efforts!

Additionally, we have 35 posts in the 90% range – so close to joining the 100% Club. In fact, 24 posts are within 3 members of being 100%. While being 100% is great, more importantly is the posts that are doing what they can to replace those members being transferred to Post Everlasting. This is the time of year for every post to review (hopefully at a membership meeting) the list of members who have not yet paid their 2022 dues and the list of At Large Post

1982 members near your post – and ask members to contact those people they know; asking if they wanted to renew their membership or transfer their 1982 membership into your post. You might be surprised at the reception you'll receive when you contact these people on a personal level. And, you might find out what is holding them back from being a member of the post – maybe the reason can be easily/quickly resolved.

March-April-May are important months for our legion. This is our normal election cycle. My hope is our new post officers will bring a new and exciting perspective to the post and help ignite a new enthusiasm for supporting the **mission** of the American Legion – which is the Preamble and Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Defense, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Chip Manson, District 7 Commander

**\*MARK YOUR CALENDARS\***

**DISTRICT 7 CONVENTION**

**DATE: June 11, 2022**

**PLACE: Montevideo Post 59**

**TIME: Registration from 8 am to 9am**

**Cost and other information will be in the May Newsletter. Watch for it!**

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Congratulations to the following posts for being at 100% of their membership goal:

Browns Valley, Starbuck, Chokio, Appleton, Nassau, Prairie Post, Renville, Fairfax, Franklin, Tracy and Echo. Thank you all for all your hard work to help keep the Seventh District strong. There are also a number of posts that only need five members or less to achieve their goal. As the time of the year is upon us that membership begins to slow down, we need to contact our members who have not renewed their dues for this year. Also, there are members out there who have joined either MN Post 1982 or MN Post 1982 AD that need to be contacted to see if they will transfer their membership to a post within their area and the District.

We need to remember that membership is not just the responsibility of the membership director but it is up to all of us working together to accomplish our goal. Dates to remember are [June 11th](#) for the District Convention and will be held in Montevideo and the Department Convention which will be held in Willmar in July.

Spring is on its way. Keep smiling and keep up the good work!!

Dean Knutson, District 7 Membership Director

## **MYLEGION.ORG**

The implementation of the new MyLegion.org is still experiencing glitches but they ARE moving forward and getting better. Continued patience will help us get through the process.

Using the new Post and District 2022 Officer reports, each Commander and Adjutant will be given primary access to MyLegion.org. It will be up to these two to give permission to other district or post personnel.

If you have not yet registered in the new MyLegion.org site, you will not be able to obtain any of the reports, labels and other available information. Please go into [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), click on MyLegion.org (to make sure you are at the correct log in site), click on Register and follow the instructions.

Your personal email address shown in your legion record is your USERID, you will choose your own PASSWORD.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

It is time to complete our annual reports. Post adjutants have received hard copies of these reports. Contact district commander if you want the blank reports emailed to you. Please note each report below, deadlines, and where reports are sent:

Consolidated Post Report. Due no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> but can be submitted right now. Send original to Department, copy to district adjutant/commander.

Children & Youth report – due to District C&Y Chair by March 31<sup>st</sup> but can be submitted right now. Send original to C&Y Chair Karen Welander, 9001 Hwy 9 NW, Sunburg, MN 56289, copy to district adjutant.

Post Service Officer report documenting activities April 1<sup>st</sup> thru Mar 31<sup>st</sup>. Submit to District Rehab Chair by May 15<sup>th</sup> but could be submitted sooner. Send report to Garylee Davenport, PO Box 104, Atwater, MN 56209, copy to district adjutant/commander.

Community Service report submitted to Department HQ by May 31<sup>st</sup> but can be sent as soon it's completed. Mail to Department HQ, copy to district adjutant/commander.

Post Officer Report – due to Department HQ & District Adjutant ASAP after elections are held but no later June 15<sup>th</sup>. District needs copy for developing next year's directory; Department needs for setting up mailings and access to MyLegion.org.

Post Blood Donation Report – due to district Blood Chair DuWayne Underthun by May 21<sup>st</sup>, can be completed and mailed now. DuWayne's address is 4420 15<sup>th</sup> St SW, Willmar, MN 56201

### **MEMBERSHIP PACKET PICKUP PLAN**

District 7 will pick up membership packets @ Dept HQ on Thursday or Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. SAL Packets will be picked up at the same time if available from MN SAL.

#### Planned Schedule:

Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – Litchfield Post, 3-4:30 pm  
Spicer Post, 5:30-7pm  
Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> – Milan Post, 1-2:15pm  
Granite Falls Post, 3-4pm  
Marshall Post, 4:45-6pm  
Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> – Morris Post, 2:30-4:00pm  
Wheaton Post, 5:00-6:00pm  
Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> – Brandon Post, 3:30-4:45pm  
Lowry Post, 5:30-6:30pm  
Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – Olivia Post, 4-6pm

**NOTE 1:** Bring copies of your post’s 2022 annual reports (Officers List, Consolidated Post Report, Children & Youth, Community Service Report, & Post Service Officer Report). Must be received before packets are handed out. **This applies to SAL squadrons too.**

**NOTE 2:** Membership Packets will be mailed to designated post member if all reports copies have been received by district adjutant/commander by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**NOTE 3:** SAL membership packets will be released at the same time IF MN SAL has issued them to District 7. Post/SAL members need to decide who will pick up and sign for post packages.

**VETERANS ON THE HILL** is a chance to talk directly to your state representatives when veteran organizations collectively bring our message to these politicians. This year’s event is held April 20<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 10:30 at the Armory at the bottom of the hill for discussions on supported bills, lunch is also served. Walk up to Capitol for the Rotunda Event at 1pm

### **2023 Mid-Winter & Convention Locations will be decided**

at our district convention June 11<sup>th</sup> in Montevideo. A Time & Place committee of Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders will meet to review “bids” from posts for where our next meetings will be held.

This committee will make recommendations to the convention body and the decision made by convention attendees. **Any post** can submit/bring a bid to this committee. These Mid-Winter and Convention meetings do **NOT** have to be held at an actual Legion building; many District 7 posts meet at local community centers or other buildings. If your meeting site (or another location within your home town) can provide meeting rooms for the Legion and Auxiliary and host a prepared meal – we welcome your submission/bid for hosting one of these events. Hosts do not bear the cost of these events alone. The district provides funds for hosting (Convention - \$600; Mid-Winter - \$400); added to these funds are the registration fees you collect from people attending the event. Most posts show a profit for the day’s event. See District by-laws for requirements of meeting hosts.

Want to be a part of the Time & Place committee? Send an email to District Commander Chip at [chip.manson@hotmail.com](mailto:chip.manson@hotmail.com)

### **PRIORITIES**

“A Hundred Years From Now It Will Not Matter What My Bank Account Was, The Sort of House I Lived In, or the Kind of Car I Drove...But The World May Be Different Because I Was Important In the Life Of A Child” UNKNOWN

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

April & May tend to be the months for scholarship presentations. Many posts throughout the district present scholarships to local high school students. These scholarships, I'm sure, are appreciated by the students receiving them and provide a great service to our local communities. Thank You District 7 Posts for your willingness to raise funds for these valuable scholarships.

Posts, Districts and the Department also present scholarships outside local high school events. Some are application-based and some in a contest/competition process. Results of known scholarships include:  
District 7:

Oratorical – Megan Blonigen, Eden Valley HS, \$700; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> place winners received a combined total of \$875

Eagle Scout – Connor Petersen, ACGC HS - \$500

Department of Minnesota:

Oratorical – Megan Blonigen, Eden Valley HS, \$1,500 (will now compete at National contest with a potential of up to \$25,000 scholarship)

MN Legion Foundation – Ava Provencher, Litchfield, \$500 and Alexis Hanson, Wheaton, \$500

MN Legion Nursing Training – Kaitlyn Sanstead, Hoffman, \$1,000

There are other scholarships available that help our students including Samsung, Legacy, Baseball, Jr. Shooting Sports, etc. (along with those noted above). Want to learn more? Simply go the MNlegion.org and Legion.org web sites and search for scholarships.

### **A note from Mike Maxa, Minnesota American Legion Department Adjutant**

Once again our members are receiving renewal notices when they have already renewed or are PUFL's. If the member is current for the 2022 membership year they can disregard the renewal notice. National is aware of the issue and is trying to fix the problem?? Feel free to contact Department if you have a questionable member's status. Thanks

## [WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR LEGION OR YOUR LEGION "JOB"?](#)

The American Legion web site ([www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training)) is an excellent source of information for people wanting to learn more about the American Legion and/or your job within the Legion. [Training | The American Legion](#) Either of these links will take you directly to the training page.

The first you see is the Basic Training page. I highly recommend this training program if you just want to learn more about American Legion history, programs, etc. But there are many other links on this training page.

Training Tuesdays show you monthly training sessions national office has with department, district officers, and post officers. We've found many of these sessions very helpful and found many questions answered.

The Membership Workshop has MANY different PowerPoint presentations showing different post jobs, completing reports, MyLegion.org processing, etc, etc.

There are also links to Service Officer Training, Children & Youth Conference coverage, Americanism Conference coverage and many others.

It is well worth checking out this training site. It just might be well worth your time. The info is there – all you have to do is go for it.

**ORATORICAL WINNER SENDS THANKS!** Just a quick note to let you know the District received a **Thank You** note from Megan Blonigen – our district Oratorical Champ.

In the note she said, “Thank you for sponsoring and supporting me at the district level for the Oratorical Scholarship program! I plan to attend the National competition in April and I’m incredibly fortunate to have such an amazing opportunity. I appreciate the support and assistance of District 7 and hope to represent the State of Minnesota well. Thank You!” Megan Blonigen

The National Oratorical contest is being held in Indianapolis **April 22-24**. We’re proud of her and the work Oratorical Committee Chair Rueben Nathe did to pull off another great year of the Oratorical program!

### **VERY LATEST IN MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Congratulations to the Franklin Post for being the latest post to join the 100% Club in membership!! Great Job!!

Currently, the Seventh District is in a virtual tie with the 6th District for first place with the Sixth at 91.99% and the Seventh at 91.98% or one hundredth of a percent or one membership.

This period we had a turn-in of 48 memberships from 15 different posts with a total turn-in of 5067 of our goal of 5509.

Currently there are 11 posts at goal, 24 posts that require 3 members or less to achieve their goal, 19 posts that require between 4 & 6 to achieve their goal and 8 posts that need between 7 & 10 to achieve their goal and 11 posts who still need 11 and over to achieve their goal.

Let's keep up the good work and see how many more memberships we can get turned in before **April 13th** which is the cutoff date to be at 95% of goal.

Dean Knutson, District 7 Membership Director

### **HAVE YOU INVITED YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER TO A POST MEMBERSHIP MEETING LATELY?**

Why not invite your VSO and ask them for updates about Veteran Benefits, VA facilities, etc., etc. Posts that have invited their Co. VSO say they learned a lot and were happy to have met their VSO representative.

### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

It is hard to believe that we have entered the most holy of seasons, that of Lent and the coming of Easter. This is both a time of sorrow and also a time of rejoicing. The death of our Savior, Jesus Christ, on the cross is a terrible event to have happen but was necessary for Him to bury our sins. It is also a time of rejoicing when He returned from the dead and ascended to heaven. This was done to cleanse all of us from our sins.

Let us all pray for the people of the Ukraine as they struggle with the Russian invasion of their country. Pray that world leaders will come to a peaceful solution to this terrible invasion and bring peace once again to that region of the world.

### **BOYS AND GIRLS STATE**

It's not too early to contact schools and let your own members know about the opportunity. For additional information:

**GIRLS** – Bethel College, St Paul. June 12 – 18

Auxiliary [www.mnala.org/girls-state-week](http://www.mnala.org/girls-state-week)

**BOYS** - St Johns University, Collegeville. June 12 -18

[www.legion.org/programs/BoysState](http://www.legion.org/programs/BoysState)

Donald Brehmer, Boys State Chairman

Phone: 320-843-3361 Email: [dcbrehmer@hotmail.com](mailto:dcbrehmer@hotmail.com)

## LEGIONVILLE

By the time you read this the new Legionville logo will be printed on the back page of the Legionnaire. Check it out!

Registration can now be accessed and filled out on-line at the Minnesota Department website [www.mnlegion.org](http://www.mnlegion.org). The web site has been updated and there are flyers and information brochures that can be printed to distribute or use to recruit campers. Registration cost is \$400.00 and enrollment is open to all children and they can be sponsored by parents and other organizations. We will be having a spring meeting on 26 March 2022. Any questions or concerns contact me.

Victor Gades – 320.288.6610  
105 South St, Morris, MN 56267

## LEGIONVILLE SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT

Legionville had a total of 352 campers. District 7 sent 15 boys and 18 girls for a total of 33. This is considerably lower than in past years.

16 October 2021 meeting notes:

Approved increasing camp fee to \$400.00

Maintenance accomplished during 2021:

New water softener in Ed. Building

Natural Gas piped to each cabin

Natural Gas water heater in cabin #5 replaced

Broken pipes and toilets replaced due to improper line draining

Spring plumbing start up

Broken valves in Dining Room

Future needs

New side by side

Tandem axle trailer 24' – to move equipment for servicing

Dishwasher for Dining Hall (check into renting unit)

Water heaters replaced as needed – one already replaced and six cabins remaining to be replaced when they go bad

Finish wall in trooper cabin

Clean up all exposed wiring in cabins

## LEGIONVILLE IMPORTANT DATES

May Work and Play – **3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May** (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

SAL Detachment Convention – **24 & 25 June 2022** Arrive 4 pm Friday. Must be out by 9AM Sunday (**ABOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL OR SMOKING IN AND AROUND THE DORMS**)

Auxiliary Junior Fun Weekend **5, 6, and 7 August 2022**

Camp-o-ree – **7 – 10 September 2022**

MNALR ROMP – **15 – 18 September 2022**

SAL Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt – **27 September – 1 October 2022**

19 January 2022 Zoom meeting notes:

SBA Tower Lease buy-out

Sell off Cat skid steer

RIM update

Re-payment of Department Loan

Develop Job Descriptions, so all are consistent for hiring and duties

Developing a new Logo, something more attractive to younger parents (feedback from several parents)

New on-line registration starting soon

Questions? Call.

Victor Gades 320.288.6610

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER?

Many Post members know their local County VSO's name but how many posts have invited their VSO representative to attend your post meeting, give a presentation and answer questions? Some posts have invited their VSO and were very happy with the presentation.

<b>County</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Telephone #</b>	
Big Stone County	Ward	Odom	320-839-6375	<a href="mailto:ward.odom@BigstoneCounty.org">ward.odom@BigstoneCounty.org</a>
Chippewa County	Tim	Kolhei	320-269-6419	<a href="mailto:tkolhei@co.chippewa.mn.us">tkolhei@co.chippewa.mn.us</a>
Douglas County	Jacob	Turner	320-762-3883	<a href="mailto:jacpbt@co.douglas.mn.us">jacpbt@co.douglas.mn.us</a>
Grant County	Robert	Larson	218-685-8324	<a href="mailto:robert.larson@co.grant.mn.us">robert.larson@co.grant.mn.us</a>
Kandiyohi County	Trisha	Appeldorn	320-231-6226	<a href="mailto:appeldorn@kcmn.us">appeldorn@kcmn.us</a>
Lac qui Parle Co.	Josh	Beninga	320-598-3895	<a href="mailto:josh.beninga@lqpc.com">josh.beninga@lqpc.com</a>
Lyon County	Heidi	Fier	507-537-6729	<a href="mailto:heidifier@co.lyon.mn.us">heidifier@co.lyon.mn.us</a>
Meeker County	Timothy	Steinert	320-693-5445	<a href="mailto:timotohysteinert@co.meeker.mn.us">timotohysteinert@co.meeker.mn.us</a>
Pope County	Hugh	Reimers	320-634-7846	<a href="mailto:hughreimers@co.pope.mn.us">hughreimers@co.pope.mn.us</a>
Renville County	Lee	Stock	320-523-3763	<a href="mailto:lees@renvillecountymn.com">lees@renvillecountymn.com</a>
Stevens County	Hugh	Reimers	320-208-6555	<a href="mailto:hughreimers@co.stevens.mn.us">hughreimers@co.stevens.mn.us</a>
Swift County	Dave	Barrett	320-842-5271	<a href="mailto:dave.barrett@co.swift.mn.us">dave.barrett@co.swift.mn.us</a>
Traverse County	Dustin	Kindelberger	320-422-7726	<a href="mailto:dustin.kindelberger@co.traverse.mn.us">dustin.kindelberger@co.traverse.mn.us</a>
Yellow Medicine County	Kris	Holien	320-313-3037	<a href="mailto:kris.holien@co.ym.mn.gov">kris.holien@co.ym.mn.gov</a>