



7th DISTRICT NEWS

October 2024



*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 320-368-0760

JUDGE ADVOCATE
Richard Wog
C 320-905-3028

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

FROM THE SEVENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER - CARL WILSON

Hello to the Mighty 7th District: Well, I think everyone has finally received their 2024 membership packets and I must apologize for it taking so long to get them out to everyone this year, there were some problems with the mail not finding addresses or simply not sending them out. We can now start to get those memberships turned in to fly past Nationals membership goals throughout the year. As of Aug 28, 2024, the 7th District was at 46.3% of their goal which is a really good start considering the problems that we had getting the membership packets out, way to go everyone!!

As most of you already know, my Commanders project for this year is Soldier 6. They are a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that trains service dogs for honorably discharged Veterans, Police Officers and Correctional Officers. Since 2016, Soldier 6 has trained and given out over 220 dogs. It takes about a year to train the dog depending on the trainer, and the dog they are training. The cost is between 8 and 12 thousand dollars per dog and includes training, 1st year of vet bills after the individual gets his or her battle buddy and the yearly recertification of the service dog.

I would also like to inform everyone that the 7th District now has its very own Junior Shooting Program. The program is in Brandon, MN. and is affiliated with Argonne Forrest Post 278. They are a small club with only 4 kids shooting the Sporter Class of air rifles and are hoping to grow in the years to come. The club is named Vikingland Junior Sports and will be competing in the 10-meter 3-point air rifle competitions through the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Let's all wish them luck this year and if anyone would like to donate to this Program, please contact me and I can give you a couple of options to donate to the Junior Shooting Program.

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******MARK YOUR CALENDERS ******

7TH DISTRICT HAPPENINGS:

District 7 Mid-Winter
Post 186 Olivia
January 18
Snow date is January 25

District 7 Convention
Post 204 Echo
May 17

DEPARTMENT EVENTS:
2024 FALL CONFERENCE
October 25-26, 2024
River's Edge Convention Center
104th Ave S.
St Cloud, MN 56301

OTHER EVENTS:

John Zgoda Deer Hunt
Veterans Disabled Deer Hunt
1-6 October 2024
Legionville

Pearl Harbor Day Rally
Dec 7, 2024
Post 545, Spicer, MN

Sweetheart Rally
February 8, 2025
103 N Maple St
Royalton, MN 56373

Committee Chairpersons

American Education

Bill Kuperus 320-905-1868

Americanism/Oratorical

Ruben Nathe 320-593-8654

Legion Baseball

Joe Dollerschell 320-894-8181

Blood Program

Jan Ekert 320-339-9927

Boy Scouts

Chip Manson 320-737-0014

Boys State

Donald Brehmer 320-843-3361

Children and Youth

Karen Welander 320-368-0760

Employment

Karen Welander 320-368-0760

Junior Shooting Sports

Carl Wilson 320-304-5333

Law and Order

Carl Wilson 320-304-5333

Legionville/Safety Patrol

Victor Gades 320-288-6810

Legislative

Mark Kern 320-221-5277

Legion Softball

Hal Meyer 507-530-4412

National Security/Foreign Relations

Jan Ekert 320-339-9927

Public Relation & Media

Pete Pedersen 702-553-5713

Rehabilitation Advisory

Keith Seidler 320-309-3411

Sons of the American Legion

Cal VanHorn 320-589-3495

American Legion Riders

Garylee Davenport 320-224-1895

Commander continued from page 1

In conclusion I would like to take this time to offer my time to all of you. Whether it be attending one of your post functions or coming to your post to train on a certain topic. We will be having some get-togethers to train on different subjects, in hopes of having a better understanding of what we do and can do for the Veterans of this Great Nation. I would also like to invite everyone to attend the Fall conference in St. Cloud on Oct 25-26 where everyone can attend training sessions and meet your Department Officers and maybe even some National Officers.

Carl R. Wilson

District 7 Commander

Serving Veterans from the Past to The Future.

****ATTENTION POST COMMANDERS, ADJUTANTS AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORS****

Please update your Post roster. There are many instances where members need to be contacted, and the information is not correct or is missing although. 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.

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

Mark Kern

The Department of Minnesota offers two different types of scholarships for post-secondary education.

For more information go to <https://mnlegion.org/scholarships/Memorial-Scholarship-Application> -
[Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarship](#)
[Minnesota American Legion Nurses Training Scholarship](#)

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Appreciation Rally

March 8, 2025

Post 580, Chanhassen, MN

Minnesota Legion College Spring 2025

April 24-27, 2025

15000 Minnesota 115

Little Falls, MN 56345

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – Dave Ecker

September 11th has just passed. We must take time to remember all those who gave their lives trying to save as many as was possible. We must also remember all of the innocent lives that were lost that day. Lives were lost that day, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, friends and probably family. Those that survived must live that terrible day for the rest of their lives. The families whose loved ones perished that day also suffer and will remember for all time. God works in mysterious ways and we as mere mortals cannot always understand why things happen. There is a plan out there for all of us and He knows what that is. Let us all pray for those whose lives were lost, those who survived and are forever changed and for the families that were involved.

We pray for His guidance in all things, whether we understand why or not, and look to Him to take care of all our needs.

Dave Ecker

7th District Chaplain

AREA VICE COMMANDERS NEWS –

VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE

Pete Flannery

Hi everyone, I am looking forward to another

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Auxiliary Officer/Contacts

President

Sandy Wersal 320-354-4517

1st Vice President

Jennifer Hurst 707-419-1428

2nd Vice President

Kathy Schmiedeker 320-295-2104

1st Executive Committee Member

Cassandra Mahoney 320-305-0436

2nd Executive Committee Member

Pamela Gades 320-589-2147

Secretary

Mary Kuperus 320-212-3278

Treasurer

Bev Dresser 320-354-5390

Immediate Past President

Hope Wilson 320-304-0809

Chaplin

Samantha Stai 320-295-2330

Parliamentarian

Hope Wilson 320-304-0809

Sgt-at-Arms

Robyn Scott 320-434-0431

Advisors

Wanda Seidler

Cheryl Gilmer-Schauman

Karla Minnick

Honorary Junior Officers

President

Brooklyn Mahoney

Vice President

Riley Wolbeck

Secretary

Riley Wolbeck

Historian

Miley Mahoney

Sgt-at-Arms

Miley Mahoney

Chaplin

Coral Hurst

Adjutant continued from page 2

Information and forms are available through the above links. Additional information can be obtained by emailing Jennifer Kelley at jkelly@mnlegion.org or calling 651-291-1800.

The American Legion National Scholarships

Link to the National website Scholarship page; <https://www.legion.org/scholarships>

**Mark Kern,
7th District Adjutant**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Jan Ekert

Well, the goals for each of the Posts have been established, please look for an updated sheet of the goals for your posts via email or snail mail. The District Directory is still being updated but I am sending the goals on to your area Vice Commanders. Please contact them if you have any questions or feel free to give me a call 320-339-9927.

The area Vice Commanders are as follows:

Area A: Victor Gades Home - 320-589-2147 or Cell – 320-288-6610,

Area B: Jacob Hurst 320-295-2443

Area C: Don Dufner 320-483-5824

Area D; John Jones 507-469-7995

You can also always call me Jan Ekert 320-339-9927 or our Department Vice Commander for the 2nd and 7th Districts Pam Krill 757-771-6901

The Seventh District as of 9/11/2024 is sitting in 7th place in the Department standings. We know that the “Mighty Seventh” is strong and our membership chairs at the post level work very hard to promote the American Legion, please offer them your help and support in reaching out to the members in your post and your area. The District met the 50% Goal for the Target date of 9/11/2024. The department did have a note at the bottom of the membership report that there are some errors and that National has been notified of the need for correction. We currently have 46 Posts who have met or exceeded the 50% goal target date. The following Posts have met or exceeded the 50% Membership Goal.:

Post: 29 Morris, 58 Browns Valley, 59 Montevideo, 69 Granite Falls, 87 Alexandria, 104 Litchfield, 113 Marshall, 135 Hector, 156 Marietta, 158 Madison, 167 Willmar, 175 Villard, 177 Dawson, 180 Renville, 187

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Vice CDR at Lage continued from page 2

good year in the 7th district and also seeing everyone at some of the upcoming events like the Fall Conference in St Cloud, Oct 25-26. Part of my job is to help all of you with any issues that you might have, so feel free to contact me. If I can't give you an answer myself, I am sure I can find someone who can. I know it is early in the year, but they have been going fast so make sure you stay on top of your membership and paperwork. Keep up the good work.

Pete Flannery

Vice Commander at Large 7th District

AREA A

Victor Gades

The new membership year has started, and many Posts have had Membership Dinners. If your Post has had a Membership Dinner, I hope it was a success for All. May friendships be rekindled, and new ones started. Membership is the glue that keeps The American Legion going strong to keep Its mission of the health of our Veterans, Community and Our Nation. This can be only accomplished by working together as one family. The Auxiliary, Sons and Riders support The American Legion in many ways. So, when they need help recruiting members do your part and assist them as they assist us. Harvest has begun, so let's be vigilant on the roads for the farmers harvesting, bringing in their harvest and prepping for spring. The same vigilance goes for wildlife on the move. Be safe

Victor Gades

Area A Vice Commander

**Auxiliary Committee
Chairman**

Americanism
Wanda Seidler 320-309-3528

Children and Youth
Donna Barbknecht 320-262-9321

Community Service
Robyn Scott 320-434-0431

Constitution & Standing Rules
Kathy Schmiedeker 320-295-2104

Education
Pamella Lubenow 320-793-6773

Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Kathy Kessler 320-905-2090

Finance
Pam Gades 320-589-2147

Girls State
Sandy Wersal 320-354-4517

History
Karla Minnick 320-894-4835

Junior Activities
Ashley Stai 320-894-7850

Leadership
Mary Kuperus 320-212-3278

Legislation
Jennifer Hurst 707-419-1428

Membership
Jennifer Hurst 707-419-1428

Memorial
Samantha Stai 320-295-2330

National Security
Pat Ecker 320-695-2409

Past Presidents Parley
Hope Wilson 320-304-0809

Poppy
Ashley Stai 320-894-7850

Public Relation
Pam Gades 320-589-2147

VA&R
Deanna Knutson 507-530-3222

Memory Book
Ashley Stai 320-894-7850

Membership continued from page 3.

Glenwood, 188 Evansville, 199 Minneota, 204 Echo, 223 Kerkhoven, 237 Balaton, 253 Lowry, 268 Kensington, 273 Garvin, 278 Brandon, 297 Graceville, 302 Beardsley, 308 Franklin, 344 Morton, 357 Ashby, 364 Dassel, 375 Atwater, 381 Eden Valley, 426 Wendell, 441 Bellingham, 453 Watkins, 460 Russell, 483 Kingston, 527 Millerville, 536 Nassau, 537 New London, 545 Spicer, 556 Wood Lake, 559 Hazel Run, 615 Lake Lillian, 629 Chokio, 1998 Prairie. Keep up the good work. For those who may be struggling with membership, reach out to other posts to see if they have any suggestions, call me I will help you as much as possible. Again, thank all of you for your hard work and let's keep pushing onward and upward. I am hoping that I saw many of you at the Harvest Rally September 21, in Fridley, again I encourage you to try and attend the rallies and conference as they are all good networking and learning opportunities.

**Jan Ekert
7th District, Membership Director**

LEGIONVILLE

Victor Gades

Legionville feel short of its goal of campers again. It seems that Covid still is affecting participation. Another competitor for campers is high school sports camps. Their draw is big, but also expensive for parents. Legionville provides lifelong education covering life skills such as first aid, bus safety, swimming and all-around appreciation for being an American. As you can see, we are back in the red in expenses exceeding revenue. Here are a few significant items to note that come to mind: ● There were some large maintenance expenses that came up this year that needed to be done. Completed replacing hot water heaters even though donations didn't entirely cover it A few trees had to be cut down and removed After some major storms, sand needed to be brought in to keep the beach safe for kids We only had 335 campers attend camp (123 of which were in session 6 alone) I plan to attend the fall meeting in person again this year.

**Victor Gades
Legionville Chair,**

**Area B
Jacob Hurst**

Good day to my fellow 7th District Legionnaires. I am your Area B Vice Commander. We have all sorts of busyness as summer comes to a close and fall starts. Which by the way is my favorite time of the year. Not just because of the weather change but because I enjoy Pheasant and Deer hunting with my family. Speaking of Pheasant hunting, the Upland Preserve just outside of Granite Falls, Mn, along with Pheasant Forever and Minnesota Deer Hunters Association holds a Veteran Pheasant hunt every year. Which is awesome to attend. They allow Veterans to bring one friend to enjoy the hunt. If you are slightly older or just do not feel like walking a field, they offer silo hunt where they allow service members the opportunity to hunt from a stationary position. They also provide a great meal after the hunt, while they clean up the birds for anyone who wants to take them home.

Speaking about Veterans. My post home in Montevideo, just happened to be asked to perform Color Guard for Son of the Union Veterans in Dawson, Mn. Not every day I get to write about our Civil War Veterans. I was informed that next Spring they will hold a ceremony in Chippewa County. More information will be provided as we get closer to spring.

As always, our newly opened Montevideo Vets home is looking for volunteers for just about anything and everything. Help a fellow brother or sister. The Vet home is growing in numbers as staff are being added. A total of 26 Veterans
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LEGISLATION

Mark Kern

- Effective January 1, 2024, Veterans with a 100% total service-connected disability (includes TDIU) receive free motor vehicle registration, plate, and title services for up to two vehicles (auto, pickup, RV, motorcycle). Total fee exemption does not include a personalized plate fee or any required contributions for a specialty plate.
- Modernize the Homestead Market Value Exclusion Currently, there are two levels of property tax exclusions. The first one is a maximum exemption of \$150,000 for veterans rated by the VA 70 to 100 percent disabled. The second level of exclusion is for 100 percent permanent total and disabled veterans at \$300,000. We need to accommodate more veterans to be eligible for this benefit. Provide an exclusion for veterans rated 50 to 100 percent disabled at \$200,000 off their property tax values and provide market value exclusion of \$400,000 for 100 percent-rated veterans.
- We favor the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources waiving license fees for veterans (regardless of disability) and we favor resident rates for non-resident veterans from any state.
- Give property-tax relief for veteran’s organizations. Many 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations received property tax exemptions after qualifying through their county assessor and going through a three-year assessment review. We desire Minnesota to give 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(19) organizations access to the same nonprofit property tax exemptions.
- For Gold Star spouses, the present law, MS 273.13, Subd. 34(d), says the surviving spouse must file within two years of the death and must live in the home at the time of the death. The statute cites the DD-1300 Report of Casualty or the DD-2064 Report of Death as indicators. This law discriminates against active-duty spouses and would help only MN National Guard or Reserve spouses. It is very likely that active-duty spouses live on or near out-of-state bases when their spouse dies in service. When they return to Minnesota, they find they do not qualify for the Gold Star property-tax exemption.

Mark Kern

District 7 Legislation Chair

Area B continued from page 4

currently resides there.

I hope to see many of you at the American Legion Fall Family Convention at River’s Edge in St Cloud, Mn, just remember the merrier.

Jacob Hurst

Area B Vice Commander

AREA C

Don Dufner

Good Day from the District 7 Area C Vice Commander, I would like to introduce myself and give a little background on me. I was born and raised in the Watkins area and joined the US Air Force right after graduating High School. I was an Avionics mechanic working on A-10, RF-4C, C-5s and KC-135R for the first 15 ½ years, the last 14 ½ years of my 30 years I was in Manpower and Personnel. I retired as a Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) and my wife (Stacy) and I moved back to the family farm near Watkins. I joined the Watkins American Legion Post 453 in 2012, and I’ve been very active as the Commander (3-years) and currently the Post Service Officer. I also was the Meeker County Veterans Service Officer for 9 years and retired 3 years ago. I look forward to serving District 7 as the Area C Vice Commander.

Don Dufner

Area C Vice Commander

AREA D

John Jones

Hello District 7. Fall is upon us as we wrap up

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SCOUTING AMERICA

David (Chip) Manson
Boy Scouts,7th District Chairman

The Boy Scouts have announced an official change to their name & program - it is now Scouting America. As we move forward, I hope we all understand their need to rebrand themselves and support this change in name. Th is change was needed because of the legal issues these past few years and the adding of females to the Scouting program.

In fact, the National Eagle Scout of the Year for 2024 was Lauren Tyree. She is a very impressive young Eagle Scout. If you'd like to see her acceptance speech at the national convention, please click on the following link (or copy it and paste it into your internet search program)
[Eagle Scout of the Year - Lauren Tyree, American Legion National Convention, New Orleans 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#)

The new Eagle Scout of the Year program is starting soon. This is the perfect time to contact your local Scouting America Troops, see if your post can help promote/support their programs and if any current or future Eagle Scouts need access to the Scholarship Nomination form. Here is the link to the application: [Eagle Scout of the Year Nomination Form | Brochures & Publications | The American Legion](#) . All applications will need to arrive on my desk no later than (NLT) February 15th. The district has a \$500 scholarship for the District 7 Eagle Scout of the Year. Minnesota Department's scholarship is \$2,000 and the National scholarship is \$10,000! If any Scouts, leaders, or posts have any questions on this program, please feel free to contact me at my new phone #: 320-220-3001.

David (Chip) Manson
Boy Scouts,7th District Chairman

AMERICAN EDUCATION
Bill Kuperus

American Education Week is Nov. 15-19. During this week we recognize all who provide quality education and support for the youth of today. They are parents, teachers, administrative staff, custodians, cafeteria workers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, and many others.

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Area D continued from page 5

our “good weather” programs and fundraisers. With no new updates, we look forward to seeing you in October.

John Jones
Area D Vice Commander

COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES:

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION - Keith Seidler

The St Cloud StandDown is a private, non-profit that has been helping male and female Veterans in Minnesota and the surrounding areas with food, clothing, job connections, housing information, and other resources since 1998. The website stcloudstanddown.com. includes detailed information on upcoming events and services available to Veterans. Some of the services highlighted on their website includes the StandDown Warehouse with men’s and women’s clothing, shoes, boots, and accessories and the Lady Veterans Boutique, designed to empower, encourage, and mentor, both are open Monday- Thursday 10am-2pm. The Gentleman’s Quarters Barbershop offers free walk-in haircuts for Veterans the first Thursday of the month from 9am-1pm. St Cloud StandDown’s address is 724 33rd Ave N. St. Cloud and phone number is (320) 774-1892. Veterans Helping Veterans!

Keith Seidler,
VA&R 7th District Chairman

American Education Continued from page 6

The American Legion Family also sponsors other programs in educating our youth. They are Boys and Girls State, Shooting Sports, Oratorical Contests, Legion Baseball and Softball, and School Safety Patrol. These programs need to be promoted to our youth.

**Bill Kuperus,
American Education Committee Chairperson**

**Blood Committee Chair
Jan Ekert**

The American Legion Blood Donor Program has been in existence since 1942. Each year Legionnaires have donated blood which has saved thousand if not millions of lives. The Blood Donor Program honors those districts and Departments that participate in these efforts. The recognition comes in two areas for post and individual participation. Does your post assist with obtaining or providing a site, Do you have volunteers that help with check in and registration, Do your members donate blood. The recognition does not just happen at the Department level but also recognition at the National level. Ask your members at meetings, have they donated blood, this does not have to be at your post or even in your district their donations count for both your post and the District and the Department. The reports again are submitted in May and sent to your Blood Program Chair. I know this is just another form to fill out, but this is a very worthy endeavor. Again, call me if you have any questions.

**Jan Ekert
Blood Committee Chair**

**Jan Ekert
National Security and Foreign Relations (NSFR) Chair**

WOW, what a fabulous time, the NSFR Committee met 12-14 September at Camp Ripley to review and discuss important aspects that the NSFR works on. The NSFR is one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion. Its main mission is to maintain and promote a strong national defense by supporting our military members and their families. One of the big tasks the committee
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**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Department Committee Update**

I know that Keith has sent an update as the VA and R committee chair for the District, but I wanted to share an important task that the VA and R Committee is undertaking. Every Post should per the constitution and By Laws have a Post Service Officer (PSO). This person is usually the primary person that is contacted when a Veteran needs help, a family in need, or wanting Honor Guard or Color Guard for the funeral of a loved one. Many posts may have multiple people who assist with this but there should be one constant at each post. Sometimes a post has this but then comes the dreaded Post Service Officer Report that needs to be filled out and not everyone is sure how to do that. The VA and R committee is going to be providing training at the Fall conference, and we would like to encourage as many Legionnaires to attend this. It will give you a better understanding of what the Post Service Officer does, what things they can help a Veteran with and What resources are available as well as how to answer the questions on the PSO report which is to be sent to your committee chair at the District Level not directly to the department. This Post level screening/reporting can ease some of the burden we have placed on the Department Service Officer and make trying to meet the needs of the Veteran quicker and easier. I am hopeful that I will see many of you attend that training.

Jan Ekert

NSFR Continued from page 7

works on and as the chairperson for the Seventh District I am asking for your help in working with the Guard and Reserve Centers and Armories in your areas to help and identify "Outstanding Enlisted Soldiers" for an award that is given for their performance that could be considered above and beyond what is expected. The Seventh District had a young lady from the Tracy Area Awarded this last year. Try to think about someone in your community who might fit the bill. The Committee also works with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program which recognizes employers who support their employees who are members of the Military in providing a supportive work environment. These employers can be recognized by the American Legion for their support. Many of the communities with the Seventh District have had Guard and Reserve. Units Deploy if you have talked with any of these soldiers and they praise the steps their employers have taken, take down the company name, ask the soldier to write about their experience and what the employer did for them. The committee also works closely to help account for those that are still considered Missing in Action or have been identified as Prisoners of War. The NSFR works to bring home and identify the remains found on battlefields and cemeteries across the world, in order to give families closure and bring their loved one's home. The above are just a few of the tasks the NSFR works on. Should you want to know more, talk to any member of the NSFR committee or give me a call.

National Security and Foreign Relations (NSFR) Chair: Jan Ekert

Baseball Chair

Joe Dollerschell

American Legion baseball in Minnesota continues to be an extremely successful program. Once again, our state led the nation in the number teams and participants – by a wide margin. The top 4 states in number of teams in 2024 were Minnesota 383, Pennsylvania 305, Nebraska 272, Wisconsin 223. The strength of those numbers in our state is found in the popularity of legion baseball in rural Minnesota like in District 7. We fielded 45 teams this summer from our district. 7 of these teams played in division 1 (the largest schools), 1 played in the new division 1A, and 37 played division 2.

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AUXILIARY NEWS-

Sandy Wersal, 7th District Auxiliary President

I am Sandy Wersal your 7th District President and I am very honored to work with each member of the mighty 7th district. I am eligible for the Auxiliary by my father Joseph Poe who fought in World War two. I also have a brother, Danny Poe that was in Vietnam. I am dedicating my year of working to make Veterans lives better to him. My husband Jeff is a S.A.L member, being a past commander. My son Jesse is a member and daughter Jackie a auxiliary member, all of us from Post 537, New London.

My theme for the year is: Veterans have a special place in our hearts. My symbol will be the red poppy.

My project is to raise money for the new VA home in Montevideo. As I travel the 7th district visiting units and attending Legion Family events. I have a special 7th district owl that will come with me. She asks that you put coins and bills in her bank. My goal is high at \$3000 so any Legion Family funds would be welcomed. You can mail checks to: 7th District Treasurer Bev Dresser at PO Box 225, New London, MN 56273, designating it as President Project in the memo line. I thank you in advance. If you would like me to attend a event or meeting email me at sandywersal@gmail.com or my address is 16667 Co Rd 9 NE, New London MN 56273.

I look forward to working with the 7th district Legion family. Sandy Wersal

**Sandy Wersal, 7th District
American Legion Auxiliary President**

Baseball Continued from page 8

My best estimate would be around 600 total players on the 45 district 7 teams. Of course, add to that 2-3 coaches per team on average and you can see just how big of an impact this program is having on many young men in our communities. In rural areas, most every school necessarily has at least a couple players that appear on both their school's junior and senior rosters, so determining the exact number of players is a very time challenging task. How did District 7 teams do this season? Our teams participated in 12 different substates vying for trips to the 5 different state tournaments that are available. Teams are organized by geographic substates, not into districts. 4 of our teams advanced to play in 2 of those state tournaments. At the D2 Junior state tourney held in St. Charles, MN, Montevideo went 2-1 and went home with the consolation trophy. At the D2 Senior tourney, which was hosted by Bird Island, Glenwood Lowry took home the 2nd place trophy while New London Spicer won the consolation bracket. District 7's BOLD also participated as the host team.

As a baseball guy, I want to express my deep gratitude to the American Legion Clubs of District 7 for their continued support. You are having a very positive effect on the communities you serve through this successful program.

Joe Dollerschell
District 7 MN Legion Baseball
320-894-8181

