

8th District
2026 Fall Conference
Menominee Casino & Resort
Keshna, Wisconsin
September 26, 2026

Commander Penny Peeters called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Post 497 Color Guard performed a grand entry in the Menominee tradition to post the colors. The prescribed ritual followed.

Guests were Department Vice Commander Deborah Thomas and Detachment Vice Commander Bob Seide from the SAL.

Roll call was taken. Excused were Judge Advocate Cathy Gorst and SGT-At-Arms Jim Young. Absent was Shawano/Menominee County Commander Dave Manney. Portage County was represented by Vice Commander Adam Klapperich for Commander Lee Miller. There were 21 Legionnaires present, representing 14 Posts.

The minutes from the 2026 Spring Conference were presented and approved with a motion from Mike Feirer. Motion passed.

The financial report was presented and approved with a motion from Dave Jensen. Motion passed.

Department Membership Committee Chair Jeff Zwiers talked about membership goal for the year, including scheduling two membership rallies. One to be held in the fall and one in the spring.

Detachment Vice Commander Bob Seide talked about the Sons of the American Legion and how we can work together to further the goals of our organizations.

Department Vice Commander Deborah Thomas brought greetings from the Department Commander and talked about changes coming down from National, the 250 Club, and the Wisconsin American Legion College.

Jim Carmody talked about the District 8 American Legion Riders and their upcoming activities, including the Wreathes Across America event coming up on December 19, 2026 at the Veterans Home at King.

In Old Business, VC Dave Leder talked about the bench for King. It is completed and has been set but not in its final location. It will be set by the Commandants House once renovations are complete and it is open to the public again. There was a motion from Mike Bennett to send a Certificate of Appreciation to Larry, from Wausau Tile. The motion passed. We will discuss at the Spring Conference plans for the dedication of the bench.

In new business, VC John Zycowicz is stepping down from his position. He was thanked for his years of service to the District and The American Legion. There was a motion from Sue Picard to accept his resignation. The motion passed. There was a motion from Sue Picard to appoint Dave Picard as 2nd Vice Commander for the remainder of the term. The Motion passed.

A committee will be established to review the District By-Laws. The Chair will be JA Cathy Gorst. Members will be Commander Penny Peeters, Adjutant Adam Klapperich, VC Dave Picard, and Marathon County Commander Mike Bennett.

Jerry Krofta reported on changes that have been made to the Oratorical Contest.

Wood County Commander reported that they will be submitting paperwork to Department to close Post 322.

There was a recommendation from Mike Bennett that the County Commanders give consolidated reports from the County as opposed to breaking it down by Post. The Adjutant and Commander will send out a format of what the reports should look like prior to the Spring Conference.

There was a motion from Mike Bennett that the District buy into the 250 Club with a one-time donation of \$250. The motion passed.

The Conference recessed for lunch at 11:23 AM and reconvened at 1:10 PM.

Eric Estel from the Green Bay Vet Center presented on what the Vet Centers are, who they are available to and how to access the benefits.

The Conference was adjourned per ritual at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Klapperich

Adjutant

8th District

Department of Wisconsin

The American Legion