

8th District
2026 Spring Conference
Mongomery Plant Dudley Post 10
Wausau, Wisconsin
April 18, 2026

Commander Penny Peeters called the Conference to order at 9:01 AM with a Salute to the Colors, an Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests were introduced. They included Past Department Vice Commanders John Polzin and Deborah Thomas, Past Department Commander Wayne Jensen, Department Vice Commanders Dave Steinart and Larry Larsen, National Executive Committeeman Bob Shappell, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Karl Stuvengen, and National Vice Commander Stephen Weisman.

Roll Call was taken. Everyone was present with the exception of SGT-at-Arms Jim Carmody, who was excused. Sixteen Posts were represented with 34 Legionnaires attending.

The minutes from the 2025 Fall Conference were presented and approved, with a motion from Mike Bennett. The motion passed.

The finance report was presented and approved with a motion from Mike Bennett. The motion passed.

The Officer reports were presented. Vice Commander Jeff Zweirs indicated that he will include his report with his committee reports. Vice Commander John Zycowicz reported that Shawano County has a new CVSO. Vice Commander Dave Leder has been making visits to Posts and is enjoying his new knees. There was a motion to approve the reports from Jeff Zweirs. The motion passed.

The County Commanders gave reports on the activities of their Posts. Of note is that Post 322 will be closing.

The District Committee Chairs and District Activity Directors gave their respective reports. There was a motion to approve the reports from Mike Bennett. The motion passed.

In old business, there was an update from Finance/Fundraising Committee Chair Jeff Zweirs on the District Cash Raffle. He is hoping to have the tickets for the Fall Conference. Finance Officer Jerry Krofta is still working on the Raffle License for the District, as it is needed to conduct a raffle. Fremont Post 391 indicated that they want to step back the Fall Conference as it is traditionally a joint conference with the Auxiliary and the Auxiliary is having their Spring Conference this year in Fremont. They are willing to host the Sprint Conference in 2027.

In new business, campaign speeches were given as follows:
PDC Wayne Jensen for DVC Steve Kohnke running for Department Commander
DVC Larry Larsen for self running for Department Commander

PDVC Deb Thomas for self running for Department Vice Commander
PDVC John Polzin for Past 12th District Commander Scott Markle running for DVC

There was a presentation from Wisconsin Legion Riders Director Corey Doehrman about the 2026 Cruise for a Cause.

NEC Bob Shappell introduced NVC Stephen Weismann who spoke on the goals for the year. This was followed by a presentation of gifts from Post 10 Commander Tony Nardi.

The 2026 Fall Conference will potentially be hosted by Post 139, Coloma. Waushara County Commander Nate Coward will confirm. The 2027 Spring Conference will be hosted by Post 391, Fremont.

The required forms for the 2026 Department Convention were completed with volunteers for Convention Committees, ballot clerks, and SGT-at-Arms. The National Convention Delegates were selected and will provide their information for the form after the conference.

There was discussion about how to spend the money from the King Pilgrimage fund as there is no longer a King Day. We discussed how the money was allocated and was there a resolution dictating how the money was to be spent. A motion was made to donate \$900 from the King Pilgrimage Fund to provide a Fathers' Day meal at King, from Mike Bennett. The motion passed.

A motion was made to use the \$235 collected in the Shell Fund today along with \$236 from the general fund to donate to disaster relief in Waupaca and Marathon Counties, from Dave Leder. After discussion, it was amended to \$500 from the General Fund to give to disaster relief in Waupaca and Marathon Counties, \$250 per county. The monies will be directed to the respective County Commanders to distribute as they see fit. The amendment was voted on and approved. There was a vote to approve the motion as amended, which passed.

The Conference was adjourned at 12:58 PM per ritual.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Klapperich
Adjutant
8th District
Department of Wisconsin
The American Legion