

THE AMERICAN LEGION



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

2026 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

Program subject to change without notice

7:30 AM DISTRICT CAUCUSES

9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER

Robert Shappell, National Executive Committeeman

PROCESSION OF DIGNITARIES- ESCORT TO STAGE

FORMAL OPENING OF CONVENTION

Nathan Bond, Department Commander

Posting of the Colors by The Scarlet Guard American Legion Color Guard

National Anthem by Matt Wittlin, Hortonville Squadron 55

Invocation by Virgil T Smith Jr, Department Chaplain

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony Performed by the Sons of The American Legion

Pledge of Allegiance by Department ViceCommander Larry Larson

Preamble to The American Legion Constitution by Department Vice Commander Steve Kohnke

GREETINGS

Nathan Bond, Department Commander

Polly Olson, Police Chief of Appleton

Sue Hembrook, Auxiliary President

Christopher Dannemann, SAL Detachment Commander

Renee Simpson, VFW Commander

PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYMENT AWARDS

National Employment Awards

Wisconsin Employment Awards

SPEAKER

Dr. Jeff Whittle - Mental Health Navigators

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

Public Relations

PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS

Arline Rintoul Awards

Children & Youth Committee Presentation

Children & Youth Ambassador Awards

Camp American Legion

American Legion Riders

SPEAKER

Governor Tony Evers, video welcome

WDVA Secretary James Bond

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Americanism - Educator of the Year - Historian

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Permanent Organization, Rules, and Credentials Committees

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Benediction by Virgil T Smith Jr, Department Chaplain

Salute to Colors

Recess

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES