

# 1st District

## District officers

### President:

Crystal Shaw  
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### 1st Vice -

#### Membership:

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### 2nd Vice- VA&R, C &Y:

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### Secretary:

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### Treasurer:

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262-719-7280  
[tsugi1@gmail.com](mailto:tsugi1@gmail.com)

***"May your Journey always Lead you Home"***

December 2025

## Happy Holidays!!

I'm so excited to have been invited to county meetings and events in the last few months. It has been amazing watching all of our units working so hard blessing their veterans and communities!!

### LEGION FAMILY DISTRICT FUNDRAISER

We will be hosting another bowling fundraiser in support of Badger Youth Camp. Your units can send money donations to our Treasurer

Jill Gust, First District Treasurer  
614 E. Juneau Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Please make check out to ALA first District and put Badger youth camp on the memo line.

If you would like to participate in the bowling fundraiser please set aside March 21st 12pm in your calendar and more details will be in the next newsletter. It will be held at Riverside Bowling Lanes in Waterford once again. We are also asking that a total of 3 baskets per county be donated for a basket raffle that day. A unit or couple units can sponsor 1 basket together or a county can as well. It is up to you.

Call Mary Kohler our Children and Youth Chair if you will be donating a basket or sending a donation.

### MID WINTER

Please don't forget to send in registration for the Midwinter Convention in Greenbay. Saturday there will be joint legion family sessions as well as other sessions just for the Auxiliary. SEE YOU THERE

Please reach out to Crystal talk, text email, if you have any questions or for an invite to an event. I would love to continue visiting units. 262-672-8205



Chaplain:

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Sergeant at Arms:

Sam Catura  
414-418-0289  
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Assistant Jr. Sgt of  
Arms:  
Isabella Zenda  
Jr member

Assistant Sr. Sgt at  
Arms:  
Sherri Curzi

## Elections Spring Conference 2026

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR A 1ST DISTRICTS POSITIONS.. WE HAVE 5 OPEN POSITION TO FILL AT SPRING CONFERENCE IN 2026. THE POSITIONS ARE: PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, HISTORIAN AND CHAPLIN. IF INTERESTED PLEASE LET ME KNOW. MY EMAIL IS [joanndewart@gmail.com](mailto:joanndewart@gmail.com). THANK YOU, JO DEWART CHAIRMAN NOMINATING TEAM.

The sooner you reach out to Joanne about interest the better. I would love to be able to mentor the next president. It would be amazing if that was even 5 members!! We have made great progress in the District and the only way to ensure our strength grows is to help each other. We are not here to throw someone in and watch them flail like a fish out of water, we are here to mentor and help them SOAR!! I was blessed to have an amazing team for my term and have Past District President Zondra allow me to help so I didn't step in without knowing anything. SOO, reach out to Joanne and get an endorsement from your unit and or county to run so you can have some enlightenment and help before the election.

Spring Conference will be something a bit different once again. A fantastic idea was brought fourth and I loved it so we are running with it!

### A Note from Sam::

Merry Christmas Everyone!

As we begin looking ahead to the NEW YEAR with enthusiasm for our ALA programs, let's bring our Poppy Program and the Children and Youth Program together at the First District Spring Conference.

April: Focus on our Military Children and April 15 th Purple Up Day

May: Focus on National Poppy Day and our many distribution sites across the district.

We would like to see Units invite and BRING their "Little Miss Poppy, Miss Poppy, Poppy Ambassadors and Poppy Queens" to the Spring conference. Remember, Poppy Princesses and Poppy Queens must be

members of the Auxiliary, and the Ambassador must be a SAL member under the age of 18. These members are so important to the success of the poppy program as well as helping recruit new junior and senior members. Does your community hold parades? Does your Post Family hold special events inviting the community? Our poppy princesses, ambassadors and queens are wonderful representatives for the American Legion Family. Be sure they are assisting with poppy distributions whenever possible, dressed to the nines! (I know- old term) you know what I mean. If your Unit has any Poppy Posters, please bring them to share. Remember, the contest is open to all students. Perhaps your Unit could offer an incentive to the students to participate. A small monetary gift for the winner to be used for school supplies or events. Be sure to contact the schools, Scouts and any youth organizations in your area.

We will also have an area set aside for our junior members at the conference to work on a craft. More on this in the next newsletter. If any Unit would like to bring their poppy centerpiece from last year, or a new creation you may have put together, please bring to the conference to share. We have so many talented members, let's share!

Finally, everyone come to the conference in your favorite poppy attire. This could be a poppy princess/queen in their dress, sash, crown or maybe a favorite poppy shirt, t-shirt, scarf, sweater. We want to see poppies, poppies, and more poppies. Any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Sam Catura at my email: [anitacatura9@gmail.com](mailto:anitacatura9@gmail.com)

### **End of Year Reports Workshop**

February 1st 10am-12pm held at Hartland American Legion Post hosted by Hartland Auxiliary

Things to bring- event reports, minutes, treasurer reports so we can add all totals for you impact report. We will briefly go over for a half hour. Then pair up and work on them so you can have almost all done that day. Can't wait to see you all there

Please reach out with questions to President Crystal Shaw 262-672-8205

# 2026 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

January 15-18, 2026

Oneida Hotel & Convention Center ~ Green Bay, WI

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*All schedules are subject to change - \*Indicates a change to previous versions.*

### Saturday, January 17, 2026

|                        |  |                            |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 7:00 AM-5:00 PM        | Legion Office                                | Executive Board Room       |
| 7:00 AM-3:00 PM        | Registration                                 | Convention Center Entrance |
| 8:00 AM-5:00 PM        | Exhibits                                     | Convention Center Walkway  |
| 9:00 AM-2:00 PM        | Blood Drive                                  | Grand Council Ballroom     |
| <b>7:00 AM-8:00 AM</b> | <b>Past Department Commander's Breakfast</b> | <b>Michigan</b>            |
| 8:00 AM-10:00 AM       | Post Adjutant's Course                       | Turtle                     |
| 8:00 AM-10:00 AM       | Generational Leadership                      | Tuscarora/Oneida           |
| 8:00 AM-10:00 AM       | Operation Namesake                           | Huron/Ontario              |
| 8:00 AM-10:00 AM       | Joint Session: Legion Family Interactions    | Bear                       |
| 8:00 AM-10:00 AM       | Service Officer Training                     | Onondaga                   |
| 9:00 AM-12:00 PM       | R.A.C.E Suicide Prevention Training          | Wolf                       |
| 9:00 AM-10:00 AM       | How to start a Squadron                      | Mohawk/Seneca              |
| 10:00 AM-11:00 PM      | How to Manage a Squadron                     | Mohawk/Seneca              |
| 10:00 AM-12:00 PM      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Oratorical Contest  | Iroquois South             |
| 10:00 AM-12:00 PM      | Public Relations for the Legion Family       | Bear                       |
| 10:15 AM-12:15 PM      | Internet Safety                              | Huron/Ontario              |
| 10:15 AM-12:15 PM      | Service Officer Training                     | Onondaga                   |
| 11:00 AM-11:30 PM      | WALBA – Closed session                       | Turtle                     |
| 11:30 PM- 1:00 PM      | WALBA  | Turtle                     |
| 12:00 PM-1:00 PM       | National Appointment Luncheon                | Huron/Ontario              |
| 12:00 PM-1:00 PM       | Chaplain's Luncheon                          | Michigan                   |
| 12:30 PM-3:30 PM       | ALA Reporting/General Session                | Bear                       |
| 1:00 PM-2:00 PM        | How to avoid being scammed                   | Oneida                     |
| 1:00 PM-3:00 PM        | Wisconsin Historian's Association            | Onondaga                   |
| 1:00 PM-2:00 PM        | MyLegion.org                                 | Cayuga                     |
| 1:00 PM-3:00 PM        | Funeral Honors                               | Michigan                   |
| 1:00 PM-3:00 PM        | Post Commander's Course                      | Huron/Ontario              |
| 1:00 PM-2:00 PM        | Consolidate Post Reporting                   | Tuscarora                  |
| 2:00 PM-3:00 PM        | Legislative Training                         | Tuscarora                  |
| 1:00 PM-3:00 PM        | SAL DEC                                      | Iroquois North             |
| 5:15 PM-6:00 PM        | Catholic Church Services                     | OFF SITE                   |
| 5:15 PM-6:00 PM        | Protestant Church Services                   | Tuscarora/Ontario          |
| 5:30 PM-11:00 PM       | Honor Your Service Banquet                   | 3 Clans Complex            |

### Sunday, January 18, 2026

|                 |                                |                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 7:00 AM-9:00 AM | Legion Office                  | Executive Board Room   |
| 8:00 AM-9:00 AM | Four Chaplain's Service        | Tuscarora/Oneida       |
| 9:00 AM         | Department Executive Committee | Huron/Ontario/Michigan |

# 2026 Midwinter Conference

January 15-18, 2026  
Oneida Casino Hotel  
2040 Airport Drive ~ Green Bay, WI 54313

## REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-register for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 2026 Midwinter Conference by returning this registration form and \$30.00 per person (1 person per registration form) by January 1, 2026, and save \$5.00! Registrations received after January 1, 2026, will be \$35.00 per person. Or register online at [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org).

Next year, 2026, is our country's semi-sesquicentennial. The Midwinter Banquet will start the celebration with "Honor Your Service". Legion attendees should wear or bring something related to their service – uniforms, shirts, pictures, etc., and the SAL and ALA attendees should wear or bring something from the service of the person they are honoring. The banquet buffet will consist of salad, coleslaw, baked beans, buttered corn with roasted red peppers, au gratin potatoes, BBQ braised baby back ribs, broasted chicken, cornbread and a dessert. Boogie Time DJ will join us again to get everyone up and moving! Banquet tickets must be purchased by December 27<sup>th</sup>.

*(Please type or print clearly for your name to be printed correctly on your badge)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER ID # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ POST \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

| ITEM   | NO. | PRICE   | TOTAL |
|--|-----|---|-------|
| Registration Fee (only one per form)                   |     | \$30.00                                       |       |
| Reg. Fee After 1/1/26 (only one per form)              |     | \$35.00                                       |       |
| Honor Your Service Banquet –<br>Saturday, January 17th |     | \$50.00<br><i>(RSVP By December 27, 2025)</i> |       |
| Total Enclosed   |     |   |       |

Make check payable to Wisconsin American Legion

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Enter Credit Card Information Below

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:  
The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 388  
Portage, WI 53901  
or email to [events@wilegion.org](mailto:events@wilegion.org)