

American Legion Department of Michigan

2026 Department Convention Legislative Convention Committee

Battle Creek DoubleTree Hotel, 50 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek, MI 49017,
Meeting Rooms I&II

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Tim Poxson.

The following twelve (12) districts were present for a Quorum:

District 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, and 19 were present.

25 Total Present, 14 Blue Cards, 11 Guests

Scott Nichols (2nd) Made the motion to make Tim Poxson Chairman, 2nd Ed Herter (9th) – Motion Carries.

Ed Herter (9th) Made the motion to make Shirley Symon Vice Chairman, 2nd by Crystal Cubr (12th) – Motion Carries.

Scott Nichols (2nd) Made the motion to make Cheryl Costantino Secretary, 2nd by Missy Alkema (3rd) – Motion Carries.

Steve Carr (4th) made the motion to approve the minutes/Yearly Legislative Report as submitted in the June 2026 Legionnaire. 2nd by Ed Herter (9th). Motion Carries.

Chairman Tim Poxson read the following statement (as provided to be entered into the minutes):

It's Election season again. Just a reminder that the American Legion does not endorse any candidate for any position. Furthermore, you cannot have your photo taken with anyone running for office unless you are not wearing anything that identifies you as being a member of the American Legion. You should not place election signs on or near your Post that imply that you support any candidate. Under Michigan Compiled Law MCL.257.615 and according to the Michigan Department of Transportation the adjacent property owner must give approval to place signs in the right of way adjacent to their property, however the signs will be removed if they block the view of traffic even with your approval. If you invite a candidate in to make a presentation to your Post, you must remove or cover up any paraphernalia that identifies your post as being an American Legion Post. If one candidate comes in to make a presentation to your Post, you must invite the opposing candidates to come in and make a presentation; we still do not make an endorsement. Remember the American Legion is a nonpartisan organization and anything or your Post does affect our ability to get and keep veteran benefits from elected

Officials. Mark Sutton noted that you can take a position on a community issue, but not candidates or partisan issues.

Karl Burnett (1st dist.) made the motion, 2nd by Aaron Lawn (16th) to adjourn the convention meeting to an informal informational meeting. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Following the meeting, Tim Poxson updated us on several pieces of legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,


Tim Poxson

Convention Chair

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PASS

Report on Winners of the 2026 State Legislative Priorities submission to their members of the State Legislator and US Congress members are:

The 3rd Place winner is Gary Dietrich for \$100.00

2nd Place winner is David Yahr \$150.00

And the 1st Place winner is Sheila Overholts

As the winners are coming forward to get their Checks, I wish to report on the Priorities system that sends letters of support for our priorities from you was used by 61 Veterans, 10 Auxiliary members and 13 SAL members. In total 622 email letters of support for our Legislative Priorities were sent to State Legislators and US Congress members. The Priority that got the most support was Suicide Prevention Programs 84 letters sent. We were able to get an expansion of some Suicide Prevention Programs at the State and Federal Level. Second highest support was for Free Lifetime Passes for Veterans, Active-Duty Military and Gold Star Families 82 letters sent. We were able to get Gold Star Families Lifetime Passes to State Parks. Still working on the rest of this Priority. Unfortunately, not all members of the State Legislators got letters because to get a letter it had to come from someone in the Legislators District. Not all districts had someone signed into the Legislative Priority System. Please sign up so your support of the American Legion Priorities can result in Legislation to become law that will give you benefits or support the benefits you now have. We must stay active to get new State and Federal benefits and to keep the ones we have.

Respectfully Submitted: Tim Poxson, Legislative Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Poxson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.