

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
2026 Fall Conference Agenda
Willmar Conference Center, 2800 E Hwy 12, Willmar, MN
TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, September 19, 2026

Dress: Red Friday

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Registration	WCC Atrium
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Program Exhibits/Poppy Contest	Galleries 5-6
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Hospital Meeting (by Invitation only)	Boardroom
6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Council of Administration Meeting Call to Order by Department President Jean Keogh Roll Call and Opening Ceremony Installation of those who were not at the Dept Convention Introduction of National Representative Introduce new Council members Recognize Past Department Presidents and other dignitaries Presentation of the Minutes of June 19 Council Meetings Other Communications by Secretary Laurie Dale Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Laurie Final Budget Review- thru June 30, 2026 by Chair Frankie Bill Final Audit Report – March 1 – June 30, 2026 by 2025-2026 Audit Chair Patches Presfield Presentation of proposed 2026-2027 Budget by Gail Breke Audit Report – July 1- August 31 by Audit Chair Jamie Cassavant District Presidents' Reports Chief of Staff Report – Karen England Recognize First-time attendees Unfinished Business New Business A. Authorize hiring External Auditor B. Donation to National President Donna's Special Project DPPA – Operation Bring Them Home C. Permission for Senior Vice-President to begin her year Honor Auxiliary/District Secretaries and Treasurers 2026 National Convention Awards by PDP Julie Stoehr Remarks by National Representative Sonia Tatge Comments by others in attendance: A. Michelle Rathke, National Home Trustee District 7 B. Paty Thron, Big 10 Conductor and MOCA Grand President C. Mary Hawkins, Dept Commander Charles' wife September 11 Remembrance Ceremony by Guard Jen Sapienza Announcements Closing Ceremonies	Galleries 1-4

After Meetings

Hospitality Rooms (3)

Poolside

Saturday, September 20, 2026

SILLY SOCK SATURDAY – Everyone please wear your silliest pair of socks. Judges will be roaming throughout the day to select the silliest socks for a special prize to be awarded at end of the sessions – **winner must be present to claim their prize.**

Dress: Presenters – VFW Auxiliary attire or casual

Others – VFW Auxiliary attire or casual; no shorts

Banquet – Casual; no shorts

8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Auxiliary Registration	WCC Atrium
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	PROGRAM EXHIBITS/Poppy Contest	Galleries 5-6
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Auxiliary Training Sessions	Galleries 1-4
Noon – 1:00 pm	LUNCH	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Catholic Mass	Gallery 3
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Non-Denominational Service	Gallery 2
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm	General Reception	Atrium
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Banquet – Parade of Checks	Galleries 5-7
	Doors open at 6:45 pm	
	Hospitality Rooms Closed during Banquet	

VFW Auxiliary Training Sessions in Detail

- 9:00 – 10:00 am - Bylaw Revisions that passed at National Convention – Laurie Dale
Malta overview and Bylaw basics as time allows (membership applications,
Regular & special meetings, confidentiality) Laurie Dale & Jean Keogh
Consolidations – Suspensions – Cancellations – Laurie Dale & Jean Keogh
Mentoring and Performance Improvement Plans – Karen England
- 10-10:10 Break
- 10:10 – 10:55 – County Veteran Service Officers and survivor benefits –
Jon Gohn, VFW Claims Director
- 11:00 – 11:30 – How to Identify an Unhealthy Auxiliary – COS Karen England
How to run an Auxiliary meeting 101 – PDP Paige Amundson
- 11:30 – Noon - Bravo Zulu House – President & Commander's joint project
Holly Callen, Board Vice-Chair
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 – 1:30 National Programs – what's new, National & Department goals/awards
(all programs 2 minutes; membership 5 minutes)
Community Service Reporting
- 1:30 – 2:00 Trustees and Treasurers training session – Laurie Dale
Top 5 things you need to know, Q & A.
- 2:00 – 2:10 Break
- 2:10- 3:00 Parliamentary Jeopardy - David Staehlin
- 3:00 (or end of session) Prize for the silliest socks awarded

7/9/26



FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

September 18-20, 2026

**Willmar Conference Center
240 23rd Street SE
Willmar, MN**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Chamber Boardroom is a NEW room. See map in Program Ad Book for the location (Next to Gallery 7).

FRIDAY, September 18, 2026

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Pre-Convention Committee Meeting	Chamber Boardroom
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Internal Affairs Committee	Chamber Boardroom
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	LUNCH	
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<u>VFW Registration</u>	WCC Atrium
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<u>Auxiliary Registration</u>	WCC Atrium
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	PROGRAM EXHIBITS/Poppy Contest	Galleries 5-6
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	VFW Aux Hospital Mtg (Closed meeting)	Chamber Boardroom
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Finance Committee	Chamber Boardroom
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Gambling Meeting	Gallery 7
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	MNVFW Charitable Association Meeting	Chamber Boardroom
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	VFW Council of Administration	Gallery 7
6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Auxiliary Council of Administration	Galleries 1-4
After Meetings	Hospitality Rooms (3)	Poolside

SATURDAY, September 19, 2026

7:00 am - Noon	VFW Registration	WCC Atrium
8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Auxiliary Registration	WCC Atrium
8:00 am – 3:00pm	VFW OTI Sessions	Gallery 7
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Auxiliary OTI Sessions	Galleries 1-4
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	PROGRAM EXHIBITS/Poppy Contest	Galleries 5-6
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	LUNCH	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Catholic Mass	Gallery 3
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Non-Denominational Service	Gallery 2
6:00 pm – 6:45 pm	General Reception	Atrium
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Banquet	Galleries 5-7
	Doors open at 6:45 pm	
	Hospitality Rooms Closed during Banquet	

VFW OTI Sessions – September 19, 2026, in Detail

8:00 – 8:50 am	Commander's Leadership Session	Gallery 7
9:00 – 9:50 am	Quartermaster/Adjutant Session	Gallery 7
10:00 – 10:50 am	Inspections Session	Gallery 7
11:00 – 11:45 am	Commander's Project/Claims Office	Gallery 7
11:45 – 1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:00 pm	<u>Programs</u>	Gallery 7
	-VOD/PP	
	-Legislative	
	-Community Service	
	-Buddy Poppy	

2:10 – 3:00 pm

Programs cont'd

Gallery 7

- Safety
- Scouting
- Teacher of the Year

-Youth Activities District Chairs

Chamber Boardroom

SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

8:00 am – 9:30 am

VFW Council of Administration

Gallery 7

VFW OTI Sessions – Saturday, June 19, 2026

8:00 – 8:50

Commander's Leadership Session taught by Commander Charles Hawkins, Sr. & QM Barry Henriksen

- Membership (National & State Programs)
- Post Issues (Disciplinary Actions, etc.)
- Consolidation vs Surrendering Post Charter

9:00 – 9:50 am

Adjutant/Quartermaster OTI Session – QM Barry Henriksen

- How to do an Audit/Audit Issues/Relief Funds
- Bonding/Assessments: Properly Bonded and Locally bonded
- Entering Community Service, TOY, VOD/PP on Dashboard
- OMS

10:00 – 10:50 am

Inspections Session, learn the changes on Post Inspections – Chief Inspector, David Staehlin.

11:00 – 11:45 am

Commander's Project and VSO Updates, Dan Meyer & Jon Gohn

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Let's talk about Programs

- VOD/PP – Cheryl Burton
- Legislative – Barry Henriksen
- Community Service – Dennis Maddox
- Buddy Poppy – Charlie Cossette

2:10 – 3:00 pm

Let's talk about Programs (cont'd)

- Safety – Duane Frank
 - Scouting – Chris Trebelhorn
 - Teacher of the Year – Kyle Morton
 - Youth Activities – Scott Wiechmann, Dennis Bushy & Barry Henriksen
- "Youth Activities in Chamber Boardroom"**

Double Doors to
Chamber Boardroom

Chamber
Boardroom

Parking Lot to
Green Mill

Gallery 7

VFW Meetings

Galleries 5 & 6

Exhibits and Displays

Best Western Hallway

Galleries 1 - 4

Auxiliary Meetings

Holiday Inn and
Suites Express

ATRIUM

VFW & AUX
Registration