

Badger Legionnaire Article for Department Historian

The 106th National Convention in Tampa, Florida, was educational, entertaining and inspirational. The expected smooth transition from Commander James LaCoursiere to Commander-elect Dan K. Wiley (Kansas) can be seen starting at (Day3:2H:04M:46S).* The exceptional Convention coverage by The American Legion Media Team was remarkable and is to be applauded. Rather than take up space with links, please go to YouTube.com and search using "American Legion 106th National Convention 2025." You can select curated videos of Days 1, 2, and 3 along with individual segments of interest, such as the address by the Chair of the America Semiquincentennial Chair, Rosie Rios. *OK, here's just one link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/IOjJCWsWgc8?si=vT06K8bcd-b8VUDA&t=7477> Throughout the convention, several directions and goals were evident. All had to do with our members. Here are some: USA 250 Challenge, American Legion Baseball and Softball, Legion Rider events, buddy checks, relevant and informative communications, opportunities to volunteer, becoming more visible not only to our members but also to our community, and to being accountable for reports, meetings, supplying data needed to support our mission to the various legislative levels of our government. Last, but not least, we are encouraged to view what we do as good for the family and not just individuals.

The online video convention coverage is a historian's dream: immediate reporting available to ALL members of The American Legion Family upon demand. This exceptional capability is now available to all Legion posts, units and squadrons to choose and use whatever is appropriate for their membership. Learn to develop and maintain digital yearbooks, better inform members and increase membership more efficiently. In future issues, I'll be touching on topics relating to adoption of digital tools for posts and spotlighting success stories to jumpstart your ideas. With the cost of suitable tablets now available for under \$100, such "Communication Appliances" are within the reach of every post. Thanks to PDC Greg Eirich and PNC Denise Rohan for taking photos.