

The 245er
SERVING: the NATION - the VETERAN -
the CROSS PLAINS & MIDDLETON COMMUNITIES

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

April 2026

Lest-We-Forget

Let us pause and remember those Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion that have gone on to their reward and may our thoughts and prayers rekindle their souls with our heavenly Father.

Post 245 Sick Call

Chaplain Tim Engling

Paul Dull – Nursing Home
Dennis Jones – Home

Ralph Schulenberg – Home
Joanne Dodge – Nursing Home

Albert Oleson – Nursing Home

Please keep all these members in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to recover from their conditions.

Upcoming Events

April		May	
02	Lions Club	07	Lions Club
16	Legion, SAL, Aux meeting	21	Legion, SAL, Aux meeting
28	Model T Club	26	Model T Club
		28	Legion, Aux Dane County mtg

Need to include something in the Newsletter? Email Carol Yttri at carolyttri@gmail.com or call 608-516-5970. Please get information to me before the 1st of the month.

ADDRESS CHANGE OR REMOVAL for newsletter: If you are moving or would like to be removed from the mailing list for the newsletter contact Gary Itten at gijacondo@gmail.com, or 608-225-4722, or Flo Bayer at thebayes1@gmail.com or 608-798-4671.

HALL RENTAL: There is a special rental rate for members to use the building. If you would like to inquire about renting the hall, please contact Debby Niebuhr at americanlegioncp@gmail.com or 608-445-6590.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: If you are in need of medical equipment, the Legion has some on hand. Please contact Dennis Heiliger at 608-798-2301. Leave message if no answer and he'll get back to you.

Someone ill or in the hospital? Call Chaplain Tim Engling at 312-371-0034 or e-mail timengling@gmail.com

OFFICERS: POST COMMANDER	Steve Zanon	608-213-9530
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT	Flo Bayer	608-444-8199
S.A.L. COMMANDER	Kevin Boehnen	608-798-2113

Post, Auxiliary & S.A.L meetings Third Thursday of month: Social hour 6pm; Dinner 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm
Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday of the Month 5:30pm.

Website: www.americanlegioncp.org

Commander's Message

Steve Zanon

Hello everyone, and welcome to April.

We had a busy March. Pancake breakfast was a hit the morning of the 15th despite the decidedly nasty weather. Doug and Judy Deaton and a large number of great volunteers shared the labor and served around 110 customers and many of their kids. Thanks to everyone.

On the 25th we paid rifle honors to a fallen Navy veteran Debra Pribbenow at Gunderson funeral home in Middleton.

At our dinner and meeting we had guest speaker Past Dept Vice Commander Jerry Hook who spent some time stationed at the Pentagon while serving in the Army. He shared some stories and a terrific description of the scale of this place and its workforce.

The Deatons, Debbie Niebuhr and Phil Vallejos cooked up a great corned beef and cabbage dinner, and it was delish! The hall looked great thanks to some table centerpieces donated by the Shanahans, and deserts by our wonderful Auxiliary. Thanks to all.

I have fifty department level raffle tickets available for sale. Prices are twenty dollars each. I can't mail you a ticket because this isn't a sweepstakes event. Some of you may have gotten something similar in the mail, this is different. If you aren't at the meeting in April but want a ticket (or more), give me a call and I can run them out to you within a reasonable distance. The Wisconsin American Legion (Department), very much depends on this type of fundraiser to sustain its many great programs. WALLECA, Oratory scholarships, Camp American Legion, membership incentives to name a few. Please consider purchasing raffle tickets to keep the dept lights on. By the way, there are ten cash prizes, top prize is fifteen thousand dollars.

We continue to have some membership challenges, members who haven't yet paid for 2026, please send Emily Cash a check or renew online. We did however have a new member Larry Stevens, attend our meeting in March, Welcome Larry.

Auxiliary president Flo Bayer tells me they are looking for Poppy Makers for upcoming Memorial day celebrations. Please contact her if you are interested.

We discussed briefly ways to make our meeting nights more inclusive for younger families including games for kids, bean bag toss contests, making use of our playground equipment as the weather warms, etc. if you have ideas for pre-dinner family activities, please see myself or someone on the exec committee.

Speaking of that, we will be hearing nominations for offices at our post in April. There are many available, and I think it is healthy for an organization like ours to take turns sharing leadership positions. Please consider raising your hand.

Finally the Iron Horse Coronet band will again be playing at our shelter on June 15th. We are proud to host them, please mark your calendar and bring your lawn chairs. 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Thanks all,
See you soon,
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Chaplain's message:

Tim Engling

On March 25, 2025, the Post provided an honor guard for Debra Pribbenow of Dane, Wisconsin at her funeral service at Gunderson's in Middleton.

Notes from Adjutant Gary Itten:

We will be taking nominations at the April 16th meeting for the following positions, Commander, Adjutant, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplain, 2 Sergeant at Arms, Historian, and Judge Advocate. If anyone is interested in any of these positions or needs information on a position they would like to run for call me at 608-225-4722, or email gijacondo@gmail.com. We will vote on these positions at the May meeting. Please consider running for a position listed above. Thank you! Gary

Metal drop off:

If you have metal to recycle, you can drop off at the legion or give Dan Cady a call and we will pick up. 608 438 2987. You can also call Dave Vidlock 608 798 3087 or 608 843 6968.

REGULAR MEETING March 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the 245r was made by Phil, second was Joe and the motion carried. We had a new member with us tonight, Larry Stevens who served in the Army.

FINANCE: Bill went over the monthly report on income and expenses. He paid SAL and AUX for their help during the drawdown night. Also, he sent \$2000.00 to the high school for the Legion scholarships. We need to begin planning on what to do with the recycling program. Whitey will not be able to keep doing what he does, and his trailer needs to be updated. We also need ideas for fund raising events to offset the loss from the Golf outings. Some ideas are a sharing night at Culvers, cornhole tournament with prizes, NASCAR RACING RAFFLE, and have another October fest like last year. Please bring more ideas to the next meeting.

SAL: They have been doing a lot of metal recycling. This past week alone netted about \$ 650.00. Curently, they have 117 members.

AMERICANISM: Bill is again collaborating with the high school on the baseball program. Joe mentioned we have 3 boys going to Badger boys state again this year and they will return to the legion in August to talk about their experiences. The Iron Horse coronet band will return to our park shelter for another concert on 6/15/2026. Dennis made a motion to waive the rental fee for this, second was Joe and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Bill D has applications for scholarships and the Badger honor flights. See him if you need one. The mallards are having a Vets night at the ballpark. They are giving \$5.00 off tickets and special drink offerings. There will be a ceremony for the new Lions Pavilion during Trout days.

GOOD OF LEGION: Dick says we have a funeral on the 25th. Meet him at the meeting at 9:15 a.m. It will be at Gundersons in Middleton. It is election year again so bring your nominations to the April meeting. Emily will contact Kelly and update our legion website. She also volunteered to find a keynote speaker for our Memorial day celebration.

50/50 Bill Statz won \$ 5.00.

BRANDY: Steve won and is donating it back to the legion

Kitty: No winner.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Heiliger, sitting in for Gary Itten Adjutant

It was great seeing many of you at our March meeting and Pancake Breakfast.

April 15th is National Purple Up Day where we thank our Military Kids. Some info from the [National Military Family Association](#):

Every April, we come together to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary, yet often unsung, heroes—military kids. From frequent moves and changing schools to enduring long periods of separation from a parent, military children face unique challenges every day—and they do so with courage and heart. That's why at NMFA, we believe Military Kids Serve Too®, and the Month of the Military Child is the perfect time to shine a purple spotlight on their strength, resilience, and sacrifice.

Why Purple?

Purple represents all service branches, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Veterans. It blends each branch's colors: the Air Force, Navy, Space Force, and Coast Guard's blues, the Army's green, and the Marines' red.

Wearing purple symbolizes unity for military children across all the services, and it is a reminder that they are supported and seen.

Why We Say Military Kids Serve Too®

More than [1.6 million military children](#) support our nation simply by being part of a military family. On average, military children will attend as many as [nine schools](#) between kindergarten and high school graduation. The number of hellos and goodbyes, new zip codes, and phone numbers can bear so much weight.

[NMFA Bloomer](#) and Army teen, Gabrielle M., shares additional insight: “My whole life, every time I have gone to a new school, I went in with the mindset that I would only get to see these people for 2-3 years, and then everything would be reset at a new location.”

For military kids, constant change becomes a part of their growth and identity.

“It took some time, but I believe that being a military kid has made me resilient and taught me perseverance,” shared Gabrielle. “Growing up in this unique lifestyle, I have definitely been in situations out of my comfort zone, and while it can be frustrating in the moment, in the end, I am always grateful. These experiences are what have shaped me to be who I am today. Gabrielle reminds us that military kids find strength, courage, and a deeper sense of self in their military journey—serving in their own way, right alongside their parent in uniform.

Because **Military Kids Serve Too®**. And **together, we're stronger®**.

By: Angela Sablan Tenorio, Content Manager

Our Unit/Post 245 has 12 kids who will receive a Purple Up bag this year. Thank you Jacky Graves for getting these assembled, delivered and mailed. Dane County Auxiliary put together 600 bags for children of the Army National Guard.

Supporting our troops – With the ongoing Iran war we find ourselves in, please remember our troops and their families during this stressful time. Some ideas for support:

- If you know of a family, personally, a neighbor, or schoolmate, reach out & ask them in what way they could use assistance. Maybe it's just a conversation & listening.
- Nationwide organization called [Pact for Animals](#) - “**Operation Foster – No Pet Left behind**”. *Our mission is to keep pets with their owners by providing temporary foster care for military service members and hospitalized medical patients at no cost and preventing beloved companions from entering shelters due to owner crises. We are ultimately aiming for zero permanent separations by supporting the human-animal bond through fostering and education.*

- [USO](#) – *We Stand With Those Who Serve - Across the Middle East and around the world, USO teams are providing steady support to service members and military families navigating long hours, rapid change and uncertainty.*

Virginia Faust Scholarship – Scholarship applications are **due May 1, 2026**. They are available to seniors in high school who are a son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, grandchild, step-grandchild, niece, or nephew of an Auxiliary member, Veteran, active-duty military, National Guard or Reserves. To apply & get more info our new email address is CPAuxUnit245Scholarship@gmail.com or call Sandra Faust @1-608-219-7644. We will present at our Memorial Day celebration. **Encourage eligible seniors you know to apply!**

ALA Badger Girls State – [June 21-26th, 2026 Government & Leadership Conference](#)

JoAnna and Joe Hodgson were invited to present BGS/BBS to the junior class at Middleton High School. MHS has selected delegates for this year’s session. Many to thank the Lion’s for their cash donation in support of BGS!

JoAnna will be volunteering again this year.

More volunteers are still needed. - <https://www.alabgs.org/alabgs-volunteer-info>

Good NeighborFest – Andrew Shuck, Village Green owner & VFW Middleton Post 8216 Senior Vice Commander is partnering with us for a new fundraising opportunity. We will be serving up a Friday night fish fry with cod, hushpuppies & red potatoes on Aug. 28th!

Officer positions – Aux. members **NEEDED** to serve as President, VP, & Treasurer. I would like to especially thank Carol Yttri for her service as our treasurer for the past many years! You will not serve alone and have the support of past officers. If you’re wondering what it entails just ask or check out the [Auxiliary Unit Guide Book](#) for position descriptions.

https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_Unit_Guide_Book.pdf

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart” – Elizabeth Andrew

April Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

Deb Wipperfurth, Deb Maier, Susan Hutton, Virginia Diebold, Jane Itten. If you can’t make a dessert or help set up at 6pm and clean up after dinner, call or email Jane 608-712-3133. gijacondo@gmail.com so I can get someone to cover. Please feel free to leave a message.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

We’ll be collecting dues, need them by the end of July; if you want to pay in May or June to beat the rush feel free to mail your check to me at PO BOX 3 CP; otherwise if you want to use your credit card, we’ll let you know when they open up the phone lines or website, usually mid July. Dues are the same this year \$35. for Seniors (18+) and juniors (0-17) are \$6.00.

We are looking for officers, please consider taking on the 2 year commitment. It's good to have new blood and ideas. It really goes quickly and you will have lots of support. **THANKING YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT!**

Sons of The American Legion

Monthly Meeting

Joint meeting with the Legion will be on April 16th this month.

Kevin Boehnen

Flags

If you need a flag please contact Rod Faust at 608 576 4803.

Ray Faust Scholarship

The Son's Of the American Legion Post 245 annually gives out a scholarship in memory of Ray Faust. Everyone in the surrounding area is eligible to apply for this scholarship. As always we encourage sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members to apply. If you know any good candidates from the surrounding communities also encourage them to apply.

If you are interested in applying for the Ray Faust SAL Scholarship of \$500.00 please contact Ron Faust at 2129 Caesar St Cross Plains, WI 53528, 608 225 7281 or by e-mail ronaldfaust@reagan.com. We would like all applications turned in by May 1st.

Recyclable Run

On March 9th, 11th, 12th, 27th and 30th the Sons of the American Legion worked on clearing out Recyclable area.

Would like to thank Steve (Whitey) Hillebrand, Tim Hillebrand, Mike Diebold, Tom Helleckson, Jack Regan, Rich Roberts, Brad Niebuhr and Kevin Boehnen for helping load the trailer to take items to recyclable center.

Pancake Breakfast

Pancake Breakfast was held on March 15th. Thank you to Matthew Cash, Rick Hillebrand and Kevin Boehnen for helping make this event successful despite the weather.

SAL Dues

We are still at 117 members as of the end of February. We are always looking for new members if you know anyone who is interested let me know and I can send them an application.

Dues are \$15.00 a year or you can pay \$60.00 for 5 years. If you know of anyone who is interested call me at 608 798 2113 or email me at kabohnen@chorus.net.