

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

August 2021

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 Pat Andreoni

Paul Dull – Nursing Home	John Hill – Home	Sam Daleo – Waunakee Nursing Home
Ralph Schulenberg – 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:

August	05 Lions Club	September	02 Lions Club
	06 Spike Rett		04 Karonga – wedding
	07 Meier Reunion		16 Legion, SAL, Aux Mtg
	15 Danz Reunion		28 Model T Club
	19 Legion, SAL Mtg		
	21 Elizabeth Curran		
	28 Lynette Passini		
	31 Model T Club		

Need to include something in the Newsletter? Email Carol Yttri at carolyttri@gmail.com or call 798-4950.

HALL RENTAL: Notice to all members. There is a special rental rate for the use of the building to members. Contact Pat Andreoni at 798-3844 or email at jpandreo@aol.com

Someone ill or in the hospital? Call Pat Andreoni at 798-3844 or e-mail jpandreo@aol.com

OFFICERS: POST COMMANDER	Gary Itten	608-225-4722
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT	Karen Runk	608-415-2001
S.A.L. COMMANDER	Kevin Boehnen	608-798-2113

Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L meetings: Dinner 6:30pm; Meetings 7:30pm; Third Thursday of Month
Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday of the Month 5:15pm.

Website: www.americanlegioncp.org

Commander's Message**Gary Itten**

Hope everyone survived the storm the other night and you're keeping cool during these hot and humid days of summer.

Congratulations to our Unit 245 Legion Auxiliary members for receiving three awards at the State convention. They received The Department President's Award Excellence, the Membership Beacon Award, and a certificate for their Purple Up! Day. Great job, and keep up the good work.

Emily has started collecting dues for 2022, so send your dues (\$40.00) to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528. Or come to the meeting and pay in person.

Pat Andreoni is always looking for bartenders to help out at the legion hall for events. We do have a lot of bookings, so if interested give Pat a call at 843-3844.

Also, we are looking for people to help get the newsletter ready for mailing. It usually takes a couple of hours, so give me a call at 225-4722, or Pat Andreoni at the number above.

If you haven't gotten your COVID 19 vaccine, please do so. Also, encourage family, friends and neighbors to get vaccinated so that we can get back to a normal lifestyle.

Our meeting will be held upstairs again as the Auxiliary will not be meeting. The Exec. board meeting will start at 5:30 P.M., meal at 6:30 P.M., and regular mtg. at 7:30 P.M.

Stay Safe & Healthy
Gary Itten, Commander, Post 245

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 or 608 798 2352. You can also call Dave Vidlock 608 798 3087 or 608 843 6968.

REGULAR MEETING July 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Commander Itten.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the 245er was made by Ed, Mike seconded, and the motion passed by voting.

A motion to accept the Executive meeting minutes as read was made by Dan, second was Ed. The motion passed by member vote.

FINANCE: Lee handed out the current financial report and went over expenses and income. A motion to accept the report as shown pending audit was made by Ed, second was Ralph and the motion passed.

1st VICE: Bill reported we have 190 out of 213 paid for 88%. Our membership goal this year was to be 203 so we will be short of that.

2nd VICE: Pat stated the rentals have been exceptional and we are booked thru Sept.

3rd VICE: Dan reported we are doing 288 flags this year and are still looking for more people to help with the routes or start a new one. Also, the boy scouts will be pulling weeds and Mike O'Brien will be painting the equipment. Lee bought a new paint sprayer to help the process go faster.

NEW BUSINESS: At the Executive Meeting a motion was made and passed to add \$30,000.00 to our Morgan Stanly investment account. Also, we are looking for volunteers to help Doug and Judi in the kitchen fixing our meeting night meals. Dick and Judy will do 7 of them.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

KITTY: No winner
50/50: Lee Mayrack
BRANDY: Bill Diebold

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Heiliger, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter**President Karen Runk**

2021 Department Convention is in the history books, with Unit 245 bringing home three prestigious awards and \$125 from these awards. Yep, ya'll spent \$50 sending Deb Niebuhr and I to a 3 day convention and turned a

\$75 profit!! Our Unit, ya'll included, were presented with the Department President's Excellence Award. The President awards only 3 of these annually. We also collected the coveted Beacon Award! This award is for Units excelling in membership and recruitment activity. Only ONE Unit is awarded this honor annually. The Community Service department chairman made mention of our Pantry Drive in her report to the President. But Wait... that was not all! Children & Youth department chairman awarded Unit 245 with a certificate recognizing us for the Purple Up! Activity. Not only did we enjoy this project, but everyone was impressed with our creativity and completion of such a unique project. I would be understating it when I say well done ya'll!!

The National President requested an audience with me at convention. She wanted to meet and introduce herself. Very nice chat that ended with her president's pin on my collar and a congratulations to Unit 245 for an excellent year. WOW! The National President also held the parade of checks benefiting the ALA Foundation, thanks to ya'll for the Unit check.

I think that we made some Unit history during a historical pandemic and unprecedented times! In our own way, we not only endured, but excelled while others waited for the storm to pass. Speaking in terms of the signal corps... we got the message through! I'm taking this opportunity to shout out to CSM Runk, congratulating him on his promotion to CSM ISEC Brigade. Not many battalion CSMs get to be brigade CSMs. Rangers truly do lead the way!

Membership: Deb Niebuhr and ya'll have us ready for the August 4th incentive drawing. All officers & 25% of members have submitted their 2022 dues. Our Unit will need 5 new members to meet the 100% goal, do your magic!!

We will NOT meet in August, however, the August lunch committee will still be needed in August! Please work with Deb to coordinate desserts and clean up. Lunch committees are so important, thank you for the SWEETS and HOSPITALITY!

Hospice Neck Pillows UPDATE: Thanks to Mary Jones and Lorie Ballweg for branding & delivering 8 neck pillows to the Middleton VA hospice center in Madison!! This was a great way to serve & comfort veterans in their journey home. Veterans will know that the 245 American Legion Auxiliary cares for and is thinking of them. Well done gals!!

FUNdraiser: The "Taste of Freedom" committee, Sheila Luhman; Carol Yttri; Lorie Ballweg & Luann Foseid are doing a great job!! The patriotic quilt is on display and being raffled as part of this event. Please join me in thanking them for their efforts when you see them.

Dane County Legion Family Membership Workshop: DCC Legion & Auxiliary are working together to plan & conduct a membership workshop on September 23rd. The goal is to help each other increase DCC membership across the LEGION FAMILY organization. The format will allow breakout sessions, round table discussions, shared best practices, increase shared knowledge of TAL, ALA, SAL & Rider member eligibility and more!! Keep watching for workshop updates in this newsletter & emails.

September 23rd Dane County Diaper Party for Middleton VA Hospital: Dane County will be holding a diaper drive during the September meeting where units (or Posts) are encouraged to bring donations, packages of diapers or baby items from the wish list below. Donations can be individual OR we can simply discuss a monetary donation as a unit at our 245 September meeting. Bring your items to our Unit meeting in September or contact Deb Niebuhr & myself to arrange a drop off.

MIDDLETON VA HOSPITAL DIAPER/BABY SHOWER ITEMS:

Needed items include: diapers size 1 newborn; baby wipes; Onesies, pants & shirts in neutral colors (yellow, green, purple, tan, etc.) in sizes 0-3; 3-6; 6-9 months. Cash donations for NEW car seats, pack-n-play and strollers are encouraged. With cash donations, these larger ticket items can be shared expensed and easier to meet safety requirements. No blankets are needed at this time.

MENTOR A VETERAN IN TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

The state of Wisconsin has formed a task force to assist military personnel transitioning to civilian life. The VetsNet organization is teaming with the Wisconsin task force to pair transitioning military service members with trained volunteer sponsors/mentors who will take the journey with the veteran. The purpose is to ensure that the veteran is supported through this critical life transition. If you are interested in being a sponsor/mentor or want to learn more, go to etssponsorship.com. Assisting veterans in transition is a critical need, and possibly a lifesaving campaign. Please contact me if you need further assistance to this website.

Thanks to US Capital Police Officers: Hey y'all, are you interested in sending cards and letters to the US Capital Police Officers in support and thanks for their service? Why am I suggesting our support?? Cuz approximately 20-30% of these officers are military veterans.

Please place unsealed cards & letters in a ziplock and drop off at Ann Eicher's house. There will be a basket near her front door starting August 1st. I'll be picking them up August 26th.

Please remember that our ALA organization remains a non-political organization. So please stay away from politics in your card or letter. Encourage your young ones to draw & color pictures!!

AUGUST EVENTS & REMINDERS

AUGUST– No 245 UNIT MEETING; Lunch Committee still ON

AUGUST– No ALA DANE COUNTY MEETING

REMINDER1: Please send your July hours, dollars and miles to kmrunk4@gmail.com

Membership Chair message: Debby Niebuhr

We met our goal for the first contest THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT IN THEIR DUES OR PAID WITH THEIR CREDIT CARD BY CALLING OR GOING ON-LINE W/NATIONAL. We still have dues to collect. We're hoping to make our next contest and know you will all help by getting your dues to Debby Niebuhr PO BOX 3 Cross Plains, WI 53528 or by calling 1-317-569-4570 and paying with your credit card (M-F 7am-3:30pm). If you have someone who wants to join we can start that process Sept 1st and that contest will be important to get the new applications submitted by 9/6/21 so we can get them to the ALA Dept of WI by 9/11/21. We really appreciate your help.

For last years membership drive we won \$ 125.00 so meeting these contest dates does work and it's one less fundraiser for us to do.

WE SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF OUR UNIT; Just look at Karen's Report telling you all the Awards she received at the Convention we went to in July.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT!

August Lunch Committee – Arlene Dahmen, Cookie, Mary Dahmen and Monica Gulesserian

While there will not be an Auxiliary meeting in August, there is still a meeting for the guys and the executive board.

Son's of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on August 19th.

Flags

If you need a flag, you can give Rod Faust a call at 608 576 4803.

Recycling Efforts

Tim Hillebrand, Mike Diebold and Whitey have been representing the SAL. If anyone else is interested in helping talk to Whitey and he can share what they do and how often.

2022 Membership Dues

In August everyone will receive their Membership Cards and a notice to pay your dues \$15.00 for one year or \$60.00 for five years. If you have prepaid your dues, you will be receiving your card.

We currently have 81 out of our 119 members paid for 2022. That is 68% of our members are prepaid please consider the \$60.00 for five year options as it helps when trying to collect membership dues each year.

If you know someone is interested, I have applications to join or you would like to sign up your grandsons let me know.

July Meeting Dinner

I would like to thank Dave Schultz and Steve (Whitey) Hillebrand for cooking and serving the dinner for the July meeting. I was informed it was a great meal and everyone appreciated your efforts.