

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

**CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION**

**Kerl-Endres-Brannan**

**Post 245**

**August 2025**

**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

Ralph Schulenberg – Home

Albert Oleson – Nursing Home

Dennis Jones – Home

Joanne Dodge – Nursing Home

Romie Ripp – Nursing Home

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Upcoming Events**

**August**  
01 Optimist Euchre Night  
07 Lions Club  
11 Lions Stuff the Bus  
21 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting  
26 Model T Club

**September**  
04 Lions Club  
18 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting  
30 Model T Club

\*\*\*\*\*

Need to include something in the Newsletter? Email Carol Yttri at [carolyttri@gmail.com](mailto:carolyttri@gmail.com) or call 608-516-5970. Please get information to me before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

HALL RENTAL: Notice to all members. There is a special rental rate for the use of the building to members. If you would like to inquire about renting the hall, please contact Debby Niebuhr at [americanlegioncp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:timengling@gmail.com)

OFFICERS: POST COMMANDER  
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
S.A.L. COMMANDER

Steve Zanon 608-213-9530  
Flo Bayer 608-444-8199  
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](http://www.americanlegioncp.org)**

## **Commander's Message**

**Steve Zanon**

Hello 245rs

Well July was a busy month, and it feels like I missed most of it. In mid-July I had my hip replaced so I missed out on the Iron horse band concert, which I heard was excellent. I missed the post meeting and presentation of 50+ year membership certificates to our members. Thanks to those members, and to Gary Itten who stood in for me during the meeting. I missed the Department convention in Green Bay, and presentation of Uniformed reservist of the year to our own Emily Cash, and EMT of the year Katrina McKee. Congratulations to you both, and thanks to the delegates from our post who attended.

Earlier in the month I had the privilege of participating in a Dream flight ceremony for two WWII veterans former Marine Henry 'Hank' Long, and retired Brigadier General Lewis Harned. Both over 100 years old, this was coordinated by Agrace Hospice Nurse Lisa Dahlgren in concert with Dream Flights, a division of Vets Roll. Middleton Fire department was on hand at the Morey Airport and Dick Zwettler assembled a group of our members for a great color guard. Honorees were visibly touched by the attention and the ride on a vintage airplane later.

Very recently there was a meeting with Cross Plains community member Rachel Adams and Village representative Becky (Diebold) Ward along with Gary Itten and Dave Montag. Rachel and Scott have our facilities (yeah, the whole block) reserved for the 4<sup>th</sup> of October for a potentially huge Octoberfest event. If plans work out there will be live music featuring the Jimmies, Reverend Raymond and West Side Andy. There will be Artisan booths, food vendors, a petting zoo, Kids Zone, and our post will be vending beer. Pencil that in on your calendars, we will keep you posted as things develop.

August looks to be a busy month for our post. At our meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> we should host the Badger boys and girls, and hear reports of their experiences.

I understand that one of our kitchen refrigerators fell on one of our auxiliary members recently, and while it didn't cause serious injury, the potential for this is frightful. While we act to prevent another tip, please take caution.

Thanks for reading,  
See you soon,  
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

## **Playground Committee**

The playground committee is organizing a Brat Fry to raise money for the new playground equipment. It will be held Fri. Sept. 12th and Sat. Sept. 13th and it will be held at the Glacier Edge Square by the Piggly Wiggly. We will need help both days and I will have a work list at the next meeting, Aug. 21st to sign up. If you can't make the meeting and want to help, give me a call at 608-225-4722 or email me at [gcitten48@gmail.com](mailto:gcitten48@gmail.com). We will have 2 shifts per day and it will be for a couple of hours each shift.

Gary Itten, Playground Committee Chairman

## **Thank you note for b-day party:**

Dear Friends:

Mike, Bill and I would like to thank you for celebrating with us on Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>. A Special Thank you to: Whitey, Doug and Judy Deaton, Dave Montag, Karen Foye, and the SAL. We don't want to miss someone from SAL. Thank you Guys!! You're always there when we need help.

Sincerely,  
Mike Schutz, Bill Saeman, and Dan Cady

### Legion shirts, caps etc for sale

FYI: We have Shirts (White & Black). Baseball Caps, Jackets, Sweatshirts, Legion hats.

If interested in any of these items see me or Gary Itten.

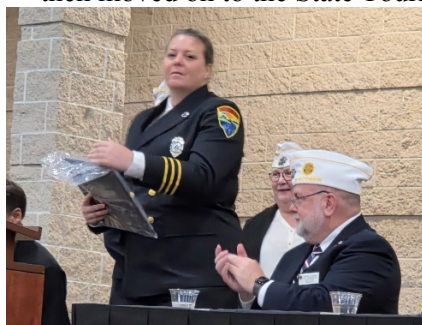
Dan Cady

### American Legion photos for 50 years



### Notes from Bill Statz

1. Our Post 245 winners of Best of Awards were presented at the Department Convention on Saturday, July 19. See photos attached. Katrina McKee won the EMT of the Year Award, and SFC Emily Cash won the Soldier of the Year Award. These are high State honors! Also, our candidate for Law Officer of the Year, won at County and District 3 level, but not State.
2. The MHS/Legion baseball team won the Regional Championship again this year. See photo attached. They then moved on to the State Tournament in Stevens Point, running from July 29 - August 2nd.



3. Our Post sponsored Badger Boys State students will be attending the August meeting to report on their BBS experiences.

**ATTN: Reminder that Bill Statz has retired from his Legion positions as of May 15, 2025. Bill is standing by to pass on all information, and assist anyone/or committee to take over.**

### Need Legion Family members, or form a committee, to volunteer for one or all of the following:

1. Americanism, all inclusive, or do just one or two of the following:
  - a. Legion Baseball. Easy to do, just coordinate with the coach/team on schedule, Post 245 funding, special events, volunteer opportunities, host them at the regular Post meeting in September.
  - b. Badger Boys State. Easy to do. Do sponsorship cards for Post 245 and send to Department. Department then sends sponsorship cards to Middleton High School. The High School takes care of recruiting and selecting our 3 boys. Our contact is the Counselor at the High School, she does a good job. Makes this job easy for the Legion. Follow up to have the boys attend our regular Post meeting in August, to report on their experience at BBS.

- c. Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest. Study the program to understand it, start to finish, etc. Then need to seek out and recruit candidates. The Counselors at the High School advise the entire Junior & Senior classes about this opportunity. We have 2 potential candidates already lined up for 2025/2026 competition. Be the advisor to candidates, sign up at Department, track preparation progress. Set up the Post level Contest. Attend competitions at County, District and Department, depending on far our candidate goes, etc.
  - d. Dane County Youth Government Day. This is a County led event. At our Post level, contact the 3 schools we sponsor (Glacier Creek, St Francis, Kromrey), they have all participated in the past, know the program. Compile information from the schools and submit to the County, along with Post 245 check for lunches. We share buses with Wisconsin Heights, need to arrange with Black Earth and Mazomanie Legion Posts. Accompany students on the day of as a chaperone for one of the schools, and/or recruit others, one Legionnaire per school.
  - e. Best of Awards. The American Legion Department of Wisconsin has the annual Awards program. There are a combined total of 30 Awards for the Best of: Americanism, Employment, Public Safety, and Additional Awards. The goal is to identify outstanding people in our Post 245 Legion Family, and community, who are exceptional performers. Then, with their support, solicit and compile all documentation for the application. This year, we focused on the Public Safety Awards, with candidates for EMT of the Year, National Guard Soldier of the Year, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.
2. Draw Down Raffle fundraiser. This is a major event, and takes a lot of pre-planning, getting tickets printed, raffle license, and full-bore effort to get all 300 tickets distributed, tracked, sold by Legion Family members, collect stubs and money/deposit, and compile list of ticket holders, etc. Arrange for date and reserve hall and meal prep and worker list and recruit workers, coordinate with SAL and Auxiliary on details, etc.
  3. Sergeant at Arms. This is an elected office at the Post, there are 2 Sgt at Arms. It is a 2 year term, elections in even number years. Are halfway through the current term, ending May 2026. Appoint candidate to finish this term. Currently other Sgt at Arms is Dick Zwettler.
    - a. Dick is currently arranging for the Honor Guard and rifle squad for funerals. But if Dick is not available, need to run the funeral service at churches and/or cemetery.
    - b. Arrange for color guards on request for: High School functions/football game, Honor flights, special events, etc.
    - c. Memorial Day. Assist Dick as needed, march the Guard at cemeteries, marching in the parade, and assist at Memorial service.
    - d. As one of the 11 elected officers for the Post, serve on the Executive Committee, and assist at the monthly meetings per Sgt at Arms protocol.

**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 27, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Past Commander Itten.

A motion was made by Dick Zwettler and seconded by Dennis Semaru to accept the minutes of the June 19th meeting as printed in the 245er, motion carried.

A motion by Phil V. and seconded by Ed P. to accept the minutes of the May 19<sup>th</sup> Executive board meeting as read by the Adjutant; motion carried.

50-year continuous Legion membership certificates were presented to Paul Shiveler, Mike Schutz, and Bill Statz. Not present were Rod Luettinger, and Alan Faust for 50 years. Ralph Schulenberg and Roman Ripp are 70-year continuous Legion members and Daniel Colvin is a 75-year member of the Legion.

Kevin Boehnen introduced previous member Rob Greaney who rejoined the SAL and is retired from the Navy. He also joined Post 245 as a new member.

Finance: Finance report was handed out, Dave Vidlock made a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Schutz to accept the finance report subject to audit, motion carried. Dan Cady asked to have the bar results to be added to the financial report.

Chaplain: No report

1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Emily reported just received the new membership cards for 2026 and will be processing them for the members that have already paid. You can send your dues to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: No report

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice: Dave V. thank the volunteers for helping with the metal recycling.

SAL: Kevin reported they have been helping with metal recycling and flag routes. They are selling flags and have signed a couple new members; they put flowers on Mike Greaney grave and donated to the Lions Stuff the Bus. They will also help this Sunday serving the food for 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

Americanism: Bill Statz reported our Badger Boys State representatives will be at our meeting in August.

Children and Youth: No report

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: Dave gave his report during 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice report.

Post Service Officer: No report

Public Relations: No report

Old Business: No old business

New Business and Correspondence: Dennis Semaru talked about Stuff the Bus program ran by the lions. They receive money to purchase school supplies or donations of school supplies to give to students in our community that can't afford these items. They will be doing this the month of August. Dan Cady made a motion and Phil V. seconded it to donate \$200.00, motion carried. Gary read thank you cards from one of our Badger Boys representatives and from Paul Yochum about his Honor Flight experience.

Good of the American Legion: Gary reported the playground committee will have a Brat stand at the Piggly Wiggly Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the new equipment. Will need workers both days and will have sign-up sheet at the next meeting in August. Gary also brought about a group would like to rent the hall and grounds to hold an event Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meeting this Tuesday about some issues on using our liquor permit. Money raised would go back to the community. We still need a chairman for the Draw Down. Gary suggested forming a committee with a member of the Legion, Auxiliary and Sal and divide the proceeds 3 ways.

Kevin Boehnen has been contacted to have our honor guards at one of the Honor Flights coming up this fall, will need volunteers.

Kitty: No winner  
50/50: Phil V.  
Brandy: Dave V., donated it back

Past Commander Itten adjourned the meeting at 7:35 P.M.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Heiliger, Acting Adjutant

### **Auxiliary Newsletter**

Hello 245'ers,

### **President Flo Bayer**

The summer is in full swing with plenty of summer activities. I hope you get out to enjoy it. Don't forget to check on friends and neighbors, especially when we are having heat advisories. Tony and I enjoyed a beautiful evening at our Post 245 Legion Park listening to the Iron Horse Cornet Band. It was a fun 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with a great turnout for Dan Cady, Mike Schutz & Bill Saeman.

At our August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, we will be hearing reports of some of our Badgers Girls and Boys State delegates' experiences. This is one of my favorite meetings of the year because it is very inspiring to see and hear our future leaders. Hope to see you! Also, at the meeting we will also have different sizes of branded Aux. Unit 245 clothing if you want to check them out. This will be the last meeting to get your order in, and Friday August 22<sup>nd</sup> is the final day for orders.

If you plan to attend Good NeighborFest on Sat. August 23<sup>rd</sup> -10am-2pm, stop by for our 1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary donuts and coffee fundraiser. We will be located near the end of the morning race, near the craft fair. Be sure to support and thank our local sponsor Kwik Trip for their donation of donuts & cups. Many thanks to you who have volunteered to help. We have a great Unit and can serve our Veterans and community when we work together!

I'd like to thank our 3rd District President Noreen Schmidt for her service to the Auxiliary and Veterans. She has resigned as 3<sup>rd</sup> District President. Shelley Drager, our past 1<sup>st</sup> Vice & Membership Chair, is now President and Nicole Welsh, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice and Membership Chair.

While volunteering at the Madison VA Hospital in the PERC (Patient Education Resource Center), I learned about the Patient Centered Learning website. It's a tool to help guide Veterans to information about VA benefits and services. The Navigator provides web links, phone numbers, QR codes for VA websites, and other useful information about the VA. The **VA Resource Navigator** contains **LOTS of useful information!** It offers information about VA health care, disability, education, housing assistance, family member benefits, careers, pensions, burials, and memorials! It is designed to answer frequently asked questions Veterans have.  
<https://www.prevention.va.gov/PCL/PCL-VA-Navigator.asp>

### **Membership – Debby Niebuhr**

I wish to THANK everyone who has sent me their dues or paid with their credit card. We have reached 50% so far. For those of you who haven't paid, there is still time to make the next contest. Get the dues to me by the end of August or pay on-line or by phone with your credit card and save the postage. By the time you receive this newsletter, you might have received your membership card in the mail.

For those of you who will be at the August meeting, I will hand out yours as it saves on the postage. Some of you live close enough that I'll be dropping it off at your residence. Just trying to keep it interesting.

You can send your dues to me: Debby Niebuhr PO BOX 3 Cross Plains, WI 53528 or bring them to the August meeting. To use your credit card, just call 1-317-569-4570 and talk to a friendly person. The lines are open Mon-Fri 8am-3pm. If you prefer to do it outside of 8-3pm and you don't have multiple dues to pay, you can go to their



website: [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) You can only use one email for each person, that's why if you have dues for yourself and another, calling is the easiest way to deal with it.

**FOR THE POST MEMBERS**, dues can be sent to: Emily Cash 7780 Martinsville Rd. Cross Plains, WI 53528 I believe your dues are \$45. Payable to " WI POST 245" We are lucky to have such a wonderful Legion Family here at the WI Post 245. Thanks for your support.

#### **Lunch Committee – Jane Itten**

If you can't make it, call or email Jane 608-7123133. [gijacondo@gmail.com](mailto:gijacondo@gmail.com) Please feel free to leave a message.

- **August 21<sup>st</sup>** – Desserts for August. Arlene & Julie Dahmen, Mary Dahmen, Monica Gulesserian, Cookie (Lois) Conroy.
- **September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Kathy Bertin, Barb Schutz, Jean Bolchen, JoAnna Richard, Cam Hill.

#### **Service Opportunities\Projects**

- Sat. August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10:00–12pm & 12pm-2:00pm sell coffee/donuts - filled
- Sun. August 24<sup>th</sup> – (2) 11:30am-01:30pm – Middleton Good NeighborFest Parade – sit at intersection for traffic control. **1 more person needed!**
- Sun. August 24<sup>th</sup> – (1) 6pm-7pm & Mon. August 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:30, Clean up – filled
- Thurs. September 18<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary provides September meal
- Sat. September 20<sup>th</sup> – Hill & Valley Pie Sale

#### **Sons of The American Legion**

**Kevin Boehnen**

##### Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on August 21st.

This is the annual Chicken & Sweet Corn dinner with presentations from Badger State Boys & Girls. Come and enjoy the meal and hear about where our donation to sponsor a Badger State Girl went and their experience.

##### Flags

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

##### 80th Birthday Celebration Dan Cady, Bill Saeman

Thank you to Doug & Judy Deaton, Whitey Hillebrand, Tim Hillebrand, Greg Roessler, Rod Faust and Kevin Boehnen for helping out with this event.

##### Cross Plains Baseball Golf Outing - August 20th

We will be preparing and serving the food for Cross Plains Baseball Golf Outing on August 14th. If you can help us out please contact Whitey or Kevin Boehnen if you can help expecting up to 120 people for this event that runs from 4:00 to 8:00.

##### Recycling Efforts

Whitey, Tom Aeschbach, Tim Hillebrand, Tom Helleckson, Rod Faust and Kevin Boehnen have been assisting with the Legion's recycling efforts. If you can help us out please contact Whitey for dates and times for helping out.

##### Future events for SAL to cook

They are as follows:

August 20th	Cross Plains Golf Outing
October 25th	Motor Cross Dinner
November 20th	Legion Meeting - Thanksgiving Dinner

### 2026 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 receive your card with no payment necessary

We currently have 85 out of our 116 members paid for 2026. That is 73% 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.

We lost four members of the 116 last year who decided not to rejoin. We currently will have these six new members for 2026 they are Ed J Fisk, Robert L Greaney, Richard Hillebrand, Paul W Homes, Jack E Regan and Robert F Saeman. Please welcome them to SAL.

If you know someone who is interested, I have applications to join or if you would like to sign up your grandsons let me know. Our goal is to have 120 members signed up for 2026 which means we are looking for two new members.