

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

August 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 Bill Herriges

Paul Dull – Nursing Home

Ralph Schulenberg – Home

Albert Oleson – Nursing Home

Dennis Jones – Home

Joanne Dodge – Nursing Home

Russell Bradford – VA

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

Upcoming Events

August 06 Lions Club
 20 Legion, SAL, Aux meeting
 25 Model T Club

September 03 Lions Club
 17 Legion, SAL, Aux meeting
 23 Red Cross Blood Drive (11 to 7)
 29 Model T Club

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 Bill Herriges at 608-576-5186 or e-mail bill.herriges@icloud.com.

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

Steve Zanon 608-213-9530
Katrina McKee 608-217-2023
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
Greetings Post 245 Family,

Steve Zanon

We had a good month of July, though I think you'll agree it was hot as blazes. At our meeting, after enjoying takeout pizza, we heard committee reports, and at one point voted to change article XIV of our bi-laws to install newly elected officers in June (every two years) instead of May. This gives officers more time to prepare for their roles. Thank you, Gary Itten, for initiating this change.

We will be applying for our gambling license and distributing our annual Draw-down tickets in September in order to have the event on Saturday November 14th.

Emily Cash tells us that she will be setting up a membership table at National night out at Lakeview park in Middleton on August 5th from 5-7:00pm, and in Cross Plains on 13 August from 5-7:00 as well. She is hoping for volunteers to assist in uniform. Emily has also started planning for the Spooky fun night on Halloween day, and will need lots of help, especially from kids.

Whitey Hillenbrand and the metal hauling crew of volunteers were busy making at least three trips to metal recycling. Thank you, gentlemen!

The 107th annual American Legion Department convention was held in July, and was attended by Joe Hodgson who holds a department position, Emily Cash, Bill Herriges, and myself. Guest speaker VA Dr Jeffrey Whittle has been studying veterans in the Milwaukee area for many years and has seen measurable influence peers have on one another. For instance, if a close friend eats well, exercises and has lower blood pressure, his or her peers tend to mimic this behavior and result. With this in mind he has launched a study program called "Reclaiming your path", part of the "Be the one" effort to reduce veteran suicide. The RYP program would train interested post volunteers to attend four sessions to recognize symptoms of depression and provide info about local resources. Volunteers do not provide counseling. If you are interested, please see or call me.

There is also a fundraising drive underway called "The 250 club". You may have seen this advertised in the Badger Legionnaire. In an effort to eliminate things like the department raffle, etc. they want a concerted effort to raise 1.5 million and operate from the earnings of this without ever depleting the raised funds. This to provide a gift to future generations of Legionnaires. Of course, we seed this fund by donating \$250 per year for three years, so there is that. See WILegion.org if you are interested.

Our post performed funeral honors twice in July. On July 23rd we said goodbye to 91-year-old Linus F Schoepp at St Francis church. On July 25th we saluted our own 96-year-old former Marine Kenneth J Reinke at St John Cemetery. We also lost 94-year-old Army veteran Donald Van Aman. Thank you to Dick Zwettler and all the Legionnaires who show up to pay rifle honors to fallen veterans. It is always gratifying to celebrate someone's service and remind their family of it.

I will be out of town on meeting night in August, and Gary Itten has graciously agreed to stand in for me. Thanks Gary.

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

Adjutant notes – Gary Itten:

The following proposed amendment was read at the July meeting and will be voted on at the August meeting.
Proposed Amendment to Article XIV Section 2:

The biennial elections shall be held at the regular meeting in May of the Post and the elected and appointed officers shall be installed at the June meeting. All Post officers shall serve for a period of two years.

You should have got a notice for your 2027 dues. On the return dues notice cross off 7780 Martinsville Rd., and put in PO Box 188. That is Post 245 Post office box. Or you can renew online at mylegion.org, then go to Legion.org and click on membership and services.

Legion Baseball – Bill Statz:

Post 245 sponsored 3 teams for our 2026 MHS/Legion Baseball program: 16-U, 17-U, 19-U Class AAA. They all had winning seasons again. The 17-U team won their Regional Championship, and advanced to the State Tournament. They made it to the 3rd level of games, but were then eliminated with 1 win and 2 losses in the tournament. The 16-U and 19-U Class AAA teams did not win their Regional Championships, so did not go to the State Championship Tournaments.

Members of the teams; players, coaches and parents have been invited to join us at our Post 245 September meeting, for our annual accolades. We usually have 12-15 total Legion Baseball guests at the September meeting.

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 July 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Commander Zanon. A motion was made by Dennis H. and seconded by Phil V. to accept the minutes of the June 18th meeting as printed in the 245 newsletter, motion carried.

Phil V. made a motion to accept the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of June 16th, Emily Cash seconded it and motion carried.

Guests: Madison Motorcycle Club made a donation to the Post for use of the hall.

Finance: Phil V. made a motion to accept the finance report subject to audit, Dennis S. 2nd it and motion carried.

Chaplain: No report.

1st Vice: Emily reported that we have 30% dues collected for 2027 and from now on mail in your dues to Emily Cash, PO Box 188, instead of her home address. You can renew online at mylegion.org.

2nd Vice: No report

3rd Vice: No report

SAL: Contact Rodney Faust for Flags. They sold a 15' X 25" flag to the Kalscheur farm in Pine Bluff. They are cooking for a couple of events in August.

Americanism: Bill Statz reported that the Post 245 Legion Baseball only has 2 weeks left in the season.

Children & Youth: No Report, need a chairman

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No Report

Post Service Officer: No Report

Public Relations: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business and Correspondence: Dennis S. reported that Lions will be holding Stuff the Bus this year. Bill H. made a motion to donate \$200.00 to Stuff the Bus Emily Cash 2nd it motion carried. Commander Zanon will invite Jed Henry to speak on MIA program. Frank Kooistra is going on the Honor Flight in Oct. The 3rd District Golf is July 26th in Barneveld. Commander read thank you notes from scholarship recipients. Middleton Night out is Aug 5th at Lakeview Park from 5-7 P.M. Need one more person to man Post 245 table with Phil V. Cross Plains Night out is Aug. 13th at Glacier Creek Middle School from 5-7 P.M. Need 2 volunteers for this. The Halloween spook house will be held Oct. 31st will need volunteers for this and there will be a sign-up sheet at the Sept. Meeting.

Good of the American Legion: Gary I. read a proposed amendment to Article XIV-Section 2 of our bylaws which will be voted on at the August meeting. It reads: The biennial elections shall be held at the regular meeting in May of the Post, and the elected and appointed officers shall be installed at the June meeting. All Post officers shall serve for a period of two years. Bill S. talked about the 13 resolutions that will be voted on at the State Convention this weekend.

Kitty: Tim Engling
50/50: Phil Vallejos
Brandy: Bill Statz

Commander Zanon adjourned the meeting at 7:55 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Gary Itten, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

President Katrina McKee

Hello Everybody! It's hard to believe the summer is coming to an end already. I hope everyone is staying cool with the high temps. With it being August, we have a few things coming up that we need volunteer support for so if you have an hour or two to help out it would be appreciated. Please also email me any volunteer hours/donations that you have for July by the end of August.

ALABadger Girls State– Joanna Richard went with 5 girls from June 21-26th, 2026.

Service Opportunities:

Middleton Good Neighbor Fest – Contact : Joanna Richard or Flo Bayer. We will be needing volunteers for

- Set up Wednesday 8/26 5-8 pm
- Work Fish Fry 8/28 4 -6:15 pm serving – need 1 more person
- 5:45-8:30pm serving – we need 2 more people
- Sunday 8/30 Parade volunteer 11-1pm – need 2 people.

This is a great opportunity for us to raise money for our Unit! Reach out to Joanna or Flo if for when you are able to help out.

September 19th– Hill and Valley Car Show Pie Sales, please make sure to come prepared at our meeting to sign up for working the pie stand and/or bringing pie.

Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

Arlene Dahmen, Julie Dahmen, Cookie (Lois Conroy), Mary Dahmen, Monica Gulesserian make a dessert, set up at 5:45 and clean up after meal. If you can't help out call or email Jane 608-712-3133, gijacondo@gmail.com.
Thanks, Jane.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

AUXILIARY (WI UNIT 245)

We are collecting the 2027 Membership Dues. The are \$35 for Seniors and \$6 for Juniors. You can mail your check to me, Debby Niebuhr at PO Box 3, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

OR

Pay with your credit card by calling our National Dept at 1-317-569-4570. Their phone lines are open Monday thru Friday from 7am to 3:30pm (CT). You will need your Member ID# that you can find on your membership card that I mailed or gave to you.

OR

You can pay on-line at this website: <https://www.ALAforVeterans.org>. In the upper right hand corner, there is a blue tab labeled MEMBER LOGIN. Click on that and follow the prompts. You can only pay for ONE person whereas by calling in you can pay for multiple people.

I HOPE THIS HELPS. We really appreciate everyone trying to get their dues in as soon as possible so we can close this chapter for our Legion.

We would love to see everyone at our August 20th meeting, we are having chicken, corn on the cob and potato casserole plus desserts of course. ENJOY YOUR SUMMER WHAT'S LEFT OF IT and STAY SAFE AND COOL.

Sons of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Joint meeting with the Legion will be on August 20 this month.

Flags

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

Recyclable Run

Would like to thank everyone who has stepped up and helped load the trailer to take items to recyclable center.

SAL Dues

We are still at 112 members as of the end of July. 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. Membership Cards and letters will be sent out in August.

New Sons of The American Legion Shirts and Hats

We now have new shirts and hats for the Son's of The American Legion as of Memorial Day. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt and hat the cost is \$40.00. Just let me know and I will get them for you. I will be ordering more shirts with the sizes for small and medium.

Up Coming Events

Recyclable Run - Will text volunteers when they are happening

August 15th - SAL is cooking for the Boehnen Family Reunion at the Legion looking for 4 volunteers to help cook from 11:30 to 1:00.

August 19th - SAL is cooking for the Cross Plains Baseball Golf Outing looking for 10 volunteers to help cook, serve and clean up from 4:00 to 8:00 at the latest.

Let Kevin Boehnen know if you are interested in helping out or Whitey.