

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

**CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION**

**Kerl-Endres-Brannan**

**Post 245**

**December 2023**

**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.

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**Post 245 Sick Call**

**Chaplain Tim Engling**

Paul Dull – Nursing Home

Ralph Schulenberg – Home

Albert Oleson – Nursing Home

Pete Cerniglia – Home

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

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**Upcoming Events:**

**December** 01 Santa Visit

**January** 04 Lions Club

05 Lions Club

11 100 Year Anniversary meeting

09 Fruit Basket Delivery

18 Legion, SAL meeting

14 100 Year Anniversary meeting

30 Model T Club

21 Legion, SAL, Aux mtg

26 Model T Club

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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 Christie Zanon at [americanlegioncp@gmail.com](mailto:americanlegioncp@gmail.com).

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 312-317-0034 or e-mail [timengling@gmail.com](mailto:timengling@gmail.com)

OFFICERS: POST COMMANDER

Steve Zanon

608-213-9530

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Deb Niebuhr

608-445-6590

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](http://www.americanlegioncp.org)**

**Commander's Message**

**Steve Zanon**

Greetings American Legion Family;

December is here, and Post 245 is kicking into Holiday gear with Fruit basket delivery on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Doug Deaton tells me that as of this writing, all of the routes have been assigned. Thank you for the great participation! The Christmas Holiday Potluck will be December 21<sup>st</sup>, and as other years Doug and Judy will be preparing the meat (Ham I am told), and the rest of us should bring a favorite dish to pass. December is also the time for the all important Caring tree. We took up a collection for this in November, and for the benefit of those not familiar with it, Barb Schutz explains that "December is the time of giving and the time to remember. The Cross Plains Caring Tree is administered by POST 245. This program started more than 15 years ago. The purpose is to give a monetary gift to the less fortunate in the community and also gives fruit baskets or poinsettia plants to those who have lost a spouse, or suffer a serious illness, or those age 90 and over or who are in a facility."

November's meeting was fun and eventful with a presentation of Legionnaire of the Year to Bill Statz. We had a soloist perform some songs during dinner. Mister Randy Plunket was there and sang some patriotic and oldies

tunes; Thank you Randy. Dinner was a full-on Thanksgiving affair with all the trimmings, masterfully prepared by our Sons of the American Legion and deserts by our Auxiliary. Thank you all, it was delicious.

We found out in November also that Sue Brunner donated some nicely quilted pouches for use during funeral honors. Dick Zwettler showed me one and explained that in the past we collected the spent brass (rifle shells) as keepsake for the decedent's family. We presented these in a Ziplock bag. Sue recognized the opportunity to improve on this and made some nice patriotic looking fabric pouches to present the brass in. Way to go Sue! We will try to circulate a thank you card in December. If you see it please sign your thanks.

For those of you may not have heard, we have a new County Commander. Scott Klassy has generously taken over for Jerry Scalisi who hasn't been feeling well. Please send up a good thought for Jerry.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee has been busy planning the two-day events to take place in September of 2024. It promises to be a fun and festive time, and should include among other things such as food and presentations, live music in and around the shelter. If you are part of a band, or know someone from a local talent group; Music, comedy, or some other performing arts, committee members would love to hear from you. More acts mean more entertainment. Please contact someone on the planning committee or executive committee with ideas. Dave Vidlock and Rodney Esser (Peanuts) especially.

January 18-24, 2024 is the annual Midwinter conference, this year to be held in La Crosse. There are events, committee meetings and American Legion Classes. Promises to be a busy weekend with a lot of good events. If you are interested, please log into [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org) for registration form.

Lots going on in February as well. Please see Bill Statz' note and Debbie Neibuhr's

That is all I have for now, Hope to see you all at the December Potluck and meeting.

Respectfully,  
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

#### **Drawdown Fundraiser – Bill Statz**

Mark Your Calendars! Post 245 Drawdown returns! Drawdown Reverse Raffle is planned for February 10, 2024. Tickets are \$50 and will be available starting at the December meeting. Ticket price includes dinner as part of the evening of fun. Additional meals \$10 each. The "Drawdown" is a raffle done in reverse. All tickets are put in the bin and mixed. Tickets are then drawn at random and posted on a board on stage. The first tickets "Do Not" win. The pay outs begin only when the number of tickets remaining match the number of winning prizes to be awarded. So, you don't want your ticket to be drawn early, but at the end! That's why it is called a Drawdown, Reverse Raffle. More detail to follow, watch our Post website [www.americanlegioncp.org](http://www.americanlegioncp.org) and for the January 245er. For ticket information contact Bill Statz: (608) 577-4002 or email: [billstatz@tds.net](mailto:billstatz@tds.net).

#### **Post 245 Legionnaire of the Year**

Post 245 Legionnaire of the Year was announced at the November meeting. Commander Steve Zanon presented the award to Bill Statz for his services as Americanism Chair, Sergeant at Arms, Veterans Liaison, and attending Department and District events. (See photo at end of newsletter).

#### **CP Caring Tree**

It is that time of year where the CARING TREE brings JOY to the less fortunate in our Community, along with those 90 and over, ongoing illness, major surgery, loss of spouse and local residents in a facility. These recipients are given fruit baskets, or poinsettia plants. The less fortunate are given monetary funds.

Anyone who would like to make a donation, can send cash or check made out to Caring Tree, and send to POST245, C/O Lee Mayrack, PO Box 188, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

Any amount helps and the funds are used mostly in December, but donations can be made any time of the year, Thank you for your support.

Barb Schutz and Judi and Doug Deaton

#### **Fruit / Flower Baskets – Judi and Doug Deaton**

Thank you to all who volunteered to deliver fruit baskets / poinsettias on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **December Meal – Doug and Judi Deaton**

December will be a Potluck Meal. Please bring a dish to pass. Ham will be provided.

#### **Spooky Fun Night – Emily Cash**

"Spooky Fun Night" was held 2 nights at the Legion on Oct 30th and 31st. This event was part of our Post 245 Children & Youth programs. Feedback is that it was an awesome event! See extra page of pictures attached on last page of this newsletter. The event was organized and built by Emily Cash, with help from the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Boy Scouts, and other community volunteers. Upstairs had lots of stuff going on, activities, and popcorn/cotton candy stand, etc. You wouldn't have recognized the basement level, with a full wall to wall Haunted Maze, "Boo"! The youth "Scare Team" actors did a great job in the maze, scaring the groups, depending

on what "level of scare" they had requested. "Extreme Scare" had even adults shaking and speechless when they exited the maze!

**Message from Dan Cady:**

I would like to Thank all of the Flag Crews for another outstanding job this year. We are putting out 327 Flags. I would like to thank those who have helped out when needed. I am not sure but I think Robert (Bob) Clampitt started this program about 1984.

Thank you to Penny Kempainen for stepping up to take over the Label job for the bulletins.

Jobs still available :

1. Take over organizing flag routes.
2. Maintain Memorial:
3. Color Guard members for funerals (several needed)
4. Individual to maintain Legion Hall
5. Individuals that would be willing to do a Flag Route. (Preferably) Two people so when one not available the other person could do route in their absence.

Thank you all – have a great Holiday season. Stay Well.

Call me or email me if you have any questions – [dcady2030@gmail.com](mailto:dcady2030@gmail.com) or 608 438 2987.

**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 November 16, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Commander Zanon at 7:33 pm.

A motion was made to approve the minutes printed in the 245r by Joe, seconded by Dick and the membership passed the motion by vote.

A second motion was made by Phil to approve the Executive meeting minutes as read by the Adjutant; seconded by Marty with the motion being passed by vote.

1<sup>st</sup> VICE: NO REPORT.

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE: NO REPORT

3<sup>rd</sup> VICE: NO REPORT

FINANCE: Lee passed out his report for the period going over expenses and income and addressing any questions or concerns. A motion to accept the report pending audit was made by Frank, seconded by Dave and the motion passed.

SAL: Kevin reported on recent activities of the SAL along with the Moto Cross event being a great fund raiser for them. The sons recently spent \$400.00 for a newer gas grill and kitchen utensils to supplement the kitchen at the legion. Their membership is 111 paid with 8 to go for the 100%. Kevin also mentioned the fruit basket delivery date of 12-9-2023 needs more route drivers so if interested please contact Kevin or Doug Dieton.

AMERICANISM: Bill reviewed the Halloween event that was held at the legion, also showed us a plaque we received from the veterans shoot held at the County shooting range. He is working on Badger Boys state and was involved with the celebration for the Honor flight members. Bill also requested that we find a new Historian since our post is now doing many more activities and getting thank you cards and plaques that need to be recorded and displayed. If anyone is interested, please contact Bill or any of the officers.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER: Dave wishes to thank everyone who helped with recycling this year.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: Bill Diebold working with the Park school brought us several handmade paper flag cards with the kids' own handwriting showing their thanks and respect. We will use these on honor flights and other similar events.

GOOD OF THE LEGION: A reminder on 12-9-2023 that the fruit basket delivery will start the Piggly Wiggly and more drivers are still needed. Dick has several handmade bags with flags on them to put the used shells from funerals in and give to the members family.

50/50: Winner was Joe Hodgen

BRANDY: Winner was Tim Engling

KITTY: There was no winner

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Heiliger, Adjutant

## Auxiliary Newsletter

President Debby Niebuhr

Hello Everyone,

The SAL pulled it off again. Hope you were able to enjoy their Thanksgiving meal. I wish to thank the Auxiliary Lunch Committee for their work at rounding off the night with their treats.

Deck the hall with boughs of holly. I'm so proud of myself for putting the Christmas tree up all by myself. Then I assisted my dear friend, Judi, in turning the hall into a winter wonderland for all to enjoy. She worked her magic; I'm sure her secret elves helped us, but I never saw them. By the time you receive this letter, our Legion Family will be delivering the Fruit Baskets. I wish to THANK all who helped make this project a reality.

Please plan on joining in the fun on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> with our Christmas Party Potluck. I've been lucky enough to make so many wonderful friends being a part of this Legion Family. I'd like to THANK all of them for helping make it such a wonderful experience working on the various projects. It takes the ones who like to work behind the scenes as well as those who come to the meetings to help make the decisions. And especially, my officers for all they do!

Our Auxiliary has endorsed Karen Runk in her endeavor to run for Dept. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. We will let you know if she succeeds. She has been our Unit President as well as a Dane County and District 3 President. She has been instrumental in leading us in various projects.

I'd like to THANK Katie Runk, JoAnna Richard and Flo Bayer as well as all those who helped with their donations, man hours, and of course to those who came to help make the Tail Gate Party a success. They were able to meet their goal. They made enough to cover the cost of sending 3 girls to the Badger Girl State this coming summer. WE ARE ALSO COLLECTING PENNIES FOR THE BADGER GIRLS PENNY WAR. So, if you have any spare change in the form of pennies and wish to help us, you can bring them to our meetings next year (March, April, and May). Thanking you in advance for your support.

We have some opportunities available. There's the Mid-Winter Conference Jan. 20, 2024 in LaCrosse (9-1pm). In Verona on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> there is a District get together. And then there is the District 3 Spring Conference on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Fennimore Post. Please let us know if you are interested in attending any of these so we can get you signed up.

We have also been challenged to collect \$1.00 from all our members to help the Legion Children's Welfare Fund. We'd appreciate all donations to help us reach this goal. You can send the dollar to me, Debby Niebuhr at PO BOX 3 Cross Plains, WI 53528.

The William S. Middleton VA is requesting our help with collecting NEW GENDER-NEUTRAL BABY CLOTHES, SIZE NEWBORN TO 6 MONTHS FOR THE WOMEN VETS. Their contact person is Jim Barnett (608)280-7030. If you wish, you can drop items off at our Legion Hall, on Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. The Legion will be open most of the day as we prepare and participate in our Christmas Party Potluck.

After the Holidays we will start working on our Purple Up Project where we acknowledge the sacrifice the children of our Active Military parents give. The actual date is April 15<sup>th</sup>, but it will take lots of planning and executing to make this a successful project. If you are interested in joining our committee, please let us know.

***The Auxiliary DOES NOT meet in January or February, so our March meeting will be busy.***

Please join us on February 10<sup>th</sup> for the DRAW DOWN; details can be found in the Legion's Post section of this newsletter.

ALSO, plan on joining us on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> for the Pancake Breakfast. We will be contacting our Legion Family members to work and make this fundraiser a success.

**Wishing all of you the Merriest of Holidays!**

### Badger Girls State – Flo Bayer

Calling all current High School Juniors! The Auxiliary & SAL are sponsoring four delegates to attend the Badger Girls State (ALABGS) Session this summer. It is scheduled for Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2024, at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh campus. It is a week-long government and leadership conference for young women in their junior year of high school. ALABGS is a practical civics conference that allows students to learn about state government by actively participating in it. Attendees of the program will learn by doing as they become citizens of a mythical fifty-first state, the state of Badger. Juniors interested in attending should speak to their high school counselor at Middleton High or Clark Street Community School. Young women who attend qualify to apply for college scholarships, learn about citizenship in a modern world and make friends from all across the State. We are always looking for counselors and helpers, please contact JoAnna Richard – [bennel@msn.com](mailto:bennel@msn.com) if you would be interested. For more information, check out <https://www.alabgs.org>.

### Lunch committee: Jane Itten

Post is making ham. All ALA bring your favorite dish to pass – Salad, dessert, etc. Any questions, call Jane – 608 712 3133. Anyone wanting to get on the dessert month, let me know.



Christmas Party will be held December 21, 2023. We're hoping to get as many SAL members and their spouses to attend this year. All our welcome please bring a dish to pass.

Fruit Baskets

We will be delivering Fruit Baskets on Saturday December 9th. The SAL has two routes that we will be delivering Fruit Baskets. If you still want to help show up at the Piggly Wiggly at 9:00 AM and you can possibly ride along with someone who signed up for one of the eight routes.

November "Thanksgiving Dinner"

We would like to thank Mike Diebold, Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand, Paul Lochner, Tim Hillebrand, Brad Neibhur, Tom Hellickson, Ed Zander, Mike Greaney, Kim Statz and Kevin Boehnen for preparing and serving the dinner. We served 64 people at the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16th. We would like to thank the Auxiliary for bringing desserts and helping clean up after dinner.

Flags

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

Membership 2024

We currently have 120 members paid for 2024. We are currently at 103% for membership. We have two members who still have to collect their dues. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the SAL please let me know at kabohnen@chorus.net.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

On behalf of my family Ann, Elizabeth, Lexi and myself we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We encourage you to keep in your prayers the people who continue to serve our country and those who serve away from their families.

We are also very thankful for all of the veterans who have served our country at one time or another and wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will never forget your service to our country.

**Bill Statz – Post 245 Legionnaire of the Year**





Recruiting New Members



# AMERICAN LEGION SPOOKY FUN NIGHT

Scare Team! Shout out to our  
Auxilliary and Sons Youth!



Boyscouts running  
popcorn and cotton  
candy stand!



Cross Plains EMS



Big Thank You to  
everyone who helped  
with a successful  
Spooky Fun Night!!

Arts and Crafts Station!



Feedback from our  
community was great  
and we look forward  
to doing this again!!!



Haunted Maze  
features!

