

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

**CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION**

**Kerl-Endres-Brannan**

**Post 245**

**June 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.

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**Post 245 Sick Call**

**Chaplain Tim Engling**

Paul Dull – Nursing Home  
Dennis Jones – Home

Ralph Schulenberg – Home  
Steve Dodge – Home

Albert Oleson – Nursing 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**

**June**

05 Lions Club  
19 Legion, SAL, Auxiliary meeting  
24 Model T Club

**July**

03 Lions Club  
14 Iron Horse Cornet Band (7pm)  
19 Legion, SAL meeting  
29 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 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**

Greetings Legionnaires and family;

Another busy May, and another successful Memorial Day celebration in the books. Thanks to everyone who took part, but if you didn't, let me briefly recap: We again set out early after the flag route volunteers returned to the hall, and after enjoying a fine breakfast by Whitey Hillenbrandt and the SAL. We visited six local cemeteries to pay tribute to veterans buried there. Tim Engling delivered prayers, the BSA troop formed up and played taps, and the honor guard fired a rifle salute. The parade was amazing and well attended by the community. Our finely decorated trailer hauled members and guests in fine fashion thanks to Kathy Statz and family for hard work decorating and arranging. Tim Engling did a wonderful job coordinating the schedule for our memorial program and speakers moved through the program nicely. Thanks to Gary Itten for reading of the deceased, Flo Bayer for the Auxiliary and scholarship parts, Kevin Boehnen of the SAL, Ed Pelowsky for scholarships, and our keynote speaker Command Sergeant Major Curtis Patrouille. Our sound system worked perfectly thanks to Dave Nelson, and we were able to scoot the carts of chairs in and out of the garage thanks to our new short-cut sidewalk coordinated by Bill Foss. All in all, a relaxing day of reflection and celebration. Thanks to the many who helped but weren't mentioned.

Earlier in the month we attended the County Legion meeting at our hall, and members raved about the awesome supper provided by our Auxiliary. I was able to turn in the raffle ticket stubs and cash, we sold all fifty. Thank you all who supported this.

We also in May attended an excellent Middleton High School baseball game which honored our American Legion Post, and our own Bill Statz threw out the first pitch to honor him and his efforts for Americanism and youth baseball.

Like I said; a busy May. June looks to be productive here as well. Our meeting will be on June 19<sup>th</sup>

Noreen Schmidt, 3<sup>rd</sup> district Auxiliary president reminds us that June 12th is National Women Veterans Recognition Day.

As I understand it the Iron Horse Coronet band from Mazomanie will perform next month on July 14<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to that.

Thank you all for everything, hope to see you soon.

Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

### **Notes from Bill Statz:**

1. Update on Legion Best of Awards. At the 3rd District Spring Conference, winners of the Legion 'Best of Awards' were presented. All 3 of our nominees for Post 245 won 3rd District! 1. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is Deputy Jodi Hager, Award presented at Dane County Youth Government Day. See photo: Bill, Jodi, County Commander Scott Klassy. 2. National Guard Soldier of the Year is SFC Emily Cash. 3. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the Year Katrina McKee. See photos attached of Emily and Katrina with 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brian presenting the Awards. Also see photo of Legion Family support Team, from left to right, Auxiliary members Kathy Statz, Melanie Smith, Izzy Cash, then SAL member Matt Cash, Soldier Emily, Bill Statz, EMT Katrina.

All 3 of our District Winners went on to compete for the Department level Awards. Congratulations to Katrina and Emily who were Awarded Department EMT and Soldier of the Year Awards! They will be presented during the Department Convention in Green Bay, Saturday July 19th. Our Law Enforcement Officer, Deputy Jodi Hager did not win the Department Award.

2. Legion Baseball recognition May 27th was awesome! The Middleton High School Baseball program had a special Legion Appreciation recognition at their regular Varsity baseball game on May 27. The recognition is in

appreciation for all that Legion Post 245 does for the High School, and especially for our sponsorship of the MHS/Legion Baseball program. This year we sponsor 3 Legion Baseball teams, one in each age group. The Legion Baseball season starts in early June, right after HS playoffs. See our Post website for the schedule, with the Legion Baseball button in the left menu column.

Attending the game were a number of Legion Family, and several VIP's. We were invited onto the field and honored with a special lengthy announcement and Thank You American Legion! Then the honorary "First Pitch", and we all stayed on the field for the National Anthem, lined up with the players and coaches, very patriotic and moving.

See photos attached. The group photo has our Legion support team, from left to right, a Legionnaire, Lillian McKee - Auxiliary, Kathy Statz - Auxiliary, Tim McKee - SAL, Bill Statz - Post 245 Legion Baseball, Katrina McKee - VP Post 245 Auxiliary, Denise Rohan - Past National Commander - 3rd District Adjutant, Virgil Smith - Past Department Chaplain - 3rd District Chaplain, Phil Haas - County Sgt at Arms, Morris Sadicario - County and 3rd District Historian, Dan O'Brian - 3rd District Commander, Joe Hodgson - Post 245 Service Officer - County VAR - Department VAR Committee.

Not in photo but in attendance: Steve Zanon - Post 245 Commander, Scott Klassy - Dane County Commander. The other photo is Bill Statz throwing the first pitch.

PS: Weather was perfect, Middleton won 2-1. Won them home field for the first playoff game, details TBD.



### 3. From Dane County Deputy Jodi Hager:

We eagerly anticipate seeing everyone at this year's Dane County Sheriff's Office 3rd Annual Veteran Shoot, scheduled for November 12, 2025.

In the meantime, the Dane County Sheriff's Office is hosting a fundraiser to support this year's event. We have partnered with the Mallards for a special evening game on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm, where \$8 from each ticket sold (when using the QR code) will be donated to the DCSO Veteran Shoot. The Mallards have reserved a dedicated section for our group, which will expand as tickets are purchased. See flyer at end of newsletter.

Participation in this fundraiser is open to everyone; you do not need to be a Veteran to attend. We encourage you to share this invitation with family, friends, co-workers, and local Veteran organizations."

#### **Registration for Mallards/DCSO Fundraiser:**

<https://madison-mallards.nwltickets.com/Tickets/SelectPromoSeats?PromoCode=VETSHOOT25>

**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 May 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Commander Zanon.

A motion was made by Dan Cady and seconded by Dave Vidlock to accept the minutes of the April 17th meeting as printed in the 245er, motion carried.

A motion by Dennis Heiliger and seconded by Dave V. to accept the minutes of April 17th Executive board meeting as read by the Adjutant; motion carried.

Finance: Finance report was handed out; Joe H. made a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave V. to accept the finance report subject to audit, motion carried.

Chaplain: Tim reported on Memorial Day and that he is preparing the program.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice, please send in your dues to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice: No report

SAL: Kevin reported that they have 5 new members and the fundraiser for the Murphy family raised a lot of money for the family. Whitey will be doing the breakfast for Memorial Day. Tom Helleckson is working with Dave Montag on opening the bar on Thursdays during the summer.

Americanism: No report, need a new person to take this position over as Bill Statz has retired.

Children and Youth: No report

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No report

Post Service Officer: Joe reported we need 3 delegates for State Convention in July. Emily Cash has volunteered for one of the positions, so we still need 2 more. More will be brought up at the June meeting.

Public Relations: No report

Old Business: No old business

New Business and Correspondence: Commander Zanon reported on the Good Neighbor Festival changing their name this year to The Good Matey City

Good of the American Legion: Dick Zwettler needs help on Tuesday May 20<sup>th</sup> to put out the flags at the 3 cemeteries. Also, the M-1 rifles will get cleaned after that. Gary I. made a motion to take money out of the Edward Jones account to make up the difference and what was raised so far in donations to pay for the new playground equipment. Dan C. 2<sup>nd</sup> no further discussion, motion carried.

Kitty: \$14.00 no winner

50/50: Ted K.

Brandy: Gary I, donated it back

Commander Zanon adjourned the meeting at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Itten, Adjutant

## Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245'ers,

President Flo Bayer

May was a busy month! We were honored to provide color guard for our Badger Honor Flight heroes, had a successful Culver's Middleton Share Night, hosted the Dane County meeting by providing dinner and desserts, paid our respects at the Valley Home - CP, St. Martin's - Martinsville, St. Paul's - Marxville, St. John's - Black Earth, St. Francis Xavier - CP, & St. Mary's - Pine Bluff cemeteries and participated in the Memorial Day parade/Legion Family Memorial Day service at our Veterans Memorial.

June 12<sup>th</sup> is National Women Veterans Recognition Day; this date marks the anniversary of the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, which granted women permanent status in the U.S. military.

**Poppy Day** - We are grateful to Sheila Luhman for chairing our Poppy program, to our volunteers who asked for donations at the Piggly Wiggly, our local businesses (Crossroads Coffeehouse, CP Culvers, Vessel Café, PJ's Pizza, Mike's Mobil, CP Pharmacy, Jims Auto Repair Middleton) who put out a Poppy Donation can and to those of you who donated to this important cause near and dear to our hearts! Check out this great short video on the National Auxiliary site with many WI members helping us learn. All \$ collected go to Veterans, Active Duty and their families. <https://www.legion-aux.org/national-poppy-day> . We are still taking donations for our Poppy Collection: <https://square.link/u/f8mfsR69>



**“Wear a Poppy, Honor a Veteran”**



Auxiliary member Vicki Smith's husband Brad has been deployed to Kuwait where he will be providing psychiatric care for soldiers. Brad, we appreciate your service to our country and troops. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he is away. I'm sure words of encouragement would be welcome.

Bradley Smith  
328th COSC/ 10 FSH  
APO, AE 09330

Couple of pictures to share:

**Auxiliary Scholarship** – Congratulations to Alexandra Schutz, our 2025 Virginia Faust and shared Auxiliary / Legion scholarships recipient. I'm sure you'll enjoy school in MN



Flo Bayer, Alexandra Schutz, Sandra Faust, Barb Schutz

Great turnout of 18 Auxiliary Members at our May Meeting. (Pic by Joe Hodgson)



**Lunch Committee – Jane Itten**

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** - Sheila Luhman, Krystal Swanson, Jaye Capel, Janel Kruchten, Betty Mielke. If you can't help with making a dessert or help set up or clean up, please call or email Jane at 608-712-3133; gijacondo@gmail.com. Please feel free to leave a message. No meeting in July.

**Membership – Debby Niebuhr**

We are collecting the 2026 dues, Seniors (18+) \$35.00 and Juniors (0-17) \$6.00. You can make checks payable to: "WI UNIT 245" and bring it to the June 19th Legion meeting or mail it to me, Debby Niebuhr PO BOX 3, CP, WI 53528. We hope to have everyone's dues by the end of July. If you prefer to pay with your credit card, I will be emailing everyone with the information. National Dept doesn't have the phone lines available year round. We are expecting them to open Mid-July. Thanking you in advance for your help with getting our Unit's dues in by the end of July.

**Sons of The American Legion****Kevin Boehnen**Monthly meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on June 19th

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. This year's winner of the \$500.00 scholarship is Alexandria Schutz.

Steak Dinner May 16th

Thanks to all who helped make this a successful dinner. Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand, Paul Lochner, Ed Zander, Brad Niebuhr, Greg Roessler and Kevin Boehnen. We would also like to thank the Auxiliary for bringing all the desserts and helping with the cleanup of the kitchen.

Memorial Day May 26th

I would like to thank Mathew Cash, Tim McKee, Brian Faust, David Faust, Ron Faust, Dave Maier, Noel Sarbacker and Kevin Boehnen for participating in attending the cemeteries and Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. Also Greg Roessler, Ed Zander and Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand for making the breakfast before we went to the cemeteries.

Flag Crew

Thank you goes out to Rich Roberts, Rod Faust and Kevin Boehnen for helping put up the flags at homes and businesses on Memorial Day.

Badger Honor Flight

We were the color guard at the return flight for the Badger Honor Flight on May 10th with the Auxiliary and Legion. Thank you to Brad Niebuhr, Ron Faust, Brian Faust and Kevin Boehnen for helping honor our Veterans.

Recyclable Materials

I would like to thank Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand, Rod Faust, Tom Hellickson, Tom Aeschbach and Kevin Boehnen for helping when called to help collect recyclable materials.





# Vet Shoot



YOUR TICKET PACKAGE

