

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

November 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.

Post 245 Sick Call

Chaplain Tim Engling

Paul Dull – 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:

November 02 Lions Club

09 SAL Last Mans Club

12 Auxiliary Tailgate Party

16 Legion, SAL, Aux mtg

28 Model T Club

December 01 Santa Visit

05 Lions Club

14 100 Year Anniversary meeting

21 Legion, SAL, Aux mtg

26 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.

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.

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

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

Commander's Message

Steve Zanon

Hello American Legion Family,

If you missed the October meeting, you missed among other things a fine pulled pork dinner prepared by Doug and Judy Deaton. Not to worry though, I probably ate your share. Thank you Deatons and Auxiliary desert makers, it was really delicious!

We had a nice guest speaker presentation by Heather Holy of Gunderson Funeral homes on veteran's funeral benefits, and the important gift to your family that is advanced funeral planning. She handed out a good worksheet tool. If you wanted to reach out to her she can be reached at hholy@gundersonfh.com.

We have recently been appealing to people to fill the position of Bar manager to relieve Pat Andreoni of his responsibilities after serving so well, for so long. We have had a terrific response and we thank Dave Montag for taking over Bar Manager and Second Vice. Debbie Niebuhr has been instrumental in keeping things organized and

reminding us of what we promised during previous meetings. She, along with Christie Zanon have refined the process of renting the hall to a customer friendly, seamless process. Thank you all for your teamwork!

Thank you also to Emily Cash, who has initiated, organized, advertised, and run the 2023 Spooky Fun Night at post 245 October 30, and 31st. This huge undertaking is the best possible example of initiative, and service to community, while highlighting our organization's relevance and commitment to youth and community service. Thanks Emily!

Earlier in the month we provided funeral honors at the burial ceremony of veteran Dennis Kerl. His family was appreciative of Pat Andreoni's Chaplain remarks and our rifle squad presentation. Thank you to Dick Zwettler for organizing the honors and getting everyone together. Turns out though, that there was a rifle in Dick's car that went unfired; the result of a shrinking color guard. Odd as it is to say it, Funeral honors has become one of my favorite things to do with the American legion: Dressing in our uniform, meeting up with the members outside the post, Honoring the veteran, seeing the family's pride and appreciation, all of it is really rewarding without investing a lot of time. It is an important function of ours to show up with garrison caps, Jackets, black pants and dark shoes to represent the Legion and serve our veterans and families. I never had trouble asking off from work, in fact it seemed a point of pride to my employer. The dwindling number of members who can show up with the hat and jacket they bought for almost 200 dollars, walk across uneven cemetery grass and stand tall while firing a rifle, presents a looming crisis to our culture and tradition. If you are a newly affiliated member, or one who could just do more, I ask that you reawaken your commitment to serve: Purchase a hat and Jacket from Dan Cady, get on a roster with Dick Zwettler, and come out the next time there is a funeral. Your chest will swell with pride, I promise.

I attended the 3rd district fall Conference on the 21st along with Joe Hodgson and Bill Statz. Our post was presented with a "highest % of retention" award plaque which will soon be on display. It is an award which is truly yours, Thank you.

Others will be noting some of the upcoming events, so now is a good time to be marking up your calendar.

- Honor Flight will be arriving back to Dane County Airport November 4th at 8:00pm, it would be nice to see a good turn out from our whole family to receive honored veterans which include three from our post.
- Saint Francis school invites veterans to a vet appreciation assembly at 0800 on November 9th.
- November 12th there is a Tailgate party at the Hall, See Deb Niebuhr's note.
- 9 December is the filling and delivery of fruit baskets; no breakfast this year due to kitchen already being reserved, meet at the Piggly Wiggly to begin your route. Kevin Boehnen asks that you pre-register on the website for this.
- Draw down is scheduled to occur February 10th,
- There will be no Legion, SAL, or Auxiliary meeting in February!
- Pancake Breakfast is scheduled to occur March 17th and volunteers are needed.

That's it for now, Sorry about being long winded this month, thanks for reading.
See you all soon,
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Chaplain – Tim Engling

I apologize for my absence from a couple recent meetings due to work and family commitments.

The Legion supported military funerals in October, and we remember those who are suffering.

We remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have passed, including:

Herb Niebuhr, father-in-law of Debby Niebuhr, the Auxiliary President. Herb passed on October 21, 2023, at age 95. He and Lois moved to Cross Plains in 1952, where they raised six children. He was active in our community as Village Trustee and Village President, as well as St. Martin's Lutheran Church and the Park Grade School. A celebration of life will be held at the Post on Father's Day, June 16, 2024, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Harold Nicholas Weber, age 81, passed on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. Harold graduated from Middleton High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army, 44th General Hospital Army Unit in 1961, and he served in the Army Reserves. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on October 28, 2023.

Martin Leo Richardson, age 81, of Mount Horeb, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023. He served in the National Guard during Vietnam. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on November 6, 2023.

Kenneth R. "KC" Carpenter, age 85, passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. After high school, Ken enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Germany.

Thomas Gail Handel, age 86, of Mount Horeb, passed away on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. He served two years in the U.S. Army, from June 1959 to June 1961.

Donald A. "Butch" Hebgen, age 75, of Madison, passed away on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. He served in the Reserves.

Your Chaplin, Tim Engling @ timengling@gmail.com

Fruit / Flower Baskets – Judi Deaton

Fruit / Flower delivery day is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th. Volunteers are needed to make deliveries. There will not be a breakfast this year due to the kitchen already in use. Meet at the Piggly Wiggly at 9:00am to pick up fruit baskets / flowers. Any questions, call Judi at 608-370-2269.

Message from Dan Cady:

Dear Comrades:

We need a few Legionaries who would like to get involved

1. We need legionaries who would be interested in running a flag route in 2024. This involves putting our flags on Holidays and picking them up in the evening.
2. Needed someone to take over care of Veterans Memorial.
3. Needed person to set up flag routes and maintain flags (collect moneys and get to finance officer).
4. Person to do labels on a monthly basis for Bulletin and put them on envelopes.
5. Individual to maintain legion Grounds
6. Color Guard participants for Funerals (Firing Squad) etc.

Please contact Me or One of the Officers
Dan Cady 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 October 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by Commander Zanon.

The first motion was to accept the minutes as printed in the 245 was made by Phil, seconded by Dan with the motion passing.

Next motion was to accept the minutes for the executive meeting as read by the Adjutant was made by Phil, seconded by Gary and the motion carried.

James Melton from Middleton is one of our members and attended his first meeting with us. We are glad to have him with us. Also new member Phil Turner volunteered to be part of our color guard. We thank him for that and always need more members to help.

FINANCE: Lee passed out his report going over expenses and income and answering questions. A motion to accept the report pending audit was made by Joe, seconded by Gary with the motion passing,

1st VICE: Emily stated our paid membership is now at 129 paid for 79%.

3rd VICE: Dan presented the legion with a donation check for new trees in the amount of \$1000.00 for the park. He also mentioned that Dave Montag will now be our new bar manager as second vice.

SONS: Kevin says membership is at 109 out of 119 for 91.6%. They will be cooking for the moto cross outing on the 28th and the meeting in Nov for the Thanksgiving meal.

AMERICANISM: Bill presented the new table runner he ordered for the post; St Francis is holding a vet appreciation gathering on 11/9/2023 @ 8 am. We also will be sending 2 to Badger Boys state. A motion to approve \$800.00 for the event was made by Gary. Seconded by Dan with the motion passing,

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICE: Dave reported the legion has now surpassed 100,000 lbs. of metal recycled for about \$12000.00.

POST SERVICE OFFICER: Joe mentioned if anyone wants to have their furnace checked out using the Heats on Program, please call the Dane County service officer and see if you can get on the list.

NEW BUSINESS: Steve read the thank you letters to the membership. The membership discussed whether we should hold a February meeting. Steve made a motion to skip the meeting that month, seconded by Joe and passed by the membership. Also, there is an Honor Flight on 11/4/2003 and there will be 3 possibly 4 post members on that flight. If possible, please come to the airport and welcome them home.

Other events are the Fruit basket delivery date is 12/9/2023, AUX tailgate event is 11/12/2023, drawdown date is on 2/10/2024.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Emily has planned and organized a SPOOKY FUN NIGHT at the post for the kids on Oct 30 and 31st. Many fun activities for the kids on this one

GOOD OF THE LEGION: Pat mentioned the Moto cross event will be on 10/28/2023 and we need a couple bartenders. Dick needs volunteers on 11/14/2023 to pick up flags from the cemeteries, meet at the legion at 9 am.

KITTY WINNER: Peanuts, who donated the \$ 75.00 to the SPOOKY FUN NIGHT for the kids.

BRANDY: Bill Statz

50/50: Dave

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Heiliger, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

President Debby Niebuhr

Hello Everyone,

Well once again, Doug and Judi Deaton outdid themselves. Their meal was very tasty, I even went back for seconds. And of course, the desserts were awesome.

We will be collecting Pennies for our Badger Girl State delegates and next June, they will take them to Oshkosh for the Penny War. If you have extra pennies, please send them our way.

We are having a TAILGATE PARTY on November 12th from 11-4 and hope all of you can join us for the Packer game, card games, raffles and honoring the Veterans. The money will go to the Badger Girl State program where we send delegates to learn about how our government works.

We will be cleaning the Legion's kitchen on Monday, December 4th from 9am—12pm. Feel free to join us. Many hands make light work.

The Fruit Basket Delivery Date is set for Saturday, December 9th. Route drivers will meet at the Piggly Wiggly in Cross Plains at 9am to get their route and to pick up the Fruit and flowers for those on their list. If you've been a part of this project in the past be sure to touch base with Doug and Judi Deaton to let them know you can help this year. Doug's email: casliti@gmail.com and Judi's phone# 608-370-2269.

Upcoming dates:

- December 21st is our Christmas/Holiday Party Potluck with no business meeting. The ham will be provided. Plan on joining us for all the goodies.
- February 10th will be the Draw Down, so save that date.
- March 17th we will have a Pancake Breakfast as a Fundraiser, volunteers will be needed. This is a Legion Family Fundraiser, similar to the Spaghetti Dinner where we will need all hands-on deck.
- April 20th is the 3rd District Spring Conference at the Fennimore Post. The Auxiliary is being asked to provide Baskets to be Ruffled off to collect Funds for the Homeless Women Veterans. This is a project that Florence Wasley, one of our Past Presidents of WI Dept created. It is being done to honor her.

We have been challenged to contribute \$1.00/per member to the Legion's Children Welfare Fund. We are hoping everyone will participate.

Don't forget to save Sept 21st & 22nd and help us celebrate the 100th Anniversary being planned for 2024.

We hope to see you at our November 16th meeting. I'm looking forward to the wonderful Thanksgiving meal the SAL puts on so well. Be sure to join us!

Lunch committee: Jane Itten

Cheryl Kelter, Louise Powell, Gail Faust, LuAnne Foseid, Shannon Barman. Any problems you can't make this please call Jane – 608 712 3133. Anyone wanting to get on the dessert month, let me know.

Son's of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

The SAL will be providing our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at this month's meeting on November 16th. If you are looking to help prepare the dinner please contact Whitey Hillebrand and let him know that you are interested. Otherwise we could use some help serving the dinner and cleaning up after. If you are interested show up between 4:00 and 5:30 to help get things set up or clean up between 5:30 to 7:00.

Recycling Efforts

Thank you to Whitey Hillebrand and Tim Hillebrand for helping the Post 245 with this efforts. If anyone is interested in helping talk to Whitey. Thanks to everyone who helps make this program successful, I know Buddy Schroeder would be proud of everyone.

Veteran's Day November 11th

Make sure you fly your flag on Veteran's Day. If you need one call Rod Faust at 608 576 4803.

Madison Motor Cross Dinner

The Madison Motor Cross event was held on October 28, 2023. We would like to thank the following people who worked to make this event successful; Rod Faust, Ron Faust, Noel Sarbacker, Kim Statz, Paul Lochner, Bill Diebold, Brad & Debby Niebuhr, Ed Zander, Bill Diebold, Whitey & Patty Hillebrand and myself. This event is always fun to work and a great fundraiser for the SAL.

SAL's Last Man's Club Meeting

We had 19 members initially join this club a few years ago. We will be having a meeting with a meal and maybe play cards. We had no members pass away this year. It is hard to believe that it has been two years since our comrade James "Blue" Billmeyer and Gene Stormer have passed away. This event will be held on Thursday November 9th at 6:00 PM in the basement of the American Legion Hall.

If any other SAL member is interested in joining the SAL's Last Man's Club please attend this event or contact Whitey, Rod Faust or Kevin Boehnen for more details

2022 SAL Dues

We have 119 members with 111 paid and 8 not paid. For those of you whose 2024 dues need to be paid, I sent out two letters and your 2023 card during the last two months. Dues are \$15.00 a year or pay \$60.00 for 5 years.

If you know of anyone who interested in joining let me know and I can get you a application for membership

For those of you whose 2024 dues need to be paid, please send them to me and if you are not interested in being a member send me an email at kabohnen@chorus.net and let me know. I would appreciate it if you can get your dues to me as soon as possible at:

Kevin Boehnen
Attn SAL 2021 Dues
3123 Melody Pkwy
Cross Plains WI 53528

Delivering Fruit Baskets

Put December 9th on your calendar if you would like to help out with delivering Fruit Baskets this year. Look for further information to come. Remember you need to sign up to get a route.

Prayers for Comfort & Healing

We pray that these members receive comfort & healing with their medical needs:

Rock Sarbacker Mike Obrein

Bartenders need for future events at the Legion Hall

Dave Montag has taken over the management of the bar at the American Legion hall and we thank him for doing that. When an event is held that requires the bar to be open we must have one license bartender on the premise. Dave is making a list of licensed and non licensed bartenders for future events.

If you have experience or are interested in bartending please send me an email Kevin Boehnen at kabohnen@chorus.net with the following information; Name, email address, home telephone number, cell telephone number and if you are licensed or would be willing to become a licensed bartender. Once a list is available when bartenders are needed Dave will send out email to sign up.

Our Condolences go out to the Roger Hillebrand Family

Our condolences go out to Steve (Whitey) & Patty Hillebrand, Tim & Donna Hillebrand, Todd Hillebrand, Greg & Katie Roessler, Landon and Quentin Diska on the passing of Roger Hillebrand on October 8, 2023. Roger was a SAL member for the last 20 years and we will miss him. Roger is also survived by his wife Barbara; his children, Jonathan (Kari) Hillebrand, Leah(Nic) Hauser and Nicole (Jonathan) Brauer; brother Rick (Debby) Hillebrand and many other family members and friends.

Our Condolences go out to the Robert (Rob) Dresen Family

Our condolences go out to Christy and their son Bryce on the passing of Robert (Rob) Dresen on October 9, 2023. There will be a memorial service and celebration of life on November 18th, 2023 in Merrill, Wisconsin at 11:00 AM. Rob was a SAL member for the last two years and will miss him. Rob is also survived by Luanne (Robert) Rhuland, Elana Dresen, Carla Dresen and many other family members and friends.

Our Condolences go out to the Herbert Niebuhr Family

Our condolences go out to Brad (Debby) Niebuhr, Paul Niebuhr and Scott Niebuhr on the passing of Herbert Niebuhr on October 21, 2023. Herbert was a World War II veteran who was a member of Post 245 and was very active serving the Cross Plains community over the years. A celebration of life will be held on June 16, 2024 at the American Legion Hall from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Herbert is also survived by Douglas (Jeanne) Niebuhr, Julia (Michael) Tretheway, Linda Niebuhr, Mark (Darla) Niebuhr, Gary Niebuhr and many other family members and friends.