

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

November 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

November 06 Lions Club

11 Viet Nam Vets meeting

13 SAL Last Man's Club

20 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting

22 Draw down

25 Motel T Club

December 04 Lions Club

05 Lions Santa Drive

18 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting

30 Motel 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 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 Tim Engling at 312-371-0034 or e-mail 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

Commander's Message

Steve Zanon

Hello Legion people;

We had a fine dinner and meeting in October, and our guest speakers were the family of Bud Zandor. His daughters showed some nice memorabilia and we toasted Bud with some 1955 Whiskey provided by the last man's club. They are also descended nieces of Otto Kerl, (for whom our post is partly named) and showed some period photos of barracks from 1918 before Otto shipped out and died of Spanish flu. We are looking to find a little wall space to dedicate to these donated relics.

We presented Post Legionnaire of the year to Doug Deaton for 2025 and thanked him for his many prior years of hard work. Congratulations Doug!

Our meeting was productive as you can read in Dennis Heiliger's minutes. He kindly stood in for our Adjutant Gary Itten as he was out of state. Pat Andrioni stood in for our Chaplain Tim Engling as well. Pat reported on the items under Tim's Chaplain's message.

Later that week I was able to attend the District 3 conference in Gays Mills alongside Joe Hodgson and Ted Krajewski. Department Commander Nathan Bond was also in attendance and addressed the group about Membership and buddy checking.

The following week I attended an after-action meeting in the Cross Plain's Village hall regarding the October 4th festival on our grounds. Octoberfest was deemed a success. People behaved, the music was great, and while the non-profit group that organized it didn't quite break even, beer sales were prolific and contributed to revenue. Post 245 voted to forgive the Facility rental fees for the weekend which they appreciated.

Draw Down ticket sales seems to be going gangbusters! Of the ticket envelopes I have issued, nearly all ticket stubs have returned sold, and some members are asking for additional tickets. If you have unsold tickets, please call me or email I will go out to you to get them so we can reissue to someone who can sell them. Bring whatever you have (envelopes, money) to the November meeting so that I have all 250 ticket stubs to account for.

Dick Zwettler asks to be relieved of Sargeant at arms duty as he is finding it physically taxing. In addition to getting funeral honor guard to march out and fire as one, he receives the call from the Honors organization, and makes the calls to get volunteers to show up for veteran's funerals. He also heads up the cemetery gravesite flag placement details. All important work for our post, and we appreciate Dick's many years of service. It would be nice to see a young motivated veteran with a little close order drill experience take this on. Please consider volunteering.

Thanks for reading; hope to see you soon!
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Chaplain's message:

Tim Engling

Bual "Dewayne" Thomason passed on October 2, 2025. He was 93 years old. Dewayne was a resident of the Middleton/Cross Plains area since 1950. We offered the possibility of having an honor guard at his funeral or using the building for a celebration of life, but they aren't having either- just a small family gathering in the spring.

Robert L. "Bob" Shields, age 98, passed on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at New Glarus Home. He honorably served our country with the U.S. Navy from 1944 – 1946. A private family burial was held as a graveside service at Valley View Cemetery.

On October 9, 2025, the Post provided an honor guard along with a Navy team for a fellow veteran in Marzville.

Adjutants Report

Gary Itten

We have a Sergeant at Arms position open and we need one person to chair our Americanism and one for our Children & Youth programs and if interested contact Commander Zanon. We still need 1 or 2 people to do a flag route and someone to take over the administrative part of the flag program. Also, looking for 1 or 2 people to run the golf outing. We have some members doing numerous positions at our post and hope some of our members would step up to fill these positions.

Fyi, if you are moving or have moved please let us know by emailing me at gcitten48@gmail.com or Flo Bayer at thebayes1@gmail.com. It costs the post money when we get newsletters back with the wrong address.

Thank you from Doug Deaton

Thank you to my wife Judi, her sister Peggy Schroud and Phil Vallejos for your help with preparing the October meal.

Thank you to Post 245 and Commander Steve Zanon for presenting me with the 2025 Legionnaire of the Year. I am truly honored and on Thursday evening I was totally speechless. I thought this couldn't be right I'm just the cook.

This award means a lot; it is really an honor to serve you the American military veterans. The award has my name on it, but it wouldn't be were it not for the help I receive every month. The meals really are a team effort. The captain of our team is my wife, Judi. She is with me every month working right along side me and keeping me straight on many things. She is the creative genius behind the table decorating that adds a little splash of color to the otherwise white tables. She also is the coordinator for all things associated with fruit basket delivery. This award is hers as much or more than mine.

Our team wouldn't be complete without Debby Niebuhr. Debby has gotten us out of a lot of scrapes from missing keys (help were locked out!) to working with us each month. She is instrumental in all that we do.

I want to say thanks to the newest members of the team, Phil Vallejos and Ed Pelowsky. Your assistance has made it easier for Judi to tell me no when I ask for help cooking.

Again, Thank You Post 245 for the honor. Thank you to all who have helped with meal preparation and set-up over all the meals and all the years.

Veteran's Day Breakfast

There will be a Veteran's Day Breakfast on Saturday November 15th from 9am to noon at the Madison Elks Lodge #410. The address is 711 Jenifer Street, Madison, WI. Everyone is welcome to attend the buffet breakfast.

Veterans & active duty military eat for FREE!! Cost for non-veterans is \$15, children are \$7 (ages 5-7). Children 5 or under are free. Please come out and show your support for all the members of the armed forces past and present.

Fruit Basket / Poinsettia Project

The date for the **2025 Fruit Basket/Poinsettia Project** is *Saturday, December 13, 2025*. Volunteers are needed to help deliver baskets/plants! Please contact Pat Cady at patcady@yahoo.com or call (608) 576-9764 to sign up for a route. Volunteers meet at the Piggly Wiggly at 9:00 a.m. to pick up baskets/flowers.

Legion shirts, caps etc for sale

FYI: We have Legion caps baseball caps, short sleeve and long sleeve shirts, jacket and sweatshirts. See me if interested in any of these items.

Dan Cady

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 October 16, 2025

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

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the 245 newsletter was made by Dick Zwettler with a second by Joe Hodgson, the motion carried.

A motion to accept the Executive minutes as read was made by Bill Diebold with a second by Dennis Heiliger, the motion carried.

We are happy to have Ron Adler as a new member with us tonight along with visiting member Rick McClain and Dave Havlik from the Legion Riders motorcycle club.

FINANCE: Bill passed out his monthly financial report. The October fest was a successful event with beer sales at \$3461.00. We will be giving 75% of this back to the organizer Rachel Adams of Main Street Market with our agreement. Steve made a motion to forgive the rental fee of \$ 100.00 and to donate \$500.00 to the organizer, a second was Joe Hodgson, motion carried. A motion to accept the financial report pending audit was made by Joe Hodgson second was Dan Cady with the motion passing.

CHAPLIN: No report

1st VICE: Emily reported our paid membership currently is at 133 pd leaving us in need of 46 more to reach 100%.

2nd VICE: No report

3rdVICE: Dave reports that our metal recycling program is going well with metal prices stable.

SAL: Kevin mentioned the loss of two members Jim Bratten and Dave Statz. Their paid membership is 116 out of 117. They will be on the Nov 8th honor flight with four members going. On Nov13th they will hold the Last Mans meeting honoring Roc Sarbacker. They will be cooking the Thanksgiving meal for the Nov meeting.

POST SERVICE OFFICER: Joe mentioned the VA hospital needs people to be ambassadors. Please see JOE if you are interested.

NEW BUSINESS: Gary is asking for one or two people to do a small flag route. He is also looking for someone to manage the administrative work for the flag program. Dave Havlik from the Legion Riders club donated \$250.00 to us for using our post for their meetings. Steve Zanon made a motion to allow the club to use our post at no charge, second was Emily Cash, the motion carried.

KITTY: Bill Diebold - Donated to playground fund

50/50: Dave Vidlock

BRANDY: Dennis Heiliger - donated to the drawdown

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted

Dennis Heiliger {subbing for Gary Itten, Adjutant}

Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245'ers,

President Flo Bayer

November 11th is the day to be thankful for our Veterans service to our country on Veterans Day. Do something special with your Veteran to let them know they are appreciated. Let's also be thankful for our families that can share the harvest at our table on Thanksgiving and remember those who cannot be with us. I really enjoy the change of seasons, especially in Wisconsin. Don't forget to appreciate the gift of each new day we are given. It's a good

time to take stock of what we have done in the past season, and what our hopes are for the next season for our Families, Friends, Community and Nation.

It was a busy October meeting. We signed cards to be given to our vets who are in a VA hospital or WI veteran homes on Veterans Day. I will have Christmas cards for us to sign at our November meeting. Bring your own if you want. I will deliver them to the Madison VA hospital. We voted on our annual distribution of Poppy Drive Funds. Poppy donations are used for veterans, active duty servicemembers, and their families. Some examples we donated to are Camp American Legion, Veteran & Family Assistance Fund, Homeless Female Veterans, National Child Well-Being, Fisher House – Madison, WI VA Hospitals, & Veterans homes. Your poppy donations are an important way we enrich the life of others!



While our funds are limited to what we receive, maybe you could also consider supporting the 2025-2026 Needs/Wish List for our VA hospitals and homes. Check out [Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation \(https://AmLegionAuxWI.org/var\)](https://AmLegionAuxWI.org/var)

Virginia Faust Scholarship Review – I'd like to remind Auxiliary members to review our scholarship requirements and application. We value your input and will vote on changes at our November meeting. Education is important to our youth and their families.

Veterans Day



The winner of the [2025 Veterans Day Poster Contest](#) is Jeremy D. Carpenter. Jeremy's creation, entitled *Unified by Service*, reflects the 2025 Veterans Day theme "Service to Our Nation" by visually uniting all uniformed services under one flag and one purpose. Jeremy describes his artwork as "formal, structured, and patriotic. It pays tribute to all Veterans regardless of when or where they served, and it emphasizes that service to the nation is not confined to one uniform, one battlefield, or one generation. The eagle, flag, and seals work together to portray unity, honor, and a continued commitment to freedom." Aux. Unit 245 gives thanks to all Veterans who served our country. Freedom and democracy are never free. Your service is something that should never be taken for granted.

Pocket Flags – A mother of a servicemember who is going to be deployed contacted Debby Niebuhr asking if we had any pocket flags that we could give her to distribute. The card that goes with them says *"A flag for your pocket so you can always carry a little piece of home. We are praying for you, and we are proud of you" "Thank you for defending our country and our freedom"*. The mother was especially touched about carrying a little piece of home and wanted her servicemember to know that. Way to go Debby for working with other Dane County Units and folding 50 of these herself for distribution!

We are grateful to **Culvers of Middleton** for sponsoring our **Share night on Tues. Nov. 11th 5-8pm**. The percentage of sales that we receive will be used for our Scholarships and Badger Girls State programs. Be sure to put it on your calendar & support us. I like to bring extra pints home for an easy dessert. Devil's Food Cake is the flavor of the day. Yum!

Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

If you can't make it, call or email Jane 608-7123133. gijacondo@gmail.com so I can get someone to cover. Please feel free to leave a message. Thanks to everyone for always helping out.

- **November** – Cheryl Kelter, Louise Powerll, Gail Faust, LuAnn Foseid, Shannon Barman, Deb Niebuhr.
- **December** – Pot luck Christmas Party. Bring your favorite dish.
- **January and February** – No Auxiliary meeting.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

If you know of anyone that'd like to join, we are looking for 7 new members. THANKS AGAIN FOR PAYING YOUR DUES; WE TRULY HAVE A WONDERFUL GROUP OF MEMBERS.

Service Opportunities

- Sat. Nov 8th – Badger Honor Flight
- Tues. Nov. 11th 5-8pm – Culvers of Middleton Share night
- Sat. Nov. 22nd 5-9 pm – Drawdown
- Wed. Dec. 3rd – 115th Fighter Wing Christmas Cookies (2 cookies to an individual bag)
- Sat. Dec. 13th – Fruit Basket Delivery – Contact Pat Cady

Sons of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on November 20th.

Flags

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

Motor Cross held October 25th

On October 25th we provided the meal for the Motor Cross Event. We have been cooking for this event starting back in 2009. They have generously given back to the SAL and American Legion over the years. I would like to thank the people who made this event successful Steve (Whitey) Hillebrand, Greg Roessler, Mike Diebold, Noel Sarbacker, Dan Layton, Rod Faust, Jack Regan, Kevin Boehnen and Tom Hellickson.

Badger Honor Flight - November 8th

We are still looking for 1 member to help Kevin Boehnen, David Faust & Ron Faust serve as the Color Guard let me know if you are interested. Contact me at 608 798 2116 or kabohnen@chorus.net.

SAL's Last Man's Club - November 13th

Just a reminder that we will be holding our Last Man's Club on November 13th. We will also be remembering Rock Sarbacker at this event who passed away on November 20, 2024.

Legion Meeting Thanksgiving Dinner - November 20th

We will be cooking the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20th. If you would like to help out please contact Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand or let me know at 608 798 2126 or kabohnen@chorus.net.

Drawdown - November 22nd

The SAL is cooking the meal for the Drawdown this year on Saturday November 22nd. If you are able to help out let Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand or let me know at 608 798 2126 or kabohnen@chorus.net.

Fruit Basket Delivery - December 13th

This year we will be delivering Fruit Baskets for the holidays on December 13th. If you are interested in helping out (find another SAL member, friend or family member to help you) then email Pat Cady at pat.cady@yahoo.com to sign up for a route.

2026 Membership Dues

We are down to 5 members we are trying to collect for 2026 membership. Dues are \$15.00 for one year or \$60.00 for five years. We currently have 112 out of our 117 members paid for 2026. That is 96% of our members are paid please consider the \$60.00 for five year options as it helps when trying to collect membership dues each year. If you know someone is interested I have applications to join or you would like to sign up your grandsons let me know. Our goal is to have 117 members signed up for 2026.

26th ANNUAL DRAW-DOWN RAFFLE

Fundraiser by the [American Legion Post 245](#)

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30, Drawing after Dinner

Only **250 tickets** will be sold, and there are **30 cash prizes**

6 for \$50, 19 for \$100, 1 for \$200, 1 for 300, 1 for \$400, 1 for \$599,

and a grand prize of \$1,500.

You do not need to be present to win!

Raffle tickets are \$50 each

Includes: Dinner, and either a soft drink, rail drink, beer, or wine.

Additional guest dinner and drink \$10 each.

How to buy tickets: Call (608)213-9530

A draw down is a raffle done in reverse. All tickets are put in the tumbler and mixed. Tickets are then drawn down and announced. Largest prizes are drawn last. Proceeds from this event go directly to this volunteer organization to defray costs of honoring fallen veterans, operating our post and community park, the sponsorship of local youth to attend Badger Boys and Girls State summer camps, American Legion Youth baseball leagues, Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA), Youth Oratorical contests, Dane County Government Day, and multiple college scholarships.

***Raffle drawing and dinner location:** American Legion Post 245

2217 American Legion Dr, Cross plains, WI 53528

Thank you for supporting

[American Legion Post 245 Cross Plains-Middleton](#), and **Good Luck!**