The 245er

SERVING: the NATION - the VETERAN - the CROSS PLAINS & MIDDLETON COMMUNITIES

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan **Post 245**

November 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.

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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

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

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Upcoming Events

November	05	Lions Club	**December** 03	Lions Club
	12	SAL Last Man's Club	05	Lions Santa Drive
	14	Drawdown	17	Legion Christmas celebration
	19	Legion, SAL, Aux meeting	29	Model T Club
	24	Model T Club		

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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 thebayers1@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	Steve Zanon	608-213-9530
	AUXILIARY PRESIDENT	Katrina McKee	608-217-2023
	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 post 245, and Happy November!

We are in the final days before our Draw-Down event on the 14th. Tickets seem to be selling nicely, and it is likely we'll sell out prior to the dinner. If you have an envelope of tickets, I will need to know when you are ready for me to pick up your stubs and money in order to get data entered on the poster forms so please give me a call or email.

Metal hauling has been busy this past month with donations from member Dennis Jones, (who built our front door veterans memorial), and Whitey Hellenbrand has been making multiple trips to Duluth Trading company and hauling to recycle center. Thank you volunteers for all the back work of moving this heavy stuff into the trailer so often during the month.

Our Third Vice Mike Ripp has signed up for a marching event fundraiser to fight veteran suicide. He has offered the following website address in case you are interested in sponsoring his march. It is:

https://runsignup.com/Race/187390/Donate/DpFDMvaaPZLXZKIq?fbclid=Iwb21leAVQKXljbGNrBVApYWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHBkb2YFc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQMMzUwNjg1NTMxNzI4AAEfPqasm4CzfNk-ijuGjM_wu6E9IMhotkx56FV3fGDlproD_RA46Fqrpv_bY4I_aem_GcYQyLO4E8Og1qqn0a2lww

I wasn't here for our annual Spooky fun day event on Halloween, I am hoping Katrina reports on this event which is a terrific volunteer effort and service to the community.

Thanks everyone; Hope to see you soon at the Post.
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Notes from the Adjutant: - Gary Itten

Give Veterans A Smile: Free for Veterans: Dental Exams and X-rays, November 7th. 10 AM-2 PM. Madison College Dental Clinic, - 1705 Hoffmann St. Madison, First come, first serve, sign up begins at 9 AM. Documents needed: Proof of Military Service. Dental cleanings will be scheduled at a later date at Madison College at no cost to Veterans. Some restorative care will also be scheduled at a later date at Madison College at no cost, based on each Veteran's individual needs and the complexity of treatment. This Hosted by Madison Area Technical College in collaboration with Local Dental Professionals.

We need a member to step up for an open Sgt. of Arms position. You would be responsible for the Honor Guard. which would entail calling members that are on the honor guard for funerals and other events. We are also looking for members to join the Honor Guard as our numbers are dwindling.

If you haven't renewed your dues ($45.00) for 2027 please send a check to Post 245, PO Box 188, Cross Plains, WI 53528, or you can renew online at mylegion.org. We would like to get to 100% by the end of the year. We still have some members that have not paid for 2026, please get them in now.

The newsletter committee has been working hard to get addresses up to date. It not only cost the post to mail out the newsletter, but it cost the post to get the newsletter returned because of a wrong address. If you are moving please inform me at gijacondo@gmail.com, or call 608-225-4722, or Flo Bayer at thebayers1@gmail.com or call 608-798-4671 of your new mailing address. This also pertains to people who snowbird. Your newsletter is not forwarded, so please inform one of the people above of your dates that you will be gone for, so that we will not mail out a newsletter, and you will have to read it online.

Date for Fruit Basket / Poinsettia Project

The date for the 2026 Fruit Basket/Poinsettia Project is Saturday, December 12th. Please contact Pat Cady to sign up for a route: pat.cady@yahoo.com or 608-576-9764.

Clothing for Legion Post 245 Cross Plains / Middleton – Dan Cady
We have items for sale if interested: Caps, Legion & Baseball, Shirts, Jackets, and Sweatshirts.
If interested, contact Dan Cady. Send me an email; dcady2030@gmail.com or call 608 438 2987.

- Short sleeve shirts – $25.00; 2XL 27.00
- Long sleeve shirts – $27.00; 2XL 29.00
- Lined dress legion hats – $75.00
- Lined jackets – $75.00; 2XL 77.00
- Baseball caps – $25.00
- Sweat shirts – M-XL $34.00; 2XL $38.00

Legion Baseball
At our September Post 245 Legion meeting, we had special guests, players, coaches and parents representing our MHS/Legion Baseball teams.

We sponsored 3 teams this year. All had winning seasons. Also, the 17U (age 17 and under) team also won Regional Championship! They moved on to the State Championship tournament, but fell a little short, being eliminated after 2 wins, losing in the semi-final round.

First photo, from left to right: Bill Statz, Cam Beier (17U), Charlie Schulenberg (17U), Brody Kalscheuer (19U), Ben Schulenberg - Coach 17U, Eric Roden - Middleton Baseball and Softball Commissioner. Charlie is holding the 17U Regional Championship trophy.
Second photo, from left to right: Parents of Cam Beier, Cam, Charlie, Parents of Charlie Schulenberg. Charlie is holding the 17U Regional Championship trophy.





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 15, 2026
The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Commander Zanon. A motion was made by Dennis H. and seconded by John Hill to approve the minutes of the Sept. 17 meeting as printed in the 245 newsletter, motion carried.

The Executive Board meeting minutes of Sept. 17th were not available.
No Guests or new members.

Finance: Bill presented a finance report. Joe H. made a motion to accept the financial report, and Dan C. seconded it; motion carried. Bill also presented a budget for 2027.

Chaplain: No Report,

1st Vice: Gary reported we are at 66% for dues being paid.

2nd Vice: No report
3rd Vice: No report
SAL: No report

Americanism: Joe H has started working on the Badger Boys State for next year with Middleton High School.

Children & Youth: Bill Statz made a motion to sponsor 3 American Legion teams in 2027 for $3,000.00, Joe Hodgson, 2nd the motion and it passed.

Athletic: No Report
Community Service: No Report
Post Service Officer: No report
Historian: No report
Public Relations: No Report
Old Business: None

New Business and Correspondence: Commander Zanon read 2 thank you notes. Dan C. made a motion to host a lunch stop for the WI Legion Riders June 25-27, 2027; Emily S. seconded it and motion carried. More details are forthcoming. Dan C. made a motion to donate $200.00 to WI Legion Riders, Joe H. 2nd, and motion carried.

Good of the American Legion: Bill Statz reported that Post 245 will be doing a flag folding ceremony at St Francis School on Nov. 10th around 9 AM. All members are welcome to attend and meet at 8:45 AM in front of the church.

Kitty: Shane Knickmeier, not present
50/50: Dan Cady, donated it back to the Post
Brandy: Emily Statz

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

Auxiliary Newsletter **President Katrina McKee**

Hello Everyone!

Fall is in full swing! October was very busy for us and I wanted to thank all of you that helped with the VA Baby Shower, the Enchanted Valley Acres Food Truck and the Halloween Spooky Night. It was a lot of work but great to get out into the community.

I had many people tell me on Halloween how much they enjoy coming to the Legion for the activities and Haunted Maze. We had a smaller group of actors this year, but they worked hard and made it memorable for everyone. Thank you to everyone that came to help set up, run the event and clean up the next day.

The Draw Down is this month so please check your calendars and sign up to help with that fundraiser. It's always a good time. Contact Steve Zanon or Flo Byer.

Yours in Service
Katrina

VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) - Flo Bayer
Important reminder for those who get healthcare services from the Madison VA. It is expected that the transition to the new electronic health records system will go smoothly, but best to be prepared for any conversion issues. In Dec. print your current prescriptions and upcoming appointments.

Communications from William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital

Big changes are coming to Madison VA Hospital and Clinics!
In January 2027, we will switch to a new system called the Federal Electronic Health Record.
More information can be found at: https://digital.va.gov/ehr-modernization/
A few simple steps now can make the transition smooo-ther for you and your care team.

Here is how you can prepare:
Schedule appointments early. Fewer slots may be open right before and after our January launch. Rest assured, we'll get you the care you need if it's time sensitive, but please be patient during the transition.
Refill and renew prescriptions early to avoid pharmacy delays.
Update your contact info. Sign in to your VA profile at **VA.gov** using your **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account to check your name, email, phone number and address. If your legal name has changed and you receive pay from the Department of Defense, confirm it's updated in DEERS.
Use secure messaging through **VA.gov** for non-urgent, non-emergency questions for your care team.
You have earned the best care possible, and this new medical record will help the VA deliver it. To get the latest news and updates visit: www.va.gov/EHRM.



Lunch Committee – Jane Itten
ALA dessert for November meeting: Cheryl Kelter, Louise Powell, Gail Faust, Shannon Barman, Deb Niebuhr. Any problem you can't make a dessert or help set up and clean call or email Jane Itten gijacondo@gmail.com, Phone 608-712-3133 thanks Jane.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr
I wish to THANK everyone for getting their dues in and for the wonderful support. Hope you can make the November meeting and help us celebrate the SAL's meal. Yum. Hope to see you at the Draw Down on November 14th at the Legion Hall. Thanks again.

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. Also reminder to fly your flag on Veteran's day. Reminder to those on flag routes we will need to pick up flags at the end of the day.

Motor Cross held October 24th

On October 24th 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, Patty Hillebrand, Greg Roessler, Rick Hillebrand, Paul Lochner, Dan Layton, Rich Roberts, Jack Regan, Tom Hellickson and Christy.

SAL's Last Man's Club - November 12th

Just a reminder that we will be holding our Last Man's Club on November 12th.

Drawdown - November 14th

The SAL is cooking the meal for the Drawdown this year on Saturday November 14th. If you are able to help out let Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand or let me know at 608 798 2113 or Kabean1960@gmail.com.

Legion Meeting Thanksgiving Dinner - November 19th

We will be cooking the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19th. If you would like to help out please contact Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand or let me know at 608 798 2113 or Kabean1960@gmail.com.

Metal Recyclables

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the metal recyclables and aluminum cans. There is a great group of 20 people between the SAL and American Legion who step up to help when a text is sent out.

2027 Membership Dues

We are down to 1 member we are trying to collect for 2027 membership. Dues are $15.00 for one year or $60.00 for five years. We currently have 108 for 2027. That is 94% of our members that the Detachment of Wisconsin assigned of the goal of 115 members.

If you know someone is interested I have applications to join or you would like to sign up your grandsons let me know.

27th ANNUAL DRAW-DOWN RAFFLE

Fundraiser by the American Legion Post 245

Saturday, November 14, 2026

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

Only **260 tickets** will be sold, and there are **31cash prizes**

6 for $50, 20 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!**

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