

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

October 2021

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 Pat Andreoni

Paul Dull – Nursing Home

John Hill – Home

Sam Daleo – Waunakee 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:

October 07 Lions Club
 21 Legion, SAL Mtg
 26 Model T Club

November 04 Lions Club
 18 Legion, SAL, Aux Mtg
 30 Model T Club

Need to include something in the Newsletter? Email Carol Yttri at carolyttri@gmail.com or call 798-4950.

HALL RENTAL: Notice to all members. There is a special rental rate for the use of the building to members. Contact Pat Andreoni at 798-3844 or email at jpandreo@aol.com

Someone ill or in the hospital? Call Pat Andreoni at 798-3844 or e-mail jpandreo@aol.com

OFFICERS: POST COMMANDER	Gary Itten	608-225-4722
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT	Karen Runk	608-415-2001
S.A.L. COMMANDER	Kevin Boehnen	608-798-2113

Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L meetings: Dinner 6:30pm; Meetings 7:30pm; Third Thursday of Month
Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday of the Month 5:15pm.

Website: www.americanlegioncp.org

Commander's Message

Gary Itten

Well fall is officially here, and the leaves will be changing colors soon.

I want to thank the Auxiliary for the wonderful meal we had last month.

The American Legion Americanism and Government Scholarship Program is awarded annually to 33 students throughout the state of Wisconsin. This is for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students who take a test online in the spring of 2022. They are tested on their knowledge of U.S., Wisconsin and County Governments, the U.S. Constitution and flag etiquette. Let your children, grandchildren know about this and for more information call (608) 745-1090, or check out the website at wilegion.org. I will have more information at the meeting.

Send in your dues (\$40.00) to our 1st Vice Commander Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.

The meeting date is Oct. 21st, with the Executive board meeting at 5:30 pm, dinner 6:30 pm and the regular mtg. at 7:30 pm.

Please stay safe and healthy and get vaccinated.

Gary Itten, Commander, Post 245

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 September 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Commander Itten at 7:29pm.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the 245er was made by Steve Dodge, second was Ed and the motion passed by vote.

A motion to accept the Executive minutes as read was made by Marty Keller, second was Mike and the motion passed by vote.

We had a repeat guest and soon to be new member Andrew Shuck who is from the Middleton area and a member of the VFW Post 8216.

FINANCE: Lee passed out his report and went over income and expenses explaining any new changes. A motion was made to accept the finance report pending audit by Dan, second was Steve Dodge. Motion passed by member vote.

1st VICE: Emily could not make the meeting but sent word to us that currently we have 125-member pd.

2nd VICE: Pat informed us he is getting some rental cancellations due to the COVID uptick.

3rd VICE= Dan informed the members of the cost to take down 2 trees would be \$ 2980.00, then stump grinding and cleanup at a cost of \$ 780.00 and to replace these 2 trees with 2 Sienna Glen Males at a cost of \$ 2250.00. It was decided to get a few more quotes.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Dave brought us up to date on metal recycling. So far this year we have gotten 115,000 lbs. recycled and received \$ 14,689.00. This is by far the best year we have had on metal.

POST SERVICE OFFICER: Joe stated the hospital needs volunteers to help them with many different duties. Post 245 has 4 members who already are volunteering. Joe Hodgesson, Terry Fearn, Jim McManamy and Larry White. If you can help, please contact Joe.

NEW BUSINESS: Any member who wants to get a Quilt of Valor at a ceremony in Oct please contact Pat.

Dennis from the Optimists is here with plans for Santa's visit. It will be the same as last year. They would like to use the building on Dec 3 to assemble gift bags for the kids and then the front of the building the next day which is Santa's visit. A motion to donate \$ 200.00 was made by Ed, second was Dave and the motion passed by member vote.

Gary is asking for volunteers to fold the flag at the Molly B concert in Nov, also for vets' day at the schools.

A motion to donate \$1000.00 to Badger Camp was made by Dan, second was Joe and the motion passed by member vote.

Andrew Shuck from VFW post 8216 has some historical papers from Middleton American Legion post 275 he will bring to us to preserve in the Oct meeting.

GOOD OF LEGION: HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes would go out to Don Vanaman who just celebrated his 90th birthday.

KITTY= Pat

BRANDY = Dennis Powell

50/50= Went to Dennis from the Optimists Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Heiliger, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

President Karen Runk

If you missed the September meeting, you really missed out on all the FUN!! The meeting was action packed with decisions on sponsoring 2 girls for Badger Girls State, we decided to match last year's Annual Donations and voted on what projects we will work in the coming months!! Those in attending the September meeting voted on the project list. The results of your votes are: Valor on Washington (11); Wisconsin VA Wish Lists (10); Purple Up! Day (8); USO Wisconsin (5); Madison Stand Down (4); CAL Wish List(4); Gold Star Families (0). Projects will be prioritized by the number of votes and may occur according to wish list requests and calendar date. For example, November is military family month, and Purple Up! Day is in April.

Other meeting updates included cards to the Capital Police, in which we decided to write more cards and mail later in September. Lorie Ballweg has been repurposing the white shirts we have. Lorie made & brought two lap blankets for Berdella Lowenberg who has 74 years & Virginia Faust who has 75 years of service with the ALA. Congratulations to and thank you both for your continuous service & dedication to veterans, the ALA organization... and the 245 Legion Family!!

Our meeting still wasn't over... We updated our Unit Standing Rules and Constitution & By-laws! Only one revision was made to the Standing Rules, and that was to add February to the months that we will not meet during the year. Revisions to the Constitution & By-laws were made to reflect the Legion Act passed in 2020. Thanks to all for your active participation and support!!

The Taste of Freedom went really well for us. The community and Legion Family mingled, sampled beverages and ate the wonderful appetizers donated by Montags and Nineteen09. There were so many ways to participate in this fundraiser, lots of baskets were raffled, 50/50 drawing, gift cards were sold, and of course Mary Jones's beautiful quilt was raffled! The committee is still totaling the funds raised and will report out in our November meeting. You will not want to miss the turkey and this report!!

A BIG SHOUT OUT and THANK YOU to Candace Montag and Katy Ripp for their donations and event planning with our committee!! Candace, Katy and their families are now members of the 245 Legion Family!! Please make welcome to these families!!

Hill & Valley Bake Sale

Great team work made this fundraiser successful!! We had a lot of baked goods, and many hands to prep & sell goodies! We sold EVERYTHING y'all brought to the park!! Incredible response from the people at the park. We raised nearly \$700 at the Hill & Valley bake sale!!!

Special thanks to Judi Deaton for arranging for bakers!! Well done, a perfect amount of goods!! Another special shout out to Sheila Luhman and Deb Niebuhr for coffee and help to get needed items from & returned to the legion hall. So helpful!!!!

2022 PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS (4 HIGHEST VOTE)

- **VALOR ON WASHINGTON**
Valor on Washington has partnered with Dry Hootch and Dane County Veterans Services and is a new apartment complex on East Washington Avenue in Madison. The building is scheduled to open November 1st. Valor on Washington is focused on housing for homeless veterans with family and is not a shelter. You can learn more about this organization by going to <https://www.valoronwashington.com>
- **WISCONSIN VA HOMES**
Access all Wisconsin VA facilities wish lists, sponsored events, and fundraisers by going to <https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/veteransHomes/VeteransHomeCF.aspx> for the latest information. Your Unit can make a difference in a veterans' life.
- **PURPLE UP! DAY**
This program celebrates the children of active duty military. There are a number ways that we can celebrate their resilience and courage. Last year we assembled activity packs for our 245 active duty. This year, we can expand our impact beyond 245 families, change the activities bag to other relevant items. The potential is endless.
- **USO WISCONSIN**
The USO of Wisconsin is working with Ft McCoy to support Afghan refugees AND has opportunities for Units to support those currently serving. They have centers throughout the state and provide support to military Family Readiness. USO Wisconsin impacts military personnel and their families in a number of ways. Find out what is currently needed at www.usowisconsin.org.

DANE COUNTY AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP: Our membership chairman, Deb Niebuhr, offered her best practices in renewing and recruiting members for 245 at the DCC membership workshop last month. Dane County units shared successes and challenges in Auxiliary membership, collaborating with other units and the department membership team. Also in attendance was the department of Wisconsin President, Diane Weggen.

DANE COUNTY DIAPER PARTY - Wm S MIDDLETON VA: UPDATE

Wow, 245 truly showed Dane County their generosity!! We delivered a very large quantity of baby diapers and wipes, and some baby bibs. The baby items filled my car trunk to the maximum! Overall, Dane county collected an enormous amount of baby supplies for the VA. In fact, we may distribute items to other veteran focused organizations like Valor on Washington.

MENTOR A VETERAN IN TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

The state of Wisconsin has formed a task force to assist military personnel transitioning to civilian life. The VetsNet organization is teaming with the Wisconsin task force to pair transitioning military service members with trained volunteer sponsors/mentors who will take the journey with the veteran. The purpose is to ensure that the veteran is supported through this critical life transition. If you are interested in being a sponsor/mentor or want to learn more, go to etssponsorship.com. Assisting veterans in transition is a critical need, and possibly a lifesaving campaign. Please contact me if you need further assistance to this website.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER EVENTS & REMINDERS

OCT 21ST – NO 245 UNIT MEETING; NO Lunch Committee

OCT 28TH – 7PM ALA DANE COUNTY MEETING, POST 501 MADISON; NO meal

NOVEMBER – MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

NOVEMBER 11TH – VETERANS DAY

REMINDER1: Please send your September hours, dollars and miles to kmrunk4@gmail.com

Membership Chair message: Debby Niebuhr

We have reached our goal of 100%. Thanks to all!! We still have a few more to collect.

October Lunch Committee

No meeting for the Auxiliary in October and no Lunch Committee

Son's of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on October 21st.

Flags

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

Condolences to James "Blue" Billmeyer Family

James "Blue" Billmeyer died on Friday September 17, 2021. Blue lived in Cross Plains and was a member for 32 years of our post. Blue was 72 when he passed away and was the first member of our SAL Last Man's Club to pass away. Blue is survived by his two daughters Brigette (Don) Best, Amber (Joe) Welsh and Brett Billmeyer along with many relatives and friends. We offer our condolences to his entire family and we will miss his dedication to the Son's of The American Legion and friendship.

2022 Membership Dues

In August everyone should have received their Membership Cards and a notice to pay your dues \$15.00 for one year or \$60.00 for five years. Second notices were sent out in September.

In 2021 we had 119 members in the SAL but we enter into 2022 with a possible total of 116 as we had three members pass away in August and September. If you know someone is interested in being a member I have applications to join.

As of October 1st we have 109 members paid with 7 members to still collect from.

We currently have 94% of our members paid for 2022. If we get the last 7 paid and get two new members we will be able to have 100% membership for 2022. We did get one new member last month welcome to our Post 245 Axle A Dickerson.

Motor Cross event is October 23rd

We will need to have members available to prepare, serve and clean up for this event looking for help from 4:00 to 7:30. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please see Whitey or myself if you are willing to help. Contact Kevin Boehnen at 608 798 2116 or kabohnen@chorus.net if you can help.

Honoring the members of the Son's Of the American Legion who have passed away

In the last six weeks we have had three members pass away. Which has brought up the discussion of how we honor SAL members after they pass away.

During the wake we will post the American Flag and the Son's of The American Legion along with a wreath.

Funeral Service may be varied in accordance with the religious belief of the deceased member, the wishes of the family of the deceased and the officiating clergy.

At the gravesite we can offer our Color Guard with flags, a short prayer and the playing of Taps.

If you are interested in helping set up the format along with prayers and getting a list of people willing to assist at funerals get in contact with Kevin Boehnen.

SAL's Last Man's Club

We had 17 members initially join this club a few years ago. We are planning to have a meeting with a meal and maybe play cards after to honor our comrade James "Blue" Billmeyer as he is the first one to pass away. This event will be held in November currently working on a date.

If any other SAL member is interested in joining the SAL's Last Man's Club please contact Whitey, Rod Faust or Kevin Boehnen.