

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

October 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

October

02 Lions Club

04 October Fest

16 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting

28 Model T Club

31 Halloween Spooky House

November

06 Lions Club

13 SAL Last Man's Club

20 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting

22 Draw down

25 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**

Greetings Post 245, Aux, and SAL;

We had a great dinner and meeting in September! In case you missed it Carol Yttri and Debby Niebuhr made up dinner and auxiliary provided some great desserts. Some local AL Baseball players and coaches were in attendance and Bill Statz had a nice program with slide show about their season. Dept Vice Commander Kohnke, Dept Historian Morris Sadicarius, 3rd district Commander Dan Obrien, and past Dept Vice Commander and Membership chair Jerry Hook were nice enough to attend as well.

Before splitting into our meetings, we also launched ticket sales for our 26th annual Draw Down event which will take place November 22nd. (Please see attached flyer). Looks to be a fun social event again this year. Please reach out for a ticket if you haven't already. Remember, thirty cash prizes available, and only 250 tickets to be sold, so you have a better than one in ten chance of winning something, with a grand prize of 1,500 bucks! Plus, dinner and a drink with friends is part of your ticket price.

A couple days after our September meeting, our Auxiliary sold pies and coffee at the Hill Valley Antique auto show.

October looks to be a great month to be around our post. The first ever Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 4th with live music all day, artisan stands, food trucks, beer, and a petting zoo.

Emily Cash is organizing the Spooky Fun day on Halloween (10/31), and is great fun to volunteer for and walk through. Local kids and families have a great time each year.

At our October Legion meeting, Lori Zander and her family will be our guest speaker. Many of you knew her father Bud Zander, and their family is directly related to one of our post's namesake Otto Kerl. Lori and family will show some historic memorabilia to us. Should be fun.

During our September County legion meeting, some of the committee officers touched on some great topics: At the VA hospital there is a continuing project called "My Service My life" program where veterans (patients mainly) tell their life stories and they are recorded for posterity. There is also a Non-profit called Veterans Smiles <https://www.objectiveveterans-smile.org/>. This site looks to be more pointed towards donors than eligible recipients, but if you are a veteran and not eligible for dental coverage, there may be some resource along this track.

Jerry Hook emphasized the importance of Buddy checks: calling someone you haven't heard from once in a while to keep in touch. Sometimes this can interrupt a cycle of loneliness and depression and can do some real good for fellow veterans.

Hope to see you all soon,
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Chaplain's message:**Tim Engling**

The Post hosted a celebration of life for Jim Bratton on September 28, 2025, sponsored by his sons.

Thank you from Bratton Family

Thank you to all members of American Legion Post 245 for helping make the Celebration of Life for our father, Jim Bratton, special. Your words of support, the location, and the many generous gifts of food made it possible to host a day in accordance with his wishes and, for that, we are eternally grateful.

With true appreciation,
The Bratton Family

Flag Program – Gary Itten

We are in the need of 1 or 2 people to take over a flag route, due to a resignation. Also, I would like to have someone take over the administration part of the flag program. This would entail marking down who pays and adding new flag participants to routes. If anyone is interested in any of these positions please call Gary at 608-225-4722 or email Gary at gcitten48@gmail.com.

Brat Stand – Gary Itten Playground Chairman

I would like to thank the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members that helped at the Brat Stand. It was a great success and all the money raised from this will go to defray the cost of the new playground equipment.

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.

Date for Fruit Basket / Poinsettia Project

The date for the **2025 Fruit Basket/Poinsettia Project** is *Saturday, December 13, 2025*. If you know of anyone who should be on the list, please contact Barb Schutz @ bschutz@tds.net or (608) 798-2770.

Notes from Bill Statz

At our September Post 245 meeting, we honored our 2025 State Champion Class AAA Legion Baseball team. See photo. Note the table full of trophies! Includes Regional Championships for the last 4 years, 2nd Place State Trophy from 2023, 2025 Tournament MVP - Chase Rogers, 2025 State Champion Class AAA Trophy, and State Champion Class AAA Commissioner's Trophy.

In addition to the players and coaches and parents, and our distinguished Post 245 Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members in attendance, we had special guests representing Department (State) and 3rd District, who came out to show support for our Post 245 Legion Baseball program.

Pictured from left to right are Bill Statz - Post 245 Legion Baseball, Jerry Hook - 3rd District Officer - Past Department VC, Dan O'Brien - 3rd District Commander, Chris Basten - Legion Baseball 19U Head Coach, **August Faessler & Brody Kalscheuer - All Star Players**, Brent Jorgensen - MHS Baseball Head Coach, Kyler Buros - Legion Baseball 19U Assistant Coach, Erick Roden - Middleton Baseball/Softball Commission, Steve Kohnke - Department Vice Commander, (and taking the photo) Morris Sadicario - Department Historian.



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 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Commander Zanon.

A motion was made by Dennis Semaru and seconded by Dave Vidlock to accept the minutes of the Aug. 21st meeting as printed in the 245er, motion carried.

Dave V. made a motion to accept the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of Aug. 21st, Bill Herriges seconded it and motion carried.

Guests were State Vice Commander Steve Kohnke, 3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien and state membership chairman Jerry Hook. Shane Knickmeier was introduced as a new member. State Vice Commander Kohnke spoke that he was impressed how well we do things. 3rd District Commander spoke about we should be doing buddy checks. Jerry Hook talked about membership and would like the state to be 100% by Veterans Day.

Finance: Bill Statz made a motion to accept the finance report subject to audit and Dave V. 2nd it, motion carried.

Chaplain: Tim mentioned that Cody and Beau Bratton's dad Jim passed away and a celebration of life will be held at the legion hall Sept. 28th from Noon until 4 P. M.

1st Vice, No report, you can send your dues to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.

2nd Vice: No report

3rd Vice: Dave Vidlock wanted to thank everyone that helps out with the recycling program.

SAL: Kevin gave a finance report of the SAL, mentioned the names that help with recycling. The SAL will be doing the cooking for the Motorcross race Oct. 25th. They have 106 paid members for 2026. Two members have passed away Jim Bratton and David Statz and to keep their families in your prayers. Nov. 8th will be doing the Honor Guard for the return of the Badger Honor Flight. Nov. 8th. The SAL last man's club will have their meeting and to honor Rock Sarbacker who passed away last year. He also reported that his brother nominated his dad Gerald for a new roof, and he won, which will be put on by Heins Construction. Lori Zander will speak next month about Otto Kerl, one of the members our post is named after.

Americanism: No Report, need a chairman

Children & Youth: No Report, need a chairman

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No Report

Post Service Officer: No Report

Public Relations: No report

Old Business: No Report

New Business and Correspondence: Commander Zanon read thank you notes. U. S. Navy will be honored at the State Capitol Oct. 13th; Elks Club will have free breakfast for veterans on Nov. 15th. The 3rd District fall Meeting will be held Oct. 18th at Gays Mills, please register by Oct. 8th. Post 245 Auxiliary will be their annual pie sale at Bear Park this Sat. Sept. 20th for Hill & Valley Day. Emily will have a sign-up code for workers for the Halloween spook house Oct. 31st in this month's newsletter. Dennis Semaru reported they raised \$11,663.00 for Stuff the Bus. Dennis also reported the annual Santa visit will be held Dec. 6th at the Legion Hall. Steve Z. made a motion to donate \$250.00 to Lions for this and Mike Schutz seconded it, motion carried. Bill Herriges made a motion to donate \$200.00 to our Auxiliary for tonight's meal, Dave V. 2nd it, motion carried. Commander Zanon reported members Bill Herriges and Phil Flannery will be the Badger Honor Flight Nov. 8th. Commander Zanon reported Draw Down is Nov. 22nd and contact him to sell or buy tickets.

Kitty: \$60.00 No winner

50/50: Gary I. donated back to the new Playground

Brandy: Dave V. donated to the Draw Down

Commander Zanon adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Itten, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245'ers,

President Flo Bayer

The weather was iffy for Hill and Valley in the early morning with storms, but it turned out to be a great day checking out cars, tractors, Americana, steam engine powered cooked corn, Model T Breakfast, Scouts Lunch and of course the most delicious, awesome Auxiliary Pies and Ice Cream. Many thanks Katie Runk/Chair and Deb Niebuhr/co-chair on their work for this important fundraiser for our Unit and to ALL of you who brought pies, ate pie, helped serve, donated coffee and supplies, setup & cleaned up. I am very proud of our Auxiliary Unit and grateful to be a part of this wonderful Cross Plains tradition. It truly makes the world a fun & better place when we work together.

ALA Department of WI Public Relations has a Facebook group. All members are invited to join. Use it to check in for ideas, inspiration, or to ask questions. I like Natalia's ideas for "Seven Days, Seven Ways to Serve & Inspire". <http://www.facebook.com/groups/aladepartmentofwipr/>

VA Resources – I encourage veterans and their families to check out <https://www.MakeTheConnection.net>. It is a web site for Veterans to:

- **View** candid video testimonials told by Veterans and their families
- **Learn** more about the issues you may be facing---and what works to address them
- **Customize** content relevant to your own experience
- **Explore** easy-to-navigate information about finding solutions
- **Locate** resources, programs, and services near you

Mark your calendar for **Nov. 22nd** and join us for a great night of fun, food, drinks, winning! Let me know if you have anything to donate as a silent auction raffle item, door prize or need a ticket or ten. The Auxiliary will again be helping by serving, waitressing, recording winners, & marking off wall sheets. Let me or Debby Niebuhr know if you can help.

Our Unit draped the charter for Susan Hutton's mother Shirey Pawlias who was an auxiliary member and recently passed away. Please keep Susan and her family in your prayers.

On behalf of Aux. Unit 245, we send our deepest condolences and prayers to Cody, Beau, the Bratton Family and Friends on the unexpected passing of their father Jim Bratton. Jim was a Legion member & husband of our Unit's past Secretary, Kate Bratton. She went to her heavenly reward within the past year. Our Unit grieves with you and is honored to be able to help with salads and desserts for his Celebration of Life Sept. 28th at the Legion Hall.

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.

FOR POST MEMBERS; you can send your dues to Emily Cash 7780 Martinsville Rd Cross Plains, WI 53528 I believe your dues are \$45. payable to WI Post 245 and if you want to sign up your spouse for our Auxiliary, we'd love to have them join. Our auxiliary dues are \$35. payable to WI UNIT 245.

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.

- **October** – Lorie Ballweg, Susan Nelson, Mary Fitzsimons, Jacky Graves.
- **November** – Cheryl Kelter, Louise Powerll, Gail Faust, LuAnn Foseid, Shannon Barman, Deb Niebuhr.

Service Opportunities

- Oct 30th-31st, Nov. 1st – Halloween Spooky Fun Night (contact Emily Cash)
- Sat. November 8th – Badger Honor Flight (2 additional Aux. members)

- Tues. Nov. 11th 5-8pm (4-6) – Culvers Share night
- Sat. Nov. 22nd – Drawdown
- Dec. 3rd – 115th Fighter Wing Christmas Cookies

Sons of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on October 16th.

Flags

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

Condolences to the family of Jim Bratton

The Sons Of The American Legion offers are condolences to the family of Jim Bratton who passed away on September 4, 2025. Jim was a member of our squadron for 17 years. Jim is survived by his sons Beau (Lindsey) Bratton and Cody (Jen) Bratton along with his grandchildren. He was also a brother-in-law to two of our members Daniel J Walsh and John Walsh.

Condolences to the family of David Statz

The Sons Of The American Legion offers are condolences to family of David Statz who passed away on September 16, 2025. David was a member of our squadron for 29 years. David is survived by his wife Joann and his sons Andrew and Jeremy. David was instrumental in getting our Hall rewired when we remodeled. We did provide a grave site service for David with taps. Thank you to Rod Faust, Ron Faust, Tom Hellickson, Brad Niebuhr, Jack Regan and Kevin Boehnen for helping with the service.

2026 Membership Dues

In August everyone received their Membership Cards and a notice to pay your dues \$15.00 for one year or \$60.00 for five years. If you have prepaid your dues you received your card. We currently have 103 out of our 117 members paid for 2026. That is 88% 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.

November 8th Badger Honor Flight

We are looking for at least 4 members to serve as the Color Guard let me know if you are interested. Contact me at 608 798 2116 or kabohnen@chorus.net.

Future events for SAL to cook

They are as follows:

- October 25th Motor Cross Dinner
- November 20th Legion Meeting - Thanksgiving Dinner

SAL's Last Man's Club

Just a reminder that we will be holding our Last Man's Club in November. We will be sending out reminders once a date is set. We will also be remembering Rock Sarbacker at this event who passed away on November 20, 2024.

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!**