

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

October 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.

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.

Upcoming Events

September 03 Lions Club
17 Legion, SAL, Aux meeting
23 Red Cross Blood Drive (11 to 7)
29 Model T Club

October 01 Lions Club
03 Octoberfest
15 Legion, SAL, Aux meeting
24 Motorcross
27 Model T Club
31 Halloween Spooky House

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 thebayes1@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
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
S.A.L. COMMANDER

Steve Zanon 608-213-9530
Katrina McKee 608-217-2023
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 members and family,

Our post has been busy this month with Metal recycling runs, thank you all the volunteers that make this a great service to the community, and fundraiser for our post.

The Octoberfest celebration we were looking forward to didn't occur this year; cancelled because the event couldn't secure corporate sponsorship sufficient to make it happen.

Our Draw-Down event fast approaches on November 14th, and ticket sales are underway. In September, envelopes of ten raffle tickets were made available and many were distributed, but I have many left. In the past we have sold out our 250 tickets consistently, so this year we added ten tickets and another \$100.00 prize. Cheryl Kelter and Flo Bayer have been out getting corporate sponsors to provide door prizes as well. Our SAL squadron will be cooking up dinner. It is a fun event and a terrific fundraiser for the post. Please pick up an envelope of tickets to sell, or see me or another member to purchase one or two.

We expect to have Jed Henry as guest speaker during our October 15th dinner meeting, and we look forward to hearing about his efforts to return the remains of MIA veterans.

This time of year, I like to recognize hard charging volunteers. If you have someone in mind who has gone above and beyond volunteering for our post; be that person a member, Auxiliary, or SAL member, please slip a note to me or email. Try to quantify and be specific about the person's contributions so we can vote during our upcoming meetings.

Thanks, hope to see you all soon.
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Notes from the Adjutant: - Gary Itten

The legion family is doing a fundraiser at Enchanted Valley Acres Saturday Oct. 24th & Sunday Oct. 25th. We are looking for volunteers to grill, wrap food, fill orders, restocking food and taking orders. The first shift is from 10 AM to 1:30 PM, 2nd shift is from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM, both days. Also there is a set up crew to meet at the Piggly Wiggly first at 8 AM to 10 AM and a clean up shift from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The sign up sheets are on the office door at the legion hall. If you can not get in to sign up, either come to the meeting Thurs. Oct. 15th or contact me at 608-225-4722 or email me at gijacondo@gmail.com.

We have a few members who haven't paid their 2026 dues (\$45.00) yet, we would like to close out this year's membership. You can include your dues for 2027. Please send your dues to Post 245, P.O. Box 188, Cross Plains, WI 53528 or renew online at mylegion.org.

Date for Fruit Basket / Poinsettia Project

The date for the 2026 Fruit Basket/Poinsettia Project is Saturday, December 12th. If you know of anyone who should be on the list, please contact Barb Schutz @ bschutz@tds.net or (608) 576-8212.

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 September 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Commander Zanon. A motion was made by Dan C. and seconded by Joe H. to approve the minutes of the Aug. 20th meeting as printed in the 245 newsletter, motion carried.

Dennis H. made a motion to accept the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of Aug 20th, and Dennis S. seconded it and motion carried.

No Guests or new members.

Finance: No Report

Chaplain: No Report

1st Vice: Gary reported we are at 65% for dues being paid. We had 3 Transfers into the post from 2930.

2nd Vice: No report

3rd Vice: No report

SAL: Kevin reported that they have 96 members paid so far out of 112. Some of their members have been helping with loading metal. They will be cooking for the Motorcross event in October and making the Thanksgiving meal for the November meeting.

Americanism: No report

Children & Youth: No Report, need a chairman

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No Report

Post Service Officer: Joe reported he has put together a Commander Legacy book, and it is in the office for anyone to look at. He also mentioned that a bus will be leaving the Vet Center Sept. 26th at 8 AM for the High Ground memorial in Neillsville. This is open to any veteran

Historian: Joe has pictures from last Memorial Day and is trying to open the showcase to put them in.

Public Relations: No Report

Old Business: The amendment to the by-laws to change the date of the installation of new officers to June was brought up. Dan C. made a motion and Joe H. seconded it, after discussion motion passed.

New Business and Correspondence: Commander Zanon reported that 3rd District Fall Conference will be held at Barneveld Oct. 17th and the deadline for registration is Oct. 10th. He reported that the Dane County Government Day will be April 7th, 2027. Joe H. oversees this for our Post. Commander Zanon talked about the different American Legion Courses you can take online through the State of WI. Bill Statz reported the Veteran's Shoot will be held Nov. 10th. Dennis H. made a motion to donate \$300.00 to the Lions Club for Santa's visit. Dan C. seconded, no discussion; motion carried.

Good of the American Legion: Kevin Boehnen mentioned his dad Jerry turned 95 years young and would like visitors. Bill Statz brought up about how they need help to set up for the spook house on Friday, Oct. 30th starting at 8 AM, and Halloween starting at 4 PM, and take down on Nov 1st.

Kitty: No winner

50/50: Dave Vidlock

Brandy: Mike Schutz

Commander Zanon adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Itten, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) - Flo Bayer

We are collecting items for our Veterans who receive services through the Madison VA and clinics. Please bring the items to our Post @ the Oct. 15th meeting where I will be happy to collect and deliver them to the main

President Katrina McKee

hospital. I mean who doesn't love to shop for baby items, right? If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can arrange a time with me and I can pick them up from you or you can have them delivered to the VA Hospital address on the list. Please see list at the end of this newsletter. Per strict VA policy, please do not share these lists outside of our Legion Family and not on social media. Every donation, big or small, has a meaningful impact on the lives of those the VA assists. On behalf of the VA and our Veterans, I thank you in advance for your support!

Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

ALA dessert for October meeting: Lorie Ballweg, Susan Nelson, Mary Fitzsimons, Jacky Graves, Kathy Barman. If you can't help call or email Jane Itten 608-712-3133 email gijacondo@gmail.com thanks.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

We are almost at the finish line; less than 10 to go. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PAID! If you know of someone who would like to join, please let us know and we'll get you the application forms. Thanks again.

Also, there are a couple of fundraisers where we could use your help. The weekend of October 24th and 25th, we will be manning the food truck at Enchanted Valley. There are several shifts as it runs all day. Then there is the DRAW DOWN on November 14th.. it's a lot of fun. Come join us.

Sons of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on October 15th.

Flags

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

Condolences to the family of Russell Severson

The Sons Of The American Legion offers their condolences to the family of Russell Severson who I just learned passed away on January 11, 2026. Jim was a member of our squadron for 25 years and was a past Commander of the Detachment of Wisconsin SAL. Jim is survived by his wife Candy and daughter Kaitlyn and extended family.

2027 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 104 out of our 113 members paid for 2027. That is 92% 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. This last month we had three new members Beckett and Maverick Albertson along with Oliver Goergen join our squadron. Our goal is to have 115 members signed up for 2027.

Future events for SAL to cook

They are as follows:

October 24th Motor Cross Dinner

November 19th 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're Collecting for our Veterans~



Baby Essential Donation Drive!



This donation drive supports pregnant veterans receiving care at Madison's VA Hospital and its clinics, ensuring they have the essentials needed to welcome their babies safely & comfortably.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| ♥ Baby grooming kits | ♥ Onesies (neutral colors, sizes newborn-3m) |
| ♥ Thermometers | ♥ Clothing (neutral colors, sizes newborn-9m) |
| ♥ Baby Bottles | ♥ Sleepers (neutral colors, sizes newborn-3m) |
| ♥ Pacifiers | ♥ Diaper Cream |
| ♥ Teethers | ♥ Pack n Play |
| ♥ Baby Soap & Lotion | ♥ Car Seat stroller combo |
| ♥ Blankets (neutral colors) | ♥ Baby bouncer |
| ♥ Bibs (neutral colors) | |
| ♥ Velcro swaddles (neutral colors) | |
| ♥ Diapers size: 2, 3 | |

Your generosity brings comfort, safety, and smiles to the veterans we serve & their growing families.



Unhoused Veterans with easy/ready-to-eat food, like packing a school lunch



- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ Granola bars (small boxes) | ✓ Single-serve fruit in plastic cups |
| ✓ Peanut butter or cheese crackers | ✓ Single-serve applesauce/fruit pouches |
| ✓ Tuna or Chicken Salad kits | ✓ Single-serving vegetables in plastic cups |
| ✓ Beef Jerky | |
| ✓ Nuts/Trail mix (single serving size pkgs) | |

Online shoppers can ship donations directly to:

Madison VA Hospital
Community Relations – 135
2500 Overlook Terrace
Madison, WI 53705

Every donation, big or small has a meaningful impact on the lives of those we assist. You're also welcome to drop donations off at the main hospital. For assistance with unloading feel free to call (608) 280-7030 so we can meet you in the Hospital driveway with a cart to help.

*** Due to strict VA policy, please do not share this request outside of our organization or on social media. ***

~Madison VA – Food Drive List~

~We're Collecting for our Veterans~

Food donated will be used to stock our local VA food pantries (Main Hospital, East & West Clinics, Baraboo, Rockford, Beaver Dam and Janesville) that provides shelf stable food to veterans who have difficulty with food security when discharged from inpatient units.



Grains

- Instant Oatmeal packets (Boxes with 8-10 pkts)
- Pasta (all varieties – whole wheat, gluten free, etc.)
- Rice (instant microwaveable)
- Low-fat/Low-sugar granola bars
- Cereal (15oz. – 20oz boxes)

Fruit and Vegetables

- Low or no sodium canned vegetables (carrots, peas or mixed veggies)
- Canned fruit and fruit cups in water or natural juices
- No sugar added apple sauce
- Low-sodium vegetable juice

Proteins

- Low-sodium chicken (canned or pouches)
- Tuna in water (canned or pouches)
- Unsalted nuts/seeds
- Reduced sodium peanut butter/nut butter (16oz or smaller)
- Low or no sodium canned beans

Dairy

- Powdered milk
- Shelf-stable soy-milk

Other

- Low-sodium pasta sauces
- Low-sodium chicken and beef broths, and/or soups
- Olive Oil
- Canola Oil
- Salt-free seasonings or dried herbs/spices
- Microwaveable meals/pasta dishes
- Can Openers

Beverages

- Bottled water
- Tea
- Instant Coffee

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