

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

September 2023

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

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

Upcoming Events:

September 07 Lions Club

21 Legion, SAL, Aux mtg

26 Model T Club

October 05 Lions Club

19 Legion, SAL, Aux mtg

31 Model 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 Christie Zanon at americanlegioncp@gmail.com.

Someone ill or in the hospital? Call Chaplain Tim Engling at 312-317-0034 or e-mail timengling@gmail.com

OFFICERS: POST COMMANDER	Steve Zanon	608-213-9530
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT	Deb Niebuhr	608-445-6590
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 5:30pm.

Website: www.americanlegioncp.org

Commander's Message

Steve Zanon

Hello Auxiliary, Sons, and Legionnaires;

Hopefully September will bring a mild cooling and gradual season Change. If you have been outside our post recently you will have noticed the absence of some very prominent trees. Recent storms damaged some of them and they were removed. The large tree nearest the corner of the building will probably be missed most. Damage to this tree threatened the building itself and the playground, so with the research work of Dan Cady and Gary Itten, and on the advice of an arborist, the tree was removed, and all the lovely shade it provided. There will be shortage of shade for years to come, but the process of purchasing and replacing these trees with new ones should begin shortly.

Dual members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and our AL post were kind enough to invite our post members to march in Middleton Good Neighbor fest parade on August 27th. Several members showed up and marched a pretty long parade route. Thank you to the VFW post 8216 in Middleton for their invite and being gracious hosts, and thank you to those Legion members who marched.

August also had a good turn out of volunteers to clear metal from our drop off site into Steve Hillebrand (Whitey's) Trailer, and he and Dave Vidlock took it for recycling. Thank you volunteers for this ongoing difficult fundraising work.

Bill Statz, Flo Bayer and Debby Niebuhr arranged to have youths from Badger Boys and Girls state speak to us this past month about their summer experience in camp. Thank you all; we are very proud to support this program and it's nice to hear their feedback.

District commander Jerry Hook was in attendance in August as well to congratulate us on meeting our membership and retention goals, and reminded us to check in with one another from time to time to "Buddy Check". He has also sent out word that on October 21st the 3rd District Fall Conference will be held at Richland Center registration at 8 AM.

I talked for a short time with Doug Deaton. He recently underwent a knee surgery, and tells me that in the two weeks since, he is recovering nicely.

Pat Andrioni isn't feeling well, please keep him in your thoughts. Unable so far to fully unload his bar manager responsibilities, Deb Neibuhr and others have been pitching in with contracting, scheduling to make sure people are able to use our facilities and have bar service when they need it. Thank you!

Gary Itten has kindly agreed to stand in for me in September, I will be out of state for a short time.

We have some outstanding members who work hard all year in support of our post. If you have thoughts about someone who has gone above and beyond ordinary volunteerism, please write up a small narrative of efforts and achievements for informal review in September. A short note can be handed off to any of the Executive board members.

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

Post Service Officer – Joe Hodgson

The VA Hospital is looking for volunteers to commit for 4 hours per week or more for Escort Service or Red Coat Ambassadors. Both duties assist Out-patients to their appointments when they arrive at VA. If interested or more information call me at 608-753-2520 or the Volunteer Coordinator Jim Barnett at 608-280-7030. This is open to anyone (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL or anyone else that might be interested).

Note from Kate Walsh-Bratton to all Legion, SAL & Auxiliary

A Celebration of Life for Bill Walsh (Jr.) will be held at the Legion Hall on Sunday, October 1st from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Bill grew up in Cross Plains working for many years at Cross Plains Hardware. He also was an SAL member and volunteered in the CP Fire department. When called to serve in the VISTA program in Utah, Bill was drawn to its natural beauty. He made the move to Utah in the late 1970s. In May 1996 he married his life partner, Shirley Weathers in Fruitland, UT. Bill devoted his life to serve the less fortunate in his community, lobbying for universal healthcare, and the preservation of our environment. Bill and Shirley eventually moved to Eagle Point, Oregon where they continued their pursuit of making our world a better place. Bill passed peacefully at home on January 2, 2022 after enduring a long fight against pancreatic cancer.

Please bring your favorite memories of Bill and come celebrate his life with his friends, relatives, and the descendants of the late Bill (Sr.) & Marge Walsh. Food and drink will be provided.

Link to Bill's obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/madison/name/william-walsh-obituary?id=32371376>

Badger Boys State – Bill Statz

At our August Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Meeting, we had our Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State students give a talk on their experiences. We also had our 3rd District Commander Jerry Hook, and 3rd District Auxiliary President Karen Runk, as special guests. They gave words of encouragement and support for the students, on behalf of the 3rd District.

Membership awards – Bill Statz

Commander Jerry Hook also attended our regular Legion Meeting. He presented Post 245 with membership awards for 2023. We were presented a "Membership Retention Award", which is from National Headquarters in Indianapolis. It is for "90% Retention" of current members as of January 20th. Jerry also presented a "100% Membership Award" from Department (State) Headquarters in Portage. It is for meeting our goal of "100% Membership" by June 20th. See photo at end of newsletter.

Post 245 Marches/Rides in Middleton Good Neighbor Festival Parade – Bill Statz

This year Legion Post 245 was invited by VFW Post 8216 to join them for the GNF Parade on Aug 27th. In the Color Guard was Gary Itten with Post 245 flag, and Bill Statz on rifle. Relief flag bearer was Dan Cady. Also marching were Steve Zanon, Dan and Gary, and Bill Diebold. Riding with the VFW were Marty Keller and Phil Valejos. It was a good show of veteran's organizations working together!

Legion Baseball reps at September Meeting – Bill Statz

Join us at the September Legion/Auxiliary/SAL regular meeting. Our guests will be members, some players and coaches, of our Post 245 Legion Baseball team. They will give a presentation at 7:00 on the great 2023 season!

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 August 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Commander Zanon at 7:38pm.

A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed in the 245r was made by Dan, second was Pat and the motion was passed.

A motion was made to approve the Executive meeting minutes as read by the Adjutant was made by Frank, second was Gary and the motion passed unanimously.

We had the 3rd district Commander Jerry Hook as a guest tonight along with 2 new members Jim Heindricks and Lynn Wilkenson.

FINANCE: Lee passed out the financial report and went over income and expenses for the month. Any questions were answered and then a motion was made by Gary to accept the report pending audit with a second by Ed and the motion carried.

1st VICE: Emily stated we have at this time 111 paid for 2024.

3rd VICE: Dan brought us up to date. Furnace is installed, Memorial lights are working, we still have a water leak in the basement were working on. A tree needs to be removed at a cost of \$2800.00. Also, the other trees in the park are at their maturity and will need to be removed soon.

SAL: Kevin reviewed the functions the SAL has been involved with including the golf outing meal, the baseball meeting meal, and the legion meeting meal tonight. They currently have 86% paid membership. They are looking for 8-12 volunteers for the honor flight on 9/9/2023.

AMERICANISM: Bill mentioned our legion baseball team had 3 all stars on it this year. He has invited some of the coaches to attend our September meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Dave informed the members that to date we have recycled 90,000 lbs. for a value of approximately \$ 10,000.00 so far this year. Pete from the Middleton VFW has invited any post 245 members to come and join them for the parade on the 27th. Just wear post shirts, hats etc. and meet at 10am at the VFW post in Middleton.

OLD BUSINESS: Steve read all the thank you notes the post received this month.

NEW BUSINESS: Bill introduced the 3rd district Commander Jerry Hook who presented post 245 with a membership retention award. Emily presented Dan with his 55-year continuous membership award. Emily has volunteered and is planning to create a Halloween haunted house in the post basement, along with trick or treating upstairs with local merchants. This all goes along with the legion promoting Halloween safety ideas. Emily had also done research on popcorn machines and made a motion for the legion to purchase one. The motion was seconded by Bill and passed. The machine will cost around \$ 400.00. Dan mentioned we have legion apparel for sale to include hats, shirts, jackets etc. If interested, please see Dan.

KITTY: No winner

BRANDY: Dan who donated it to the golf outing.

50/50: \$ 10.00 was won by Gary.

Respectfully submitted.
Dennis Heiliger, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

President Debby Niebuhr

Whitey and the SAL out did themselves once again. The meal was delicious and the desserts from our August lunch committee were temptation itself.

We wish Doug Deaton a speedy recovery from his knee replacement.

MARY ANN GREANEY’S FAMILY WISHES TO THANK THE CROSS PLAINS AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY FOR EVERYTHING THEY DID. Their mother was proud to be a member. Our hearts go out to them in this time of loss.

Our Post's 100th celebration planning is underway. Tentatively it's set for September 21st and 22nd next year (2024). With the 21st being a celebration with our Legion Family within our Post and in our District 3. And the 22nd being for the community to celebrate all we are.

88% of our Auxiliary members have paid their dues so we could save the National Department the time, paper and postage it takes to mail out the September notices. Just think if every Unit tried to meet this goal, we might be able to keep our dues down. At least I can dream.

September is the Auxiliary's turn to provide the Meal. And thanks to Carol Yttri and our members we look forward to serving everyone.

Our fundraiser is set for Saturday, September 16th. We're asking members to donate PIES for our Bake Sale at the Hill & Valley Car Show. You can begin dropping off at 10am. Come visit and support us between 11 and 2ish.

We are going to order Auxiliary polos and sweatshirts with our logo. The sizes run from Small to 3XL. The price is from \$22-\$25 depending on the size. The sweatshirts run between \$20-\$35 depending on the style and size. (Crew, pullover hoodie and full zip hoodie). IF you are interested in ordering one, let us know. We will be sending the order in September 21st. The most common color ordered is RED but there are many other choices.

Did you know that wearing RED on Fridays stands for Remembering Everyone Deployed.

For projects we are looking at Dogs2dogtags. Their purpose is to create an opportunity to save at-risk, rescue, and donated dogs, train them and place them with deserving service members who have been diagnosed with post-combat stress and anxiety. Canine companionship can make a real difference in the fight against the high suicide rate. The volunteers share the love of country and community, and above all, the utmost respect for our military veterans.

Shield of Sisters is another project. Organized in 2022, it's a military veteran organization serving female veterans who have experienced sexual trauma during their service to this great nation.

We also plan to continue supporting our VA's and the Purple Up Project that recognizes the sacrifice of children sharing their parents who serve our country.

We are asking you to KEEP THE DATE of NOVEMBER 12th open so you, your friends and members of our community can share in the fundraiser we hope to host. It'll be a Green Bay Packer tail-gate party. Sounds like a great way to spend a Sunday. Plan on joining us.

Lunch committee: Jane Itten

Barb Schutz, Kathy Bertin, Jean Bolchen, (Cami Hill out of town). If you can't make it, let me know. Thanks. Jane Itten – 608 712 3133.

Badger Girls State – Flo Bayer

After dinner and the two Badgers Boys State delegate presentations, delegate Nicky Cyra from Clark Street Community School shared her experience at Badger Girls State. Also in attendance were two BGS counselors from Unit 245, Karen Runk and JoAnna Richard. Many thanks to both of them for giving of their time and talent to promote American Citizenship and Leadership. I received the following report from Elsa Veseli who was unable to attend.

Update from Elsa Veseli (attended BGS) – A little bit about ALABGS

During the few days I spent at Badger Girls State, I got to learn about the function of the laws of the State of Wisconsin. I learned about many different government procedures that I was not familiar with before, while also making new friends and having fun. Badger Girls State was a very productive week, with fun activities and training. See picture at end of newsletter.

Son's of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on September 21st.

Flags

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

Cross Plains Baseball Golf Outing

Thank you to everyone for helping cook, serve and clean up on August 16th. Shout out to Dave Schultz, Brad and Deb Niebuhr, Kim Statz, Noel Sarbacker, Dave Maier, Mike Greaney, Whitey and Patty Hillebrand, Lyla Hernandez, Ed Zander, Kevin Boehnen and Flo Bayer we appreciated your help.

Legion Meeting

Thank you to everyone for helping cook, serve and clean up on August 17th. A special thank you to Cindy and Randy Page from Vermont Valley Farms for the donation of the corn. Shout out to Dave Schultz, Paul Lochner,

Brad and Deb Niebuhr, Noel Sarbacker, Mike Greaney, Whitey Hillebrand, Bruce Schuman, Ed Zander, Kevin Boehnen, Julie & Arlene Dahmen and other Auxiliary members we appreciated your help.

2024 Membership Dues

In July 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 2024. That is 88% of our members are prepaid please consider the \$60.00 for five year options as it helps when trying to collect membership dues each year.

In September I will send out reminder notices to those who have not paid.

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

Congratulations to two new members Landon J Diksa and Quentin F Diksa they are the grandsons of Tim & Donna Hillebrand.

September 9th Post 245 Welcome Home for the Badger Honor Flight

Do you remember from first hand or reading articles that specifically the Korean and Vietnam Veterans did not receive a welcome home when coming back after serving our country. I have heard stories where soldiers would take off their dress uniforms when they arrived state side so no one knew they were returning from serving our country.

Well the time has come to right that wrong!!!

Post 245 Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members have volunteered for the Welcome Home celebration on September 9th and we are looking for 8 to 12 people to be the Color Guard at the Dane County Airport. If any Legion, Auxiliary or SAL members would be interested please let me know. We need to be at airport by 8:15 PM and event will be over by 10:30 PM. We will be leaving the Legion Hall at 7:30 PM for anyone who wants to car pool and help get our flags over to the airport.

Currently we have 3 Legion members Bill Diebold, Gary Itten, Tony Bayer; 4 Auxiliary members Deb Niebuhr, Jan Itten, Flo Bayer and Gail Faust and 2 SAL members Brad Niebuhr and Kevin Boehnen. I am looking for at least 3 more people to volunteer but the more the better.

The contact for this event will be Kevin Boehnen please contact me at 608 798 2113 or email kabohnen@chorus.net if you are interested. I am waiting for a response from Brian Ziegler for specific roles and times to arrive for this event, we may also have an opportunity to do the send off.

Future events for SAL to cook

They are as follows:

- October 28th Motor Cross Dinner
- November 16th Legion Meeting - Thanksgiving Dinner

PHOTOS

Membership awards – Bill Statz

Left to right, Post 245 1st Vice Commander Emily Cash, 3rd District Commander Jerry Hook, Post 245 Commander Steve Zanon.



Good Neighbor Fest

In the Color Guard is Gary Itten with Post 245 flag, and Bill Statz on rifle. Relief flag bearer was Dan Cady. Also marching were Steve Zanon, Dan and Gary, and Bill Diebold.



Badger Girls State – Picture from Elsa Veseli

