

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

**CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION**

**Kerl-Endres-Brannan**

**Post 245**

**September 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.

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**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.

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**Upcoming Events**

**September** 04 Lions Club

18 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting

30 Model T Club

**October**

02 Lions Club

04 October Fest

16 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL meeting

28 Model T Club

31 Halloween Spooky House

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Need to include something in the Newsletter? Email Carol Yttri at [carolyttri@gmail.com](mailto:carolyttri@gmail.com) or call 608-516-5970. Please get information to me before the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.americanlegioncp.org)**

## **Commander's Message**

**Steve Zanon**

Greetings American Legion people.

August has been a fun, busy month. Thanks to the people of Plastics Ingenuity, we have a new used forklift to help us with metal recycling. We then needed a larger door to accommodate the taller mast on the new forklift so Dan Cady and Whitey Hillebrand oversaw the remodel of our garage door contract. The Middleton Good Neighbor Festival took place, and on the 24th there was a contingent from our post, including some dual members, marching with the Middleton VFW post. On the 29<sup>th</sup> Middleton High school athletic department honored veterans and first responders with free admission to their football game against Kenosha. They invited our post to present colors before their football game, and firefighters from Ladder #1 hoisted huge American and MIA flags high above the stadium

On meeting night Doug and Judy Deaton, Deb Niebuhr and Phil Vallejos made up a fine meal of Barbecued Chicken, and we were joined at dinner by the Boys and Girls State participants and their families. Dept Vice Commander Steve Kohnke and wife Mary were nice enough to join us as well.

During our meeting we learned that the Mount Horeb High school Music department has been invited to London for their New Years Day Parade on Jan 01, 2026. If you want to make a donation there is more info at [London.mounthorebmusicboosters.org/donate](http://London.mounthorebmusicboosters.org/donate). Emily Cash announced the affiliation of three new members Ronald Adler, Roobert Greaney, and Shane Knickmeier. Welcome folks, and thanks for joining.

Our post 245 Brat Fry approaches on Sept 12-13, and Gary Itten asks for volunteers for the event which benefits our playground equipment bills. There was a sign-up sheet, or you can contact Gary directly [gcitten48@gmail.com](mailto:gcitten48@gmail.com).

The November Draw down event is again in its planning stages. Bill Statz is not heading the event this year, but a new committee is established and we should have tickets to sell soon. Consistent with other years, we intend to have ticket price include dinner and a drink, and limit sales to 300 tickets with multiple cash prizes to increase odds of winning.

Badger Honor flight is scheduled to occur November 8, and Kevin Boehnen is leading an honor guard at the airport. He asks for four volunteers which we should be able to accommodate. If you are interested in this, please contact him.

During the September dinner, we will be hosting the American Legion baseball team and coaches after their successful season.

Thanks for reading, hope to see you soon,  
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

## **Chaplain's message:**

**Tim Engling**

We pay tribute to David Kies, age 80, who passed away on July 15, 2025 at the Oak Park Place Nursing Home in Madison. He was in Recon with the 173d Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa. In January 1967, he was hit by a claymore mine resulting in the loss of both legs.

## **Playground Committee Brat Fry – Gary Itten**

The Playground committee will be holding a brat fry Friday Sept 12th and Saturday Sept. 13th at Glacier Edge Square by the Piggly Wiggly Store. We need workers either from 9 AM to 11:30 AM and 11:30 AM to 2 PM both days. We are raising money to defray the cost of the new playground equipment.

If you could help out email Gary Itten at [gcitten48@gmail.com](mailto:gcitten48@gmail.com) or call Gary at 608-225-4722.

### **VA Hospital – Joe Hodgson; VA Representative**

The VA Hospital is looking for volunteers to help out in their mission of serving our veterans. There are Escort, Red Coat Ambassador positions and other part time positions open to all. Legion, Auxiliary, SAL or friends and family are welcome to join the volunteer family. Each position is asked to volunteer 4 hours per week or whatever is best for you. If interested contact Jim or Matt at 608-280-7030 or for more info contact me at 608-669-5204.

### **Legion shirts, caps etc for sale**

FYI: We have Legion caps baseball caps, short sleeve and long sleeve shirts, jacket and sweatshirts. See me if interested in any of these items.

Dan Cady

### **Thank you from Doug Deaton**

A big thank you to Debby Niebuhr, Judi Deaton & Phil Vallejos for helping with August meal. And as always, the Auxiliary women are always there to help. Very much appreciated – Doug.

### **Notes from Bill Statz**

1. At our August Post 245 Legion meeting/dinner we honored our Post sponsored Badger Boys State and Badger Girls State students and parents. See photos. The boys are Abhinave (Nav) Annasamudram with his dad and little sister, Evan Natzke with his parents, and Ben Bush (not in attendance). We were joined by our Department Vice Commander Steve Kohnke, and Badger Boys State Director Bill Cosh. See group photo.



2. Come to the September meeting, when we will honor our State Champion MHS/Legion Baseball team!

### **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 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 PM by Commander Zanon.

A motion was made by Phil Vallejos and seconded by Tom Brunner to accept the minutes of the July 17th meeting as printed in the 245er, motion carried.

No Executive Board minutes from last month.

Guests were State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Steve Kohnke and Legion Rider and SAL 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander and David Havlik. Tammy Rutlin was introduced as a new member.

Finance: Joe H. made a motion to accept the finance report subject to audit and Dan C. 2<sup>nd</sup> it, motion carried.

Chaplain: No report

1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Emily reported our goal for 2026 is 179 members with 120 paid so far which put us at 67%. Also, if you have paid, your membership card is in the mail. You can send your dues to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: No report

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice: Dan C. reported that the new garage door for the shed is coming Tuesday. Commander Zanon thanked everyone that helps out with the recycling program.

SAL: Kevin introduced 2 new SAL members, Rich Roberts and Jack Reagan. He thanked all SAL members that helped at the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party and they presented a check of \$500.00 towards the new playground equipment in honor of Dan Cady, Mike Schutz, and Bill Saeman. He also thanked everyone that helped at the Cross Plains Baseball golf outing. He has 94 of his 116 members paid so far for 2026. In October the SAL will do the cooking for the Motorcross event. We will be doing the Honor Guard for the Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> Honor Flight. The 5,550 veteran will be flying on this flight.

Americanism: Bill Statz reported we need members to step up to take over committees he has leading. We need a Badger Boys State representative who works with Middleton High School, a Dane County Gov't day representative, Post 245 Oratorical chairman. He reported that Randy Plunkett would be on the draw down committee. He also reported that Post 245 legion baseball team took first place at the State tournament.

Children and Youth: No report

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No Report

Post Service Officer: David Kies passed away July 17<sup>th</sup> and he was a member of our post.

Public Relations: No report

Old Business: Gary reported on the Brat Fry. Need workers for Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets are in the back of the room or contact him to sign up at 608-225-4722.

New Business and Correspondence: Emily that the Halloween haunted house will be held October 31<sup>st</sup> and needs help setting up for the day of the event and taking down. Good Neighbor Festival is this coming weekend and the parade on Sunday. If you to participate be at the VFW Club in Middleton at 10 A. M. Commander Zanon is looking for nominations for Legionnaire of the year. Contact him to nominate someone. He read thank you notes from Badger Boys State representatives and Chief Russo of the C. P. Police department for participating at National Night out. Gary made a motion to sponsor a hole at the Chamber of Commerce golf outing Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, Dan seconded, motion carried. Joe H. made a motion to donate \$100.00 to Ettrick Post 354 for their new building, Pat A. seconded it, and motion carried.

Good of the American Legion: Bill Statz reported that him and his wife Kathy was at Camp America Legion in Tomahawk Wi for a week and that the camp is available to all legion members. Dave Havlik reported that the Legion Riders are building a shed for the pontoons at Camp America Legion. Dan C. and Emily C. make a motion to donate \$200.00 for this project, motion carried.

Kitty: No winner

50/50: Joe H.

Brandy: Pat A.

Past Commander Itten adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Itten, Adjutant

## Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245'ers,

## President Flo Bayer

We had some very inspiring Badger Boys and Badgers Girls Delegates reports at our August meeting. The one that especially stuck a chord with me was from Ms Isa Killian.

*"Two months ago, I learned that whether you're hoping to fit in at a high school sleepaway camp or advocating for a national cause, change begins with caring. And a grand, daunting gesture toward thousands of people doesn't need to be the first step. Start by looking around and asking yourself, "What can I do to make this room better? This classroom? This office?" You never know if all someone needs is a complete stranger to ask if they prefer the salad bar or the taco station, and although it may not feel as important to you as revered, resume- or social media-worthy acts, it's often the true path to making the world a better place."* – Isa Killian, BGS Delegate 2025



Pictured (L-R): Isa Killian and parents, Abigail Schneck & parent, Flo B., JoAnna R – Aux. BGS Chair

**VA News** – While helping at the VA Hospital's PERC last week, I learned that the VA has updated their mobile app. Search for *"VA: Health and Benefits"* in the Android Playstore or Apple App Store. With it you can manage your VA Health care, benefits, and payments from your phone or tablet. It really simplifies filing for travel pay if you're eligible.

**National 2025 Poppy** winners can be found here: <https://www.legion-aux.org/national-poppy-poster-contest>. Soon we will be selecting local Veterans causes to disperse the poppy donations we have received.

We had beautiful weather for our Good Neighbor Fest Coffee and donut scholarship and Badger Girls State Fundraiser. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered. Also, a huge shout out to Kwik Trip for their donation of cinnamon rolls, premium donuts and coffee cups. Speaking of fundraisers, get your pie baking aprons ready. We will be looking for pie makers to deliver pies to the Hill and Valley Car show on September 20<sup>th</sup> between 10-10:30. We will also need a few folks for both shifts to help with selling pie, & ice cream sundaes.

The Drawdown will be organized by the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary this year. Let me know if you're interested in serving on the committee or if you have anything to donate as door prizes. We'll be looking for everyone to help sell tickets to this fun event.

**HUGE KUDO's** to our membership chair, Debby Niebuhr! We are only one member away from having ALL of our members renewed, and that one should be happening soon. Not an easy task. Thanks for all you do Debby!!!

### Membership – Debby Niebuhr

I wish to THANK everyone for paying their dues! You all made my job a pleasant one. While the Department doesn't recognize us for 100% unless we sign up 8 new members, you are all 100% with me.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a Post Member of our wonderful Legion Family, you can pay your \$45. dues by making your check out to "WI Post 245" and mailing it to the Post's Membership Chair, Emily Cash. Her address is: 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.

THANKS TO ALL OUR VERY IMPORTANT AND TREASURED MEMBERS OF THIS WONDERFUL POST  
245 LEGION FAMILY

### **Lunch Committee – Jane Itten**

If you can't make it, call or email Jane 608-7123133. [gijacondo@gmail.com](mailto:gijacondo@gmail.com) Please feel free to leave a message.

- **September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Kathy Bertin, Barb Schutz, Jean Bolchen, JoAnna Richard, Cam Hill.
- **October** – Lorie Ballweg, Susan Nelson, Mary Fitzsimons, Jacky Graves.

### **Service Opportunities**

- Thurs. September 18<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary provides September meal, (1 more salad)
- Sat. September 20<sup>th</sup> 10:15-12:30 (2) & 12:15-2pm (4) – Hill & Valley Pie Sale
- Sat. November 8<sup>th</sup> – Badger Honor Flight (2 additional Aux. members)
- Tues. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm (4-6) – Culvers Share night

### **Sons of The American Legion**

**Kevin Boehnen**

#### Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on September 18th.

#### Flags

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

#### Cross Plains Baseball Golf Outing - August 20th

Thank you to Dave Schultz, Whitey Hillebrand, Rod Faust, Kevin Boehnen Tim Hillebrand, Rich Roberts, Greg Roessler, Jack Regan, Tom Helleckson, Mike Diebold, Ed Zander and Mary Jo Diebold for helping prepare and serving the food for Cross Plains Baseball Golf Outing on August 20th.

#### Recycling Efforts

Whitey, Tim Hillebrand, Tom Aeschbach, Tom Helleckson and Rod Faust have been assisting with the Legion's recycling efforts. If you can help us out please contact Whitey for dates and times for helping out.

#### Future events for SAL to cook

They are as follows:

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

#### 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 96 out of our 117 members paid for 2025. That is 82% 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 2025.

#### 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](mailto:kabohnen@chorus.net).

#### 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.



Post 245

# BRAT

# FRY



 **AMERICAN**  
**LEGION**  
— WISCONSIN —

Sept. 12-13  
2025

Glacier Edge Sq.

CROSS PLAINS

Benefiting New  
Playground  
Equipment