

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

January 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
Dennis Jones – 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:

January 02 Lions Club
 11 Rock’s celebration of life
 16 Legion, SAL meeting
 28 Model T Club

February 01 Valley Archers
 02 Pancake Breakfast
 06 Lions Club
 16 Optimists Eucher Party
 25 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 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	Steve Zanon	608-213-9530
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT	Flo Bayer	608-444-8199
S.A.L. COMMANDER	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 and Happy 2025 Legionnaires and family!

If you weren't at the Christmas party in December, you missed a fine Potluck with ham prepared by the Deatons. We said thank you to some of our many volunteers, and Ed Pulowski was serving up his Dad's special recipe hot Toddlies. Thank you! It was snowing that night, and early on we considered cancelling the event for bad weather, but the truth is I have little means to cancel any event on the same day. Email works for many of us, but not all, and 184 phone calls would be a bit much, so it was decided that it would be better to have the party as scheduled, and those who feel the trip is too risky will wisely stay home. Better that than someone not getting the word, showing up at the hall with their steaming casserole dish, and finding the doors locked. Future events will likely be decided the same way unless someone has a better idea: Look out the window and decide; if the forecast looks risky, and you don't live close by, Stay home. We didn't get this old being fools, right?

Speaking of schedules, we will have our regular Legion meeting on the 16th of January, (not the Auxiliary), but we WILL NOT HAVE A MEETING IN FEBRUARY!

We have good stuff to vote on in January including a shift in the firm that holds our post's financial investments. Bill Diebold, our finance officer, has done great work researching this and Scott Lamontagne has prepared a proposal. We look forward to hearing the details, and deciding as a group. It is take-out pizza night, and I will make a cake with German Chocolate (canned) frosting. Christie hates the stuff and I love it, so this is a rare occasion to have my cake and, etc...

March 16th is the proposed date of our annual St Patrick's day Pancake breakfast. Doug Deaton is already planning this, and we will finalize the date at the January meeting. Please consider this, Doug will need some help, and this is such a fun event.

Well Okay, have a happy and safe New Year, and we will see you soon! Thanks for reading,
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

CP Caring Tree

Thank you all for supporting the Cross Plains Caring Tree. A total of \$700 was donated at the November Thanksgiving Dinner meeting. Also a big Thank You to those who mailed a donation.

Monetary funds were given to the 34 names submitted for a total of 70 people in our Village who were in need of assistance. All of them are so Thankful.

On December 7th 43 Fruit Baskets & 19 Poinsettia Plants (to 10 facilities) were delivered.

Thank You for supporting this worthwhile cause.
Barb Schutz and Judi & Doug Deaton

Notes from Dan Cady:

Dear Comrades:

I want to thank all the members and their helpers for the time spent putting out flags and taking them down. Over 300 flags are done all the holidays from May-November. Dave Vidlock, Diane (Daves wife), Mike Shanahan, Katy Ripp, Dennis Heiliger, Ed Pelowsky, Gary Itten, Bill Diebold, Beau, Cody and Jim Bratton, Stan Nonn, Margie Nonn, Chris Fitzsimmons, Dick & Carol Zwettler and 2 of their grandchildren, Phil Vallejos, Pat & Dan Cady.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

A big thank you to all that help with recycling metal and a big thank you to Whitey – the man that can never say no. For his time and use of his truck and trailer.

Notes From Gary Itten, Adjutant

If you haven't already paid your dues for 2025, please send them to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528, or go to Mylegion.org and pay them online. Remember dues are now \$45.00 a year. Don't wait until the last minute and let's make it two years in a row for 100% membership.

It's getting to that time of the year where Seniors are starting to apply for Scholarships. Post 245 gives out 4 \$1,000 scholarships a year, if you have a family member who is a senior, let them know about this. To get an application contact Bill Diebold at 608-225-4917. There are also scholarships given out by the State of Wisconsin listed below.

Americanism & Government Scholarship Test - 2025 Test Dates: March 3-14, 2025

Students are given the opportunity to receive recognition and scholarships by taking an online test comprised of 50 multiple-choice, true and false questions followed by an essay question of 300 words or less. The program is endorsed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and is open to any Wisconsin student in the 10th, 11th, 12th grade. Scholarships are:

10th Grade- 11 \$250 Scholarships awarded

11th Grade- 11 \$300 Scholarships awarded

12th Grade- 11 \$750 Scholarships awarded

The test access button will be live after March 2, 2025, at wilegion.org/scholarships/

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.

Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245ers,

President Flo Bayer

I wish you and your families much love and peace for the New Year 2025. Reflecting on the past year, I am grateful for what we have accomplished through all of you who share your gifts, talents and time. We are truly blessed and accomplish more when we work together! I'm looking forward to serving with you in 2025 to improve the lives of our active military, veterans, their families and our communities. Just a reminder that the Auxiliary does not meet in January or February. I'm looking forward to seeing you in March if not before.

Despite the snowy morning, we had a nice turnout for our Christmas Party. I just loved the Legion's Patriotic Christmas tree this year. Judy Deaton's creativity using pictures of Post 245's Veterans as ornaments was an extra special way to remember and honor them. She is working on more vets for our tree next year, so be sure to check it out!

The Madison VA Hospital thanks those who contributed food items and can openers for their food pantry. I dropped them off at the end of December. I recently started volunteering at the Madison VA helping Vets submit their travel vouchers. I will be hanging out by the kiosks outside the travel office one day a week. After just one day, I found it humbling and rewarding working with our Veterans. The next few months should be busy because the VA is moving to a simple and more modern sign-on experience. Veterans will sign-on the MyHealthVet portal with an ID.me or Login.gov. account. I encourage all who log on to the VA health system to get their new sign-on account before the January 31st deadline. I helped my brother over the Holidays, and he was glad for the help. The main MyHealthVet sign-on screen will walk you through the process if you want to do it from home. To learn how to prepare for, visit this link: <https://www.va.gov/initiatives/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/>. If you know of a veteran who needs help, let them know they can stop by the Madison VA Education Office; call the MyVA411 main information line at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: 711) or call/email me and I'd be happy to help.

Badger Girls State – JoAnna Richard

Interested MHS or Clark St. Juniors should contact their HS Social Studies teacher or counselor to apply as a delegate. Volunteers are needed for the June 15-20th, 2025 ALABGS session. Anyone interested in helping for the week or even a few days should contact Chairman Danyelle Thompson at alabgs.chairman@gmail.com. A list of volunteer opportunities and details on BGS is posted at www.alabgs.org.

Auxiliary Scholarship – Sandra Faust

The Virginia Faust Scholarship is available to families of Auxiliary members. Please contact Sandra Faust at 1-608-219-7644 or wbuschma@gmail.com. The scholarship is due by May 1, 2025. There are also scholarships available through the state office that are due by March 1, 2025. If you need any help accessing any of these scholarships, please let me know.

Chaplains Corner - Pat Cady

Katie Walsh-Bratton passed away on December 14, 2024. Katie was a long-time member of our Unit and served as our Auxiliary Secretary. Many of us remember when Katie's Mom, Marge Walsh was our Auxiliary President.*Almighty God, grant to us the grace to remember with love and reverence our departed members. Grant peace and eternal rest to those who have gone before us. We are thankful for their lives and may their memory serve as an inspiration to us.*

Service Opportunities - Debby Niebuhr

- *"Rock Sarbacker's Celebration of Life"* will be held at our Legion Hall on January 11th from 3-6pm. We are asking the Auxiliary Members to provide **desserts**. Salads not needed. Thank you in advance.
- *Valentines for Vets* – Park School and St. Francis Xavier school kids will be making valentines for our Veterans in Wisconsin nursing homes or hospital. If you would like to make a valentine(s), drop them off in the Auxiliary coupon mailbox which is on top of the flag disposal mailbox on the side of the Legion Hall by January 24th.
- *Purple Up* – We are looking for children, or grandchildren with parents currently serving whether Active, Reserves or National Guard. We would like their name, address, which parent(s) is serving and status. This year we are gifting kids up to and including 4th grade & up to 11 yrs old. You can email information to dniebuhr@chorus.net or call 608 445-6590. We'd like information by the end of February. We will put it together in March & get it to the children by the middle of April. April 15th is National Purple Up Day where we thank our Military Kids. If you'd like to make a monetary donation to help with costs, make a check to ALA Unit 245.

2025 Mid-Winter Conference Appleton – Auxiliary events on Jan. 18th

3rd District Holiday Party – Barneveld, Feb 15th

January and February Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

The Auxiliary does not meet in January or February.

Son's of The American Legion

Monthly meeting

Monthly meeting will be held on January 16th

Kevin Boehnen

Holiday Wishes

We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We thank everyone for their work in serving our Veteran's, our Post and our community. We look forward to 2025 and making it a very prosperous year.

Flags

If you need a flag please contact Rod Faust at 608 576 4803.

SAL Dues

We had two new members join the Son's of The American Legion. Those new members are Edward Fisk and Paul Homes.

I had three more potential members show interest this month. We are always looking for new members if you know anyone who is interested let me know and I can send them an application. Dues are \$15.00 a year or you can pay \$60.00 for 5 years.

Rock Sarbacker's Celebration of Life

Rock's celebration of life will be held on January 11th from 2:00 to 7:00 at the American Legion Hall. The SAL will have a ceremony followed by the playing of taps. If you are interested in helping with the food or ceremony let Kevin Boehnen know at 608 798 2113.

Ray Faust Scholarship

The Son's Of the American Legion Post 245 annually gives out a scholarship in memory of Ray Faust. Everyone in the surrounding area is eligible to apply for this scholarship. As always we encourage sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members to apply. If you know any good candidates from the surrounding communities also encourage them to apply.

If you are interested in applying for the Ray Faust SAL Scholarship of \$500.00 please contact Ron Faust at 2129 Caesar St Cross Plains, WI 53528, 608 225 7281 or by e-mail ronaldfaust@reagan.com. We would like all applications turned in by May 1st.