

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

December 2024

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:

December 05 Lions Club
06 Optimist Club Santa Visit
07 Fruit Basket Delivery
19 Legion, SAL, Aux Xmas Party
31 Model T Club

January 02 Lions Club
11 Rock’s celebration of life
16 Legion, SAL meeting
28 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

Seasons greetings Legion Family,

Our November meeting was busy and fun. We had a great Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings put on by the SAL, and deserts by the auxiliary. Thank you, everything was delicious. Flo Bayer and Debbie Niebuhr presented membership awards to some outstanding Auxiliary members, and they assembled briefly for pictures. Our guest speakers included Scot Lemontagne of Edward Jones. He is, of course one of our Sons of the American Legion, and presented a brief on personal finance investments and fielded questions. We also heard from Mark Faultersack, who presented highlights from a book he assembled and published My Book To you from the Greenland Patrol. About his father Howard's journal during WWII. Many purchased autographed copies from Mark and his was an engaging talk about a harrowing patrol during an interesting period in history. Gary Itten and Bill Diebold gave a nice update on their hard work planning the playground equipment install. They have finalized a vender and design and it looks to be delivered and installed early spring of 2025. The old equipment has been cleared thanks to volunteers, and fundraising too has been moving along thanks to their efforts with donation buckets around town and a generous donation from the Cross Plains/Berry fire department and the local Lion's club.

A collection was taken for the December Caring Tree, and this was supplemented for a total of 500.00 to go to needy community members during the December volunteer drive.

December 19th is Party time! Again, we will be having our Post 245 Potluck Christmas party without formal meeting. Bring the dish you are famous for, we'll have a beverage or two, the whole shebang will take place at the Legion Hall. Should be fun.

January 16-18th will be the annual Midwinter Conference in Appleton. Persons interested in attending should let executive committee members know; updated conference info can be found at wilegion.org.

Please see Gary and Flo's letters for more detailed info about our meeting and upcoming events, and Doug Deaton about the Basket assembly project.

Please have safe holidays, hope to see you in Cross Plains,
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

CP Caring Tree

It is that time of year where the CARING TREE brings JOY to the people of our community. The recipients are the less fortunate, those 90 and over, ongoing illness, major surgery, loss of spouse and local residents in a facility. They receive monetary funds or fruit baskets or poinsettia plants.

Any amount helps. The funds are used mostly in December, but can be sent any time of the year, Thank you for your support.

If you would like to donate, you can send cash or check made out to Caring Tree and send to Post 245, c/o Bill Diebold, PO Box 188, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

Barb Schutz, Judi and Doug Deaton

Fruit / Flower Baskets

Thank you to all who volunteered to deliver fruit baskets/poinsettias on Saturday, December 7th.
Barb Schutz, Doug and Judi Deaton

Playground Committee Report – Gary Itten

As many of you know we are replacing some of the old playground equipment in the park. The climbing structure was old, unsafe, and rotting away. We got approval at November's meeting to purchase new equipment at a price of \$52,986.00. Now we are starting to raise money to pay for the new equipment. So far we have raised around

\$11,000.00 and we are in the process of sending out a letter to the local chamber of Commerce members asking for donations. If you are interested in making a donation, please mail checks payable to Kerl-Endres-Brannon Post 245, PO Box 188, Cross Plains, WI53528.

Thank You
Playground Equipment Committee

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 November 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Commander Zanon.

A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Ed to accept the minutes of the Oct. 17th meeting as printed in the 245er, motion carried.

A motion by Dennis and seconded by Tony to accept the minutes of Oct. 17th Executive board meeting as read by the Adjutant; motion carried.

No guests or new members

Finance: Bill handed out the financial report, Joe made a motion and 2nd by Jerry to accept the finance report subject to audit, motion carried.

Chaplain: No report

1st Vice Emily reported we have 131 members paid up for 2025 and our goal is 187 with one new member. Please send in your dues to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528. Emily thanked all the volunteers for helping with haunted house at the legion hall and there was 23 hours of volunteer help.

2nd Vice: No report

3rd Vice: No report

SAL: Kevin reported the SAL had their Last Man's Club meeting with 1 SAL member Mike Greany passed this last year. They cooked for the annual Motor Cross event and helped with the draw down. He introduced Rich Roberts as a new SAL member.

Americanism: Bill Statz presented a budget for the Americanism programs. Bill made a motion to send 3 boys from MHS to Boys State, Dan Cady 2nd, after discussion motion carried. Bill made a motion to sponsor 3 American Legion teams this year for \$2,000.00 and \$1,000.00 for shirts, Emily 2nd, after discussion motion carried.

Children and Youth: No report

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No report

Post Service Officer: Joe reported that from the National level down through all levels of the legion are encouraging all legion members to do Buddy Checks on all veterans. Commander Zannon also emphasized about doing Buddy Checks. Joe reported that his uncle, who was in WWII and the Korean War wrote 6 books on his experiences in the war and that they were donated to Post 245 and were available to look at and read.

Public Relations: Bill Diebold's daughter wrote an article that was in the Village of Cross Plains Newsletter. He also reported that he had forms for Badger Honor Flight, Scholarships, and Quilts of Valor.

Old Business: None

New Business: Dan Cady made a motion to purchase new playground equipment for \$52,896.00, Ed Pelowsky 2nd after discussion, motion carried. Dan made a motion to donate to the Community Chest the same amount as last year, Emily 2nd after discussion motion carried. Dan made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to Lion's Legacy project Joe 2nd, after discussion, motion carried. The collection for the Caring Tree was \$376.00 Dan made a motion to add \$124.00 to round it up to \$500.00, Emily 2nd, after discussion motion carried. Dan made a motion to give a gift card in the amount of \$100.00 to Rick and Sandy Loger, for taking care of the flowers around the legion Dennis 2nd, after discussion, motion carried.

Good of the American Legion: Sgt. Of Arms Bill S. mentioned we could use more members to be on the Honor Guard for funerals. There will be no meeting next month, the annual Christmas party will be Dec. 19th bring your spouse and a dish to pass cocktails at 5:30 pm, meal at 6:30 pm. Commander Zannon reported that will be no meeting in February.

Kitty: no winner

50/50: Dan Cady, donated to the new playground equipment

Brandy: Bill Statz

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Itten, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245'ers,

President Flo Bayer

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving with family. I am grateful for the time I was able to spend with my family in Mpls. Many thanks to our SAL members who provided a truly scrumptious Thanksgiving dinner, and the Auxiliary desserts were yummy! It was so nice to have our auxiliary members with 50+ years of membership and their families join us. Their dedication to the Auxiliary is a great example of what serving our Veterans and their families means.



The Drawdown was truly a Legion Family event with Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members working together. It was fun listening to the sighs when someone's name was called who wasn't a winner and the yeah's of when a winning name was called. The proceeds of the 50/50 drawing will allow us to sponsor a Badger Girls State delegate. I received many compliments on the delicious dinner and would like to thank Judy & Doug Deaton, Deb Niebuhr, The Piggly Wiggly and everyone else who helped make this event a success.

ALA Unit 245'er Joanna Richard had agreed to serve as chair for the Badger Girl State fundraising committee statewide. With increasing costs and trying to keep sponsorship costs down, we are looking for benefactors to help support this important government and leadership program. Let me know if you know of a business or would like to contribute. Any junior in the Middleton/Cross Plains school district is encouraged to talk with their social studies teacher to apply for BGS. <https://www.alabgs.org/>

Karen Runk and Lorie Ballweg are co-chairing our Purple Up project for 2025. We are looking for children, grandchildren, etc with parents currently serving whether Active, Reserves or National Guard. We would need their addresses, which parent(s) is serving and status. This year we are doing kids up to and including 4th grade. You can email Debby Niebuhr, dniebuhr@chorus.net or call 608-445-6590. We'd like the information by the end of February, so we can pull it together in March and get it to the children by the middle of April. April 15th is National Purple Up Day for Military Kids. Thank you for your help and participation.

I'd like to thank our Auxiliary Christmas Elves who helped provide cookies for the 115th Fighter Wing's Holiday Christmas Party on short notice. They plan to serve around 200 kids who will get their picture taken with Santa by the jet. From one of the coordinators "You and your team totally ROCKS! In all areas: Volunteer spirit, teamwork, and attitude".

Don't forget to join us for some Christmas cheer at our Dec. Xmas party. I hope Ed will have his famous Tom & Jerry's. This is a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to pass. Ham and dinner rolls will be provided. Also, consider helping us stock the Madison VA Hospital's food pantry by bringing a food item. They provide food to Veterans returning home from the hospital who have food insecurities. I hear the rice pouches have been going over well.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

Please keep Russ and Candy Severson in your prayers. They are both experiencing health challenges. Guess it's no fun getting old, would be nice if we could just go to a parts store and refurbish ourselves. They'd really appreciate your prayers. Wishing everyone Good Health and Happiness.

December 19th Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

ALA lunch for December 19 Christmas party: bring your favorite dish or dessert. Any questions call Jane 6087123133 email gijacondo@gmail.com. Thanks.

January and February Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

The Auxiliary does not meet in January or February.

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.

Son's of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Christmas Party

Christmas Party will be held December 19, 2024. We're hoping to get as many SAL members and their spouses to attend this year. All are welcome, please bring a dish to pass.

Fruit Baskets

We will be delivering Fruit Baskets on Saturday December 7th. If you still want to help show up at the Piggly Wiggly at 9:00 AM and you can possibly ride along with someone who signed up for one of the routes.

November "Draw Down"

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event successful.

November "Thanksgiving Dinner"

We would like to thank Mike Diebold, Rod Faust, Tom Helleckson, Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand, Scott Lamontagne, Paul Lochner, Brad Niebhur, Rich Roberts, Greg Roessler, Dave Schultz, Tom Hellickson, Ed Zander and Kevin Boehnen for preparing and serving the dinner. We served 51 people at the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 21st. We would like to thank the Auxiliary for bring desserts and helping clean up after dinner.

Remembering Rock Sarbacker who passed away November 27, 2024

On November 27th we lost another member of Squadron 245 Rock Sarbacker. Rock was an active member of our Post for 53 years. He was a Past SAL Commander of Squadron 245 serving from 1975 to 1976. He held many offices and was a very active member. He also was a member of our SAL Lastman's Club.

Please keep Noel, Warren and the entire Sarbacker family in your thoughts and prayers.

Flags

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

Membership 2025

We currently have 116 members paid for 2025. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the SAL please let me know at kabohnen@chorus.net.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

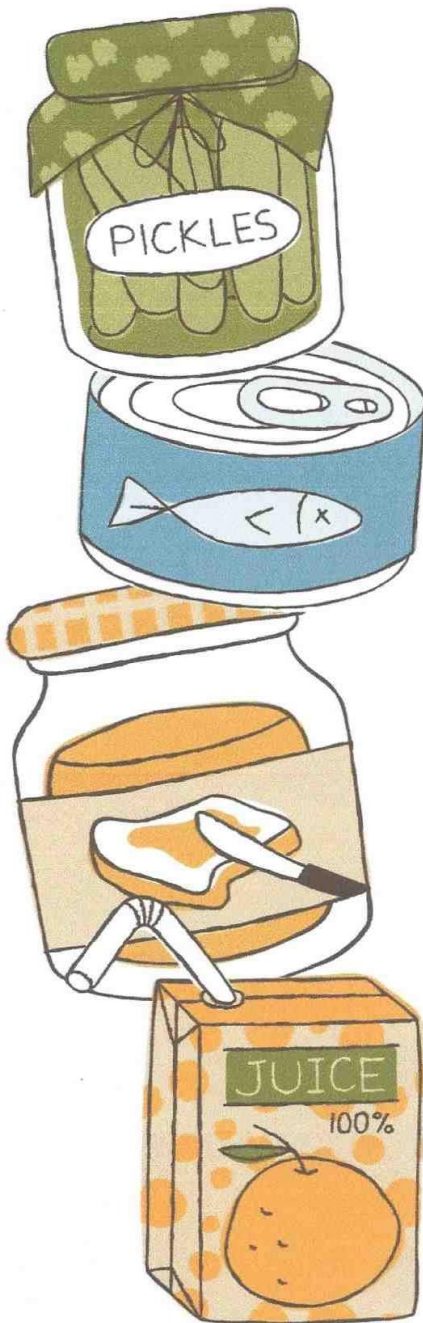
On behalf of my family Ann, Elizabeth, Lexi and myself we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We encourage you to keep in your prayers the people who continue to serve our country and those who serve away from their families.

We are also very thankful for all of the veterans who have served our country at one time or another and wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will never forget your service to our country.

MADISON VA

Food Drive List

FOOD DONATED WILL BE USED TO STOCK OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY THAT PROVIDES SHELF-STABLE FOOD TO VETERANS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH FOOD SECURITY WHEN DISCHARGED FROM INPATIENT UNITS.



Grains

- Instant oatmeal
- Pasta (all varieties—whole wheat, gluten free, etc.)
- Rice (instant/microwavable)
- Low-fat/low-sugar granola bars

Fruits and Vegetables

- Low or no sodium canned vegetables
- Canned fruit and fruit cups in water or natural juices
- No sugar added apple sauce
- Low-sodium vegetable juice

Proteins

- Low-sodium canned chicken
- Canned tuna in water
- Unsalted nuts/seeds
- Reduced sodium peanut butter/nut butters
- 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
- Can openers
- Microwavable meals/pasta dishes

Beverages

- Bottled water
- Tea
- Instant coffee

Please make sure these products do not expire within six months of donation.