

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

December 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

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.

Upcoming Events

December 04 Lions Club

January 08 Lions Club

05 Lions Santa Drive

15 Legion, SAL meeting

06 Lions Santa Drive

27 Model T Club

18 Legion, Aux, SAL X-mas party

31 Valley Archers

30 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
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

Commander's Message**Steve Zanon**

Hello Legion family, and welcome to December!

We had a busy time in November: On November 8 Phillip Flannery and Bill Herriges were aboard Madison's Honor flight to DC for military service during the Vietnam conflict.

The following week Emily Cash Bill Statz, and Gary Itten attended and set up a membership table at the annual Dane county Veteran's shoot.

We had funeral honors for member Roman Ripp, who many of us knew.

We had guest speaker Jackie Faust of news 3 Call to Action attend our meeting and give a short presentation on this impressive consumer protection program. Dinner was provided by the Sons of the American Legion and was Turkey dinner with all the wonderful fixings. Thank you, Kevin, Whitey and all the SAL who helped. The Cady's passed the basket for the annual Giving tree fundraiser and over 400 dollars was raised. We rounded this up to 500 at the meeting

Two days later we had our 26th annual Draw down which was well attended and very successful. Thanks to the many volunteers who chipped in including the SAL who provided dinner, Auxiliary who served and made wonderful desserts, Flo Bayer and Cheryl Kelter who took leadership roles getting help lined up and door prizes from local vendors, Gary Itten and Dick Zwettler who received attendees and issued drink tickets, and Viki Statz who ran the 50/50, Rich Roberts who ran the envelope game, the Duquettes and Rodney Faust, who accomplished the drawing itself, and of course Bill Diebold who kept, and continues to keep finance books, proceeds and expenses in proper order. Thank you to all, I'm sure I have missed some.

Our membership at this time of the year should be near its peak, but we hover a little over 73%. Please if you have not yet paid the 45-dollar annual dues, please get them in to Emily Cash or pay online.

This coming third Thursday in December we will not convene meetings, but will again host our Holiday Potluck. We pay special tribute to the many volunteers who work so hard for our post throughout the year whether members or not. Pretty sure it's open bar, and everyone cooks up their specialty recipes to pass. Phil Villejos has kindly volunteered to make ham for the main course. I hope to see you all there, don't forget your slacks with the elastic waistband.

Cheers'

Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Chaplain's message:**Tim Engling**

The Post provided an Honor Guard on November 18 for a local veteran, Romie Ripp, who passed away.

Notes from the Adjutant – Gary Itten

Looking for someone to snow blow the sidewalks at the Legion. We have a snowblower in the garage. I can help out till the end of Jan. as I will be gone the months Feb. and March. If interested contact me at 608-225-4722. I want to thank Ron Faust and his son Brian for cleaning the sidewalks the last 4 years. Also, thanks to Tom Helleckson for plowing the parking lot and driveway.

We have two positions open for Sgt of Arms and to chair some smaller committees like County Government Day, Americanism and Children and Youth. We need people to step up and chair these positions. If interested in any of these positions contact either me or Commander Zanon.

Also, in need of 2 or 3 people to help with flags next year. I need one person to help Dennis Heiliger with a route and 1 or 2 people for a small route. If interested contact me at the number listed above. It would be only two times, one is to put them out Memorial Day and then pick them up on Veterans Day.

Thank you from Family of Roman Ripp

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Cross Plains Legion Auxiliary who donated salads and desserts for the funeral luncheon. Also, the Cross Plains American Legion Post 245 who provided a very special recognition to our dad. We are very grateful to all of you for your continued dedication. Sincerely, The Family of Roman Ripp

Fruit Basket / Poinsettia Project

The date for the **2025 Fruit Basket/Poinsettia Project** is *Saturday, December 13, 2025*. Volunteers are needed to help deliver baskets/plants! Please contact Pat Cady at patcady@yahoo.com or call (608) 576-9764 to sign up for a route. Volunteers meet at the Piggly Wiggly at 9:00 a.m. to pick up baskets/flowers.

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 November 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Commander Zanon.

A motion was made by Dick Zwettler and seconded by Dennis Heiliger to accept the minutes of the Oct. 16th meeting as printed in the 245er, motion carried.

Phil Vallejos made a motion to accept the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of Aug. 21st; Joe Hodgson seconded it and motion carried.

No Guests or new members.

Finance: Phil Vallejos made a motion to accept the finance report subject to audit, Dave Vidlock 2nd and motion carried.

Chaplain: Pat Andreoni subbing for Tim reported the Honor Guard performed military rites at Romie Ripp's funeral, and he was a 70-year member of our post.

1st Vice, Gary I. reported that we are at 73% and there are 50 members that have not been renewed. Also, he sent out 6 transfer letters to legion members that are on the 2930 roster. You can send your dues to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528.

2nd Vice: No report

3rd Vice: Dave Vidlock wanted to thank everyone that donates and helps load the metal for recycling. He presented a report on how much we collected since 2016, and it is over 1 million pounds.

SAL: No Report

Americanism: No Report, need a chairman

Children & Youth: No Report, need a chairman

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No Report

Post Service Officer: Joe reported we have one contestant for the Oratorical Contest.

Public Relations: Bill had a copy of the Village of Cross Plains newsletter, and it had a picture of the firing squad at the Memorial Day Program.

Old Business: New Report

New Business and Correspondence: Commander Zanon read thank you notes. Motion by Dan Cady and seconded by John Hill to donate \$200.00 to the community chest, motion carried.

Good of the American Legion: Bill Herriges spoke about his Honor Flight and thanked the members of the Post. Bill Diebold was sworn as the Finance Officer. Dave V. reported that himself and Mike Shanahan attended the Elk's free breakfast honoring Veterans. Dan C. made a motion to round up the collection of \$411.00 for the caring tree to \$500.00. Phil Vallejos seconded, and motion carried.

Kitty: Stan Nonn, Not present

50/50: Dick Zwettler donated back to the Post.

Brandy: Bill Diebold donated to the Draw Down

Commander Zanon adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Itten, Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245'ers,

President Flo Bayer

Wishing you all peace, love and blessings this Holiday season. This can be "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" filled with traditions, family and friends, for which I'm extremely thankful. But at times, I also feel a sense of increased stress and sadness, because of the extra things to get done and missing family members/friends. Christmas Mass helps ground me and brings me the most hope & peace; my true "*Reason for the Season*". A couple of resources to check out: "[Surviving the Holidays: How to Mind our Mental Health](#)" & "[How to Protect Your Mental Health During this Season](#)" – 1. Accept Imperfection 2. Don't Lose Sight of What Really counts 3. Be Kind 4. Find Time to Decompress 5. Ask For – and Accept – Help.

Something to consider while you gather with your favorite veterans this holiday season or a 2026 Project is the [Library of Congress - Veterans History Project](#). It collects and preserves personal stories and other original material from U.S. military veterans.

The 26th **Drawdown** is in the books. It was a fun Legion Family event and important fundraiser that supports our missions. It was great working with the Drawdown committee: Steve Zannon, Kevin Boehnen, Cheryl Kelter, Vicki Smith & Dave Montag. Many thanks to all who helped with the event to be successful whether it was setup, cooking, bartending, serving, pulling & recording winners, cleanup, all who purchased tickets, entered the 50/50 & envelope drawing, and our generous sponsors who donated some awesome door prizes!

Virginia Faust Scholarship – At our last meeting we voted to expand the availability of our scholarship from just family members of the Auxiliary to include veterans, active duty, reserve, and National Guard. Preference will be given to Auxiliary Jr.'s and family of Auxiliary members as part of the scoring process. With the help of Becky Ward, we also are planning on making the scholarship application available online. Stay tuned and we'll let you know when it's available. As always, you can contact Sandra Faust for more information.

ALA Badger Girls State – We voted to sponsor 3 delegates for the [June 21-26th, 2026 Government & Leadership Conference](#). Our thanks to SAL for sponsoring 1 additional delegate. Encourage any Junior you know at Middleton High/Clark Street to contact their Social Studies teacher to apply. It has been truly life changing for many attendees. BGS is always looking for individuals to volunteer at the event. It can be for the full session or a few days. Volunteer options can be found at: <https://www.alabgs.org/alabgs-volunteer-info> or contact JoAnna Richard - bennel@msn.com.

Mid-Winter conference is January 15th-18th at Oneida Casino Hotel in Green Bay. Any Auxiliary member interested in attending, please contact me before Dec. 20th for registration. **ALA Juniors** are doing a fundraiser selling Kwik Trip gift cards and personalized Honor Buttons to purchase kayaks for Camp American Legion. Contact Christine Johnson @cmj102@aol.com if interested.

The Auxiliary would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the Roman (Romie) Ripp family. Son, Kevin is a SAL member and son-in-law, Jim Albertson is a Legion member and past commander. It was very interesting to read about his military service and experience in the Korean War. Our veterans have a rich history. He was a Legion member for 70 years! May he rest in peace.

At our last meeting Auxiliary members signed Christmas Cards that will be delivered to the Madison VA Hospital for distribution to the hospital or WI Veteran's homes. We also have very generous members who have committed to baking cookies or donating books for the 115th Fighter Wing Christmas Party being held at Truax field.

Just a reminder our December 18th meeting is replaced with our **Legion Family Christmas Party**. The Legion will provide the ham, and you all are encouraged to join us with your favorite dish to pass. Our talented Auxiliary member Judy Deaton and her elves will have our Christmas tree decorated with some of our favorite Veterans as ornaments. If you are able, please consider bringing a donation from the VA wish list (Patriot Pantry, Craft Room, Clothing Closet, Hospice Comfort Care). I'll deliver on Dec. 30th.

Thanks Pat & Dan Cady, Barb Shutz, and all who signed up for a route to deliver **Christmas** cheer and a **Fruit/Flower Basket** on December 13th. A wonderful annual tradition where we partner with other community organizations to remember our elderly, sick and those experiencing a death of a spouse in the past year.

Always remember those currently deployed and their families. But especially during this holiday season. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and blessing for the New Year!

Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

- **December** – Pot luck Christmas Party. Bring your favorite dish.
- **January and February** – No Auxiliary meeting.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

We really appreciate everyone's response to the call for salads and desserts for our Vet, Roman (Romie) Ripp who recently passed. It warmed our hearts to be able to contribute to his celebration of life. So THANK YOU to one and all, you help make our Unit 245 a wonderful family organization.

Sons of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Christmas Party

Christmas Party will be held December 18, 2025. We hoping to get as many SAL members and their spouses to attend this year. All our welcome please bring a dish to pass.

Fruit Baskets

We will be delivering Fruit Baskets on Saturday December 13th at 9:00 AM. If you still want to help someone could ride along with Kevin Boehnen as I have a route. If looking for your own route with someone to help you please email pat.cady@yahoo.com.

November "Draw Down"

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event successful. Rod Faust, Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand, Rich Roberts, Mike Diebold, Noel Sarbacker, Dave Maier, Dave Schultz, Jack Regan, Greg Roessler, Dave Maier and Ed Zander. This year's event was a joint effort by the American Legion, Auxillary and Son's of the American Legion.

November "Thanksgiving Dinner"

We would like to thank Mike Diebold, Rod Faust, Tom Helleckson, Steve "Whitey" Hillebrand, Scott Lamontagne, Brad Niebhur, Rich Roberts, Greg Roessler, Dave Schultz, Jack Regan, Ed Zander and Kevin Boehnen for preparing and serving the dinner. We served 58 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 Kevin Ripp's dad Roman Ripp who passed away November 7, 2025

Please keep Kevin & Rachel Ripp, Kathleen Hilgendorf and the entire family of Roman Ripp in your prayers.

Remembering David Schultz's mom Lurlene Schultz who passed away November 11, 2025

Please keep David Schultz along with his sisters Jacqueline, Donna, Nancy, Rita and the entire family of Lurlen Schultz in your prayers.

Flags

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

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.



\$\$\$ Legion Family Drawdown Supporters \$\$\$

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ★ Zuern Building Solutions | ★ Remington's Tavern |
| ★ Kalscheurs Implement | ★ Paul's Neighborhood Bar |
| ★ Harbor Athletic Club | ★ Frank Beer Distributors |
| ★ Culvers | ★ Wayne & Larry Esser |
| ★ The Vintage | ★ Kalscheurs Garage Inc. |
| ★ The Vessel | ★ Century 21 |
| ★ Bristled Boar & Saloon | ★ Walgreens |
| ★ Optimists | ★ Harry Acker Builders |
| ★ Red Mouse | |

Thank YOU!!!

Thank YOU!!!

Thank YOU



Madison VA Needs list - Dec. 2025

Drop off to American Legion Post 245 by Dec. 29th

Patriot Pantry most needed foods

- Instant Oatmeal packets (boxes of 8-10 packets)
- Chicken (canned or pouches) – low sodium preferred
- Peanut Butter (16 oz jars)
- Granola Bars (boxes of 8-12 bars)
- Single serve soups (homeless Veteran Bags)
- Single serve vegetables (homeless Veteran Bags)

Craft Room (Hint: check your local dollar store)

- Small Lego kits
- Small (100pc or less) puzzles
- Easy Large Print coloring books for adults
- Reading glasses strength 1.00-3.50
- Pens

Clothing Closet

- Large Sweatshirts
- Extra Large Sweatshirts
- Winter Hats
- Winter gloves/mittens

Hospice Comfort Cart

- Cheez-It lunch snacks
- Pop-Tarts
- Ritz Bitz snack packs
- Rice Krispies treats
- Granola Bars
- Goldfish crackers
- Snack size Peanuts/Almonds
- Oreo, Chips Ahoy, Nutter Butter snack packs
- Animal Crackers