

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

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

June 2026

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 Bill Herriges

Paul Dull – Nursing Home
Dennis Jones – Home

Ralph Schulenberg – Home
Joanne Dodge – Nursing Home

Albert Oleson – Nursing Home
Russell Bradford – VA

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

Upcoming Events

June

04 Lions Club
15 Iron Horse band concert; shelter
18 Legion, SAL, Aux meeting
24 Red Cross Blood drive; 12 to 7
30 Model T Club

July

02 Lions Club
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.

ADDRESS CHANGE OR REMOVAL for newsletter: If you are moving or would like to be removed from the mailing list for the newsletter contact Gary Itten at gijacondo@gmail.com, or 608-225-4722, or Flo Bayer at thebayes1@gmail.com or 608-798-4671.

HALL RENTAL: There is a special rental rate for members to use the building. 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
Katrina McKee
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 245ers: Yup, it's June already;

We had a nice time in May. Our meeting was attended by County Commander Scott Klassey and District 3 commander Dan O'Brien, and after having a wonderful Steak dinner prepared by our SAL, we elected and installed new officers' downstairs. In addition to our familiar faces Gary Itten Adjutant, Bill Diebold Finance officer, Joe Hodgson Service officer and historian, Dave Montag, second vice, Bill Statz Judge Advocate, and myself, Bill Herriges sworn in as our new Chaplain, and Tammy Rutlin took over as first Vice, Mike Ripp elected third Vice, and Norm Esser Jr our Sargent at arms. Thank you new and standing officers, and thanks to Emily Cash, Tim Engling, and Dave Vidlock for serving post 245 as officers these past years.

Memorial Day was special as well. After a fine breakfast by our SAL, members Auxiliary, SAL, headed out to five local cemeteries accompanied by our local BSA Scout troop and buglers. We paid tribute at the cemeteries, then returned to march in the Cross Plains parade. Bill Herriges led our ceremonies and prayers back at our war memorial, then we gave out six one-thousand-dollar scholarships and four for five hundred dollars to local seniors. Then it was fun time in our grounds with chicken dinners, hot dogs, and beverages. Near perfect weather, and a big community turnout, as well as hard work by many volunteers made it a really nice day.

On June 15 at around 6:30 the Iron Horse Coronet band will be playing a free concert right at our post shelter. The band features our own Carol Ittri, and it is always a great show. Bring lawn chairs and enjoy.

On Friday July 31st, Mallard's baseball will be offering special prices on tickets for military appreciation day.

On Friday July 10, Middleton's Sonny Simon VFW post will be hosting a VFW golf outing at Pleasant View Golf Club. Info at sonnysimongolf.com.

At our June meeting I would like to present 50 year membership certificates to Orville Kerl, Jay Moretti, Charles Saeman, and an 80 year certificate to Keith Faust.

Thanks for reading,
See you soon,
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Legion Baseball news from Bill Statz:

On May 2, our Post 245 was honored with a "Legion Appreciation" event. It was hosted by the Middleton HS Baseball coaches and players, held at a regular MHS Varsity Baseball game. It was quite an honor to be so recognized, for all we do at Post 245 for MHS, especially Legion Baseball, but also all the other programs like scholarships, Badger Boys and Badger Girls state, color guards, etc. Also, our Post 245 has strong support at Legion Department headquarters in Portage. We had 4 honored special guests from Department come to town for the event! See photo.



Back row, standing from left to right are 21 MHS Varsity baseball players, Katrina McKee - Post 245 Auxiliary President, John Edelblute IV - Department Scouting Chairman - 4th District Adjutant.

Front row, kneeling from left to right are Steve Kohnke - Department VC, Nathan Bond - Department Commander, Rita Rindahl - Department VC, Gary Itten - Post Adjutant, Steve Zanon - Post Commander, Kathy Statz - Post Auxiliary, Bill Statz - Post Legion Baseball, Matt Cash - Post SAL, Tim McKee - Post SAL

Note: The team in the photo is the MHS Varsity team. Most of these varsity players, and the players from the other MHS JV teams, also play on the 3 MHS/Legion Baseball summer teams. Post 245 sponsors all 3 MHS/Legion Baseball teams at levels: SR/19U, 17U, and JR/16U. The Legion Baseball regular season runs from June 6 - July 15. Regional championship tournaments for each of the 3 levels are July 16 - July 25. State championship tournaments are July 26 - August 1st. See schedule at end of newsletter for the Tournament schedules. Other regular games are still being added, TBD.

Any questions, call Bill Statz 608-577-4002

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 May 21, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Commander Zanon.

A motion was made by Phil V. and seconded by Dennis Heigler to accept the minutes of the April 16th meeting as printed in the 245er, motion carried.

Joe Hodgson made a motion to accept the minutes of the Executive Board meeting of Apr. 16th, Bill Diebold seconded and motion carried.

3rd District Commander Dan O'Brien and Dane County Commander Scott Klassy were introduced as guests.

Gary I. made a motion to close nominations, Dennis H. 2nd it motion carried. Election for 1st Vice Commander was held between Emily Cash and Tammy Rutlin. Tammy is the new 1st Vice Commander. Jim Albertson made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the rest of the nominated officers, Ted K. 2nd it, motion carried. Commander O'Brien installed the new officers.

Finance: Joe H. made a motion to accept the finance report subject to audit, Emily Cash 2nd and motion carried.

Chaplain: No report.

1st Vice, Emily reported we have one new member and we are at 93% for the year. Emily wanted to thank everyone that helped out with the dues.

3rd Vice: Dave V. metal prices are up and have been recycling alot of metal lately.

SAL: Contact Rodney Faust for Flags. They will be rewarding the Ray Faust scholarship on Memorial Day. The SAL has been helping out with the metal, helped put out the flags at the cemeteries. Kevin showed off the new shirts and hats.

Americanism: Bill Statz reported on the May 2nd Veteran Appreciation Day held at the Middleton High School.

Children & Youth: No Report, need a chairman

Athletic: No Report

Community Service: No Report

Post Service Officer: See Joe H. for VA application benefits. He put an old Post 245 band uniform in the display case upstairs.

Public Relations: No Report
Old Business: None

New Business and Correspondence: Dan Cady made a motion pay \$300.00 for ½ of the entry fee of the Sonny Simon Golf Outing, Mike Schutz 2nd, motion carried. Steve mentioned the Fisher House will be having a golf outing Aug. 31st. The Mallards will have a Veteran Appreciation Day July 31st. Steve made a motion for one time to award two \$500.00 scholarships to remaining applicants, Joe 2nd it, discussion was held, motion carried.

Good of the American Legion: Emily said she would be a delegate to the State Convention, July 15th thru July 19th in Appleton. Emily also said she won't be here for the Halloween spook house and that Katrin Mckee would be in charge of it this year.

Kitty: Dennis Harpold, not present
50/50: Bill Diebold
Brandy: Gary Itten, donated to drawdown

Commander Zanon adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Gary Itten Adjutant

Auxiliary Newsletter
Hello 245'ers!

President Katrina McKee

Virginia Faust Scholarship – The \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Harrison LaMontagne.

ALA Badger Girls State – Will be held June 21-26th, 2026.

June Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

Ann Eicher, Mary Jones, Mary Helleckson, Linda Niebuhr
If you can't make a dessert or help set up at 6pm and clean up after dinner, call or email Jane 608-712-3133. gijacondo@gmail.com so I can get someone to cover. Please feel free to leave a message.

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

We'll be collecting dues, need them by the end of July; if you want to pay in June to beat the rush feel free to mail your check to me at PO BOX 3 CP; otherwise if you want to use your credit card, we'll let you know when they open up the phone lines or website, usually mid July. Dues are the same this year \$35. for Seniors (18+) and juniors (0-17) are \$6.00.

Sons of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting

Joint meeting with the Legion will be on June 18th this month.

Flags

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

Ray Faust Scholarship

The Son's Of the American Legion Post 245 annually gives out a scholarship in memory of Ray Faust. This year's winner of the \$500.00 scholarship was Henry Kjol.

Recyclable Run

On May 1st, 20th and 21st the Sons of the American Legion worked on clearing out Recyclable area. Would like to thank Steve (Whitey) Hillebrand, Tom Helleckson, Jack Regan, Rich Roberts and Kevin Boehnen for helping load the trailer to take items to recyclable center.

SAL Dues

We are still at 112 members as of the end of May. We are always looking for new members if you know anyone who is interested let me know and I can send them an application.

Welcome to our newest member Richard (Rick) A McWane who is a dual member (that means a member of the American Legion post) who rejoined our squadron after retiring from service.

Dues are \$15.00 a year or you can pay \$60.00 for 5 years. If you know of anyone who is interested call me at 608 798 2113 or email me at kabohnen@chorus.net.

Putting up Flags for Memorial Day at the Cemeteries

We had 4 Sons of the American Legion members help with putting out flags at the six cemeteries. Special thank you to Rich Roberts, Tom Hellickson, Rod Faust and Kevin Boehnen. Would also like to thank the Legion members who helped Gary Itten, Bill Diebold, Dennis Heilger, Steve Zannon, Dave Vidlock and Michael Shanahan.

Finally would like to thank Dick Zwetter who has been doing this since 1988 for 38 years of service to our fallen veterans.

Steak Cook Out for Legion Meeting

It was our pleasure to provide the Steak dinner at the May Legion meeting. I would like to thank those who helped Rod Faust, Rick Hillebrand, Tim Hillebrand, Steve (Whitey) Hillebrand, Rich Roberts, Greg Roessler, Dave Schultz, Ed Zander and Kevin Boehnen.

Memorial Day

A special thank you to Rick Hillebrand, Tim Hillebrand, Steve (Whitey) Hillebrand and Ed Zander for preparing the breakfast before going out to the cemeteries.

I would also thank the following for participating in the visitation to the cemeteries, marching in the parade and memorial service at the Legion Park. Those who participated are Matthew Cash, Bert Couey, Brian Faust, Dave Faust, Rodney Faust, Ron Faust, Tim Mckee, Noel Sarbacker, Quentin Williams, Shawn Williams and Kevin Boehnen.

New Sons of The American Legion Shirts and Hats

We now have new shirts and hats for the Son's of The American Legion as of Memorial Day. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt and hat the cost is \$40.00. Just let me know and I will get them for you. I will be ordering more shirts with the sizes for small and medium.

MHS/Legion Baseball Schedules, Summer 2026

(as of May 2nd)

JR/16U Legion Tournaments

June 6-7 Fon Du Lac Tournament

June 12-14 TBD

Tues, 6/16, 16U. 1 game, 5PM Sorensen/Bakken

June 19-21 Don Friday JR Legion Tournament, Stevens Point
June 26-28 Verona College Invitational
July 3-5 TBD
Mon 7/6, 16U, 1 game, 5PM, MHS
July 10-12 High School Showdown, DeForest
July 16-21 Regionals, Dates and Location TBD
July 24-28 16U State, Location TBD

17U Legion Tournaments

June 12-14 WSC Slugfest, New Berlin, WI
June 18-21 Middleton Kick Off Summer Classic Tournament*
June 26-28 Antigo Tournament
July 3-5 TBD
July 10-12 GMB Bigler Summer Slam, Pewaukee, WI
July 16-21 Regionals, Dates and Location TBD
July 24-28 17U State, Location TBD

SR/19U Legion Tournaments

June 18-21 Middleton Kick Off Summer Classic Tournament*
June 26-28 Midwest Classic, Excelsior MN
July 3-5 Ed Kardach Firecracker Classic, Stevens Point
July 10-14 Gopher Classic, Minneapolis, MN (exactly locations TBD)
July 17-18 Possible Doubleheader
July 21-25 AAA Regionals, Dates and Location TBD
July 28-Aug
1 AAA State, Marshfield WI



CELEBRATE MORE *Life*

Cross Plains Blood Drive **American Legion Cross Plains** **Post 245**

Upstairs
2217 American Legion Drive

Wednesday, June 24, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and use Sponsor Code: CrossPlainsWI

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.

**Come to give blood 6/1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card +
chance to win a \$7.5K prize! See rcblood.org/June.**

Give Blood.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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