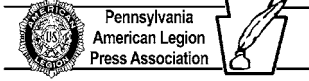
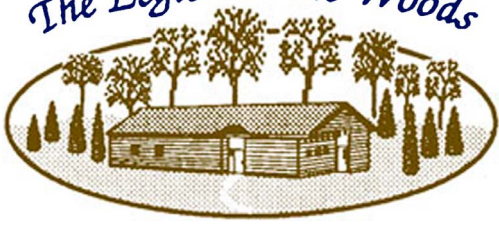


*The Legion in the Woods*



# POST 245 NEWSLETTER

1950 PINE HALL RD., STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

814-237-6880 EMAIL: [POST245@COMCAST.NET](mailto:POST245@COMCAST.NET)

WEBSITE: [WWW.POST245.COM](http://WWW.POST245.COM)

NOVEMBER 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025

## FROM THE COMMANDER,

Dear Legionnaires,

As we approach Thanksgiving in 2024, I am filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who proudly stand as Legionnaires, embodying the values of unity, patriotism, and service to our country. In a world that sometimes seems divided, our Legion family stands as a beacon of hope and unity, reminding us of the strength that comes from coming together in service and camaraderie.

This Thanksgiving, let us remember the sacrifices made by those who came before us, paving the way for the freedoms we enjoy today. Let us honor their legacy by continuing to uphold the principles of unity and patriotism that are at the core of our organization. As Legionnaires, we have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact in our communities and beyond, and I am proud to stand alongside each of you in this noble endeavor.

May this Thanksgiving be a time of reflection, gratitude, and unity for all of us. Let us come together as one Legion family, bound by our shared commitment to service and our love for our country. Together, we can continue to make a difference and inspire others to join us in our mission.

Thank you for your dedication, your service, and your unwavering commitment to our nation. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones.

Yours in unity and patriotism,

John Smerbeck, Commander, Nittany American Legion Post 245



### Club Hours:

11am - 11pm Mon thru Sat  
1pm - 8pm Sun

### Kitchen Hours:

Grill: 11am - 8pm Mon - Sat  
Fryers: 11am - 10pm Mon - Sat  
Grill & Fryers: 1pm - 7pm Sun

### Happy Hour:

Monday 7-9pm

## **EVENING SPECIALS NIGHTLY!**

### **FRIDAYS**

Wing Night 5-10pm

## **Membership - Nittany American Legion Post 245, Inc.**

Here's the update on membership for Legion Post 245. The goal for 2025 is 676 and we have 467 members renewed. We still need 209 members to renew to achieve our goal of 100%. Remember that the dues increased to \$45.00. Of course, we are looking for new members also and if you know of someone, ask them to join.

If you have not renewed yet, please do so by dropping it off at the Legion, mail it back to address on the renewal notice or go on line and renew.

Another option for our members is the Paid Up for Life (PUFL) program. Here is the chart for PUFL

AGE	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
FEE:	\$1,535	\$1,399	\$1229	\$1,025	\$815	\$599	\$429	\$329

### **Please renew for 2025 if you have not done so.**

Thank you,  
Larry Hess - Adjutant

## NEWS FROM SPECIAL EVENTS

Hello everyone, hope you all enjoyed the summer and ready for Fall and Winter. PSU football is well under way and I hope you enjoy the tailgates. Veterans day is around the corner and the Auxiliary and SAL are ready to serve our Veterans at two seatings. A lot of events are on the calendar for your enjoyment. I hope you take part in some of them. For our New Years Eve party December 31st, our theme this year is Hollywood Red Carpet Event. Coal Aly will be returning to entertain us. Doors open at 9:00 PM and Coal Aly will play from 10 PM to 1 AM. Food and a Champagne Toast will be provided and cost will be \$20.00 each. Glamor Attire Encouraged. Tickets sales are limited to 200 (Due to occupancy) and will go on sale in November.

Last, our newsletter has become a big expense for the Legion in the Woods with the printing and mailing. To cut expenses, **after this issue**, we will no longer mail it to our members. Instead, we are going to email it to everyone that has provided an email for our database. I encourage you to provide your email to the following people over the next 3 to 4 months. I have looked at the database and a lot of emails are missing. Larry Hess for Veterans and Social, Bob McCool for SAL and Penny Dry for Auxiliary. You can leave the information with the bar tenders or email it to us [post245@com-cast.net](mailto:post245@com-cast.net) or simply mail it to us at the Post. Another way to get the newsletter is to go to our WEB site and print it off. We will also have about 50 copies available at the Legion to pick up.

Thank you and see you at the Legion.  
Larry Hess and Bob McCool

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## NEWS FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY

Greetings from the Ladies Auxiliary!!

The auxiliary is excited to welcome several new members. Please join me in welcoming Joanne Doak, Laura Medvitz, Lori Brown, Patricia Gatto, Judy Loy, Shelby Walker, Shirley Kylmanen-Fischer, Amanda Lucas, Patricia Hollibaugh, Elizabeth Cutezo Forziat, Angie Ciccarelli, and Lorraine Kelly. We are happy to have you as new members and hope to see you at a meeting. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Come to a monthly meeting to get involved in our events. We would love to have you and any ideas you might have for a future event!!

The auxiliary would like to remind you that dues for 2025 are due now. You don't want to miss out on any events by having a lapse in membership. It is also helpful to those involved in the paperwork to have dues for 2025 paid as soon as possible!! We appreciate your cooperation.

All Auxiliary members are invited to attend our annual Christmas party which will be held an evening in December....date to be determined - please check the club or the club's Facebook page for updates. The party will run from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Happy hour will be from 5:00-6:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:00. Following dinner we will have a gift exchange. If you plan to participate, please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$20 or more.

Looking forward to seeing you over the upcoming holidays. Stay safe and healthy!!  
Donita Gibboney, Second Vice-President

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## NEWS FROM THE SAL

Attention all SAL members,

This is DJ Wilson reporting as SAL Commander. As you all know this time of year means it is time to prepare for our children's Christmas party and Veterans Day dinner. I want to personally thank all of the SAL members that have shown up to recent meetings as we have seen an increase in attendance lately. It is nice to see some new faces that want to be more involved. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with these two events mentioned above. If you are interested, please attend our upcoming SAL meetings, which are held every third Thursday of the month at 6pm. We are looking forward to serving our veterans in conjunction with the Ladies Auxiliary this Veterans day! Also please note that if you have not paid your dues for 2025 please do so.

Thank you and happy holidays to all,  
DJ Wilson

**Attention Legionnaires and Legion Family: Stay informed!**  
Email [post245legion@gmail.com](mailto:post245legion@gmail.com)  
to get added to our mailing list if you're not receiving updates.  
Thank you!

## Americanism Committee Report

We have much to be thankful for after our first year of the Americanism Committee. We made the town's Independence Day Parade a reality, without us, it would not have happened! We also supported other parades and patriotic celebrations. The Scout Troop continues to thrive. Our book swap is established and operating, and the flag recognition program is getting underway. We have accomplished a lot during our first year of Post 245 Americanism and we look forward to continuing to share PURE AMERICANISM and PATRIOTISM with the community:

- ❖ The flyers for the American Legion Essay contest have been released and are available on the Post's Social media sites and online through the Department Website. The topics are "Can Social Media Affect Someone's Life?" for middle school (6-8 Grade, <http://pa-legion.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2025-Essay-Brochure-6-7-8-grades.pdf>) and "Is the American Dream Still Relevant Today?" for High School (9-12 Grade, <http://pa-legion.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2025-Dept.-Essay-brochure-9-12-grades.pdf>). Post member Chuck Brickell has graciously agreed to provide \$3000 in recognition again this year. The flyer for the oratorical contest (<https://pa-legion.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2025-oratorical-brochure.pdf>) has been distributed to the principals of State High, Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy, and Grace Prep and local homeschool groups. Last year we had no entries at the Post or District level. This is a national contest with the winner receiving a \$25,000.00 scholarship in addition to prizes accrued along the way to the national level. The principals of the local public, private and charter schools in the State College Area School District have been contacted and sent the flyers for the age-appropriate essay and oratorical contests. The information has also been posted on local homeschool Facebook pages. If you know someone from outside the State College Area School District who would like to enter the contest, they should check with their local Legion to see if they are sponsoring a contest first. If their local Post is not sponsoring a contest, a Post 245 member or affiliate may sponsor them into our Post 245 Contest. If there are any questions or further clarification is needed, please contact DJ Watkins, the Post 245 Americanism Chair.
- ❖ The first meeting for 4thFest was held October 25<sup>th</sup>. We will oversee running the parade again this year. If you would like to volunteer, there will be ample opportunity to help celebrate the 249<sup>th</sup> birthday of these United States.
- ❖ If you would like to nominate a deserving individual for Firefighter of the Year or Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, please contact the undersigned.
- ❖ Our Scout troop continues to grow and prosper. We are up to 39 Scouts with 33 adult leaders with the prospect of up to 11 more recruits in the Spring, which makes us one of the larger Troops in the Council and shows excellent parent involvement. However, with success comes challenges and we really need to start moving forward on the shed addition. The Scouts have raised a substantial amount on their own, but building materials are expensive and this will have to be largely a "do it yourself" effort. The Scouts and their parents can provide unskilled labor, but we need the help of Post members/affiliates skilled in the building trades. The first step will be to extend the existing slab to accommodate the expanded shed footprint. We would like to accomplish this before the freeze to allow it to cure over the winter with the goal of starting vertical construction in the Spring. Anyone with knowledge of or connections in the concrete business and a desire to help please contact either the Troop Committee Chair (Dave Swisher, [dms321@hotmail.com](mailto:dms321@hotmail.com)) or the undersigned.
- ❖ The book swap in the vestibule is going well. In fact, we have an overabundance, so please feel free to stop by and take a book that interests you. They make great Christmas Gifts!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy, safe and prosperous 2025, D.J. Watkins, Americanism Chairman, [donald.watkins@me.com](mailto:donald.watkins@me.com)

## RAISING FLAGS AT PINE HALL CEMETERY

Post 245 has the honor of displaying the 53 3'x5' flags at Pine Hall Cemetery, next to the Hyundai/Mazda dealer, for certain holidays. Those days are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, Patriot's Day (Sep 11th), and Veteran's Day. We raise the flags at 7 AM and lower and fold them at 5 or 7 PM, depending on the time of the year. Our next date is Veteran's Day, Monday, Nov 11th. We can always use more hands. If you can help, please email Don Hartzell at [donhartzell46@gmail.com](mailto:donhartzell46@gmail.com) so he can add you to his email list to remind you of upcoming events. Contact him at 703-347-5059. Thanks!

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**On November 10th, 1775, the United States Marine Corps was born at the Tun Tavern on Water Street in Philadelphia, PA.**

**Please join us on Sunday night, November 10th, 2024, as we celebrate our 249th birthday. The festivities will begin at 6pm at our American Legion Post 245, casual attire is acceptable and we encourage all MARINES to attend. Semper Fi.**

**- Lewis Watt**

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## BSA Troop 245 Corner

The American Legion BSA Troop 245 has had a very busy summer. In addition to attending summer camp at Camp Bashore, we also went on a city trip to Washington DC where we visited the National monuments and the Air and Space Museum. We had a group of 6 scouts and 3 leaders attend Philmont High Adventure Camp, where they backpacked 75 miles over 12 days through the New Mexico Wilderness. We climbed several mountain ranges including Mt. Phillips, elevation 11,711 feet and Tooth of Time, elevation 9,003 feet, and Comanche Peak at 11,320 feet. As a troop, we have been working on the Hiking Merit Badge and have completed two 10-mile hikes. We took a one-night backpacking trip in Black Moshannon. At our August Court of Honor, we had 13 scouts advance in rank (3 Tenderfoot, 4 Second Class, 5 First Class, and 1 Star) and awarded 86 merit badges. We have helped out with a variety of service projects including the Fourth of July Parade, Fall Fest at the Legion, raising and lowering the American flags at Pine Hall Cemetery, Back to Scouts Night for Pack 383, and Scouting for Food. We recently held a recruiting event called "Scouting in the Woods" for a group of Webelos Cub Scouts looking to crossover to Boy Scouts.

In the upcoming months we will be attending a ropes course to do some team building at Camp Kanesatake, attending Klondike Derby at Seven Mountains Scout Camp, and skiing at Holiday Valley. In December, we will hold our winter Court of Honor to recognize individual scout achievements.

Finally, we were awarded the Scouting Unit of the Year award from the Pennsylvania American Legion. We received a special plaque which will be hung with our other scout plaques in the big room at the Legion. Please check out our new bulletin board display in the back of the big room to see upcoming events, scout achievements, and other troop news.

*~ In Memoriam ~*

Robert Abernathy ~ Raymond Untrauer ~ Lawrance E. Carmack  
Graig J. Simmons ~ Ronald Boal ~ Gerald Thompson

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**FROM THE EDITOR...** The deadline for the March - June 2025 edition is **Friday, February 14th, 2024**  
Comments and suggestions are welcome and can be emailed to [mayesb76@icloud.com](mailto:mayesb76@icloud.com)

If you **DO NOT** want your newsletter mailed, please fill in the form below and send it in.

If you know of a member without computer access, please pass this information along to them. Becky Mayes, Editor

*NO! I do not want the newsletter (3 issues per year) mailed to me.*

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form to: American Legion Post 245 ~ 1950 Pine Hall Rd. ~ State College, PA 16801  
Attn: Newsletter Editor Or Email: [Becky Mayes w/complete info at mayesb76@icloud.com](mailto:Becky Mayes w/complete info at mayesb76@icloud.com)

## POST OFFICERS

Meets 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.  
Commander - John Smerbeck  
1st Vice - Tom Palchak  
2nd Vice - D.J. Watkins  
Adjutant - Larry Hess  
Finance Officer - Chris Solo  
Sgt. at Arms - Shawn Jacobs  
Chaplain - Jeff Schulman  
Service Officer - Vacant  
Judge Advocate - Phillip Mowry  
Historian/Public Affairs - Laura Smerbeck

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Meets 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
President - Rhonda Spear  
1st Vice - Penny Dry  
2nd Vice - Donita Gibboney  
Secretary - Kathy Croyle  
Treasurer - Tina Johns  
Sgt.-At-Arms - Karen Jackson  
Chaplain - Jean Folk  
Historian - Jessica Champain  
Sp. Events Coord. - Brandi Hartman

## SAL OFFICERS

Meets 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m.  
Commander - D.J. Wilson  
1st Vice - Randy Weaver  
2nd Vice - Casey Inhoof  
Adj. / Treas. - Bob McCool  
Sgt. at Arms - Rick Richards  
Chaplain - Mike Boonie  
Historian - Vacant

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The following individuals will be serving in place of the former Directors per the By-Laws of the Pa American Legion. The five elected Post Officers will serve in the de facto positions until the HA bylaw's are approved in approximately 30 days.

### **Legion In The Woods Home Association - Meets 2nd Wednesday @ 7pm**

Tom Hoy - President, Larry Hess - Vice President, Laura Smerbeck - Secretary,  
Chris Solo - Treasurer, D.J. Watkins - Sergeant At Arms.

The Four elected At-Large members are:

Tom Hoy, Robert Beadle, Jeff Shulman and Tom Palchak

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Ex-Officio: Aux. President, Rhonda Spear; Social, Tom Houck; SAL Cmdr., D.J. Wilson  
ALR-President, Scott Spear; Club Manager, Ashley Walker

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### **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS 245 – Meets 1st Thursday @ 7 p.m.**

Director: Scott Spear  
Treasurer: Jeff Gonet  
Randy Weaver

Vice-Director: Randy Weaver  
Chaplain: Brian McMahon

Secretary: Rhonda Spear  
Road Captain: Samantha Hartman

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## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LISTS**

### **BUDGET & FINANCE**

Meets as required  
Bob McCool, Chris Solo,  
Ashley Walker

### **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Meets 2nd Tuesday @ 6pm  
Jim DeWolfe (Chair)  
Rich Jackson, Dana Landskroner  
Gerry Thompson, D.J. Watkins,  
Ashley Walker

### **DONATIONS**

Meets Monday before  
Home Association @ 7 p.m.  
Larry Hess (Chair)  
Bob McCool (Co-Chair)  
Rich Seifert, Tom Palchak,  
Tina Hoy, Ashley Walker

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Meets as Required  
Larry Hess (Chairperson)  
John Smerbeck

### **HOUSE RULES & BY-LAWS**

Meets as Required  
John Smerbeck (Chairperson)  
Ashley Walker

### **LCB RULES & REGS**

Meets as Required  
John Smerbeck (Chairperson)

### **NEWSLETTER**

Meets as Required  
Larry Hess (Chairperson)  
Becky Mayes (Editor)

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Meets Monday before  
Home Association @ 6 p.m.  
Larry Hess (Co-Chair)  
Bob McCool (Co-Chair)  
Tom Palchak, Tina Hoy, Katie Snyder,  
Rich Seifert, Sheri Conrad,  
Dave Spotts, Diane Pighetti,  
Ashley Walker



### **Are YOU interested in volunteering?**

Please do the following:

1. Go to <http://www.post245.com>
2. Click on the Volunteer Form link
3. Print it out and fill it in and drop off completed form at club

## American Legion Post 245 Upcoming Events

- 11/1 8pm-11pm ..... Club Halloween Party / DJ Powell  
 11/2 TBD ..... Penn State / Ohio State (H)  
 11/4 7pm-9pm ..... Boy Scouts Meeting \*\*  
 11/9 TBD ..... Penn State / Washington (H)  
 11/10 7pm ..... Marine Corps Birthday Party \*\*  
 11/11 ..... Veteran's Day  
 11/11 7am ..... Flags Raised ( Full Staff ) Pine Hall Cemetery  
 11/11 5pm ..... Flags Lowered Pine Hall Cemetery  
 11/11 11am ..... Post 245 Veteran's Day Service  
 11/11 11:30am-1pm .. Veteran's Day Luncheon \*\*  
 11/11 3:30pm ..... 1st Seating / Veteran's Day Dinner / By Invitation Only \*\*  
 11/11 6:30pm ..... 2nd Seating / Veteran's Day Dinner / By Invitation Only \*\*  
 11/14 11am ..... PTSD Dubois \*\*  
 11/14 7pm-9pm ..... Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*  
 11/16 TBD ..... Penn State @ Purdue (A)  
 11/18 6pm ..... Boy Scouts Meeting \*\*  
 11/19 6pm-8pm ..... PRIVATE PARTY \*\*  
 11/20 11am-1:30pm .. Club Thanksgiving Meal /  
 1st Session 11am - 130pm / 2nd Session 4pm - 8pm \*\*  
 11/21 5:30pm-8pm .... MOAA Dinner Meeting / 30 PPL \*\*  
 11/23 TBD ..... Penn State @ Minnesota (A)  
 11/26 7pm-9pm ..... Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*  
 11/28 ..... Thanksgiving Day / Club Closed  
 11/30 TBD ..... Penn State / Maryland (H)  
 11/30 1pm ..... Christmas Decorations Set Up Date  
 12/1 1pm-3pm ..... SAL / Ladies Children's Christmas Party / SANTA arrives @ 2pm \*\*  
 12/7 5:30pm-830pm Trout Unlimited Dinner / 50 ppl.  
 12/12 11am ..... PTSD Dubois \*\*  
 12/12 7pm-9pm ..... Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*  
 12/14 10am-12pm .... Elk's Club Breakfast with Santa / Open to the Public \*\*  
 12/14 6:30pm ..... Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Outside  
 12/16 6pm ..... Boy Scouts Court of Honor \*\*  
 12/18 11am-1:30pm .. Club Christmas Meal /  
 1st Session 11am - 130pm / 2nd Session 4pm - 8pm \*\*  
 12/22 11am-3pm ..... Hess Private Party \*\*  
 12/23 10am-5:30pm.. Red Cross Blood Drive \*\*  
 12/24 ..... Club Closes @ 6pm  
 12/25 ..... Christmas Day / Club Closed  
 12/26 11am ..... PTSD Dubois \*\*  
 12/29 11am ..... Decorate for New Years Eve Party  
 12/31 ..... New Years Eve / Club Closes @ 6pm  
 12/31 9pm "New Years Party / Tuesday Night / HOLLYWOOD RED  
 CARPET NIGHT / Doors Open @ 9pm,  
 Coal Aly starts at 10pm \*\* Tickets available at the Bar"
- 1/1 ..... New Years Day / Club is Closed  
 TBD 5pm-10pm ..... SC Boro Christmas Party 70 / ppl  
 1/9 11am ..... PTSD Dubois \*\*  
 1/25 12p-6pm ..... ALR Bingo \*\*  
 2/15 TBD ..... Valentine's Dinner Dance  
 2/25 10am-5:30pm.. Red Cross Blood Drive \*\*  
 2/26 TBD ..... Life Line Screening \*\*

**\*\*Non Smoking Events**

### Pine Hall Flag Cemetary Schedule

11/11 7am Flags Raised (Full Staff).....5pm Flags Lowered

### Organization Meetings:

(Post: 11/21; 12/19; 1/16; 2/20) (Auxiliary: 11/26; 1/28; 2/25) (SAL: 11/21; 12/19; 1/16; 2/20 )  
 (Riders: 11/7; 12/5; 1/2; 2/6) (Post 245 Boy Scouts: every Monday)