

*The Legion in the Woods*



# POST 245 NEWSLETTER

1950 PINE HALL RD., STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

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JULY 2024 - OCTOBER 2024

## FROM THE COMMANDER,

Legionnaires,

I'd like to take a moment and send my appreciation to those who've thrown their names in the hat for consideration as a Post Officer for the June elections and Home Association elections scheduled for July. It still isn't too late to be nominated for one of three seats to be filled on the Board of Directors for the Home Association. If you're a Legionnaire and want to be involved with the business end of our Post please reach out to myself or any Post Officer and express your interest in serving.

On a more solemn note, our Department Commander Leville has passed after a long health battle. May our prayers go out to him and his family. He will be remembered as an honest man full of integrity and patriotism. With his passing in mind, I would like to remind everyone to have a safe and fun summer. If you find yourself or someone else in the American Legion family in need of some extra help please don't be too proud to ask.

Just a reminder that there will not be a Post meeting for July, but in August we resume the regularly scheduled meetings where we'll be swearing in the newly elected and appointed Post Officers.

Please stay engaged over the summer because we have some incredible events coming out such as competing in the Tussy Mountain Wing fest, our Post yard sale and others. If you have not been receiving monthly emails in regards to upcoming events, Post meeting minutes and impactful information please reach out to our Communications Committee Chair Laura Smerbeck or the Vice Chair Jeff Schulman and we will get you added.

Again, have a GREAT summer and see y'all soon.

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

New procedure to add to the Post By-Laws was agreed to by the membership at the June 20, 2024 meeting. The Commander tabled this for 90 days giving the membership time to read and ask questions. A vote by the membership will take place at the Post monthly meeting on October 17, 2024 to approve.

### RESOLUTION 1-2024

Permanent Changes to the Post By-laws

1. Any motion to amend the By-Laws of Nittany American Legion Post 245, in order to be considered, must be properly seconded, and must include a formal resolution outlining the updates or purposed changes.
2. Once the motion is made and seconded, the Post Commander shall shelve the motion for no less than 90 days for Post membership review. After which a vote shall be scheduled for either a special meeting or regularly scheduled monthly meeting.
3. In order for the resolution to be adopted, a three-fourths majority of attending and absentee ballot votes must be in the affirmative.
4. If the resolution fails to gather a three-fourths majority, the motion shall be shelved permanently by the Commander.

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

Our final number for the 2024 membership is 676. That means that our goal for 2025 will be 677. **The deadline to renew for 2025 is October. I am asking each of you to renew as soon as renewal comes in.** Of course, I will accept late renewals. Renewals will be mailed to all starting in July 2024. **Please note that the dues for 2025 are now \$45.00.** The increase is because Pennsylvania and National raised their dues forcing us to raise our dues. PUFL members will receive their 2025 membership cards direct. If you do not receive your PUFL 2025 card, please let me know and I will look into it. Let's make 2025 renewal year the best year ever. We all have a say in our Legion and that can be accomplished by attending the Monthly Post meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. (Except July) We need your help and input. If you wish to volunteer your time, please come to the meeting, we welcome everyone.  
Larry Hess / Post 245 Adjutant

## NEWS FROM THE SAL

Hello fellow SAL Members,

This is your commander, DJ Wilson, with a few updates for you at this time of year. The SAL is currently and anxiously awaiting for our SAL meeting on June 21st, at 6pm, to announce the winner of our Gun Raffle. If you didn't have a chance to purchase tickets this time around please find one of your officers as we are hoping to do a gun raffle each month! These tickets will always be kept by the officers so stop in to the club and talk to any officer to see if there are tickets available. Our next order of business is we will be having our SAL Pig Roast (in conjunction with our Ladies Auxiliary) this year on July 13th. Tickets are available so again please talk to your SAL Officers or Ladies Auxiliary Officers about purchasing these tickets. The cost of these tickets are 25\$ per person and includes the dinner and select alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages. For the Pig Roast, the club will be open to ticket holders only from 4pm-8pm. There are only 150 tickets total so grab yours fast. The club will also be closing at 8:30pm following the Pig Roast. As a reminder there will be no SAL Meeting in July and meetings will resume on August 15th at 6pm. We are always looking for more SAL members to join in on our meetings! Lastly, beginning July 1st you will be able to renew your membership for 2025! It is to be noted that our dues have gone up this year to 30\$ for Adults and SAL Minor Memberships will now be 10\$. Please get these in as early as possible. Paying in person with your bartender is greatly appreciated!

Thank you and enjoy your Summer,  
DJ Wilson

## NEWS FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY

Greetings from the Ladies Auxiliary!! We hope you are doing well and enjoying this beautiful summer weather.

The Ladies Auxiliary is happy to announce our newest members. They are: Kasey Hearn, NakieShia Stimer, Gretl Collins, Billie Jo Leatham, Darla McMullen, Ann Major, Patricia Henning, Ali Rabideau, Abbey Young, Terri Breindel, Kylie Simpson, Lauren Moison, Kirstie Horner, Kathy Moir, Karen Stine, Paula Farson, Elizabeth Helms, and Jennifer Stairs. The Ladies Auxiliary meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Please note that there WILL NOT be a meeting in July. We would love to have more Auxiliary members attend our meetings. Meetings are fun and informative. Come to a meeting to learn what we do to support our veterans, our youth, and our community.

Mark, your calendar for the upcoming SAL/Auxiliary pig roast to be held on July 13, 2024. The pig roast tickets are \$25, and the event runs from 4:00-8:00 p.m. The club is open to ticket holders only during this time. If you are planning to attend the pig roast and would like to help, plan to arrive at 2:00 p.m.

There will be a cash bingo event on Sunday, October 13th, 2024. The doors for this event open at 1:00 with the event beginning at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. There will be rip-off tickets for purchase, a 50/50 drawing will be held., and there will be tickets for sale that you can use to take a chance at winning raffle items. The kitchen will be opened with a limited menu for purchase.

Have a great start to the summer season!  
Donita Gibboney, Second Vice President

## NEWS FROM THE LEGION RIDERS

Hello Everyone, Bike season is in full swing now. We don't have a lot of events planned over the summer since everyone is hopefully enjoying the warm weather.

We are in the process of scheduling a cash bingo for fall. No confirmed date yet so check our facebook page or look for signs at the club for info.

Reminder that there is no meeting scheduled for July.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 1st at 7 pm.

If you have a bike and are a legion member come join us for a great time with an awesome group of people!

Ride safe and enjoy the summer!

Scott Spear

## NEWS FROM SPECIAL EVENTS

July already, WOW! The next BIG event for the Legion is our annual picnic which will be held on August 10, 2024. Ticket holders only. The picnic will start at 3 pm until 8 pm. There will be entertainment from 4 to 7 pm. Dinner will be 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We will have a surprise for the steak. We will also have macaroni salad, tossed salad, potato salad, bake beans, roll, cake and cookies. Well drinks and two kinds of beer will be free from 3 pm to 7:30 pm. Last call at 7:30 pm.

The club will open at 11 am as usual but close at 3 pm for non-ticket holders. The club will close at 8:00 pm after the picnic.

Only 200 tickets will be printed. Adults are \$20.00, children 5 to 12 years old \$10.00 and under 5 free. There will be games etc. offered. We want this to be a family event.

Tickets will go on sale starting in July. Come and join us.

Larry Hess / Bob McCool

## Constitution Day Roundtables Highlight Immigration Questions

Most Americans agree that the nation's immigration policy needs an overhaul, but perceptions differ about what kinds of solutions the country needs. The public is cordially invited to the Making Our Voices Heard Roundtables, on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 11 am to 1:30 pm., on the American Legion patio. The roundtables lead the annual Constitution Day Centre Celebration.

The Making Our Voices Heard Roundtables will bring together residents to discuss key questions such as: Who do we welcome? How do we balance fairness and security? How do we strengthen our common bonds -- and America?

"As citizens, it is our job to ignore the noise and get to work at finding our common ground. If the American idea is going to survive, we need to start sitting down, intentionally, with people from different backgrounds and work to understand why they see the world differently. Only then will we have the basis for finding the common ground on which to move the country forward," says Constitution Day Centre President David Hutchinson.

Led by moderators, local residents will listen and share their views in groups. At the conclusion, each group will give a short report. A summary will be shared in local media and with local legislators to help shape public policy.

There also will be a presentation of the Madison Award for Civility in the Community. This award celebrates individuals or groups who demonstrate leadership and civility.

There is free admission, with light refreshments. To register, please send an email to [info@constitutiondaycentre.org](mailto:info@constitutiondaycentre.org) in advance. [www.constitutiondaycentre.org](http://www.constitutiondaycentre.org)

## Americanism Committee Report

The Americanism Committee spearheaded Post participation in the Boalsburg Memorial Day parade, featuring a classic military vehicle driving with our Post members and Scouts who handed out candy and over 1,000 American flags. Special thanks to Post 245 member Randy Weaver for organizing the parade.

The Committee also played a pivotal role in organizing the 4thFest Independence Day parade in State College. When we attempted to register for the parade, we were informed that there would not be a parade unless someone volunteered to run it, so the Post Americanism Committee stepped up. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the parade and a special thanks to Ashley Walker, Rich Jackson, Scott and Rhonda Spears, D.J. Wilson, John and Lisa Smerbeck, Adam Krebs and Dave Swisher (Scouts) for forming the parade committee and making it happen. We will be doing this again next year for the 249th Birthday of these United States, so please plan to volunteer if you are able. Additionally, the Post will continue to participate in local patriotic celebrations including parades with our Scouts. If you know of an event in which we should participate, please let the committee know. If you have a classic vehicle you would like to volunteer to drive in a parade, please let the committee know that as well. There will be several opportunities throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

Our Scout Troop sent a contingent to Philmont at the end of June (our first BSA high adventure Camp trip) and we had over 20 Scouts and leaders attend summer camp in July. Our Troop was awarded the American Legion Honor Troop from the Department of Pennsylvania.

The Post would like to recognize those businesses and individuals who proudly display the American Flag with a certificate of recognition. If you know of a person or business deserving of this honor, please forward their information to the committee.

The book swap in the vestibule is going well, feel free to stop by and take a book that interests you, drop one off that you'd like to share, or both.

The topics for the Middle and High School essay contests should be announced in the early fall. We will post them in the Club and on our social media, as well as in this newsletter – so keep your eyes peeled! The deadline for submissions will be 1 JAN 2025.

D.J. Watkins, Americanism Chairman, [donald.watkins@me.com](mailto:donald.watkins@me.com)

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### **Garage Sale Post 245**

Saturday, August 17 8am-1pm Post Parking Lot

Buyers Wanted Visit and Buy

Vendors Wanted Members Non-Members Neighbors

Pro-vendors Families

Tables are available Bring your own tables

Club access for bathrooms Food & Drinks for sale

Our Club will be open for vendors and buyers

More information will be available on our info TV,

Facebook, and web site

**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!**

## BSA Troop 245 Corner

The American Legion BSA Troop 245 has several of our Eagle Scouts leaving the nest, as they have turned 18. They are all founding members of the troop, have collectively performed thousands of hours of community service, are all members of the Order of the Arrow (BSA Camping Honor Society), spent hundreds of nights camping, and all provided significant contributions towards the success of BSA Troop 245. We want to thank them for their service to the troop and wish them the very best success!

Travis Bechtel earned his Eagle Scout rank in November 2023. As his Eagle Project he designed and coordinated the construction of 60 squirrel boxes for the non-profit animal rehab organization, Centre Wildlife Care. Travis was awarded a four year Scholarship through the Pennsylvania State University's ROTC program and plans to pursue a degree in Nursing. Travis was also awarded the Nick Berrena Memorial Scholarship Award presented to the SCASD Senior wrestler who also participated in football and demonstrated leadership, strong work ethic, humility, joy of living, and respect for others. In addition, he received the Outstanding Athlete award presented by the United States Navy for demonstrating honor, courage, and commitment as a positive role model both on and off the athletic field. In addition, he received the Dick Morgan Memorial Football Award through the SCASD Centre Foundation.

Max Clement earned his Eagle Scout rank in September 2022. He built an 8' X 12' song bird enclosure for Centre Wildlife Care for his Eagle Scout Project. Max served as Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Troop Quartermaster. He will be attending Catholic University of America in Washington DC to study in a dual degree program of Civil Engineering and Architecture with a minor in cello performance. Max was awarded the Emmett C. Doer Memorial Scholarship from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. He also received the John and Betty Baker Memorial Award, the Mincemoyer Family Orchestra Scholarship, and the Foundation for the Restoration of America Scholarship.

Miles Curling earned his Eagle Scout rank in June 2023. He designed and built two solid wood picnic tables for Corl Street Elementary's (his former school) outdoor area following a recent renovation. He will be attending Penn State University to study Mechanical Engineering.

Isaac Keim earned his Eagle Scout rank in January 2022. His Eagle Scout project was to clean-up and add informational signs to the nature trail in Mountainside Park in Lemont. He will be attending Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA and his Program of Emphasis will be Computer Science and English. Isaac is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and was recently recognized with the Faculty Scholar Award for Outstanding Performance in English and Outstanding Achievement in Computer Programming at State College Area High School.

Christopher Laskowski earned the rank of Eagle Scout in March of 2023. During his tenure in scouting he earned all four Roman Catholic Scouting awards, attended BSA's National Youth Leadership Training and served on the Executive Board of the local Order of the Arrow chapter. In addition to participating in countless outings and service projects he served in a variety of leadership roles, including Senior Patrol Leader. Christopher's Eagle Project benefited the Our Lady Victory Catholic Pre-School by extending their patio area and creating a paver walkway for the students and staff at dismissal time. Christopher will be pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Penn State this fall.

Christopher Smerbeck earned his Eagle Scout rank in December of 2023. He hosted a dinner to benefit the Center County Food Bank and created a recipe book using items from the food bank for his Eagle Scout Project. He will be attending the Institute of Culinary Education with an emphasis on Baking and Pastry. Christopher was awarded the 2024 Senior Scholarship Award from the Institute of Culinary Education.

Donny Watkins earned the rank of Eagle Scout in June 2020. He was the second Senior Patrol Leader for the troop and served in many other leadership positions. He is the first member of Troop 245 to receive the Vigil Honor as a member of the Order of the Arrow. In addition to his leadership in the Troop, he was the Nittany Chapter Chief and served on their executive board in various positions for three years. Donny's Eagle Scout Project was designing and building a gaga ball pit for Our Lady of Victory Catholic School. The project provides a healthy activity for students and neighborhood youth. Donny intends to enlist in the military this fall and attend university to study archaeology at a later date.

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*~ In Memoriam ~*  
Van Arvin ~ Edward Gornati

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**FROM THE EDITOR...** The deadline for the November 2024 - February 2025 edition is **Friday, October 18th, 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**

John Smerbeck - President Tom Palchak - Vice President Chris Solo - Treasurer  
Larry Hess - Secretary D.J. Watkins - Sergeant At Arms.

The Four elected At-Large members are:  
Tom Hoy, Robert Beadle and Vacant.

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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,  
Laura Smerbeck, Katie Snyder,  
Rich Seifert, 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

- 7/1 10am-5:30pm..Red Cross Blood Drive \*\*
- 7/4 .....July 4th / Club Closed
- 7/11 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 7/11 5pm.....OFFSITE EVENT / Post 245 @ Wing Fest / Tussey Mountain
- 7/13 4pm-8pm.....SAL Pig Roast / Cash Party \*\*
- 7/15 6pm.....Boy Scouts PLC Inside \*\*
- 7/21 .....Eagle Scout Ceremony / John Smerbeck \*\*
- 7/25 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 7/25 6pm-9pm.....Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*
- 8/3 5pm-8pm.....40 / 8 Banquet / Dave Keffing / 814.308.2580 \*\*
- 8/8 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 8/10 3pm-8pm.....Club Picnic \*\*
- 8/12 7pm-8:30pm...Boy Scouts / Summer Court of Honor \*\*
- 8/17 8am-1pm.....Garage Sale - post parking lot
- 8/19 6pm.....Boy Scouts PLC Inside \*\*
- 8/22 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 8/22 6pm-9pm.....Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*
- 8/26 10am-5:30pm..Red Cross Blood Drive \*\*
- 8/31 TBD.....Penn State Football @ West Virginia (A)
- 9/2 .....Labor Day / Club Closed
- 9/5 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 9/7 TBD.....Penn State Football / Bowling Green (H)
- 9/11 .....Patriot's Day
- 9/12 6pm-9pm.....Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*
- 9/14 .....Penn State Football (Bye)
- 9/14 .....Vicki Fong / 50 ppl. / 814.777.8481 Constitutional Event \*\*
- 9/15 2pm-5pm.....Elk's Club Bingo \*\*
- 9/16 6pm.....Boy Scouts PLC Inside \*\*
- 9/19 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 9/21 TBD.....Penn State Football / Kent State (H)
- 9/24 .....Operation Healing Waters / Both Lunch & Dinner / Appox. 30 ppl.  
.....Eastern Gas Transmission & Stoage / Berkshire Hathaway
- 9/26 6pm-9pm.....Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*
- 9/28 TBD.....Penn State Football / Illinois (H)
- 10/2 3pm-9pm.....Safety Training / Pardigm Compamy \*\*
- 10/3 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 10/5 .....Fall Festival at Post 245
- 10/5 TBD.....Penn State Football / UCLA (H)
- 10/10 6pm-9pm.....Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*
- 10/12 TBD.....Penn State Football @ USC (A)
- 10/13 12pm-5pm.....Ladies AUX Cash Bingo \*\*
- 10/15 9am.....Life Line Screening \*\*
- 10/17 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*
- 10/19 .....Penn State Football (Bye)
- 10/19 9am.....Fall Work Day
- 10/21 6pm.....Boy Scouts PLC Inside \*\*
- 10/22 10am-5:30pm..Red Cross Blood Drive \*\*
- 10/24 6pm-9pm.....Elk's Club Lodge Meeting \*\*
- 10/26 9am.....Rain Date / Fall Work Day
- 10/26 TBD.....Penn State Football @ Wisconsin (A)
- 10/31 11am.....PTSD Dubois \*\*

**\*\*Non Smoking Events**

### Pine Hall Flag Cemetary Schedule

**7/4 7am Flags Raised (Full Staff)..... 7pm Flags Lowered**  
**9/11 7am Flags Raised (Half Staff)..... 7pm Flags Lowered**

### Organization Meetings:

(Post: 7/18; 8/15; 9/19; 10/17) (Auxiliary: 8/27; 9/24; 10/22) (SAL: 7/18; 8/15; 9/19; 10/17)  
 (Riders: 8/1; 9/5; 10/3) (Post 245 Boy Scouts: every Monday)