

The Legion in the Woods



Pennsylvania
American Legion
Press Association



POST 245 NEWSLETTER

1950 PINE HALL RD., STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

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WEBSITE: WWW.POST245.COM

JUNE 2023 - AUGUST 2023

2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We are so close to reaching our goal of 712 members renewed. As of Thursday, May 18th, we are at 701 and need 11 to reach our goal. The cutoff date is Sunday, June 11th. If we get any members new or renewed after that, the renewal notices for 2024 will not be mailed to them. We have been working hard to recruit and need your help also. If you know of a veteran that is not a member, please try to sign them up. Applications are by the front door. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated. Going forward to July, the 2024 renewal notices will be mailed. Please renew your 2024 membership as soon as you receive it. Thanks.

One last note, our Post funds are low and we will not be able to afford paying for our over 80 and Military active-duty members for 2024. This cost is about **\$3200** each year. Small Games of Chance funds are low and can't help us. Therefore, as your Post Adjutant, I am asking for your help by **donating \$35.00** to sponsor a over 80 or Military members renewal. You can do this by making a check payable to **American Legion Post 245** and submit it along with your renewal or drop it off at the club marked Post 245 membership donation attention Larry Hess. I thank you very much for continuing to be a member of our Post. We have a great organization and the future looks bright. Your support is greatly needed in making our Post and club successful and profitable. Without our members, I would hate to think what would happen. Let's work together.

Sincerely,

Larry Hess – Post 245 Adjutant



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

FROM THE COMMANDER,

Dear Nittany American Legion Post 245,

As your commander, it is my honor to write this newsletter article and thank each and every one of you for your unwavering service and support over the past year. Without your dedication, our Post would not be the thriving, vibrant community that it is today. As many of you may know, our post has undergone some significant changes over the past few weeks. I would like to take a moment to thank all of our employees for their hard work and dedication to our organization. Your service and support over the past few years have been invaluable, and we appreciate everything you do.

With that said, I am excited to welcome our new General Manager, Ashley Walker. Ashley brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our post, and we are confident that she will help us continue to grow and succeed. We look forward to working with her and seeing all the great things she will accomplish.

At the same time, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of our outgoing General Manager, Crystal Myers. Crystal has been an integral part of our team, and we appreciate all that she has done for our post. While she will be stepping down from her role as General Manager, we are pleased to announce that she will continue to serve our organization in an accounting role.

Finally, I would like to let you all know that we are diligently working with the PA State American Legion to bring our post into compliance. We take our obligations and responsibilities seriously and are committed to ensuring that our post is operating in full accordance with all applicable regulations.

Thank you again for your continued support of our post. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

John Smerbeck Post 245 Commander

CHAPLAINS CORNER

With spring here let us look forward to the re-birth of the growing season. Whether you're a farmer or an avid gardener this is the time to plan and prepare your soil. A bountiful harvest requires hard work in being diligent stewards of the land.

Sustainability and growth also requires diligent stewardship in continuing the future of our American Legion. Let us not forget our allegiance to God and Country as we go through the painful process of the hard work planning and preparing for the changes on the horizon. Let us pray we can work out our differences well informed in negotiating the operational aspect of running our Post for the future. I have faith in those who are trying to resolve these issues.

In order to have a strong presence in the community and provide a place for veterans and social members to gather we need active members to promote the benefits of the Post comradeship. This Post has been around for over 100 years and I pray it will continue well into the future.

Let us be thankful we don't live in an area susceptible to extreme weather. Pray for those souls effected by earthquakes, tornadoes, flooding, and hurricanes. The worse weather I complain about is a day that is overcast, cold, and windy.

I regret to announce this will be my last newsletter as Chaplain of the Post. Due to some health issues, I will be moving back to Bucks County to be closer to my family. I've enjoyed my 9 years living in State College and being involved with the American Legion. I will miss all the individuals I met through the Legion.

Enjoy the spring and summer as the days get longer,

God bless,

James F. Sweeney, Chaplain

NEWS FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary is happy to announce our newest members. They are: Delores Sills, Rhyolites Monismith, Jorja Monismith, Piper Monismith, Joy Mack, Karen Stupak, Carol Sosnowski, Molly Solo, Kathryn Koetje-Simin, Cynthia Hanczar, Rosalie Hoy, Mary Robert, Megan Robert, Tara Shaffer, Chelsea Frantz, Christine Kondash, Stacy Garbrick, Karen Taphorn, Jessica Minnelli, Mallory Meehan, Korie Brown, Maryellen O'Brien, Barbara Weber, Lisa Schroeder, Jill Corkery, Cynde Fleagle, Amanda Richards, Mary Newby, Peng Rittenhouse, Christine Monaco, Michele Scavone, and Catherine Taylor. 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.

Have a great start to the summer season!

Donita Gibboney, Second Vice-President

SPECIAL EVENTS

We are starting up our newsletter and this is the June, July, August and September issue. Some important dates to look for are, June 14th, Flag Day ceremony with the Elks at our Legion at 6 pm. Red Cross blood drive on June 19th and July 3rd from 10 am to 4:30 pm. On July 4th, the club will be closed. Enjoy the holiday with friends and family.

On August 12th, we will hold our annual picnic from 11 am 8 pm. If we can secure entertainment, we will be open later. Cost is \$15.00 per person and there is no limit on guests. This can be an opportunity to sign up new members and renew old friendships. Tickets will go on sale soon behind the bar and watch for details.

We sincerely hope that all of our members use our club and come to our events and our lunches and dinners. The "Legion in the Woods" (Club) needs your support so we can return to profitable days.

Remember, there are no strangers, just people you have not met yet.

As always, see you at the Legion

Co-Chairs - Larry Hess & Bob McCool

History of the American Flag

Illuminating American History Through the American Flag

Tenth in a Series

Part Two (Fifty Star Flag)

By Thomas Palchak



“Take every other normal precaution for the protection of Army headquarters, but let’s keep the flag flying.” Gen. Douglas MacArthur, December 15, 1941, Manila.

The steam pistons of inevitability inexorably pushed America’s Manifest Destiny towards fulfilment. Hawaii was on the verge of becoming the fiftieth state. Closer to home, Bob Heft wasn’t thinking much about a far-off U.S. territory; he was thinking more about his school assignment.

Heft was a seventeen-year-old junior at Lancaster High School near Columbus, Ohio in 1958. His teacher just assigned the students individual class projects. After some thought, he came up with the design of the 50-star flag for his American History class. Heft said he played a hunch. “While the professional flag makers were working on the forty-nine-star flag, I decided to make a fifty-star flag.”

Heft used his mother’s old foot operated sewing machine to make his flag. He used a razor blade to cut the star pattern. “Then I took a real sharp pencil and I sketched out a hundred stars on the fabric. Then I took a pair of scissors and cut them out. I took a piece of chalk and put a dot on the top of each star. I laid it out with a yardstick and proportionately divided it on the blue field. Then I took the stars and touched them with a hot iron so they would be even and symmetrical. Then I took the hot iron and pressed them on.”

With naïve’ enthusiasm Heft handed in his flag project to his history teacher, Stanley Pratt. He was impressed, but not overly so. The teacher said, “where did you get the crystal ball to make a fifty-star flag?” He went on, “You get good grades in here and you don’t even know how many states there are. You’ve got too many.” Heft received a B minus for his project.* Pratt then told Heft that if Congress accepted the design, he would change the grade to an A.

Heft placed the flag in a box and a letter in the box and got on his bicycle and rode clear across town to his congressman, Walter Henry Moeller, who happened to be back in the district.

“He came to the door, chewing on a chicken leg and said, ‘What can I do for you sonny?’” Heft stammered out his home-made fifty-star-flag story and asked Moeller to take it to Washington.

In August 1959, Heft received a call from the White House with the good news, then came to Washington to meet the president and receive accolades for his gift to the nation. The president selected Heft’s design and he was invited to stand beside President Eisenhower on July 4, 1960, when the first official fifty-star flag was raised in Washington. When asked about his history project, Heft replied “I never set out to design the flag for the nation. I just wanted to keep from getting a bad grade in history.”

*Footnote: True to his word, Stanley Pratt changed Heft’s grade to an A.

Next: The ‘could’ve, would’ve, and should’ve.’ States that almost made it.



FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Hello, My name is Ashley Walker and I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself to everyone. I am your new General Manager here at Post 245 and so happy to be here. I come with a strong background in food and beverage over the last 10 years with management being my focus for the last 6. I Love to cook and try new recipes and take a great pride in serving food that people love.

I will say I am a military brat who grew up with military parents and grandparents so I hold a deep respect for the post and what it stands for. I truly look forward to meeting each of you over time and working with you on future events around the club. I can't wait to get started on moving forward as a team and see what great things the future hold for Post 245!

Please don't be a stranger if you see me running around. To be honest I am never to busy for a chat or friendly face and I will always make time for our group. So please do not think you are bugging me, or pestering me; I challenge you all to get to know me and give me your thoughts on food and any social ideas you have to help us get back up and grooving again.

Dear Legion Family members,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits. As we continue to navigate these challenging and ever changing times, it's more important than ever that we stay connected and informed.

To that end, I am writing to request email addresses from everyone. This will allow us to communicate more efficiently and effectively, while also ensuring a more secure form of communication than social media outlets.

We understand that some of you may prefer traditional paper correspondences, but we would like to emphasize the cost-effectiveness of email. By adopting this method, we can save resources and direct more funds towards our programs and services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please forward your preferred email address to post245legion@gmail.com so that we can keep you informed about all upcoming events and important announcements. Please be sure to include which part of the Legion Family (Legionnaire, Aux, Sons, Social, Riders) you belong so I can be sure to include you in the appropriate distribution groups!

Sincerely,
Laura Smerbeck - Post 245 Historian/Public Affairs



**American Legion Troop 245
help replacing flags on Veterans
Graves at Pine Hall Cemetary on
Monday, May 15, 2023.**

FROM THE EDITOR... The deadline for the Sept - Nov 2023 edition is **Friday, Aug 11th, 2023**

Comments and suggestions are welcome and can be emailed to 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 (4 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

POST OFFICERS

Meets 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.
Commander - John Smerbeck
1st Vice - Rich Jackson
2nd Vice - Richie Campbell
Adjutant - Larry Hess
Finance Officer - Chris Solo
Sgt. at Arms - Shawn Jacobs
Chaplain - James Sweeney
Service Officer - James Lanning
Judge Advocate - Richard Hess
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 - Tina Hoy
Sp. Events Coord. - Brandi Hartman

SAL OFFICERS

Meets 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m.
Commander - Eric Waltz
1st Vice - Bill Shuey
2nd Vice - Terry Bickle
Adj. / Treas. - Jigs Poorman
Sgt. at Arms - Guy Williams
Chaplain - Mike Boonie
Historian - Nate Frey

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.

POST 245, Home Association - Meets 2nd Wednesday @ 6 p.m.

John Smerbeck - President Rich Jackson - Vice President Chris Solo - Treasurer
Larry Hess - Secretary Richie Campbell - Sergeant At Arms.

The Four elected At-Large members are:

Laura Smerbeck, James Lanning, Bill Rose and Joe Delauter.

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

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

President: Scott Spear	Vice-President: Randy Weaver	Secretary: Rhonda Spear
Treasurer: Jeff Gonet	Chaplain: Brian McMahon	Road Captain: Samantha Hartman
Randy Weaver		

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LISTS

BUDGET & FINANCE

Meets as required
Bob McCool and Chris Solo

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Meets 2nd Tuesday @ 6pm
Don Hartzell (Chair)
Rich Jackson, Bud Yohe
Dana Landskroner
Gerry Thompson, D.J. Watkins

DONATIONS

Meets Monday before
Home Association @ 7 p.m.
Larry Hess (Chair)
Bob McCool (Co-Chair)
Karen Jackson, Rich Seifert,
Bud Yohe, Crystal Myers,
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)

HOUSE

Meets 1st Thursday @ 6 p.m.
John Smerbeck (Co-Chair)
Bud Yohe, Rich Seifert,
Crystal Myers, Laura Smerbeck,
Rhonda Spear, Chris Solo,
Ashley Walker, Eric Waltz

LCB RULES & REGS

Meets as Required
John Smerbeck (Chairperson)

NEWSLETTER

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Meets Monday before
Home Association @ 6 p.m.
Larry Hess (Co-Chair)
Bob McCool (Co-Chair)
Crystal Myers, Karen Jackson,
Bud Yohe, Carol King,
Tom Palchak, Tina Hoy
Laura Smerbeck, 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

6/3 11am.....Zumba / Marie
 6/3 8pmJeopardy / Trivia Game Show
 6/10 11am.....Zumba / Marie
 6/14 6pmFlag Day Ceremony with the Elks at Post 245
 6/14 7:30pm.....MOAA / U. S. Army Birthday Party
 6/16 5pm-7pmSAL Social Outside on Patio / SAL Only
 6/17 11am.....Zumba / Marie
 6/19 10am-4:30pm ..Red Cross Blood Drive **
 6/24 11am.....Zumba / Marie

 7/1 11am.....Zumba / Marie
 7/3 10am-4:30pm ..Red Cross Blood Drive **
 7/4July 4th / Club Closed
 7/8 11am.....Zumba / Marie
 7/8 8pmJeopardy / Trivia Game Show
 7/15 11am.....Zumba / Marie
 7/22 11am.....Zumba / Marie
 7/29 11am.....Zumba / Marie

 8/4 7pmMOAA / Coast Guard Birthday
 8/5 8pmJeopardy / Trivia Game Show
 8/12 11am-10pmLegion Club Picnic **
 8/28 10amRed Cross Blood Drive **

 9/2 7:30pmPenn State / West Virginia Tailgate / HOME
 9/4Labor Day / Club Closed
 9/9 TBA.....Penn State / Delaware Tailgate / HOME
 9/9 8pmJeopardy / Trivia Game Show
 9/16 TBA.....Penn State / Illinois Tailgate / AWAY
 9/18 7pmMOAA / U. S. Air Force Birthday
 9/23 TBA.....Penn State / Iowa Tailgate / HOME
 9/30 TBA.....Penn State / Northwestern Tailgate / AWAY

****Non Smoking Events**

Pine Hall Flag Cemetary Schedule

6/14 7am Flags Raised (Full Staff) 7pm Flags Lowered
 7/4 7am Flags Raised (Full Staff) 7pm Flags Lowered
 9/11 7am Flags Raised (Half Staff) 7pm Flags Lowered

Organization Meetings:

(Post: 6/15; 7/20; 8/17) (Auxiliary: 6/27; 8/22) (SAL: 6/15; 7/20; 8/17)
 (Riders: 6/1; 7/6; 8/3) (Post 245 Boy Scouts: every Monday)