

*The Legion in the Woods*



Pennsylvania  
American Legion  
Press Association



# POST 245 NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024

## FROM THE COMMANDER,

Dear Legionnaires,

As we embark on another quarter, I'm honored to address you as your Post Commander. Recently, I had the privilege of attending American Legion College for the second consecutive year. This experience reinforced a fundamental truth: our Legion is far more than a bar; it's a powerhouse of purpose.

American Legion College delves into the core values represented by the four pillars of our organization: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. It serves as a powerful reminder that our impact extends beyond the walls of our Post.

The Legion's commitment to these pillars underscores our role as advocates, community builders, and mentors. It's a testament to the profound influence we can have on the lives of veterans, their families, and our communities.

As we navigate the upcoming months, let's continue to embody the spirit of these pillars. Whether through supporting veterans in need, promoting American ideals, or investing in the future of our youth, each one of us contributes to a legacy that transcends the ordinary.

Thank you for your dedication to the American Legion. Together, let's ensure that our Post remains a beacon of service, camaraderie, and purpose.

In service,

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

## 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

### ADDRESS CHANGED? MAKE SURE YOU LET AMERICAN LEGION POST 245 KNOW

Our membership renewals stand at 486 as of November 9, 2023 for the year 2024. We are lagging behind last year's pace. Our goal for the 2024 year is 713. That leaves 227 to go. On June 30, 2024, we will end 2024 and start renewing for 2025 on July 1st. Technically, your 2024 renewal is due by December 31, 2023. If you do not renew by then, your 2023 membership card will expire. Your door card will be turned off until you renew for 2024. Please mail in your renewal or stop by the Legion and renew with the bar tenders.

Thank you,  
Larry Hess - Adjutant

## NEWS FROM THE SAL

Hello all SAL Members,

This is a reminder that dues are currently being collected for 2024 and are due by December 31st. Please make sure to renew online or in person at the club with your bartender. The cost of this remains \$25. For those that aren't aware the SAL will also be holding the Kids Christmas Party on December 3rd from 1pm-3pm. Please come out and join us and bring the family! Happy Holidays to all of you!

Thank you,  
Daniel J. Wilson

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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 Patricia Leech, Stacey Schmidt, Tonina Miller, Maria Giordano, Carolyn O'Heron, Carol Younkins, Michelle Weaver, Amanda Becker, and Justine Reissman. 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 to pay your dues for 2024 before December 31st, 2023. You certainly 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 2024 paid as soon as possible!! Your cooperation is certainly appreciated.

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 for updates....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 \$15 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 SPECIAL EVENTS

First, the special events committee hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and that all are in good health. The Christmas season is upon us and we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are traveling over the holidays, please be safe.

Hear are a few things that are going on in the next few months and we are looking forward to seeing you at these events.

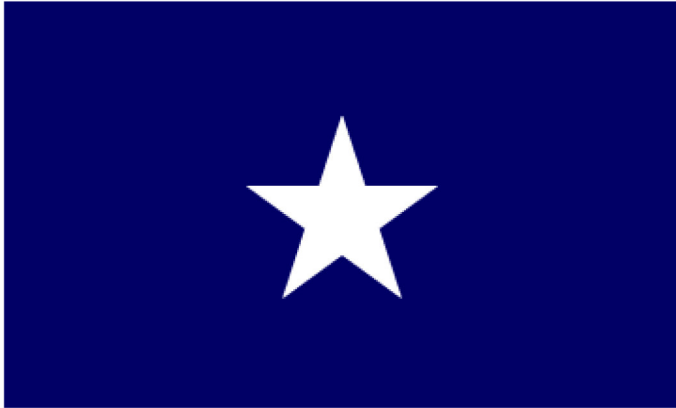
1. December 2nd: Decorate the tree. 11 am
2. December 5th. Blood drive. 10 am to 4:30 pm
3. December 7th. Pearl Harbor Day in Boalsburg. 12:45 pm
4. December 9th. Elks Club Breakfast w/ Santa. 10 am to 12 pm. This is open to the public
5. December 21st. Club Christmas Meal. 11 am to 1:30 pm \$15
6. December 25th. Club is closed
7. December 31st. Club New Years Eve Party. Club will close at 7:30 pm. Club reopens at 9 pm, ticket holders only, \$15-person, Coal Aly band will play from 10 pm to 1 am. Tickets on sale soon. Open to the public.
8. Please read your newsletter for events in January and February.

We are also looking for volunteers to join us on the committee. If you are interested, please let Bob McCool or Larry Hess know. We welcome you.

See you at the Legion  
Larry Hess, Bob McCool and Ashley Walker

# History of the American Flag

Illuminating American History Through the American Flag  
Republic of West Florida, September 23-December 7, 1810  
Twelfth in a Series  
By Thomas Palchak



Revolutions come in all shapes and sizes, but the West Florida Rebellion holds the record as the shortest. In less than one minute it was over, setting in motion a chain of events that would transform the United States into a continental and, eventually, world power.

The nascent United States' expansion had begun when President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. Spain, which had ceded the territory to Napoleon, maintained that it did not include the area known as West Florida, which stretched from the Perdido River across southern Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to the Mississippi River. For its part, the United States believed West Florida was its own, but rather than risk confrontation and war, Jefferson and his successor James Madison allowed Spain to administer it until an opportunity arose.

Things were peaceful until 1808, when Spain appointed Col. Charles Delassus as governor. The inefficiency and corruption of officials under him threatened the prosperity of American colonists in West Florida. The settlers rebelled in 1810 and the Republic of West Florida established a government with its capital at St. Francisville, LA. Under the leadership of President Fulmar Skipwith, the little country existed for seventy-four days from September 23—December 7, 1810. It even created the first lone star flag known as “The Bonnie Blue Flag,”

“Upon learning of the revolt, U.S. President James Madison wanted to move quickly to annex the republic but knew he could not use the military without congressional approval.

Though troubled by ‘constitutional qualms’ Madison did not want to let the opportunity pass unexploited and resorted to the oldest justification in the political book: he acted on the grounds that ‘a crisis has at length arrived subversive of the order of things.’”

December 10, 1810, the Lone Star Flag was lowered, and the Stars and Stripes of the United States flew over West Florida from the Mississippi River to the Pearl River.

## “LEGION IN THE WOODS” Home Association Meetings

I want to let every member know that the new meeting structure for the Home Association is on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the big room. This meeting is an open forum meeting for all members of Post 245 so I encourage you to attend. We want to be totally transparent. We will report on finances monthly, vote on new Social Members (Class A only) and items that only pertain to the Home Association. This meeting will replace the old House meeting.

There will no longer be a corporation meeting in March. The nominations and elections for the Home Association will be; Nominate in June and elect in July.

This is your club and I hope you take an interest in it by attending these meetings and volunteering for committees.

Larry Hess - Adjutant

“As we enter the holiday season, it's important to recognize that this time of year can be challenging for many within our Legion family. Amidst the festive cheer, some of our fellow veterans and family members may be facing difficulties. As a united Legion, our responsibility extends beyond the uniform, encompassing support for one another during both the triumphs and tribulations.

Our bond is more than service; it's a connection that thrives through all aspects of life. Let's be attuned to the well-being of our comrades and family members alike. A simple gesture, a thoughtful check-in, or a shared moment of understanding can make a world of difference.

The strength of our Legion lies not only in our collective service but in our collective support system. Reach out to your fellow Legionnaires and family members, listen with empathy, and extend a helping hand when needed. This holiday season, let's embody the true spirit of camaraderie that defines the American Legion.”

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### Join the Legion email list.

“Stay in the know with our Legion family! Receive timely updates and exclusive communications by joining our American Legion Post email list. Connecting is easy – just drop us an email at [post245legion@gmail.com](mailto:post245legion@gmail.com). Don't miss out on events, news, and the camaraderie that makes our Legion special. Sign up now and be part of the ongoing conversation!”

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**FROM THE EDITOR...** The deadline for the March - May 24 edition is **Friday, February 9th, 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 (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](mailto: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 - D.J. Watkins  
Adjutant - Larry Hess  
Finance Officer - Chris Solo  
Sgt. at Arms - Shawn Jacobs  
Chaplain - Jeff Schulman  
Service Officer - James Lanning  
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 - Brent Becker

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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 Rich Jackson - Vice President Chris Solo - Treasurer  
Larry Hess - Secretary D.J. Watkins - Sergeant At Arms.

The Four elected At-Large members are:  
Tom Hoy, James Lanning, Robert Beadle and Joe Delauter.

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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.**

President: Scott Spear  
Treasurer: Jeff Gonet  
Randy Weaver

Vice-President: 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  
Don Hartzell (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)  
Carol King, Tom Palchak,  
Tina Hoy, Laura Smerbeck,  
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

### December

- 12/2 11am..... Decorate Club for Christmas  
12/3 1pm-3pm ..... SAL / Ladies AUX Children's Christmas Party \*\*  
12/5 10am-430pm ..... Red Cross Blood Drive \*\*  
12/7 1245pm ..... Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony / Boalsburg  
12/9 10am-12pm ..... Elk's Club Breakfast with Santa /  
..... Open to the Public \*\*  
12/16 7pm-10pm ..... Elk's Club Christmas Mixer  
12/21 11am-130pm ..... Club Christmas Meal /  
Cost \$ 15.00 per person  
12/24 6pm ..... Club Closes @ 6pm  
12/25 ..... Christmas Day / Club Closed  
12/31 ..... New Year's Eve Party / Sunday Night  
12/31 ..... Club Closes @ 730pm  
12/31 ..... Club reopens for ticker holders only @ 9pm  
12/31 10pm-1pm ..... Band 10pm to 1am / Tickets \$ 15.00 /  
Coal Aly is the Band

### January

- 1/1 1pm ..... Legion Opens for Business  
1/6 11am..... Take down Christmas Club Decorations  
1/27 12pm-6pm ..... AL Riders / Cash Bingo

### February

- 2/8 ..... Newsletter Submission Deadline M A M J  
2/11 ..... Super Bowl  
2/12 10am-430pm ..... Red Cross Blood Drive \*\*  
2/13 9am ..... Life Line Screening \*\*

**\*\*Non Smoking Events**

### Organization Meetings:

(Post: 12/21; 1/18; 2/15) (Auxiliary: 12/26; 1/23; 2/27 ) (SAL: 12/21; 1/18; 2/15)  
(Riders: 12/7; 1/4; 2/1) (Post 245 Boy Scouts: every Monday)