

## 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](http://WWW.POST245.COM)

SEPTEMBER 2023 - NOVEMBER 2023

## FROM THE COMMANDER,

Legionnaires, Son's, Auxiliary and Social members,

It's my great pleasure to wish all you a fantastic safe and fun end of summer.

It is with pleasure to report that the Post is very close to being in compliance with the State Department of the American Legion. The three big items required by Nittany American Legion Post 245 were as follows:

1. All finances were to be in Post controlled accounts, this was completed as of this week.
2. All physical properties are to be placed in the Posts name, this will be complete this coming week.
3. Pass a third party audit be conducted as soon as possible. We're working on talking to several agencies, but because of the price and timing we're still in limbo.

After talking to the new Western Commander Doug Church, both him and I are confident that our Charter review should be complete and lifted no later than the new year if not sooner. The quickness of which this is happened was due to the diligence of our incredible Post Officers with cooperation from the Department of PA. I want to extend my largest appreciation to those who worked tirelessly to get this Post into regulations at both the Department of PA standards and within the framework of the State of PA and Federal laws.

As we wind down our much appreciated warm weather and welcome back our students, let us not forget those that we've lost throughout the year and appreciate their service to the country, their community and families. Much like today's society, it's too common to quickly forget their legacy and just remember our Vets in moments only. So take a moment when passing a cemetery or place of honor and say a thank you for having the privilege of knowing them and appreciating the sacrifices laid down at the altar of freedom for us to enjoy these moments of fun, peace and happiness.

John Smerbeck  
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

I am very pleased to announce that we reached our goal for membership of 712. Our official goal for 2024 is now 713. Thank you for all of your efforts to reach this goal.

With that said, the 2024 renewal notices have been mailed and the renewals are returning to me to send out 2024 membership cards. Last year on August we had renewed 399 members. This year, 2024, we have renewed only 314. So, you see, we are behind. Please send your renewal if you have not already.

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 **Nittany American Legion Post 245** and submit it along with your renewal or drop it off at the club marked Post 245 over 80 or Military 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

## **NEWS FROM THE SAL**

### Welcome SAL Members

Let me first start off by introducing myself. My name is Daniel (DJ) Wilson. I am honored to be voted in as your new SAL Commander. I want to thank the previous commander, Eric Waltz for his time served as SAL Commander. With that being said, elections were held and there are a few new faces as officers of the SAL here at Post 245. A personal thank you also goes out to our previous officers, Guy Williams, William Shuey, Jiggs Poorman, Nate Frey, and Terry Bickle. I personally know that you all will still be around to help us newer guys out and we can not stress enough how much we appreciate that. As far as new officers, the SAL wants to welcome Randy Weaver as 1st Vice and Casey Inhoof as 2nd Vice. Returning alongside of these new additions are Brent Becker, Mike Boonie, Rick Richards, and Bob McCool. The SAL would like to thank everybody for their support during our Rib Night that provided a great turnout with lots of volunteers and some new faces volunteering. A personal thank you is owed to Paul Madrid, James Lanning, and Tim Grande for donating their time and resources to the SAL to help assist in making this event possible. The SAL is looking forward to hosting more events in the future so please stay tuned for more information.

Thank you,  
Daniel J. Wilson

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## **NEWS FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY**

Hello from the Ladies Auxiliary!!

The auxiliary is happy to welcome several new members. They are: Judith Krebs, Joeleen Stocker, Patricia McCloskey, Ashley Walker, Jaime Nagle, Sara Becker, Tamara Conway, Mary Culovic, Margaret Beckner, Denise Geisinger, and Jill Selfe. We are happy that you have joined and hope to see you at a future meeting. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Come to a monthly meeting to socialize and learn more about how the Auxiliary holds events and fund raisers to benefit our veterans, the club, and the community.

There will be a cash bingo event on Saturday, October 7th, 2023. The doors for this event open at noon with the event beginning at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door. There will be 20 games of bingo played, with prizes of \$50 and up. There will be rip-off tickets for purchase and a 50/50 drawing will be held. The kitchen will be opened with a limited menu for purchase.

Looking forward to seeing you at a football tailgate as summer winds down.

Donita Gibboney, Second Vice-President

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## **NEWS FROM SPECIAL EVENTS**

Our August 12th club picnic was a great success. We sold 140 tickets and only had one no show. Thank all of you who supported our annual picnic and we look forward to holding events for our members. I want to thank all of the volunteers that helped put on a great event.

Reminder, the club and Post will be closed on September 4th, Labor Day. Penn State football starts up on September 2nd vs West Virginia and September 9th vs Delaware. Rib night again on September 11th, Jeopardy returns on September 16th, Sunday Brunch on September 24th just to name a few. Please check out October and November's calendar also. 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. It is time to move on and embrace the future.

Remember, there are no strangers, just people you have not met yet. As always, see you at the Legion

Larry Hess – Chairman  
Bob McCool – Co-Chairman

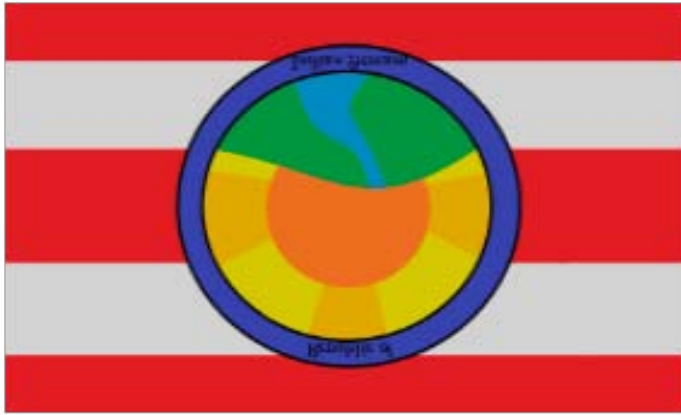
# History of the American Flag

Illuminating American History Through the American Flag

Republic of Indian Stream, 1832-1835

Eleventh in a Series

By Thomas Palchak



The history of real settlement at Indian Stream begins in 1796. During that year Chief Philip, of the St. Francis tribe, gave to David Gibbs, Nathaniel Wales, and Moody Bedel a deed to large tracts of land which included Indian Stream. The deed was executed on June 30. \* In 1832, the inhabitants proclaimed their settlement the Indian Stream Republic. The new country immediately got to work doing all the things that countries are supposed to do. It enacted laws, establishing a constitution, a bicameral legislature, and courts. It printed its own postage stamps and formed an armed militia of 41 men. Indian Stream had de facto control over its claimed territory and was self-governing with a desire for full independence and eventual statehood.

The 1783 Treaty of Paris, which settled hostilities between the brand-new United States and Great Britain, left the U.S.-Canada boundary line a little open to interpretation. The U.S. and Britain disagreed about which body of water counted, and as a result, a 280-square-mile patch of land between two tributaries was subject to taxation by both countries.

As squabbling increased among the United States and Canadian governments, New Hampshire legislators, and two companies claiming land rights, the settlers decided to take matters into their own hands.

Things came to a head when a band of Streamers invaded Canada to liberate one of their countrymen from custody. This particular Streamer had been arrested by a British sheriff because of an unpaid hardware store debt. The invading posse shot up the judge's house where their compatriot was held. This caused an international incident – even if the idea of going to war over a case of shoplifting seems a bit over the top. In 1835 “war broke out” when a pro-Canadian resident was arrested in the Republic, some say in retaliation. These events escalated into several more incidents, until the New Hampshire governor ordered the state militia to occupy the Indian Stream Republic. In January 1838 the British gave up their claim. The following May, the local citizens accepted New Hampshire's authority. It was incorporated as the township of Pittsburg by the New Hampshire legislature in the November 1840 session.

\* This marked the only time in the history of the United States when a Native American tribe deeded property to the United States without a treaty.

## Constitution Day Democracy Roundtables

Legion members are invited to the Constitution Day Democracy Roundtables, on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 11 am to 1:30 pm., on the American Legion patio. The public event is organized by Constitution Day Centre Inc., a local nonprofit promoting the celebration of the U.S. Constitution and civil conversations among people of all beliefs.

This year's theme is Making Our Voices Heard. Led by moderators, groups of 8 people will share their viewpoints on 3 questions: Does the Electoral College protect our democracy? Do legislators pick their voters? Whose voices are heard -- voters or donors? Each group will present highlights of their discussions at the end of the event. The goal is to listen to each other, seek common ground, and learn what we all share in common. We hope to publish an essay about everyone's insights in the local media and share with local leaders.

After the roundtable, there will be a presentation of the Madison Award for Civility in the Community. This award celebrates community leadership and civility.

There is free admission and light refreshments. To sign up, send email to [info@constitutiondaycentre.org](mailto:info@constitutiondaycentre.org) or stop by on Sept. 23.

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**FROM THE EDITOR...** The deadline for the December 23- February 24 edition is **Friday, Nov 10th, 2023**

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 - Vacant  
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.

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

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, Bill Rose 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

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

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

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## **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, 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,  
Laura Smerbeck,  
Rhonda Spear, Chris Solo,  
Ashley Walker, D.J. Wilson

### **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)  
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

9/2	7:30pm	Penn State / West Virginia / HOME
9/4		Labor Day / Club Closed
9/9	12pm	Penn State / Delaware / HOME
9/10	10am-2pm	Sunday Brunch **
9/11	5:30pm-8pm	Legion Rib Night
9/16	12pm	Penn State / Illinois / AWAY
9/16	5pm-8pm	Seafood Broil **
9/16	8pm	Jeopardy / Trivia Game Show **
9/18	7pm	MOAA / U. S. Air Force Birthday **
9/23	7:30pm	Penn State / Iowa / HOME
9/24	10am-2pm	Sunday Brunch **
9/30	TBD	Penn State / Northwestern / AWAY
10/7	8pm	Jeopardy / Trivia Game Show **
10/12	7pm	MOAA / U. S. Navy Birthday **
10/14	3:30pm	Penn State / U Mass / HOME
10/15	10am-2pm	Sunday Brunch **
10/21	9am	Fall Work Day at the Club
10/21	TBD	Penn State / Ohio State / AWAY
10/27	8pm-11pm	Legion Halloween Party / DJ / Prizes
10/28	11:30am-1pm	Legion Kids / Halloween Party / Candy Bags **
10/28	TBD	Penn State / Indiana / HOME
10/29	10am-2pm	Sunday Brunch **
11/4	TBD	Penn State / Maryland / AWAY
11/4	8pm	Jeopardy / Trivia Game Show **
11/10	7pm	TENTATIVE / MOAA / U. S. Marine Corp Birthday **
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 ** Invitation Only
11/11	6:30pm	2nd Seating / Veteran's Day Dinner ** Invitation Only
11/11	NO TAILGATE	Penn State / Michigan / HOME
11/16	11am-1:30pm	Club Thanksgiving Meal
11/18	TBD	Penn State / Rutgers / HOME
11/19	10am-2pm	Sunday Brunch **
11/23		Thanksgiving Day / Club Closed
11/24	7:30pm	Penn State / Michigan State / AWAY
12/2	11am	Decorate for Christmas
12/2	8pm	Jeopardy / Trivia Game Show **
12/3	1pm-3pm	Children's Christmas Party **
12/5	10am-4:30pm	Red Cross Blood Drive **
12/7	12:45pm	Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony / Boalsburg
12/21	11am-1:30pm	Club Christmas Meal
12/24	6pm	Club Closes @ 6pm
12/25		Christmas Day / Club Closed
12/31		New Year's Eve Party / Sunday Night

**\*\*Non Smoking Events**

### Pine Hall Flag Cemetary Schedule

9/11 7am Flags Raised (Half Staff) ..... 7pm Flags Lowered  
 11/11 7am Flags Raised (Full Staff) ..... 5pm Flags Lowered

### Organization Meetings:

(Post: 9/21; 10/19; 11/16) (Auxiliary: 9/21; 10/24; 11/28 ) (SAL: 9/21; 10/19; 11/16)  
 (Riders: 9/7; 10/5; 11/2) (Post 245 Boy Scouts: every Monday)