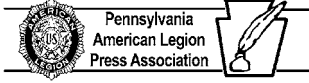


The Legion in the Woods



POST 245 NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2025 - JUNE 2025

FROM THE COMMANDER,

Nittany American Legion Post 245, I hope this finds you warm and safe.

We stand at a pivotal moment, not just for our post, but for the future of the American Legion as a whole. Our organization has always been a beacon of service, patriotism, and community. As we look to the future, we see endless opportunities to expand our reach, to serve our veterans, and to continue the legacy of those who have come before us.

The future of our post is bright. We envision a community hub where veterans from all generations can come together, share their stories, learn from each other, and grow stronger. We aim for a post that is not only a place for remembrance but also for innovation - where we can introduce new programs that address the evolving needs of our veterans, from mental health support to career transition services.

However, for us to achieve this vision, we must embrace change. It is with this in mind that I announce today that I will not be running for the position of Commander in the upcoming election. I believe strongly in the rejuvenation of leadership. New perspectives and new energy are essential to keep our organization vibrant and relevant. Fresh blood can bring new ideas, challenge old methods, and inspire us to greater heights.

This decision is not made lightly. Serving as your Commander has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I will continue to support our post in any capacity I can. But I am confident that new leadership will bring renewed vigor and innovative approaches that will serve our members and our community well into the future.

So, let us look forward - to a post that continues to honor our past while boldly stepping into the future. Let's work together to ensure our American Legion remains a dynamic force for good, a place where every veteran feels valued, supported, and where the principles of our great organization are not only preserved but revitalized.

Thank you for your service, your dedication, and your understanding. If you're interested in serving as an Officer please reach out to Past Commander Richard Siefert. Here's to the next chapter of our American Legion Post, to new leadership, and to a future filled with service, camaraderie, and success. God bless you all, and may God bless America.

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

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

Membership - Nittany American Legion Post 245, Inc.

Our Post membership stands at 658 as of today, February 15, 2025. I want to thank everyone that has renewed their membership. We also signed up 22 new members and had 8 transfers for 2025. Be sure to welcome them to our club. Our goal for 2025 is 676, we need 18 more new or renewed members to achieve that goal. If everyone of you would sign up just one member or if you know of a member that has not renewed, please ask him/her to do so. Be pro-active.

There are several ways to renew. Dues for 2025 are \$45. Go to "LEGION.ORG/JOIN" as a new member and click on "Join Today" and follow the prompts. Drop your renewal & check with the bar tenders on duty. Mail your renewal notice with your check in envelope provided. Renew your membership online by clicking on Membership Services and follow the prompts. A new feature has been added to let you sign up for multiple years to save money if the dues do go up. Check it out.

Larry Hess / Post 245 Adjutant

NEWS FROM SPECIAL EVENTS

Hi Folks. As I sit here and write this article for our newsletter, it is snowing very hard outside of my house. I do not know how you feel, but I have had enough of the snow and I cannot wait for spring to arrive. The Groundhog I guess was right, it looks as if 6 more weeks of winter are ahead of us.

I am also looking at the schedule of events that we have planned so far for March, April and May and I would like to share some of them with you. On 3/8 there is Ladies AUX Bingo, on 3/15 we will be celebrating St. Paddy's Day a few days earlier. We will have a Band on March 15th to help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day. On 3/22, the Club will be hosting a Bingo event to help support the 4th Fest. On 4/12, the Ladies AUX will be hosting their annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. On Sunday, 4/20, we will be having an Easter Sunday Brunch as well as a Mother's Day Brunch on 5/11. Additionally, we will be having the Post 245 Spring Work Day at the Club. This will be on Saturday, April 26th, it will begin at 9am.

These are only a select few of the scheduled events that we have planned so far that I wanted to mention at this time. You can review the attached master schedule of events for March, April and May here in the newsletter for their scheduled times. We as the Special Events Team can only be successful when we get the needed support from our members. So, we hope to see you at the club in the spring and if you have any ideas for something NEW that we can have, please let us know.

Larry Hess and Bob McCool

BSA Troop 245 Corner

The American Legion Post 245 BSA Troop 245 had an incredibly productive year. The Troop remained committed to the scouting mission of developing young people's character, citizenship, leadership, and physical and mental fitness.

Throughout the year, we logged 550 camping nights on 10 different campouts and hiked a total of 1,025 miles across 8 different hikes. Additionally, we performed 1,070 hours of community service, including 555 hours directly for the American Legion Post 245 across 13 service projects. Some of the service we provided to the Legion included flag-raising and lowering at Pine Hall Cemetery, assisting with the Ladies Auxiliary Veteran's Day Dinner, and participating in the fall and spring Legion Cleanup. As a result, 35 scouts advanced in rank, including 2 Eagles, 2 Life Scouts, 7 Star Scouts, 6 First Class Scouts, 5 Second Class Scouts, 5 Tenderfoot Scouts, and 8 new Scouts. The scouts also earned a total of 160 merit badges. Additionally, two of our scouts were tapped out for the Order of the Arrow Honor Society. Currently, the troop has 31 scouts and 29 leaders.

This January, we attended the Klondike Derby at Seven Mountains Scout Camp. Then, in February, we went skiing at Holiday Valley and traveled to Penn College in Williamsport for a Merit Badge College. In the coming months, we will hold our annual Cook-Off between patrols at an Advancement Campout, welcome new recruits in March, and attend another Merit Badge College at Seven Mountains Scout Camp.

The entire Troop would like to thank the Legion and all its members for your continued support!

NEWS FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY

Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary!!!

Mark your calendar for our annual children's Easter Egg hunt which will be held Saturday, April 12th, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be candy and prize-filled eggs for all the little ones. The Easter Bunny will be there for a picture-taking session. This event is opened to children aged 10 and under. The rain date for this event is Saturday, April 19th.

There will be an Auxiliary cash bingo event on Saturday, March 8th, 2025. The doors for this event open at noon with the event beginning at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. There will be 20 games of bingo with prizes ranging from \$25-\$100, concluding with a coverall worth \$250. There will be rip-off tickets for purchase, a 50/50 drawing will be held, and there will be tickets for sale to take chances on basket raffles. The kitchen will be opened with a limited menu for purchase.

The auxiliary membership continues to grow. We have quite a few new members, and we are excited that you have joined. Please help me welcome the following new members: Alicia Grubbs, Autumn Montegna-Maginnis, Tammy Kessing, Cassie Cavell, Claudia Johnstonbaugh, Sharon Byers, Kristin Liddell, Nell Yearick, Sydney Shaw, Sarah Lehman, and Cindy Stahlman. We hope to see you at a future meeting. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are a great opportunity to meet new friends and learn about future events.

Donita Gibboney, Second Vice-President

Building and Grounds

Greetings! We've had a lot of activity on the Building and Grounds front and I'd like to take a moment to update all members on some recent events and planned activities.

- Entry pole light - This has been out since last October. Ferguson Township has an agreement with West Penn Power to maintain these lights, and WPP has been notified - but no date given for repair.
- New beverage system - Our beverage vendor Pepsi has completed installation of a new dispensing system. Many thanks to Bob McCool in helping to coordinate this effort.
- New dishwashing machine - A new dishwashing machine will soon be installed. This will operate at a lower temperature which will support the usefulness of grease trap. The grease trap will also be replaced.
- Basement cleanup - everyone's basement needs cleaning from time to time, including ours! Deadline for completion is March 15.
- Porch smoking area - folks that smoke may have noticed some changes on "the porch". We are now compliant with COG Code.
- Spring cleanup - Spring will be here before you know it! Please mark your calendars for April 26th, when we will gather to tidy up the exterior to prepare for warmer weather. We'll also perform other tasks that are best performed by a larger group.

I want to thank the members of this committee for their commitment of time and energy to help keep our "home" in good shape for our Legion family. Any suggestions or items you feel need to be brought to our attention, please let me or one of the group representatives know (see committee member listing).

Jim DeWolfe, Building and Grounds Chair

Americanism Committee Report

The Americanism Committee held our first (hopefully annual) Awards Banquet on 27 Feb 2025. We recognized the winners of our high school and middle school essay contest by awarding over \$2000.00 in scholarships. Our high school essay winner went on to win the district competition and is now a finalist in the Department of Pennsylvania contest. We also recognized Alph Fire Chief Tony Berrena and Ferguson Township Police Officer Bryan Greene as our Post Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, respectively. Please congratulate all the winners when you see them.

Our Post is sponsoring the Independence Day Parade again this year. We are currently gathering signatures of business owners along the parade route to apply for the permit. We are also currently looking to recruit local talent, especially musical acts. If you know of any bands, drum and bugle corps, dancing monkeys, or performers who might be interested, please share. We are also looking for people who would be willing to loan trailers for the bands to ride and volunteers with trucks to pull them.

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.

D.J. Watkins, Americanism Chairman, donald.watkins@me.com

PINE HALL CEMETERY FLAGS

- 5/17 SAT Flags Raised (Full Staff) Pine Hall Cemetery 7am
Flags Lowered Pine Hall Cemetery 7pm
- 5/26 MON Flags Raised (Half Staff) Pine Hall 7am
Flags Raised (Full Staff) Pine Hall Cemetery 12pm
Flags Lowered Pine Hall Cemetery 7pm
- 6/14 SAT Flags Raised (Full Staff) Pine Hall Cemetery 7am
Flags Lowered Pine Hall Cemetery 7pm

~ In Memoriam ~

Chuck Cronmiller ~ Lewis Allen ~ Raymond Marcon ~ Richard Wain

FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the July - Oct 2025 edition is **Friday, June 13th, 2025**

Comments and suggestions are welcome and can be emailed to mayesb76@icloud.com

American Legion Post 245 Upcoming Events

MARCH 2025

- 3/3 MON Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm
- 3/5 WED Mixed Darts 7pm
- 3/8 SAT Ladies AUX Bingo 12pm
- 3/10 MON NO Boy Scouts Meeting
- 3/13 THUR ... Elk's Club Meeting 7pm
- 3/15 SAT St. Patrick's Day Party w/Band TBD
- 3/17 MON St. Patrick's Day
 - Boy Scout Meeting / Dining Hall 6pm-8pm
 - Boy Scouts EX Meeting / Back Room 7:15pm
- 3/22 SAT Bingo for 4th Fest 2pm-6pm
- 3/24 MON Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm
- 3/27 THUR Elk's Club Meeting 7pm
- 3/30 SUN Golf League Meeting 1pm
- 3/31 MON NO Boy Scout Meeting

APRIL 2025

- 4/7 MON Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm
- 4/12 SAT Ladies AUX / Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am-1pm
 - 40/8 Bauquet 5pm 8pm
- 4/14 MON Boy Scouts Meeting / Dining Hall 6pm-8pm
 - Boy Scouts Meeting / Back Room 7:15pm
- 4/19 SAT RAIN DATE / Ladies AUX Easter Egg Hunt 11:30am-1pm
- 4/20 SUN Easter Sunday; Easter Sunday Brunch 11am-2pm
- 4/21 MON New Parent Meeting for the Boy Scouts / Dining Hall 7pm
- 4/22 TUES Red Cross Blood Drive ** 10am-5:30pm
- 4/26 SAT Penn State Blue / White Game
 - Spring Work Day @ Post 245 9am
- 4/28 MON Boy Scout Meeting 7pm

MAY 2025

- 5/3 SAT Spring Work Day / Rain Date
- 5/11 SUN Mother's Day; Mother's Day Sunday Brunch 11am-2pm
- 5/17 SAT Armed Forces Day
- 5/24 SAT Memorial Day Service / CC Memorial Park 1pm
- 5/25 SUN Memorial Day Service / Shiloh Church 2pm
 - Memorial Day Service / Pine Hall 3pm
 - Memorial Day Luncheon 4:30pm
- 5/26 MON Memorial Day / Club Closed
 - Memorial Day Service / Houserville Cemetery 9am

JUNE 2025

- 6/11 WED Life Line Screening ** / Alan @ 330.949.2837 9am-6pm
- 6/14 SAT Flag Day / Flag Day Ceremony with Elk's 6pm
- 6/15 SUN Father's Day; Father's Day Sunday Brunch 11am-2pm
- 6/17 TUES Red Cross Blood Drive ** 10am-5:30pm
- 6/20 FRI SAL Only Social / On the Patio 6pm
- 6/28 SAT CVIM Bike Ride TBD

****Non Smoking Events**

Organization Meetings:

Post: 3/20; 4/17; 5/15; 6/19 **Auxiliary:** 3/25; 4/22; 5/27; 6/24
SAL: 3/20; 4/17; 5/15; 6/19 **Riders:** 3/6; 4/3; 5/1; 6/5
Post 245 Boy Scouts: every Monday

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 - Donald Shalom
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

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

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.

Director: Scott Spear
Treasurer: Jeff Gonet
Randy Weaver

Vice-Director: Randy Weaver
Chaplain: Brian McMahon

Secretary: Rhonda Spear
Road Captain: Samantha Hartman

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,
Don Hartzell, D.J. Watkins,
Ashley Walker, Karen Jackson,
Randy Weaver, Scott Spears,
Dave Swisher

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