

# AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

## Commander

January 2024



Happy New Year!

Thank you for your support on the Blood Drive! We collected 28 Units of blood which means up to 84 lives will be saved thru your donations. Please give again when able and, if you haven't given and can, please do so through the American Red Cross. Bull St office in Columbia is open.

We had a productive meeting in January, making decisions on several fronts. We will have a full agenda in February as well, including an update on the Building planning/way ahead. Please plan on participating so we can be the Post you want to be.

We will have a new-to-us public program in February – Four Chaplain Program – on 17 Feb, 1000, at the Post. To learn more about the four chaplains we are honoring, see <https://fourchaplains.org/four-chaplains/>. This is a very worthy remembrance.

I'm looking for ideas to make the Post a place where YOU can bring your friends and be welcoming to all veterans. We have talked a little about what the new building brings to our Post, but, we need to start now to expand our availability. The building will provide a great place but... Please get and stay involved. Other Posts host Game nights, Pizza/Spaghetti Friday Dinners, daily hours, and TV or Game nights? What would your families like to see? What does the community need? Talk among yourselves and bring me your ideas.

Mark Harvey/For God and Country/In Service

Veteran Help Line: **Dial 988, option 1**

## Adjutant



Welcome 2024! We start the new year off with renewed energy and much anticipation for what the future will bring. I certainly am looking forward to being a part of the many activities, events and opportunities our Post will be involved in during 2024, I hope you are as well

Thank you to everyone that came out and assisted with recovering all the wreaths at Ft. Jackson National Cemetery. We started the morning with what was probably the least number of volunteers and the windiest and coldest day I have seen for cleanup. Thankfully, 30 minutes after we started about 50 or so young folks from a private school showed up to assist. After a couple of hours, we had recovered over 8k wreaths and were on our way to a late breakfast.

If all goes well, next year we should be conducting the Wreaths Across America program at several of the local cemeteries in Chapin. Based on the feedback I have received many believe it

is a good idea and think that we will be able to get good support from the community. If you have a desire to be part of the team getting this project up and going, please let it be known. This will be a project that will be enduring much like our Memorial Day ceremony at the Chapin Town Hall. Support from our membership will be critical to the success of the program.

Our membership is going great, we are at 95.69% of our membership goal for 2024, we have a renewal rate of 89% and for the 2024 membership year we have added 27 NEW members to our roster! These numbers say a lot about our members, our Post and You.

Steven Goulet/" We Can Build It"/For God and Country

### **First Vice Commander**



At our January meeting we voted to nominate Doug Abramson as our submission to Department for the Legionnaire of the Year Award. Congratulations to Doug for all of his contributions to American Legion Post 193 and good luck.

Law Enforcement Officer, Public Safety and Bravery Awards were received from the Chapin area and reviewed and submitted to meet the Department deadline of 11 January.

The Teacher of the Year Award information and instructions were sent to the local area schools after the holiday season. The suspense for their return is 7 February, 2024. This year input is not required until the 15th of February at the Department level. This is the same date for the Scouting Awards which have also been sent out with the same suspense.

We have scheduled the next recruitment drives at Boland's ACE Hardware. The dates are as follows: 17 February, and 16 March. Each of these dates is the 3rd Saturday in each of those months. We will also have the rifle raffle tickets available at the recruitment drive for sale to the community.

Richard Nielen/For God and Country

### **Third Vice Commander**

Sorry I don't have a picture yet, maybe next month I will have an official photo. If you have any input for the newsletter please send it to my email address by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month, [3rdvicecdr@americanlegionpost193.org](mailto:3rdvicecdr@americanlegionpost193.org). I am also looking for volunteers to do the Pledge of Allegiance at the Chapin Town Hall meeting for April thru December, see me for the specifics.

Jerry Lebar / For God and Country



## Facility Manager/NBC



Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast resumed after the Christmas break with over 70 Veterans enjoying fellowship and a pretty good breakfast. Coffee on by 0700, breakfast served at 0830. Come and stay as long as you like. The Post hosted another Red Cross Blood Drive and a Chapin Women in Service meeting this month. Congratulations and a BIG thank you to Doug Abramson for being elected as our 2024 Post Legionnaire of the Year. Doug is our Post Engineer and has worked tirelessly in completing various improvements in the Post, making repairs, and heading up the team to construct all of the picnic tables at the Yeoman - Bernard Pavilion at our new site. Thank you, Doug!!

## New Building Committee

We have raised over \$1.11 million to date. Thanks for all the continued support - every dollar donated gets us a little closer to our goal. We will soon be soliciting bids for sub-contractors. The construction industry remains extremely volatile with continued supply chain issues and availability of quality subcontractors. A big thanks to Ben Wilson who has been awesome with his guidance and recommendations as we work through this phase of our project. The structural engineer has been out at our site to obtain soil samples. We have also marked the approximate location of the Post footprint. If you would like a walkthrough of the property, please contact me (803-960-8708) and we'll set it up. Lastly thanks to Fred Beauchemin for purchasing and installing the new address sign on our property, it is much more professional-looking and visible.

David Schimsa/For God and Country

## ALR Director



The Riders had a very busy and eventful December. From Toy Runs to Parades to Parties we were on the go constantly until Christmas. We shifted to neutral during Christmas and New Years, however we are now getting ready for Spring and Riding time.

ALR Chapter 193 will honor one of our Posts own, Gerald White, on February 3 when we escort his family from their home to his church. Then on February 10, we will escort his family to Post 193 for a reception to honor Gerald. This Saturday we will attend the ALRSC Winter Meeting at Post 90 in South

Congaree. We have some amendments to our Constitution to vote on and then a ROMP Meeting after that.

Chapter 90 has asked Chapter 193 to take part in their "Blessing of the Bikes" ride on March 30. We will provide lunch and a break place for Chapter 90 on their ride around the lake. We also have our Zorba's Breakfast on April 6. This is our Chapter's largest fund raiser, and we really need to support this event. Tickets will be available soon and you can pick them up from Jim Schaffer. Everyone needs to pick up some tickets and to sell them to help support this event.

Our Pre-Ride Legacy Ride is scheduled for February 24-25. We will pre-ride the route for the Legacy Ride in April. This will be an overnight ride and we will be staying in North Myrtle Beach. Information on the hotels has been put out and is readily available upon request. We will ride

the Legacy Ride on April 27-28. This ride is to support The American Legion Veterans and Children Fund. Please reserve these dates and ride to support the VCF.

In June on 20-23, we will take part in ROMP, Riders of Military Pride. This ride is to honor Riders who have gone above and beyond what is expected. It also provides the opportunity to meet Riders from other States, share ideas, and develop plans on how we can improve The American Legion. More info on this event will be forthcoming.

Chapter 193 also voted to increase their commitment to The Law Cadet Academy. We will be sending four cadets to the Academy. This event is used to help law enforcement with their recruitment and to help our young Americans to realize what being a Law Enforcement is about. We are also exploring the possibilities of having a Karaoke Night at Post 193. This will be discussed at our February meeting.

The next two items are vitally important. First, as riding seasons approaches, if you have an idea of a good ride, please let me, Marcus, or Rich know your idea so that we can plan a ride. Rich does an outstanding job of planning the route to maximize the enjoyment of the ride. What we need is ideas. Second, the elections are approaching us real fast, in order to maintain the caliber of our Chapter, it is imperative that we have new ideas. We need people to step up and help with the running of the Chapter. What are you willing to do?

Walt Richardson/For God and Country

## Chaplain's Corner



All religions have a means of being forgiven and allow one to start over, to be restored and renewed. A religion that does not make a way of being forgiven would not free us from our mistakes and regrets of our past actions. Can you imagine carrying all our past baggage around with us? We have all sinned and made many mistakes that would haunt us day and night unless there was a way to throw them off and be freed from the guilt of them. I would not call it a religion, rather I would call it a social program or a political program if it did not have a means of being forgiven and the ability to start over again.

Jesus said that He would forgive us our sins (cast them into the sea of forgetfulness never to be remembered again) and clean us of all the unrighteous things in our lives. Another place the scriptures tells us, "take your burdens (sins) to the Lord's altar AND leave them there. Jesus said, "If I set you free, you are free indeed" He frees us from the issues of the past that would haunt us so that we can go into a new future to love our fellow "man". Our greatest joy is found in helping others, loving them enough to get involved in their needs. Search your heart, what brings you inner peace and abiding joy? Be The One, find the one that is about to give up and love them into our family.

**Comrade Care List:** When you pray, remember those listed on our Comrade Care List. Remember our Post family and the Gerald White family as we have a service to honor our WWII Comrade and share our memories of him.

Betsy Harvey and her sister Jennifer Coomer, Jim Major and his Dad, James Blackwell, Jerry Macisco, and Doug Schmoltze If you know of someone that needs to be added to this list please let me know.

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

## Auxiliary



Hello ladies. The new year is definitely bringing new things with it. Our Post and Auxiliary really did a great job baking cookies and making snacks for Soldiers at Ft. Jackson. Francis Bisset and the Quilters Guild along with our Unit donated over 1,687 items for them to enjoy.

The National Auxiliary President will be in South Carolina on March 17 – 20. The Department will let us know what her itinerary is and hopefully a few of our members will be able to attend and meet her.

The Spring Convention is May 17 – 18 at the Double Tree in Columbia. Each time I attend I learn something new about the Auxiliary and the other Units within the State of SC. I hope that we have at least five members of our Unit to be able to attend.

In November I announced that we had received the grant to fund Palmetto Girls State from the Greater Chapin Community Foundation. Well, I am pleased to announce that we received another grant through the Greater Chapin Community Foundation from the Durant Family Charitable Fund for \$985.00. We will discuss what to use the funds for at one of our future meetings.

Nancy Graham has formed her committee for Palmetto Girls State interviews which will be in mid March. If you would like to help interview the young ladies contact Nancy at 803.404.0047.

Unit elections for Officers for the 2024-2025 membership year will be held in May, we need someone to step up and head the nominating committee. Please consider stepping into any of the positions, we could do so much more if we all took part in leading our Unit. Please contact me if you are interested in learning more.

Carmen Goulet/President

Our Auxiliary Unit 193 did a great job making and collecting cookies for the Soldiers at Ft. Jackson. Thanks to all who baked cookies and solicited help from friends, family, and church groups to participate.



# Post activities and events

Post is open (generally) M-W-F 1000-1400. This will vary during the holidays due to travel.

- 29 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 1 Feb: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 3 Feb: [Gerald White Funeral](#), 1400-1500, Ashland United Methodist Church (2600 Ashland Rd, Columbia, SC 29210)
- 5 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 8 Feb: Post 193 and Auxiliary Meeting and Dinner, Dinner at 1800, Meetings at 1900, Post Building, POC: Steve Goulet
- 10 Feb: [Gerald White Wake](#), 1500-1700, Post Building. Open to the public. POC: Mark Harvey/Richard Mullinax
- 12 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa  
BINGO setup. 1630-1730. Post Building. POC: Matt Zambrano
- 13 Feb: **BINGO 1730-2200**, Ole Oak Barn, 1155 Holy Trinity Church Rd, Little Mountain. POC: Floyd Rogers. Come help or play.
- 17 Feb: [Four Chaplain Service](#) 1000-1200, Post Building. Open to the Public. POC: Richard Mullinax
- 19 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 20 Feb: ALR Meeting and Dinner, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Walt Richardson  
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Dave Schimsa

Sign up for MyLegion, lots of good information at your fingertips. [myLegion](#)

For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](#)  
You can find a great deal of info on our Post website at [www.americanlegionpost193.com](#) or on our Facebook page [Chapin American Legion Post 193 | Chapin SC | Facebook](#)

If you are not receiving communications from the Commander at least on a weekly basis, please check your spam folder and, if that is not the problem, let the Adjutant know so the problem can be resolved.

Another of our fine Post members, PFC Gerald White has entered Post Everlasting. RIP



Wreath clean up detail at FJNC. A little chilly and windy. Thanks to all who helped!!



Have wheelbarrow will travel! WTG Matt