

# AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

**Commander**

**November 2023**



Thank you for your continued service!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for. We are able to continue to serve Veterans and our community with gratefulness. We continue to be well supported by the community members as evidenced by their contributions to our programs and especially the building fund. Our members reach out to each other to ensure no one is left alone or in need of help. For these things I am extremely grateful to our God, our members, and the community that supports us.

On the same note, we had our semi-annual Buddy Check and we were able to reach 90% of the over 400 members and local veterans with a word of encouragement. Thanks to all that came out and Tom Yeoman for leading that effort. We will be doing these formal checks qtlly henceforth. In the meantime, please continue to reach out each other. We all need to know others care.

We're in a busy season both personally and as a Post. We Care Christmas gifts are being collected. Thank you to those that stepped up to provide for the kids. Wreaths Across America – we have collected over \$1,700 toward wreaths honoring relatives and unknown veterans in the national cemetery. You have until 22 Nov to purchase wreaths for this year. After that date, contributions will go toward wreaths next year. Our Post Christmas Party is 9 December. Get your tickets before Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. The party will be one you don't want to miss. See 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Donna Tsukayama, Jean Kennedy, and Christie Kessinger for tickets at Breakfast, or contact them to meet other times.

Our Executive Committee and Chaplains stand ready to answer questions or get assistance to veterans. We also take recommendations for activities that support our four Pillars: Veteran Rehabilitation, National Defense, Children, and Americanism. Contact us anytime.

Please get and stay involved. We are doing our veterans and the community good when we are active.

Mark Harvey/For God and Country/In Service

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



## Adjutant



It has been a pretty busy couple of months and I must say it has all be very rewarding. I was honored to have a small part in facilitating the Post Quilts of Valor ceremony in October. In preparing for this ceremony, I realized that I really do not know that much about many of the members in our Post. We are surrounded by some of the most incredible folks on the planet, probably be good to take a little time to get to know each other a little better. The Veterans Day events were another humbling experience. All of those young people out there cheering USA, USA with patriotic signs showing their gratitude for the Veterans of our community. This year I kind of stood back and took pictures of our Veterans and the young people. Viewing everything from that perspective was humbling and gratifying, at the end of the parade we stopped in at Generations to visit with a few Veterans that were not able to get out and about and they were more than grateful for our short visit.

We have seven, Previously Unclaimed Veterans that we will inter at the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. If you are able to attend/support this ceremony it would be greatly appreciated.

Help is needed with the Wreaths Across America unloading detail at the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, please let me know so I can get your name turned in and register you.

Lastly our membership is going well, we are currently at 79.51% of our membership goal for 2024 which exceeds our December 13<sup>th</sup> target goal of 75%. Since we have started taking memberships for 2024, we have added 25 NEW members to our roster! Wow that is amazing. Would appreciate everyone renewing their dues as soon as possible but no worries if you do not, as your 2023 membership is good until December 31, 2023. If you want to pay your annual dues online visit @[Renew my membership NOW!](#). Just hold down the Ctrl key, hover over the link and right click. You will be taken to the site to renew; you only need your membership number and credit card

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

## First Vice Commander



The initial batch of award requests have been sent out to Law Enforcement and Firefighter organizations within the Chapin area with the information and instructions for the various awards. The suspense dates for their return will be NLT Midnight, 3 January, 2024.

We are also taking nominations for the Legionnaire of the Year Award. If you have someone in our post that you feel is deserving and you would like to nominate, please contact me at PH: 781-290-7154 / [rhnielen@hotmail.com](mailto:rhnielen@hotmail.com) or Steve Goulet the Post Adjutant.

The Christmas Party for the Post is scheduled for the 9th of December and will be held at the Chapin Town Hall. More information to follow by the 2nd Vice and many thanks to the 2nd and 3rd Vices and the various members that developed and organized this year's party. It should be a wonderful and fun evening. Please make sure that you sign up and buy your tickets by the 27th of November.

The membership drive on Saturday, 21 October, from 1000 – 1400 at Boland's ACE Hardware went well. They have agreed to do other events so we will be coordinating another event in the near future. More to follow.

Richard Nielen/For God and Country

## **Second Vice Commander**



On Nov 7, 305 flags were retired. These flags are brought to Thompson funeral home. They ensure every veteran receives a flag when cremated. At this time, 1,517 flags have been retired by Post 193 this year.

Flags were placed around Chapin on 9 Nov for Veterans Day. Many thanks for everyone's assistance in both events.

The post's Christmas party is Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at the Chapin Town Hall. This event is catered by Bill and Frans, the cost is \$25.00 per person Cocktails and appetizers are at 1730. Dinner will be served at 1800.

Charcuterie board, Ham, Turkey, stuffing, green beans, sweet potato casserole, Mac and cheese, cranberry sauce, Beer, Wine, Tea and Coffee. Vegetarian/gluten-free meal available. We will have a DJ and there will be LOTS of PRIZES to win.

Please provide an item for under the tree for teens and tweens.  
The last day of ticket sales is Monday morning breakfast Nov 27.

Donna Tsukayama / For God and Country  
Semper Fi

## **Facility Manager/NBC**



We had 76 Veterans for our latest Monday Morning Veterans breakfast. We also welcomed three new members to our Post. Thanks to the outstanding Breakfast Crew who continues to put out some pretty good chow no matter how many shows up. Let us know if you'd like to assist with clean up one morning - we can always use some help. Stand by for a date/time for a Post clean up coming up in early December. We have a few small items needing repair, we need to take down all of the state flags to clean them, and some general clean up. A big thanks to our Post Engineer, Doug Abramson, for modifying the stairs to the stage to make for safer and easier access.

## **New Building Committee**

BREAKING NEWS!!! We have surpassed \$1,000,000 in raised money for our Building Fund. We have raised \$1,000,087 to date, with \$715,000 cash on hand. The Post approved the funds at our last meeting to pull the Building Permit and to obtain construction documents for HVAC/mechanical, plumbing, structural, and electrical. These documents will list the materials required for construction and will provide us with the information we need to solicit in-kind donations or discounted items. Depending on weather, rain, etc., our plan is to break ground early April. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the cause - either by direct donations or working at one of our many fund raisers over the past several years. A big thanks to Steve Tucker and his team who raised over \$7,780 with the Veterans Day Boot Drive. Great job getting that much money in donations before the rain came in. We have received funds or commitments for the naming rights of the main Post Hall, the bar, the portico, the flag area, and the picnic pavilion totaling \$435,000. Stand by for a listing of those who donated the funds and the names to be placed in these areas. As most of you know we have already celebrated the naming of the Yeoman-Bernard Picnic Pavilion with funds provided by Tom and Diane Yeoman.

David Schimsa/For God and Country

## **ALR Director**



The Holiday Season is an extremely busy time for The ALR. With so many different parades and events during this festive season we must still realize that we have other commitments that we must meet. For example, at our last Riders meeting, we voted to double our obligation to the Law Cadet Academy to four cadets each year. The Law Cadet Program is a great program and deserves our support. We also elected a new Sgt at Arms, Richard Royer and a new Asst Sgt at Arms Jerry Lebar.

We took part in the Lexington Veterans Day Parade in Lexington and had a very good turn out with 16 Riders taking part in that event. We also held a "special meeting" after the event at The Social Grill in Ballentine and a fine time was had by all who attended. Rich, our Ride Coordinator, planned a ride to Spartanburg to visit the Travelling Wall. Rich is very good at keeping us off the interstate and selecting good roads for us to ride on. Of course, eating at the World-Famous BEACON REASTAURANT on the way back was a very nice touch added by Rich.

On Friday, November 10, (USMC Birthday), we had our annual Chapin Post 193 Veterans Day Parade. We had a large turnout, around 22 bikes and 6 vehicles. The ceremony at the library was short and sweet and then came the part that everyone was waiting for. Riding to the schools. Piney Woods Elementary, Chapin Baptist Church CDC, Chapin Middle School, Chapin Elementary, and Lake Murray Elementary. Altogether, I think that the Riders and members from Post 193 touched around 2500 young students that day. Generations was our next stop, where we presented 12 veterans with certificates of thanks for their service. We were still not finished for the day, The Riders then came and took their shift for the Boot Drive. Another "special meeting" was held after the Boot Drive shift at The Topsy Toad to discuss the day events and how we could make them better next year.

Coming up we have Newberry Boys Farm Ride, Wreaths Across America, Unclaimed Veterans Interment, Pre-Ride and Legacy Ride and ROMP in June. As you can see it is a busy time of the year, however we will make it through.

Also, want to remind the Riders of the Christmas Party on Dec. 15. I hope that you all can make it to the festivities.

Finally, I hope that you all have a joyous and festive holiday season with your family and friends. Please remember, we have members of the Armed Services that will not be home this year because of being deployed all over the globe, take a minute to remember how that was and say a little prayer.

On Friday we wear **RED** (*Remember Everyone Deployed*)

Walt Richardson/For God and Country

## **Chaplain's Corner**



We are a blessed Post here in Chapin. So many posts are so small in attendance that there is no one to help, no one to challenge them. They don't have enough members or enough money to carry out the programs that support the Four Pillars of the Legion. Our post has so much going on that many of us have contact several times a month/ week. We are constantly challenging each other to help with our projects. We all feel needed and our involvement is appreciated.

I ask each of you to stop and count our blessings regularly. Remind each other of the exciting things that we have going on. Bingo, Unclaimed Veterans services, Monday morning veteran breakfast, Quilt of Valor, Wreaths across America, Legion ball, oratorical program, Motorcycle parades, We Care, Raffles, and the list go on and on. another big blessing is to see our building program. I'm sure we are way ahead of where any of us thought that we would be three years in. The "nay sayers" said "we won't see that building in our lifetime." With good leadership and committed members along with a lot of hard work on the part of many we are looking at ground breaking within a few months.

In the famous words of Jerry Clower "ain't God good" to us here at Post 193.

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

## **Comrade Care List:**

I'm clearing the Comrade Care list and starting over. I will add names as you give them to me. I would ask of you to also let me know when to remove a name from our list.

Remember the Mostiler family in their loss of Kenneth.

Remember the Fincher family in the recent loss of Claire.

Remember the Lindler family in the recent loss of Herbert.

Remember the Stout family in the recent loss of Larry.

Remember the Shealy family in the loss of Dave's dad.

John Saxton is home and doing good.

Prayer request for Betsy Harvey.



## Auxiliary



Hello ladies. A few things are coming up. We will be participating in Cookies for Soldiers again this year along with Francis Bissett. The date of collection has not been set yet but we will be collecting cookies and homemade bagged snack/trailmix for the soldiers that do not go home for Christmas Exodus. Details will be sent out via email once I get the information about the date that we need the items delivered.

If you would like to attend the Post Christmas Party please contact Donna Tsukayama, Susan Reynolds, Christie Kessinger or Jean Kennedy. The deadline for purchasing tickets is November 27.

The grant request has been submitted to The Greater Chapin Community Foundation for 2024. We should be hearing from them soon whether or not they will again provide us grant money for Palmetto Girls State.

Please note, if you would like to run for any of our Officer positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary etc) I would like to know of your desire as early as possible. We have a lot of good people in our Unit and I would like to see some of you step up. We can set up training for all positions ahead of time and of course provide assistance as you serve.

We need someone to run our Americanism program. This entails dropping off the Americanism essay forms to the school, picking them up, evaluating them and submitting the top essays to the Department.

Currently the only program for Children and Youth that we do is Palmetto Girls State. I would like our Unit to do more things with the schools or with Girl Scouts etc. We just need someone to head this program up. I hope all of you are reading your Auxiliary Magazine and have checked out the National Website. Lots of ideas and information in both of these.

Carmen Goulet/President

## Jim Pepper



Just a reminder from Justin Pepper House and the Post 193 Christmas Party. This year the Executive Committee approved the Post in supporting "Tweens & Teens Gift Drive" being held by Justin Pepper House. We try to collect gifts for the ages of 12-18 since we have found over the years these kids often get left out of community giving. Please bring an unwrapped gift to the Post Christmas Party and we will ensure it goes to a teen boy or girl in a group home here in the Midlands. For gift ideas, visit [Justinpepperhouse.com](http://Justinpepperhouse.com) or our Facebook page.



# Post activities and events

- 21 Nov: ALR Meeting and Dinner, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Walt Richardson  
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Donna Tsukayama
- 23 Nov Nov: Thanksgiving. Enjoy your Family and Friends and give thanks.
- 27 Nov: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 4 Dec: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 7 Dec: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 9 Dec: Post Christmas Party. 1730-2100. Chapin Town Hall. POC: Donna Tsukayama  
Newberry Boys Farm Toy Run, 1200, Boland's Ace Hardware. POC: Walt Richardson
- 11 Dec: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa  
BINGO setup. 1630-1730. Post Building. POC: Matt Zambrano
- 12 Dec: BINGO 1730-2200, Ole Oak Barn, 1155 Holy Trinity Church Rd, Little Mountain.  
POC: Floyd Rogers. Come help or play.
- 13 Dec: ALR Executive Committee Mtg 1800-1900, Post Building. POC: Walt Richardson
- 15 Dec: Previously Unclaimed Veteran interment, 1100 Ft. Jackson National Cemetery.  
POC: Steve Goulet  
ALR Chapter 193 Christmas Party. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 18 Dec: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 19 Dec: ALR Meeting and Dinner, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Walt Richardson  
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Donna Tsukayama
- 25 Dec: Merry Christmas! (no veteran breakfast)

For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](https://americanlegionpost193.com)  
You can find a great deal of info on our Post website at [www.americanlegionpost193.com](http://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.

## *A few pictures of Post activities*



**Quilt of Valor presentation held 26 October 2023**



**Veteran Day activities 2023**

