

AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

Commander

April 2024



The Groundbreaking Ceremony went fantastic! We had approximately 150 people. Now we are working on the fundraising needed to complete the building. We have enough for the building. We need funds to finish the inside accoutrements and parking areas.

As I stated in my speech, the Legion Mission in Chapin is four-fold: 1) to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, 2) to enhance the well-being of their families, 3) to support our military, and 4) support and promote Americanism, youth, and our community. We do all of these by our devotion to mutual helpfulness – Service to others. We all joined the military to preserve this great country. It is in our nature to continue to serve each other, our community, and this nation. You volunteer your time and treasure to make it all happen. But we can't do our mission without the service and support of this community. The Community members are all adjunct members of the Legion. Look for their input into how we can serve the community and involve them in that service. We need your ideas and assistance to serve the community.

Executive Committee elections will be held at our May Meeting. I ask you to consider serving. Contact Tom Yeoman, Bill Moser, or John Siemers to look at the positions and where you can best serve. Even if you don't serve in this manner, there are many ways you can serve to better our Post: Bingo support, WeCare, holiday planning, breakfast, fundraising events...

Keep in touch. Reach out to those you don't see. We have each other's back.

Mark Harvey/For God and Country/In Service
Veteran Help Line: **Dial 988, option 1**

Adjutant



Our membership currently stands at 399 or 107.55% of our 2024 membership goal. Also noteworthy is that we currently have more than a 95%-member renewal rate. We will soon be receiving membership renewal information for the 2025 membership year so, be prepared. Normally they send out initial notifications the first week of July. The notices are a bit of a pain, and it is a bit hard to understand why I am getting a renewal notice when my current membership does not expire until December 31st. The Legion has now provided us with an option to renew for multiple years. This is helpful in reducing the number of renewal notices you receive and also protects you from any dues increases for three years.

Our Wreaths Across America Program is going well. The mission of the Wreaths Across America Program is to Remember the Fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation

the value of freedom. **HELP**, we still need a public affairs kind of person to take the lead in organizing our advertising and community outreach. The Wreaths Across American resource support site has a myriad of information and tools to assist us in getting the word out, we just need someone to manage it.

We have a fantastic Post filled with some of the most experienced and talented people you could find anywhere on earth. We have a lot to do in the coming years and we can use your help. Look for an opportunity to contribute to the goals of the Post regardless of how small or simple that contribution might be. You don't have to work doing We Care every Tuesday and Thursday, maybe once a month, cleanup after breakfast once a month, help set up Bingo, be a member of the Memorial Day ceremony set up crew, Ladies Fast Pitch softball team, Assistant Team Manager. Many opportunities are available, and whatever you can do to help is and will be appreciated. As we begin construction on our new Post Home, I am sure we will be busier than a one-legged man in an ----- contest so be prepared to fill in as needed.

Steven Goulet/" We Can Build It"/" Veterans Strengthening America"

First Vice Commander



We held our Memorial Day planning meeting this past week on 17 April/1300 at the Post. We are looking for more volunteers to assist. The next planning session for Memorial Day will be 15 May/1300 and will be at the Post. This will be the last session before the rehearsal on the 23rd of May. Please attend if you think you can help out with the ceremony.

Wreaths Across America planning is continuing with the next meeting scheduled for 4 June/1900 at the post. If you would like to help or just would like more information you are welcome to attend. More information to follow as we get closer to the meeting.

The next scheduled date for recruiting at Boland's ACE Hardware is TBD. We will send out notification for the time and date. The main purpose remains recruiting new members and to increase sales of Rifle Raffle Tickets. The ticket sales close in June so please purchase your tickets before it's too late.

Richard Nielen/For God and Country



Third Vice Commander



There will be a Blood Drive Monday the 13th of May after the morning breakfast. Please sign up for a time slot to give. You can sign up on the Post website. I'm also the post quartermaster so I'm the one that orders your name tags, hats, t-shirts, etc etc.

If you have any input for the newsletter please send it to my email address by the 15th of the month, you can send to my private email Lebar5@twc.com or 3rdvicecdr@americanlegionpost193.org, preferably Lebar5@TWC.com. I am also looking for volunteers to do the Pledge of Allegiance at the Chapin Town Hall meeting for November and December. You can email me or you can see

me at breakfast on Mondays.

Jerry Lebar/For God and Country

Facility Manager/NBC



Best breakfast in town and it's only \$6 every Monday morning! We are still looking to add one more person to the Veterans Breakfast kitchen crew. Come see me if interested. A reminder to not park in the Wells Fargo parking lot on Monday mornings (unless its a banking holiday). Parking along the wall is reserved for motorcycles only. Thanks to the Breakfast Crew (Mike, Lynn, Allen, and Moses) for preparing breakfast Saturday morning for the Town of Chapin's Day of Service last Saturday morning.

New Building Committee

Thanks for everyone's help and participation in the Groundbreaking Ceremony. We had over 150 attendees, great refreshments, and we enjoyed perfect weather. Thanks to the grass cutting and clean up team of John Fabien, John Nesbit, Allen Aimar, and Mark Harvey. Thanks to Steve Goulet and Tom Yeoman for planning the event, Rich Nielen for honchoing rehearsals and set up, Tom for narrating, Matt and Moses for set up and tear down, Mark for setting up his trailer, Mike for parking, Jodi and Heidi for singing our National Anthem, and Harriet Wilson for coordinating and setting up the refreshments. I'm sure I missed a few - many others assisted in making it a great day. Thanks to all!!

Permit applications have been made to the Town of Chapin's Architectural Review Board (ARB) and to the Lexington County permitting department. The ARB meets 1 May. As soon as they approve our plans the County will do the same. No issues anticipated.

Building expenses to date this month: \$426.00 to the Chapin ARB and \$550.00 to the Lexington County Building Permitting Department.

David Schimsa/For God and Country

ALR Director



The 2024 Legacy Ride is now history. Chapter 193 Riders just got back from completing the 2024 Legacy Ride and it was an enormous success. Everything was great, the ride going down to Post 186, the ride coming back, the meal at 186 was fantastic, Big D's Bar-B-Q in Hemingway was awesome, even selling the patches was a huge success. However, the best thing about the event was the reuniting with friends that we have not seen in a long time. We had 92 bikes at Post 186, and 122 bikes at the State House. The ceremony at the State House was short and sweet and I am certain that all Riders were ready to get home.

On Friday, 19 April, we had our official groundbreaking for our new Post, Riders were on hand to help with the parking and help with the event. The Riders escorted the parents of Mike Rowley to FJNC for their burial on Thursday, 25 April.

This May is going to be a very busy month. On the 4th, (May the fourth be with you) we have two events that need our attention. Post 71 is having their postponed Spring Thaw Ride and John Darr, a friend of many of our Riders, is having a celebration of life. We will have to divide our forces and conquer. We need to attend both events. On the 10th, we have an interment of Unclaimed Veterans. This is rapidly becoming our signature event and we need as many Riders and Post members to attend as possible. Information will be forth coming.

TAL (*The American Legion*) Department of South Carolina is having their Annual Convention on May 16-19. The ALRSC Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, May 18. Post 193 and Chapter 193 need to have as many members as possible attend these Conventions. Our election of ALR 193 Officers will take place at our May 21 meeting. It is extremely important that all Riders attend this meeting to help elect officers for the new year.

In June we will have our new officers sworn in at our ALR Meeting on June 18. And on June 20-23 the long-anticipated ROMP Meeting will take place at Post 186 in North Myrtle Beach. The ALRSC has been working very hard and it looks like this will be a big success. There are already 300 Riders registered from 17 different states that are planning to attend.

ALR 193 sponsors students for TAL Law Cadet Program. This year The Law Cadet program will take place from June 22 through June 28. The Riders are planning on attending this program when the Cadets are either at the Driving Course or at the Shooting Range. Post members are invited and encouraged to attend with the Riders.

The Annual ALRSC Meet and Greet is scheduled to take place at Post 15 in Sumter on August 3rd. This event is an annual event that is attended by Riders from all over the State. There will be fun activities, camaraderie with other Riders, good food, and I am certain there will be some games of chance designed to take your money. The one rule for the Meet and Greet is "NO BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED".

Walt Richardson/For God and Country

Chaplain's Corner



What a day of celebrating! A day that many of us have longed for for years. The groundbreaking for our new Post Home. Our commitment to watch care of our veterans and our commitment to our Pillars of serving our community and youth, as well as promoting Patriotism have seen us outgrow our present facility. We have been blessed with some great leadership at all levels and the membership as well as our community has responded by raising the funds to reach this milestone.

Where God guides...God provides! We are confident that as we labor to serve our people that God will bless our people with another day of celebration in about a year. It takes good leadership to accomplish great things, but it also takes the commitment of all of us to follow that leadership. When you think that your effort doesn't count, your words of encouragement, your prayers and your faithfulness may be the powering force behind our great leaders and their accomplishments.

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

Comrade Care List:

When you pray, remember those listed on our Comrade Care List.

Remember our Post family and the Gerald White family. Our Adjutant, Steven Goulet as he recovers from his eye surgery, JR Hamill knee surgery, Jason Shough back surgery, Mark Stevens, knee surgery, Ed Wilkes under Dr. care, and the Rowley family as we celebrate the home going of Mike's parents.

There are others but I do not have my notes available to review the names.

Remember our nominating committee as they bring a slate of new officers and recommitment of our returning officers for the coming year.

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

Auxiliary



National Poppy Day is Friday, May 24, Carol Johns Rogers needs volunteers to help distribute poppies at Boland's Ace from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Memorial Day Ceremony will be held Monday, May 27 at 10:00 a.m at the town hall. The Auxiliary will host the reception which will begin immediately following the ceremony. Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC has once again stepped up to sponsor the reception. Thank You Robert Shealy Jr. for your continuing support of this event.

Many thanks to Jodi DoDonnelly who has singlehandedly taken on calling Auxiliary members to see how they are doing. We have needed this for a long time and the members she has contacted have expressed their appreciation. Currently Jodi has gotten members to do a meal train for one of our members who is recovering from a recent surgery.

On April 16 2024 I attended the ALR 193 monthly meeting and presented Director Richardson with our check for \$500.00. This donation will be counted in their Chapter's annual donation for the ALRSC Legacy Ride which benefits the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.

Our Unit membership has grown this year with six new members bringing us to a total of 42 members. Please welcome the new members if you see them at the meetings.

If you would like to attend the Spring Convention on May 17 & 18 at the Doubletree by Hilton please let Carmen Goulet know by the 26th of April. Registration forms must be in by May 1.

Carmen Goulet/President /"In the Spirit of Service, Not Self"

Post Activities and Events

- 2 May: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 6 May: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
BINGO setup. 1630-1730. Post Building. POC: Matt Zambrano
- 7 May: BINGO 1730-2200, Ole Oak Barn, 1155 Holy Trinity Church Rd, Little Mountain.
POC: Floyd Rogers. Come, help or play.
- 9 May: Post 193 and Auxiliary meeting, ELECTIONS, and dinner, dinner at 1800, Meetings
at 1900, Post Building, POC: Steve Goulet
- 10 May: Unclaimed Veteran Interment, 0900-1100, Post Building to Ft Jackson, POC: Steve
Goulet
- 13 May: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1030-1700, Post Building. POC: Gerry LeBar
- 15 May: Memorial Day Planning Meeting, 1300-1400, Post Building, POC: Rich Nielen
- 20 May: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 21 May: ALR Meeting, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Walt Richardson
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 23 May: Memorial Day Rehearsal, 1600-1700, Chapin Townhall, POC: Rich Nielen
- 24 May: Boot Drive, 0700-1800, Post Building, POC: Steve Tucker (Rain date: 25 May)
National Poppy Day (Poppy distribution)– Auxiliary Unit 193 will be at Boland's Ace
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. POC: Carol Johns Rogers
- 27 May: Memorial Day Ceremony, 1000-1200, Chapin Town Hall, POC: Rich Nielen
NOTE: There will not be a Veteran Breakfast served at the Post

For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/ChapinAmericanLegionPost193)

Good Stuff

A BIG DAY for Post 193



Another great Breakfast at Zorba's



Unit 193 President presenting \$500 donation to ALR 193 for the Veterans and Children foundation.



Auxiliary Unit 193 at the Groundbreaking



Chapter 193 Members completed the 2024 ALRSC Legacy Ride over the weekend. Raising money to support the Veterans and Children Foundation.

Well Done