

# AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

## Commander

**April 2026**



The warmer weather has finally arrived here during the month of April. We had another great month for our Post. Bingo had a good crowd, and we had many of our members helping with the set-up and operation that made it all come together. We had 145 participants for the night, so we did well. I hope everyone had a good Easter and Passover and honored them in meaningful ways with family and friends. We also conducted our monthly Post and Auxiliary Meetings on the 9<sup>th</sup>. We did not have a quorum, quite a few people were away with spring break. Keep in mind that at our May meeting we will be voting on our Post Officers for the 2026-2027 year. We really need to have a good turnout for that meeting and complete the elections for next year. That meeting will be on Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of May with the dinner at 1800 and the meetings starting at 1900. Please be there if possible. Oh, and let's not forget that great American tradition that occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup>, TAX DAY! I hope everyone got their taxes filed on time. We also had our Post Radio Club Meeting and the American Legion Riders Meeting this month. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice held a recruiting event at Boland's ACE Hardware and we had a very productive day with rifle raffle and cash raffle tickets and talked to a few veterans. We've rapped up the donation drive for tables and chairs at the new Post. A big thank you to everyone that helped with contributions. Everyone has been very generous and, no matter the amount, it is greatly appreciated. Please make sure that you have renewed your dues for this year. We're getting closer to opening the new Post and your dues will have to be paid up for your electronic key to work. Just a reminder. So April was a great month and we are all looking forward to May and the move to the new Post. I hope to see you all at Breakfast each and every Monday morning.

Richard Nielsen/For God and Country/In Service

Veteran Help Line: Dial 988, option 1

## Adjutant



I sent out the Save the Date notice for our Post Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on 18 July 2026! We expect to be in the building before then, but our Grand Opening/ Ribbon cutting will take place in July. As we transition into our new facility there will be many opportunities to help and assist in preparing for our ribbon cutting and getting things set up and running.

Over the years I have found meetings to be boring, filled with useless and repetitive information, sometimes not necessary. (at least from my point of view). Be that as it may, meetings are necessary to conduct the business of the Post. For us to make decisions at our meetings we must have 10%, 46 members present which constitutes a quorum. Mark your calendars and plan to be at the May 14, 2026 meeting. If you need a ride

let it be known, we will pick you up and bring you back home after the meeting. We have lots of business to get done and need your input.

Post elections are next month, and nominations are now open. If you desire to fill one of the elected positions in the Post, please let it be known. If you want to nominate someone for a position let one of our nominating committee members know (be sure to ask the person you are nominating first). Our Nominating Committee Chairman is Walt Richardson, members are Tom Yeoman and Gene Powell.

When it comes to membership our Post does very well at recruiting new members and retaining current members. We are no doubt a Post that is valued by our members and attractive to Veterans looking for a Post home. I was reviewing our membership numbers and noted that we have 472 members on the roster 438 have paid their dues for 2026 which are due each year 31 Dec and 34 members that have let their membership expire. For those that have let their membership expire the number of years in the Legion ranges from 1 to 18 with the average number of years per member = to 8.5 years. Why did these members choose not to continue with membership in the Legion? I don't know, maybe they moved away, maybe they did not find value in what we do or provide for them, maybe they no longer felt welcome or had a conflict with one or more of the members. There is no telling what their reason was, but it is worthwhile for us to consider if there may be something we could do better or different.

On 28 May 2026 at 1830 Post 193 will hold our first orientation/welcome and going forward we will conduct the orientation either quarterly or bimonthly. The intent is to help our new members and their families to get to know us, link them with a sponsor of sorts, provide them with information on our Post mission and vision and provide information as to the resources available to them through our organization and the organizations we are associated with. We have been needing to implement something like this for a long time and I believe now is as good a time as any to get it going. The first meeting is for anyone who has joined in the last six months or has a desire to know more about our Post. Our EC has a pretty good outline for how we will run the program and as the program evolves it will likely change based on feedback we receive.

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

First Vice Commander / Quartermaster



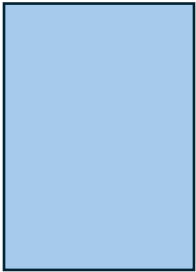
We had our 3rd Membership Drive/ Gun Raffle, Cash Raffle Sales, Friday and Saturday Apr 10 and 11, 2026 from 8am to 4 pm at Boland's Hardware. We sold 60 Rifle Raffle tickets, 31 Cash raffle tickets and received \$136.00 in contributions to the building fund. We also talked to several people who were interested in joining the Legion. The next rifle raffle, cash raffle/Membership drive will take place on April 24 and 25 at Boland's Hardware from 8 am to 4 pm. We need members to come out and support the effort.

The next Blood drive will take place on May 11, 2026 from 11AM until 5 PM. Future blood drives will probably happen at our new facility.

Police, Fireman and Teacher of the year awards were passed out to the appropriate facilities with deadlines of March 15, 2026 for the applications to be turned in. We have one police and one teacher app turned in. The post will provide a plaque and gift card to these individuals. Those that ordered t-shirts have come in and I'll have them at the Monday morning breakfast. They are \$25.00. If they are not picked up and paid for I will sell them to anyone that is looking for a new shirt. I will be out the next couple of weeks as I'm having shoulder surgery on April 23. I'll probably be back around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. See you next month.

Jerry Lebar/For God and Country

Third Vice Commander



There are numerous opportunities to volunteer and represent the post. These activities are important to sustain the post and foster community relations. We need volunteers to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Town Hall, from July through the end of the year. Please contact me if you are interested.

Russ Taylor/For God and Country

Facility Manager/NBC



Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast can not happen without our volunteers. Thanks to the Kitchen Crew, Steve Goulet for his world famous breakfast **potatoes, Tom Yeoman's fruit prep, Allen Aimar's gourmet coffee, Fred B** for keeping our headcount, and Mike Harris & other volunteers for KP duty. We had **a record 112 total Vets at last week's breakfast with two new members. Thanks all!**

New Building Committee:

We have positive movement on our City of Columbia water permit! We look forward to seeing our water line installed and our parking lot completed. Stay tuned for information & requests for volunteers to clean our new Post prior to our ribbon cutting ceremony. Thanks to all for donations for our new round banquet tables & chairs.

David W. Schimsa/For God and Country

## ALR Director



From the saddle of my Goldwing

Your Riders have had a busy March/April this year. We helped support the **ALRSC "Veteran Experience Action Center" (VEAC) at the SC National Guard Armory**. This event enabled over 800 SC Veterans meet directly with VA **representatives**. Our annual **Zorba's Breakfast** Rider Fundraiser was a huge success; we thank Jimmy the Greek for once again supporting this fundraiser. Jim Schafer leads this annual effort for us. At the same time, the Chapin HS NJROTC asked for the Riders to support their EGGstravagansa, we could hardly refuse, so Gary Campbell took "the lead" and made our presence at the event memorable for the NJROTC. **Several of us rode to Pelion to support Post 101's "Easter Goodie Bake Sale"**. Two Riders from Post 25 in Laurens were involved in a serious motorcycle accident. The Laurens Post members **determined that their homes needed to be "handicap accessible"**. They asked Riders from around the state to help raise money for their building supplies. The Riders donated and also collected donations at one of our Breakfasts. The Riders then made a trip to a Laurens Post fundraising event and presented their post with our donation, Veterans Helping Veterans!

Tom Yeoman/For God and Country/Safety First, People Always

## Chaplain's Corner



I want to share a couple acronyms this time. I have heard several of you say that you can't pray in public so I have an acronym, ACTS. A is for adoration. We should begin by acknowledging God, We know of His power, His mercy and grace. C is confession, we need to acknowledge our situation. We are sinners. We fail to do the things that we know that we should be doing. We can confess to God that we are aware of our shortcomings and need help. T is for thanksgiving. I fail to express thanks for the things that people help me with and I certainly take God's help for granted.

Before we begin to beg God for His attention (supplication) we should fine tune our hearts to God by "A" "C" "T" then appeal to God for our concerns.

The second acronym is FORM: How do you start a conversation with someone and hold their attention long enough to hear your message? F is for Family, most everyone will talk about their family or family background. O is for occupation. Most folks don't want to get too deep but they are willing to talk about their work history. R is religion. It can be touchy but I ask about Grandparents or parents' religious background. All of this is to get to the Message "M". The message may be as simple as "I want to get to know you and would like to invite you to visit our Post.

I encourage you to talk, listen, lead, influence but most of all share your convictions that future generations will continue to blaze a trail in the direction that we have traveled.

## Comrade Care List:

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

Choose two or three and be mindful of those two or three for a couple days then choose another two or three others for a few days.

Remember our Post family:

- **James Blackwell's family**
- **Billy Lindsay's family**
- Paul Holiday is back home from his treatment in Jacksonville, Florida
- Bill Szala
- George and Carol Smith; George is at home under hospice care.
- Betsy Harvey and her daughter
- John Siemers
- Larry Archer
- Buddy Miller with lung cancer near his heart
- Richard Royer as he battles with cancer
- Walt Richardson
- Jack Hulet
- Ed Abston
- Chuck McAlister's wife Janis

Forward your request for this list to me at [rcmullinax@gmail.com](mailto:rcmullinax@gmail.com)

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

## Auxiliary



Auxiliary members are busy planning to assist Chapin Elementary School's "Eaglets Making Impact" club as they host a dinner and BINGO event for local military families at our Post on April 30th. This event is being held in recognition of April being the "Month of the Military Child" which each year honors the resilience and sacrifices of military children. We are so proud of these patriotic 4th graders for taking this initiative and are delighted to be able to provide dinner for them. We are looking forward to a very fun evening!

We are pleased to report that as of this month and due to the addition of several new Auxiliary members we have exceeded our membership goal for this year! It is very exciting to see our group growing and we welcome these new members who are already sharing their talents with us.

Marthalyn Schimsa/President/In the Spirit of Service, Not Self

# Post Activities and Events

- 4 May: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa  
Be The One 0930 – 1030, Post Building. POC: Tom Yeoman
- 5 May: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 7 May: BINGO 1730-2200, Chapin Town Hall, 157 Columbia Ave, Chapin. POC: Floyd Rogers. Come help or play. Setup starts at 4pm.
- 11 May: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa  
**Red Cross Blood Drive, 1030-1700, Post Building. POC: Gerry LeBar**
- 12 May:** ALR EC Meeting, 1800-1900, Post kitchen. POC: Tom Yeoman  
**Chapin Post 193 Amateur Radio Club Meeting 1800 – 1900, Dan Goldston**
- 14 May: **Memorial Day Planning Meeting, 1300-1400, Town Hall, POC: Gerard Lebar**  
Post 193 and Auxiliary Meeting, Dinner at 1800, Meetings at 1900, Post Building, POC: Steve Goulet
- 18 May: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 19 May: ALR Meeting, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Tom Yeoman  
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Russ Taylor
- 21 May: Place flags in the Town center, 0900 POC: Gerard Lebar  
**Memorial Day Rehearsal, 1600-1700, Chapin Townhall, POC: Gerard Lebar**  
**Cruise Information Briefing, Post Building, Steve Goulet, 1830-1930**
- 22 May: Boot Drive, 0700-1800, Post Building, POC: Steve Tucker, Gene Powell  
National Poppy Day – **Auxiliary at Boland's Ace**
- 25 May: Memorial Day Ceremony, 0900-1400, Town Hall, POC: Rich Nielen  
No Veteran Breakfast
- 26 May: Recover flags in the Town center, 0900 POC: Gerard Lebar
- 28 May: Newcomer Orientation, 1830-1930, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet

For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](http://EventsCalendar(americanlegionpost193.com))  
For info on our Chapin Newberry Baseball Team visit, [South Carolina American Legion Baseball Home Page \(scalb.org\)](http://SouthCarolinaAmericanLegionBaseballHomePage(scalb.org)). 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](http://ChapinAmericanLegionPost193|ChapinSC|Facebook)