

AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

Commander

December 2024



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we mark the transition to a new year, we can look back at what has happened last year and look forward to what we expect.

We have started the building of our new facility after meeting our goal for fundraising. We grew as an organization which gives us the opportunity to support each other, and we have more volunteers to reach out to others. We have plethora programs that help kids, community, and veteran issues. We look forward to using this facility and programs to support veterans and our community in the coming years.

I look forward to next year and I am thankful for our programs last year. You can participate in programs or propose new projects each time we get together. That is the power of our organization – it is local member run. National and District provide support and encouragement for existing programs. We decide how we participate and improve the lives of veterans, children, and communities.

I am proud to be associated with you and the Legion. Thank you for all you do.

Mark Harvey/For God and Country/In Service

Veteran Help Line: Dial 988, option 1

Adjutant



What a busy year it has been. I for one am very proud of the many accomplishments our Post has made and the positive impact we have had in the Chapin Community. I look forward to next year and continuing to impact the Chapin Community and support Veterans in a positive and productive way.

The land clearing of our Post property has started, soon we will have the foundation poured and each day as we drive by or visit the site we will see our new home coming to fruition. We must continue our fundraising for the new building as we are still a bit short of funds to complete all the construction and

furnish the building. Dave and the new Building Committee have done a fantastic job, let's all make the final push to get the job done.

Our membership is lagging, we are currently at 74.76 % of our goal, the National membership goal for December 11,2024 was 75%. This is the first time I can remember missing any of the membership goals. Last year at this time we were at 89.49% of our goal. What do we need to do to get back on track? Are we all reaching out in the community and recruiting new members? Are we fostering an environment that makes our members want to continue membership in our Post? Membership is important, it is more than just the \$\$ we receive from member dues, it is what each individual member brings to the table in the way of ideas, energy and relationships. If you have not renewed your 2025 membership dues you can pay online @ [Renew my membership NOW!](#) Just hold down the Ctrl key, hover over the link and right click.

During our last EC meeting our Post Service Officer Carl Bullock mentioned that online services for the VA as well as My Healthy Vet would be changing sign in requirements in January 2025. The following link outlines those changes, [Prepare for VA's Secure Sign-in changes - VA News](#). We have set 14 and 16 January 2025 @ 1800-1930 as times to assist members at the Post in setting up accounts in ID.me and Login.gov. It is not a difficult process and will only take about 10 minutes. If you would like assistance, please let Carl or myself know.

May you and your families have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

Steven Goulet/“ **We Can Build It**”/“ **Veterans Strengthening America**”

First Vice Commander



Our Wreaths Across America (WAA) Ceremony went extremely well and was well received and attended by members of the Chapin Community. It was a great first-time event that will serve the Chapin Community and our Post well **now and in the future. A big “Thank you” to the Chapin Christian Community Church and to all the Post Members that attended and participated in the work required to make the event happen and succeed. Well done!**

Our Christmas Party at the Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church also went well and I think everyone had a good time enjoying the music, food and socializing.

We also hopefully made Christmas and the holidays a little nicer with the presents that were **donated at the party for the Pepper House and the Boys Farm children. A big “Thank you” to the Girl Scouts that dropped off gifts for us at our party. Thank you to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church for hosting the event, the caterers and to all the people that set it up and made it a great event.**

Richard Nielen/For God and Country

Second Vice Commander



I hope everyone has had a chance to view the progress for our future home. Now we have more need of it, we lost our Bingo home at the barn and thanks to the efforts of our team the search for a new Bingo home has been completed by your Bingo committee. We will be having games at the Chapin Town Hall starting in February. The day has changed to Thursday and will start on the seventh (7th), which will be the first Thursday in February. Until we access our new building, we will have Bingo on the first Thursday of the month with the times being the same as before except for the setup which will be on the same day at 3:30 p.m.

The good news is that the Chapin Community grant has given the Legion \$787.00 to help with our support of the Palmetto Boys State program. Last year we were able to send 16 young men to this worthwhile program and will try to match that again with Some help from a few donations from you. Please help.

Floyd Rogers/For God and Country

Third Vice Commander / Quartermaster



Happy Holidays to all !! There will be a Blood drive in January 12 2025 starting at 10 am and finishing about 4 pm.. For any that can donate it would be appreciated plus it adds to our total units given. Sign up will be on the Red Cross website. We will also need help taking down and setting up the chairs and tables.

I have approximately 31 name tags for people that have ordered them or they were ordered when they joined the Post.. Please come see me on Monday during breakfast or at the regular post meeting. The following people have ordered

name tags:

Frank D. Graham
Ragan Newell
Charles Hurd
Cheryl Hill
Jeremy Coulter
Ryan Smith
Phil Keener
Jonathan Maness
Tonya Ridgeway
Travis Holdorf
Steve Sidewell

Michael Roderick
Mark Campbell
Dan Goldston
Donald Holster
Russell Lynam
Marc Stanley
Gary Green
Doug Thrailkill
Damon Gordon
David Copoely

Michael Swain
Charles Case
Chad Eisenhower
Thomas Brancher
Ken Moulton
Philip Sobeeek
Bobby Havird
Les Carroll
Erika Easler
Robert George

Please come and pick these up !!!!!!!.

Jerry Lebar/For God and Country

Facility Manager/NBC



Thanks to our KP volunteers every Monday morning. We appreciate the help. When you volunteer for KP, breakfast is free and you eat first. We will have breakfast Monday 23 December; however, no breakfast Monday, 30 December. A reminder to all if you need to reserve the Post for any event in 2025, contact me so that I can schedule your event and place on the Post calendar. Thanks **for everyone's help in keeping the Post clean and trash removed.**

New Building Committee:

Tree removal has been completed. The retention pond has been installed and the grading is **ongoing. It's weather dependent, but we expect the grading and building pad to be completed** by Christmas. This should put us in good shape to have the footers installed, electric & plumbing roughed in, and concrete poured by mid to end of January. Fund raising continues - we are just shy of \$1.5M raised to date. We are half way to the PFC Gerald & Pearl White multipurpose room fund raiser of \$100,000.

Please designate your donations to the PFC White room if you wish to donate in his name. We have not written any checks from the Building Fund since the last newsletter.

David W. Schimsa / For God and Country



Work out on the Post property continues to move right along!



Chaplain's Corner



Christmas, the most exciting time of the year. The Post Christmas party was a great success at Our Lady of The Lake Catholic Church. The food was delicious and plentiful.

The **Rider's** Christmas party was hosted by James and Tammy Blackwell with a good turnout and great fellowship and fun.

The spirit of Christmas is beginning to show in all of us. We do have a great time sharing ourselves to the task of showing our love for our comrades and reaching out to our community.

The Bible teaches us to lay aside every weight that so easily besets us, forget our struggles for a little while and fasten our attention on the Baby of Bethlehem. Get caught up in the excitement of the shepherds. Remember the joy of the Christmases of your childhood. And most of all, let your joy overflow and spill over those around you. Play the Christmas music loud and sing along.

Comrade Care List:

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

Remember our Post family.

Betsy Harvey working through some health issues.

Chris Christopher who is currently in Rehab

Buddy Miller who is battling lung cancer

Jack Hulet as he battles cancer.

Richard Royer recovering from his motorcycle accident and his battle with cancer.

Ron Saxton recovering from back surgery and works through rehab

Paul Holliday as he is continuing to have issues with his heart

Peter Prim recovering from knee replacement and wrist surgery

Forward your request for this list to me at rcmullinax@gmail.com

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

Auxiliary



December has been a very busy month for Auxiliary Unit 193! A small group of Auxiliary members met on December 1st and decorated the Post Christmas Tree and stage area. The very next morning a larger group gathered to assemble 32 Christmas arrangements (see picture) which were delivered to Veterans residing at two local assisted living/nursing facilities: Lowman Home and Generations of Chapin. Thanks to everyone who

helped organize and execute both fun events! I'm sure our efforts will be enjoyed throughout the Christmas season.



BINGO Concessions went very well in December, and we are hoping a new location will be found **soon so we don't miss too many months without that income. We appreciate the "regulars" who work BINGO each month, but maybe the new location will make it easier for more people to volunteer because we can always use help!** Thank you to the Auxiliary members who turned out to help serve hot beverages at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on December 14th which were welcomed by all who attended on such a chilly morning. We especially appreciated the **Legionnaires for all their hard work setting up and cleaning up!** "Cookies for Soldiers" is taking place this week and our next event will be on Jan. 11th when Unit 193 hosts the ALA District 15 Meeting at the Post. More details will be emailed to Auxiliary members after Christmas. 39 Auxiliary members have paid their 2025 dues thus far, so we are getting close to meeting our goal by Dec. 31st! If someone would like to pay electronically, please feel free to Venmo me @Marthalyn-Schimsa. Merry Christmas to all!

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



Post Activities and Events

- 23 Dec: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 25 Dec: Merry Christmas!
Happy Hanukkah! (thru Jan 2nd)
- 30 Dec **There will not be a Veteran Breakfast served today. POC: Dave Schimsa**
- 1 Jan: Happy New Year!
- 2 Jan: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 6 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 9 Jan: Post 193 and Auxiliary Meeting, Dinner at 1800, Meetings at 1900, Post Building, POC: Steve Goulet
- 11 Jan: Auxiliary District Meeting, Post Building, POC: Marthalyne Schimsa
- 13 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1100-1600, Post Building. POC: Gerard Lebar
- 14,16 Jan: Login.Gov and ID.Me account set up assistance. Post Home 1800 - 1930, POC: Carl Bullock
- 20 Jan: Martin Luther King Day
Presidential Inauguration Day
Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 21 Jan: ALR Meeting, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Kevin Reynolds
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Gerry LeBar
- 25 Jan: Oratorical Contest. 1000-1400. Post Building. POC: Bill LaRoche
- 27 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa



For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](http://americanlegionpost193.com)
For info on our Chapin Newberry Baseball Team visit, [South Carolina American Legion Baseball Home Page \(scalb.org\)](http://scalb.org). 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/Chapin-American-Legion-Post-193-1016284111111111)



