

AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

Commander

February 2026



Legionnaires, February was another great month for our Post. The membership numbers continue to climb, making our Post stronger each month. If you haven't renewed your membership for this year yet, please do and get us over this year's threshold for achieving our 2026 goal. Breakfast has been going strong this year, and the numbers have been in the 90 to 100 range each week. It's a great time for camaraderie and a good breakfast. A big thanks to all the volunteers on the Breakfast Crew. Our "Be the One" Buddy Check went well this month with a contact rate of around 92%. If you didn't get a call, contact the Adjutant, Steve Goulet, and we will check and/or update your contact information. Thanks again to Tom Yeoman for making it happen each quarter. Bingo went well but the numbers were a bit lower than in January. Let your friends and neighbors know that the 5th of March will be our next Bingo and everyone is invited. On a good note, we had quite a few of our members turn out to help and that always makes running Bingo much easier. Thank you. The new building is continuing to progress, and the move date is getting closer. **It's been a long time coming and a lot of hard work has gone into our new home, but we are almost there.** Everyone should be proud of our achievement.

Richard Nielen/For God and Country/In Service

Veteran Help Line: Dial 988, option 1

Adjutant



Greetings to all! We seem to be doing pretty well at retaining and recruiting new members to our Post! Our membership currently stands at 425 or 98.15% of our 2026 membership goal of 433. It is also noteworthy that we currently have an 88.05%-member renewal rate, it is not 100% but it is still very good. For those that have yet to renew, rejoin the team and continue to be a part this **great Veteran Service Organization. "There is strength in numbers"**. <https://www.legion.org/renew/> mail your check to PO Box 897 Chapin SC 29036, bring your check to breakfast Monday morning, attend one of our meetings or activities.

Post elections are in May; at our March meeting we will select our nominating committee made up of no less than three members in good standing thank you to Bill Moser for stepping up to serve as our Committee Chairman. If you would like to serve as a member of the nominating committee let one of our post officers know. If you desire to fill one of the elected positions in the Post, please let it be known, do not let the fact that the incumbent desires to remain in the position keep you from running. In a perfect scenario we would have three or four members running for each position. We are a growing Post and there is plenty of talent out there to serve in all our elected positions or one of our committees.

The 2026 American Legion Department of South Carolina annual Convention will be held May 14, 2026 – May 17, 2026, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Columbia. Currently Post 193 has 20 delegates authorized to the Convention. The Post will pay the \$35.00 registration fee for all authorized delegates. Detailed Information pertaining to the Convention can be found by clicking the following link. -- [2026 Call to Convention updated.pdf](#)

Thank you, Jason Shough, for stepping up to take the lead for the September cash raffle. We will start the raffle beginning 1 April 2026 and run it through Labor Day. Members needed to fill the Christmas Party Committee, if you would like to be on the committee or be the lead, please let it be known. If you can step in and help in any area at any time it would be appreciated more than you know. Once we transition into our new facility I expect we will have an even bigger need for folks to step up and serve as we will have so many more tasks, details, items and activities to manage than we currently have. Nothing that we will not be able to handle but we will need your help.

If you do not have a MY Legion account, I recommend that you register yourself and get an account. There is a lot of information about the American Legion, your benefits and links to resources that are helpful to us veterans. Click on this link: <https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/> and just follow the steps to get signed up. If you need assistance in registering just let me know and either myself or one of our other Post Officers will help to get you squared away.

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

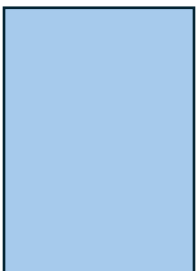
First Vice Commander / Quartermaster



Hello all, not much going on this time of year but... We will be having our 1st Membership Drive/Gun Raffle Sales, Friday Feb 27, 2026. From March thru November we will continue our Membership Drive the last Friday and Saturday of **each month. This will take place at Boland's Hardware** from 8:30am until 4pm each day. The next Blood drive will take place on March 9, 2026, from 10am until 5 pm. Future blood drives will probably happen at our new facility. 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. I hope **everyone had a good Valentines Day and look forward to St. Paddy's Day.**

Jerry Lebar / For God and Country

Third Vice Commander



Greetings and salutations! We are in the duldrums of the year, that said, there are still quite a few activities occurring throughout the post. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer and represent the post. These activities are important to sustain the post and foster community relations, to retain their support. One of the minor events, which is important for us is the Pledge of Allegiance at the Town Hall. I need to get volunteers for the next six months to provide to the Mayor. Additionally, there are still a large number of nametags that need to be retrieved. Please see Jerry LeBar if you have ordered one and not received it.

Russ Taylor / For God and Country

Facility Manager/NBC



Chapin Women in Service and Homeplace Church used the facility this month. Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast continues to bring in over 100 Veterans **every Monday morning for coffee, breakfast, and fellowship. I'd like to especially thank Chaplain Jude Peck for recognizing each member's birthday** for the week at breakfast. Additionally, a big thanks to Matt Zambrano for removing our trash from the Post after breakfast.

New Building Committee:

Our kitchen appliances were delivered last week - large commercial refrigerator, freezer, double stack oven, griddle top, six burner stove top, deep fryer, prep table, ice maker, and bar ice bin. All of the concrete work has been completed, to include a large pad for motorcycle parking. The HVAC and plumbing are nearly 100% complete, and the exterior painting is in the final stages. Thanks to Joanie Totani for cleaning the windows and some internal touch up.

David W. Schimsa/For God and Country

ALR Director



From the saddle of my Goldwing

This month, we had six of our Riders complete the requirements for their ALRSC (American Legion Riders of South Carolina) United patch. The ALRSC United patch represents a Legion Riders commitment to state level ALRSC events such as the annual Legacy Ride. The ALRSC United Patch also requires a Rider to show their commitment to their home Rider chapter and their community such **as this year's Game Changers Gala at the Fair grounds. The Rider also must**

support other SC Rider Chapters or Legion posts, by participating several other Post sponsored events.

This year we had six of our Legion Riders complete the requirements for their ALRSC United Patch; Roy Schwalm, James Barnett, Deborah Royer, Richard Royer, Tom Brancher and Matt Zambrano.

When you see them offer your congratulations for a job well done.

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

Chaplain's Corner



Mindful:

In Marks Gospel Chapter 5 as Jesus was on his way to heal one of the Synagogues leaders daughter, Jesus was "mindful" of someone with a need touching His garment. Walking in a mob of people bumping into each other Jesus was aware of that one person with a special need. He ask "who touched me?" He was "mindful" of a special need. His deciples thought , how incredulous to ask, "who touched me" in such a crowd of people?

Are you mindful of those around you who are in need of your help? Some times they need an acknowledgement that you are there with them, Sometimes they may need physical help. Sometimes they may just need a friend that understands. Sometimes they may need your special knowledge or special skill.

They always need your love and understanding- and encouragement. Until you are mindful of their presence and mindful of your resourses to help, you will miss an oppertunity to make a change in that persons life.

Jesus was very busy, on His way to save a little daughters life but still mindful of someone needing help. He stopped, and will stop for you, if you need help or resources to help someone as you go about your busy life.

I'm asking you to be "Mindful" of those around you and to never be too busy to stop and help when God make you aware of someone that needs a touch.

I challenge you to pull a couple names from our Comrade Care List "each day" and be mindful of that person as you go about your busy day.

Comrade Care List:

When you pray, remember those listed on our Comrade Care List.
Remember our Post family:

- **James Blackwell's family**
- **Billy Lindsay's family**
- **Charles Smith, Auxiliary member, Laura Smith's husband passed recently**
- 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 Siemens
- Larry Archer
- Buddy Miller with lung cancer near his heart
- Richard Royer as he battles with cancer
- Walt Richardson
- Bob Dilworth lost his house to a fire recently
- Jack Hulet
- Ed Abston

- Rejoice with Dan Berglund in victory over cancer
- Willie Nix's daughter needs our prayers
- Alvin Shrum's wife fell and is bruised up, she also re-injured her back
- Steve Kelly's wife, Becky
- Keith Ostrander's wife, Sharron, has a serious eye condition
- Kathy Smith

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

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

Auxiliary



2026 is shaping up to be a fun and productive year for the Auxiliary! Although we will continue to sell concessions monthly at BINGO and hold an occasional bake sale, we are also in the early planning stages of adding some new fundraising events ~ details coming soon!

A group of Unit 193 members will be attending the ALA SC District 15 Meeting on February 28th, at Post 7 in Lexington. On March 13th, for the first time members of our unit will serve as greeters at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport USO. In addition to securing applications for Palmetto Girls State, entries are being solicited from local schools for two annual competitions: Americanism Essay Contest and Poppy Poster Contest.

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



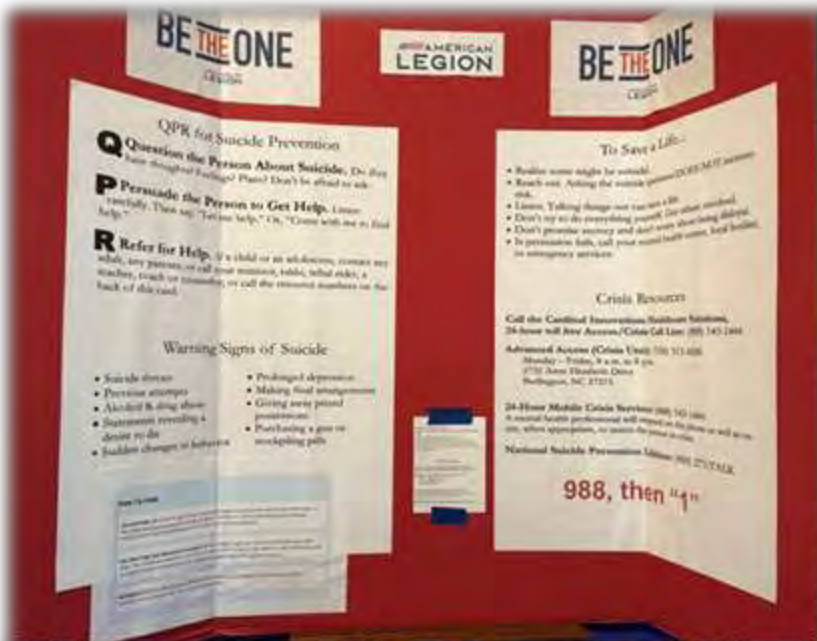
Congratulations are in order!



Dave Schimsa
Chapin American Legion Post 193
Legionnaire of the Year

We had a very good meeting in February. Lexington County Veteran Service Officer Ed Lundeen joined us and was able to provide some very useful information and answer questions.





*Thank You to our dedicated
Be The One Team*





Commander Rich Nielen and Legionnaire Steve Turner presented a donation to Mike Glover with the Troop Appreciation Foundation



We are just about at the finish line with the construction of our Future Post Home!! Dave our Building Committee and many volunteers have been pushing hard to get us over the finish line and their hard work is appreciated.