

AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

Commander

January 2026



Legionnaires, welcome to a new year and a very special one as we prepare to **celebrate our nation's 250th birthday**. This year will be a milestone for our country and for our Post as we prepare to move into our new building. Work on the facility is continuing, and Dave Schimsa and the New Building Committee are pushing the project along with many of you and your support with work **and painting. We don't have a firm date yet, but it is getting closer by the day.** Hopefully, the April/May timeframe. We still need additional funds to complete all aspects of the building and to finish with the construction loan. We are also working on Standard Operating Procedures for the functional conduct of the

building. I hope to get that approved at the February Executive Committee Meeting and then provide a copy to all of our members. I think this year is going to be full of great events for our Post and I hope to see you all at each and everyone of them. I want 2026 to be a great year for everyone.

Richard Nielsen/For God and Country/In Service

Veteran Help Line: Dial 988, option 1

Adjutant



Happy New Year to all!

We are stepping into a new year with more unknowns than ever before. This year we will conduct a ribbon cutting on what is to be one of the nicest American Legion Posts in the State of South Carolina. We have been working through plans/SOPs as to how we will manage the facility, run the kitchen and bar as well trying to determine who will step up to oversee all these new requirements and functions. We have a lot of talent out there in our ranks and if you happen to be someone with a background in facility management, retail sales, food service operations, management etc., I am certain we can find a

spot for you in the operation and functioning of our New Post Home. Case in point the building committee was looking to purchase kitchen equipment and then one of our Auxiliary members Carol Rogers, stepped in with years of knowledge and experience in purchasing and selling kitchen equipment and helped us to get the right stuff at a much better cost. That is just one example. There are many other members that have leveraged their expertise and made things cheaper, smoother and more efficient. If you would like to help, please let one of our Post Officers know.

I was asked recently about pre-need eligibility for burial in a National Cemetery and am sharing **this info for your information. You can apply to find out in advance if you're eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery.** This is called a pre-need determination of eligibility—and it can help make the burial planning process easier for your family members in their time of need. Learn how to apply for a pre-need determination of eligibility <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>

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.

Our membership is going well, we have reached 93.07% of our membership goal for 2026, we have a renewal rate of 83.41% and for the 2026 membership year we have added 24 NEW members to our roster! Did you know that in the year 2000 we closed out the year with 54 members, in 2010 we closed out the year with 169 members, and 15 years later our 2025 membership closed out at 428? Wow that is some pretty good growth. Thanks to all who continue to recruit new members and to everyone for making Post 193 a Veteran Organization that people want to belong to. If you have not renewed your 2026 dues yet you can use this link <https://www.legion.org/renew/>

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

First Vice Commander / Quartermaster

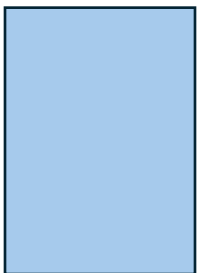


Welcome to the New Year!! We had a blood drive on January 12 which we were able to collect 17 products (as they are called). We actually got 15 pints of whole blood and 1 pint of red blood platelets which count as 2 pints. The next drive date is March 9th.

The forms for the "policeman of the year" award were dropped off by Steve G with the Chapin and Lexington County Police Departments. I dropped off forms to the fire departments for the "fireman of the year".

Jerry Lebar / For God and Country

Third Vice Commander



Happy New!!! There will be several events on January 26, 2026 after the breakfast. Please consider taking time out of your schedule to support these events (Be The One and BINGO Packets).

We still have a number of name tags for people that have ordered them or were ordered when they joined the Post. Please see Jerry LeBar 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

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

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

Tonya Ridgeway
Travis Holdorf
Steve Sidewell

Damon Gordon
David Copoely

Erika Easler
Robert George

Please come and pick yours up, if you are on this list!!!!!! Some of these may have been picked up...

Russ Taylor/For God and Country

Facility Manager/NBC



We continue to grow our Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast crowd - averaging over 100 each morning. We have increased our food purchases and preparation in order to accommodate the growing crowd. We welcome all US and allied Veterans. You do not need to be a member of the Post to attend breakfast. The only requirement is you must be a Veteran, Active Duty/Reserve/NG, or a ROTC/Academy cadet or midshipman.

New Building Committee:

Construction remains on schedule. We passed the electrical & natural gas inspections. We have permanent power turned on and the HVAC will be on by the end of the week. Flooring will be installed in the five latrines within the next two weeks. Painting continues. A big thanks again to Joanie & Matt! They are a great team and are doing awesome work. The bar area is coming together, and kitchen equipment will be ordered this week. Congratulations to the Bingo Team! Over 180 players this month. The Bingo revenue is a big part of our construction budget. Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the Building Fund.

David W. Schimsa/For God and Country

ALR Director



From the saddle of my Goldwing

2026 is here, and with it, we will soon begin the transition into our new Post home. Our new Post home should enable us to further increase our service to our veterans and our community. The main reason that our Post is always promoting the recruitment of **new veteran members, is very simple; we can't help any veterans who we don't "know". Veterans helping veterans and their families** is what we do. When you meet a veteran, invite him or her to our breakfast or a meeting. We veterans tend to be most comfortable around other veterans, leverage that, to invite them into our family.

Your Legion Riders are likely the most visible part of our Post to our community. If you would **like to become a Rider, talk with one of us. We'll even help guide you in the procurement of a motorcycle or trike. As we ride together, we will help "coach you up" to enable you to become a** safer and more competent rider. In addition to the pure joy of riding, most of our rides are fundraising events for the Legion, Veterans and their families.

Your Legion Riders will be participating in our South Carolina State Legacy Ride on April 25 & 26. **As always, our Riders "pay their own way" for this ride, while collecting pledges and/or donations** for the American Legion Legacy fund. Last year the riders of the ALRSC (American Riders of South Carolina) were able to donate over \$84,000, the second highest of any state in the country! The time to make your pledge to the Legacy Ride is now!

Lastly, last evening at our monthly Riders meeting, Debra Royer was the unanimous choice to be your Chapin American Legion Rider of the Year (2025). When you get a chance, congratulate Debra, and thank her for her ongoing efforts for our Post, Auxiliary and Riders.

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

Chaplain's Corner



Don't watch the news! It will steal your joy, it will make you angry, it will frustrate you. The news is always negative and will ruin your day. It will destroy your witness. It will divert your attention to non productive struggles. In this day and time I just want some peace and quiet. Jesus said that he would give us peace and if you give him some quiet time you will discover His peace. One of the greatest joys that you will ever experience in this life is to be the instrument that God uses to bring a person to the saving knowledge of Jesus. So peace, joy and purpose is found in Jesus and touching others in such a way that they see Jesus.

The news distracts us from the work of loving the brethren (others). Just because we live in a chaotic world doesn't mean that we can't be at peace in our world. Our world is looking for a person to take advantage of but we are looking for a person that needs help, hope and home. At some point we all need help. Quite often in life we need Hope- this storm will pass! We all need to feel at home- this is where I belong!

Our new Post Home will just be a building, we will be the help! The person looking for hope won't find it in buildings but rather in the occupants. I'm already feeling that this new building is "HOME" and I hope that every veteran that ever enters our Post will feel like "This is Home" Let's make it happen!

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.
- Betsey 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
- Doug Abramson and his wife Florence
- Keith Ostrander's wife, Sharron has a serious eye condition

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

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

Auxiliary



Auxiliary members enjoyed a very productive first meeting of 2026 which started with updates from Dave regarding progress of the new building. He expressed appreciation to all members for our monetary contributions and recognized several members individually: Anne for creating and building the bar, Carol for guidance in selecting commercial kitchen appliances, and Joanie for various detail work such as caulking and painting. Thank you, ladies, for sharing your many talents!

We appreciate everyone who took time last month to bake for the "Cookies for Soldiers" project. Including our many donations, over 1,000 individual bags of goodies were provided for the 191 Fort Jackson soldiers who were unable to go home for the holidays. What a treat for them!

In addition to continuing our work at BINGO each month, we are planning two new projects: a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Irmo and an opportunity to serve as greeters at the Columbia Airport USO. Details will be provided soon.

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

Chapin American Legion Post 193 BINGO





What about our amazing **Auxiliary's Concessions Team**? Home baked cakes, delicious food and snacks and service with a smile.



Chapin Post 193 BINGO is more than just a monthly activity for folks to play a game with a chance to win a few bucks. It is a community event that folks look forward to each month. Our Bingo and Concessions Team has done a fantastic job not only raising money to fund the programs of the American Legion and Auxiliary but creating a fun and enjoyable atmosphere for members of the Chapin Community come out and have a good time. Well done!

This and That, Here and There

Congratulations



Deborah Royer
2025
ALR Rider of the Year



Legionnaire Rick Rennebaum presented certificates of appreciation to Scouts that assisted during the St. Peter's Church Wreaths Across America Program



American Legion Post 193
BINGO is a family affair!

Some of our Post 193 BINGO Team
members relaxing before the games begin.
Thanks to ALL





As Past Commander Walt Richardson looks on Anne continues her work on the bar top. This bar top is going to be a work of art!



Commander Nielsen, Legionnaire Lowrey Plexico and Auxiliary Unit 193 Vice President Carmen Goulet volunteered handing out items to local youth with Game Changers



ALR, Post and PGR members gather to stand in honor of Legionnaire Bill Lindsay at his funeral service Church

Breakfast continues to go well.
"I have three short announcements!"



Post Activities and Events

- 2 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 3 Feb: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 5 Feb: BINGO 1730-2200, Chapin Town Hall, 157 Columbia Ave, Chapin. POC Floyd Rogers
- 9 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 12 Feb: Post 193 and Auxiliary Meeting, Dinner at 1800, Meetings at 1900, Post Building, POC: Steve Goulet
- 16 Feb: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 10 Feb: ALR Executive Meeting 1800 - 1900, Post Building. POC: Tom Yeoman
Chapin Post 193 Amateur Radio Club Meeting 1800 - 1900
- 17 Feb: ALR Meeting, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Kevin Reynolds
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Russ Taylor
- 23 Feb: 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](#)