

AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

February 2023

Commander



Thank you for all the great encouragement and ideas many of you have passed on to me. It means a lot to me. I'm still enjoying leading this great group of people.

We had our monthly meeting at the Valentine's Day Banquet. By the feedback from the ~73 that attended, it was a great meal, great fellowship, and everyone had a good time. Thanks to Betsy, Kathy, Anne, Carmen, and the rest who helped plan and set up. We also had our first Sports watching event with the Superbowl. We had ~25 attend with food for ~75. Thanks to Steve and Dave for the setup and all that came and brought snacks (many here). The Venison Stew was a big hit. We had a new local veteran attend (saw it on Facebook). We plan on opening the post for other sports

events (March Madness). I'm looking to plan a community appreciation/fundraising event as well. If you have suggestions, let us know. Plan on joining us at the next event.

Our winner of the Oratorical Contest, Ava Grant of Spring Hill HS, represented us at the Quadrant competition and placed 2nd. She received an additional scholarship for placing so well. She will be back next year to compete. She is also looking to go to Girls State this summer. Congratulations Ava!

Looking forward...

The **American Legion National Commander**, Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, will visit our post during the Veteran Breakfast on March 6th. We will serve him and his entourage alongside our veterans. We expect him to present a short 'hello' and status of the Legion. Please plan on attending.

Boy's and Girl's State: Encourage teens to apply through their guidance counselor to attend Boy's and Girl's State. We will perform the selection process next month. The Post and Auxiliary have budgeted to send a few participants. However, there is no limit to how many we can send. We will seek designated donations from members, parents, and the community to send more as we have qualified candidates. Talk to Floyd/Donna for Boys State or Nancy Graham/Carmen for Girls State if you have questions.

If you have questions or issues with the VA, plan on attending the **Veteran Experience Action Center (VEAC)** 23-25 March. See the embedded flyer for information. If you have time, please volunteer to help others on the other two days.

Post elections are scheduled for May, nominations will be accepted in April/May. The Nomination Committee will be selected at the March EC meeting. If you would like to serve, let an EC member know.

Long Term awareness: Rifle raffle sales events, NJROTC Awards Banquet, Law Cadet Program, The State Convention in May, Memorial Day events, Jail 'n Bail fundraiser, and Boot fundraisers are being planned. Ask and listen for opportunities to participate.

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

Activities (see Post Calendar on www.americanlegionpost193.com website)

27 Feb: **Veteran Breakfast** 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa

2 Mar: **Post and ALR Executive Committee meeting**, 1815-1930

6 Mar: **Veteran Breakfast** 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa

National Commander Visit 0820-1000, Post Building, POC: Mark Harvey

9 Mar: **Legion/AUX Dinner/Meetings**, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Mark Harvey

12 Mar: Daylight Savings Time Ends – “Spring ahead”

13 Mar: **Veteran Breakfast** 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa

14 Mar: **ALR Dinner and Meeting**, 1800-2030, Post Building, POC: Wes Moore

15-16 Mar: **Girl’s State Interviews**, 5:00-7:00 pm, Post Building, POC: Nancy Graham

17 Mar: St Patrick’s Day

20 Mar: **Veteran Breakfast** 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa

21 Mar: **Pledge of Allegiance** 1800, Chapin Town Hall, POC: Sue Reynolds

21 Mar: **Bingo** 1730-2200, Old Oak Barn, 1155 Holy Trinity Church Rd, Little Mountain. POC: Floyd Rogers

23-25 Mar: **VEAC**, 0900-1500 daily, South Carolina National Guard Armory, 1225 Bluff Rd, Columbia, SC 29201, USA (see attached)

25 Mar: **Post Family Breakfast**, 0830-1030, Post Building, POC: Dave Schimsa

27 Mar: **Veteran Breakfast** 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa

In addition, the Post is **Open M, W, F 1000-1400**. See our website for more events:

<https://www.americanlegionpost193.com>

Adjutant



It is hard to believe that February is more than half over! We continue to be busy at the Post and things are going well. We submitted our Teacher of the Year nomination to the Department for the American Legion Teacher of the Year award in February. I will be busy the next couple of weeks preparing and submitting our nomination packets for the Department Commanders Achievement Award, Post Commander and Adjutant of the Year awards, Historian award, and our very own George Donnelly’s Legionnaire of the Year packet for the Department E. Roy Stone, Jr. Legionnaire of the Year award. Our Post has been very active and has done an incredible job in meeting all of the requirements to qualify for these award nominations to be submitted. You should pat yourself on the back for a job well done!

We currently have 330 members on the rolls with active 2023 membership status, according to the Department this is 97.63% of our membership goal of 338. We need eight members to renew their membership or eight new members to join our Post and we will meet our goal. I certainly want new members to join us but more importantly, I want those 53 members that have not renewed to rejoin the team and continue to be a part of this great Veteran organization. There is strength in numbers. You can renew online at [Membership Renewal Quick Pay \(mylegion.org\)](https://mylegion.org), mail your check to PO Box 897 Chapin SC 29036, come to breakfast Monday morning, or attend one of the Post meetings or activities.

The 2023 American Legion Department of South Carolina annual Convention will be held May 18, 2023 – May 21, 2023, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Columbia. Information pertaining to the Convention can be found by clicking on this link --> [Microsoft Word - 2023 Call to Convention \(scarolinalegion.org\)](https://scarolinalegion.org). Attending the Annual Convention is a great way to see all that the American Legion in South Carolina is accomplishing and is planning to do. It is also a way to have your voice heard as a delegate with voting power. If you would

like to attend, please let me or George know and you will be added to the list. Thank you to Walt Richardson for stepping in to be the Delegate Chairman for this year's convention.

In March we will select our nominating committee, they will have the task of getting together a slate of nominees to fill various leadership positions in the Post for the coming year. If you would like to fill one of the Officer positions, please let it be known. Some of you may be contacted and asked to fill a position and if that is the case, please consider competing for the position. We are a growing Post and we must get more of our members involved in the operations and functioning of our Post.

Steven Goulet/"We Can Build It"/For God and Country

First Vice Commander

"Be the One/Buddy Check"



We are now soliciting those Legionnaires of Post 193 who want to join our "**Be the One/Buddy Check**" contact team. We want to recruit and train about 15 members to begin our initiative to personally contact every member of our Post.

The purpose of this team is to contact, via telephone, every member of our Post and those whose membership has recently lapsed for a "**Be the One/Buddy Check**" call. Our membership stands at about 330 members, which means each team member would be assigned about 20 Post members.

As Veterans, we are all too familiar with the number of Veterans struggling with their life situations. We hope to, with a (scripted) "*How's it going, is there anything/anyway which your American Legion can help you?*" "**Be the One/Buddy Check**" call.

We anticipate that the vast majority of requests for assistance from our membership will be benign and relatively easy to address. Some might have some accessibility issues, transportation issues, household assistance, VA issues/guidance, employment issues or just wanting someone with whom they can, just talk.

Most of us will find it easy to "converse" with a fellow veteran about "how's it going?" things and to direct a veteran to an appropriate resource. We've built a directory of Veteran Services that should meet the majority of our veteran's "assistance asks" that will be posted/published for the team's use.

However, in our membership, there may be a veteran contacted who is really struggling. The reality is a few of our scripted "how's it going" calls will uncover a fellow veteran who is contemplating harming him/herself. To prepare our Team for this possibility all members of the "**Be the One/Buddy Check**" team will receive critical intervention training.

We have contracted with the (American Legion approved) **QPR® Gatekeeper** online training. This 60+/- minute online training course will be provided by our Post for all members of the call team. We will have 15 training slots for the team members, Mark, Steve, and I have already taken the certification course.

The **Gatekeeper®** course should be thought of as a "combat/immediate action first aid" training course to apply until the Corpsmen or Medics (medical professionals) can provide assistance/intervention.

The **Gatekeeper®** course utilizes "**QPR**": **Q**uestion, **P**ersuade, **R**efers. The key components of the **Gatekeeper®** certification training are:

- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal

- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide
- The common causes of suicidal behavior
- The warning signs of suicide

All of us have busy lives. To be a member of this call team will require a commitment to our post members. Every Post member selected to be on the team will need to commit time to participate in the necessary training to prepare for the **"Be the One/Buddy Check"** calls. We anticipate this training and familiarization will take about three hours.

Our vision is that the familiarization/initial training would be a group event conducted at the Post. We would conduct the training and give the 15 team members their personal QRP Gatekeeper® online training login. In a perfect world, we would all remain at the Post, login, and take the online training course. If our Post does not have the bandwidth for 15 personal laptops to take the course, we plan to utilize some personal "hot spots" on our cell phones or devices to provide sufficient bandwidth.

If you decide to volunteer to become a member of our **"Be the One/Buddy Check" call team**, please email me, Tom Yeoman, at try3sc@gmail.com and put **"Be the One/Buddy Check"** team in the subject line. Also, let me know if you have a laptop computer and/or a personal "hot spot".

Thomas Yeoman/For God and Country

Third Vice Commander



Tony McCall is the Legionnaire conducting the Chapin Town Hall Pledge of Allegiance on February 21st. Please check out the new website at <https://www.americanlegionpost193.com>. Bear in mind, it is still a work in progress. If you have any suggestions for additions or changes, please let me or one of the other Executive Committee members know, and we can take it under advisement.

Susan Reynolds/"Vires In Arduis"/For God and Country

Chaplain's Corner



Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.'"
Exodus 19:3-5

A Treasured Possession

What is your most treasured possession? For a child, it might be a bicycle or a doll. For a teenager, it might be a pair of jeans or a phone. Perhaps, for you, it is your wedding ring or a family heirloom.

Have you ever wondered what God treasures? He has a great deal to choose from since everything in creation is his. Every bird, every animal, every gemstone, every mountain—everything is his.

But what does God treasure most? You. He made you and wanted you in his world. He has provided for you and protected you. And even though you have often strayed from him and gone against his commands, he treasured you so much that he came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ and rescued you from your own rebellion.

You may not believe that you are very valuable. It may seem like other people don't consider you very valuable, either. You may not think you matter. But the sacrifice God made when he went to the cross is proof of how valuable you are to him. Let that be your comfort and peace this day, knowing that no matter what you are facing or how you might feel you are failing, by faith in Jesus, you are God's treasured possession. And he plans to keep you for the rest of eternity.

Chaplain Jude Peck/For God and Country

Comrade Care List

As we remember our Comrades before the Lord, have you noticed that there is never a busy signal on God's line? Pray for these listed here on our care list. Remember them daily as you go about your routine chores.

Friend Erin (Clark) Goshea – Cancer has returned, and she is undergoing Chemo again.
Peter Prim's - friend John Fisher struggling with Parkinson's (his wife DeDe).
Jim Schafer – dealing with hip and knee issues; Feb 3rd prostate biopsy.
Claire Fincher – former commander Tom's wife with long-term health needs
Wes Moore whose veteran friend Gary Adams is at Augusta's burn center with a 4th-degree burn.
Rick Gibson – District 13's commander's wife was recently diagnosed with cancer.
Richard Mullinax – His brother-in-law York veteran Bud Deitz has cancer.
Jude Peck - recently discovered his prostate cancer.
James Blackwell - who is back in Florida, fell and broke his ribs in December.
Pearl Cole -James Cole's recent death.
Floyd Rogers' - wife Carol's back surgery and pneumonia on Dec 22nd.
Chris Christopher - January stroke and is recovering well at home.
Freddie Warren - Linda Warren's NC cousin passed away in January.
Bob Shearer - fell and fractured his pelvis in two places in early January. His wife is Sherri.
Bill Moser - Jan 11th abdominal surgery and is now at home recovering.
Eddie Kessinger - is home now (Jan) from Lex Med Ctr recovering from heart issues.
Ron Saxton - recovering from Jan 11 back surgery.
Zoltan Krompecher - stepfather Steve in Cincinnati with cancer.
Jerry Macisco - recovering from Jan 16 open heart surgery for a stint and bypass.
Larry Stouts - health issues per his wife Debbie.
George Donnelly - wife Jodi recovering from Feb 8th ankle surgery.
Moses Cohen- son starts his infantry training at Fort Benning
Jimmy & Danny Stokes' - veteran brother Bobby died on Feb 8th of lung transplant complications.

Auxiliary



Nancy Graham, Palmetto Girls State Chairperson has delivered the Girls State applications to Springhill and Chapin High schools. Pickup of the completed applications was on February 13th. Interviews for the 19 potential delegates are March 15 – 16 from 3:30 – 7:00 pm. Please contact Nancy at 803.404.0047 or johnmgraham@bellsouth.net if you are interested in helping with the interviews. You must be available for both dates. The Auxiliary National President will be in Columbia the first week in March. Please plan on coming to the Doubletree Hotel near Hamrick's to meet her. A full day of events has been scheduled for her. I will send out the information as soon as I get the schedule of events. Dues will be going up in 2024. If you would like to be a PUFL (Paid Up-For-Life member) you will need to do this prior to

June 1, 2023. We still need volunteers for Bingo on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Hours are 5 – 8:30 and contact Carmen if you can sign up for March. Thanks to everyone who helped with the Valentine's Day dinner.

Carmen Goulet/President

Photos



Post 193 Chaplain Jude Peck provided words of comfort and the invocation during A last Patrol Honor Ceremony for Veteran Rudy Dipietro



If you have had any bacon, SOS, or potatoes at our Monday morning breakfast chances are Legionnaire Lynne McCallum-Talerico had a hand in preparing it.
Thank You Lynne



The American Legion Department of South Carolina
In partnership with the
SC Department of Veteran Affairs and US Veteran Affairs Regional
Office

Is proudly sponsoring the 1st ANNUAL

Veteran Experience Action Center (VEAC)

All veterans and family members are welcome to attend!

March 23-25, 2023

Thursday - Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM & Saturday 9 AM to 2 PM

SCNG 1225 Bluff Road Armory, Columbia, SC

This is a great and unique opportunity for eligible veterans and their dependents to be assisted by a team that includes Veteran's Organization Service Officers, Department of Veteran Affairs Benefit Officials and Healthcare Representatives.

These representatives can help facilitate and

Expedite your New or Existing

VA disability claims, appeals, or other healthcare problems.

Everyone who registers during the day will be seen. To avoid overcrowding, please adhere to the following attendance suggestions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thursday, March 23, those who have the last 2 digits of their SSN ending **00-33** should register.

Friday, March 24, those who have the last 2 digits of their SSN ending **34-66** should register.

Saturday, March 25, those who have the last 2 digit of their SSN ending **67-99** should register.

If you would like to file a claim with the VA; if you have questions about VA appeals or benefits to which you may be entitled, if you have questions about VA healthcare:

You cannot afford to miss this event!

You **must** come prepared with the proper documentation about your case: **DD214**, and **ALL medical records about your disability (both military and civilian)**. Donations may be made to: The American Legion, Department of SC.

103 Legion Plaza, Columbia, SC 29210
(Please add VEAC to the memo line on your check.)

Volunteers are Needed

Contact-Darlene \Walton, djwalton26@gmail.com