

## American Legion Post 65 Newsletter

**August 2023**

**Veterans Crisis Line: 1-855-829-6636 US**

Department of Veterans Affairs:

Women Veterans Call Center: 855-829-6636

Non-VA Facility Emergency 704-638-9000 ext. 12022

(Call within 72 hours to let VA know when using a non-VA facility)

### **Meeting & Supper:**

Monday August 14th, Post 65 meeting/supper. At 5:00 pm sign in and "Meet & Greet." At 6:00 pm for supper there will be Pasta Salad and Tomato sandwiches. Sweet and unsweet tea, coffee, and assorted drinks. We ask everyone to bring their favorite dessert. All Family Members of Post 65 are invited: Legionaries, Sons, Riders, and Auxiliary. Non-Member Veterans, and descendants and their guests. For more information call 980-362-4948 and leave a message. We look forward to seeing you. We will be asking for a \$5.00 donation.

The entertainment will be George Hensley. Vocal and instrumental.

Also, Ben Jones will talk about his experience at Tar Heel Boy's State this year.

### **Commanders Corner:**

Our E Board will meet on August 10<sup>th</sup> and our monthly Membership Meeting is on August 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be having Pasta Salad and Tomato sandwiches. Please remember to bring your favorite desserts to share. If you would like to help serve or cook, please join us at the Post at 5PM. **We are trying to be more creative in ways to increase our membership. For our September Membership Meeting/Supper, IF one of our members brings a veteran guest, the member and their guest will eat free. The Membership Team will be available to explain the Legion and sign new applicants up.**

Our membership team continues to step up and supports our Post. Thank you so much. Please continue to renew your memberships. Remember our new year began July 1. We would especially like to thank each of you for choosing to join Post 65. Please take a minute to remember why you joined Post 65. We all have a story to tell. Share your stories with your Membership Team Member. Your stories will enhance our story when we are in conversations with perspective new members.

Thanks to everyone's participation in renewing your membership! We are now in a new year so please contact your Membership Team member to renew your membership. There will be NO scheduled workdays in August but look forward to participating in September. Remember that we have put our Bingo on hold until further notice. If you are interested in starting up Bingo in September or helping or participating in Bingo contact one of the E Board members or one of our Officers.

The Boy Scouts Eagle Scout project has really come a long way. You may recall the project is creating a fire pit in our lower parking lot. Come check it out!

A big shout to our Unit 65 Auxiliary and all that supported Lt Col Matt Bejcek of the US Space Force visit on July 29. He is from Statesville and came to introduce the newest Branch of Service to us. We invited Matt to become a member of our Post and he accepted! We can proudly say that we are the only service organization that has a member of the US Space Force as a member! We welcomed Lt Col Matt Bejcek's parents, Rick Long from the State of North Carolina Governor's Office, Toni and Joe Reale, Melissa and Mike Neader, and Donna Swicewood.

**Last call for anyone interested in attending the American Legion Convention August 25 – 31, 2023. We are lucky, this year the Convention is in Charlotte! Contact Don Carr @ 704-667-3196 if you are interested in joining us.**

I look forward to serving on this dynamite and dynamic team of Post 65 whose mission is centered around Veteran support and well-being. The leadership of Post 65 is committed to keeping you informed, and we ask that you keep us informed as well. Please feel free to call me at Cell Phone 704-902-2901 or on the Post 65 landline 980-362-4948.

Chuck Harris  
 Commander  
 704-902-2901

**Reminder: Membership dues are \$45.00.**

July 1<sup>st</sup> was the beginning of our 2024 dues year. You should receive your renewal notice in the mail for your 2024 membership dues. If you have any questions about your membership or need help with your dues contact your membership committee person. Thanks to all our members that paid their dues in 2023.

Chuck Harris Commander and Membership TEAMMATE

**Job Openings in Post 65:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – immediately  
 Quarter Master- New Position

**Legion 2022/2023 Officers:**

**Commander: Chuck Harris**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:** Bob Waters

**Adjutant:** Mark Armstrong

**Finance Officer:** Don Carr

**Sgt.-at-Arms:** George Taylor & Eddie Bowman

**Judge Advocate:** Mike Morris

**Chaplain:** Harold Smith

**Service Officer:** Tom Matisko Sr.

**Historian:**

**Building Committee:** Randy Fultz

**Your Post 65 Membership Committee is as follows:**

Each of the following team members are your contacts if you need help with anything from the Post 65. These teams are in groups by the first letter of your last name.

**Committee Chairperson:** Chuck Harris

Eddie Bowman (704.252.0325): A through C

George Taylor (704.402.2224): D through G

Chuck Spangler (704.881.2039): H through K

David Benfield (980.223.1265): L through M

Mark Armstrong (704.654,8469): N through R

Randy Fultz (704.798.8328): S

Mark Armstrong (704.654.8469): T through Z

**Note for members:** If you have not renewed your membership, you can do that at the meeting on Monday.

Chuck Harris Commander  
704-902-2901

**Birthday List of Veterans and spouses. It is a work in process. Please email Gloria at [g\\_benfield@yahoo.com](mailto:g_benfield@yahoo.com) to add your name and month/day to the list.**

**August Birthdays:**

Boyd	Harold	8/31	Miller	Johnny	8/22
Carr	David	8/27	Pettit	Floyd	8/10
Clower	James	8/28	Ramsey	Charles	8/21
Garrett	Cher	8/21	Ries	Charles	8/26
Groff	John	8/27	Ross	Kevin	8/7
Harmon	Chester	8/19	Streich	Quinten	8/14
Henderson	Reece	8/17	Wheaton	Eric	8/5
Johnson	Ronald	8/18	Wheeler	Clarence	8/22
Johnson	Woodrow	8/22	Ellenboss	Andy	8/15

**Auxiliary:**

**Meeting:** Our next meeting will be **Thursday August 24, 2023, at 5:30 pm.** Bring a snack to share and I hope to see you there.

July was another happening month for the Auxiliary with Legion College, accepting the challenge from the Department's Public Relations Committee and our special event of Lt Col Matt Bejcek of the US Space Force speaking at our Post.

This year we had four members attending Legion College in Clemmons - Gloria Benfield, Susan Free, Heather Gessler and Dianne Wilson. The Department Leadership Committee led the event and discussed how to prepare for an emergency and encouraged members to volunteer at the VA hospitals in many ways.

During the month of July and August, the Department's Public Relations Committee has challenged each District to hand out 1,000 American flags. Our Unit passed out approximately one hundred flags during our special event on July 29th. During August, we will continue with this challenge.

On July 29th, the Auxiliary sponsored Lt Col Matthew Bejcek of the United States Space Force. He is a native of Statesville and served 15.5 years in the United States Air Force and then was commissioned in the Space Force three years ago. Matthew discussed his career serving in the military and the role the Space Force plays in our country's defense. The program was taped and at a future time it will be available for ones that were unable to attend or would like to rewatch.

Thanks goes out to everyone helping to make this a successful event - our Hurst Turner family is awesome and is well known throughout the Department and our community for all we do for our veterans, active-duty members, and their families. Yes, we are known as the one with the "helicopter!"

**Christmas in September:**

We will be setting a date in September to put bags together for veterans at the Va and a day which we will take them to Salisbury Va.

**Officer's:** Gloria Benfield President, Betty Davis as Vice President, Donna Arnette as Treasurer, Emma Ward as Chaplain, and Sgt-at-Arms is Heather Gessler, Susan Free as Secretary, Auxiliary group as Historian.

**Bricks for Past Presidents:** The bricks for Cheryl (Cooky) Fanner, Linda Wilhelm, and Amy Wilhelm have come in.

**Coats for coat closet:** Please bring gently used coats. Men's, women's, and children, given to those in need.

I would like to thank everyone for all you do, the Auxiliary, Legion, Riders, and Sons.  
Gloria Benfield

**Questions:** For more info contact Gloria Benfield, Statesville ALA Unit 65 President at [auxiliary@ncpost65.org](mailto:auxiliary@ncpost65.org) or (980) 362-4948.

### **Information for Veterans:**

**Veterans Coffee & Benefits Meeting (Third Tuesday of each month):**  
**August 15th at 9:00 am.**

Our guest speakers are Angie Outen and Julie Bolton to speak about Veteran and spouse additional Medicare benefits.

Want to know where you as a Veteran can get the same information I get from the VA. All you do is click on this link and sign up to receive these same emails I receive on Veterans Benefits Newsletters - [veteransbenefits@va.gov](mailto:veteransbenefits@va.gov).

You can also go on YouTube and type VA SITREP and watch Paul Corbett. You can pick a benefit you would like to know more about.

Also check out [veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov](mailto:veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov)

### **Increase in VA Disability Compensation.**

Good luck and hope this helps you with your benefits issues.

Tom Matisko Sr.

Service Officer  
630-632-0011

### **Claims and Benefits:**

If you need any help or have a question about your claims or benefits, please let me know. If you use the Salisbury VA and get Travel Pay you may have to start putting your claim in electronically or go to building three, first floor to get help with your claim. The kiosk machines had already changed. If you have a desk to computer, laptop, or a smart phone then you can file your claim electronically. If you need help with setting up your electronic claims on your device or filing a claim let me know and or Don Carr, we will be glad to set up a time to help you one on one.

### **Honor Guard and Burial Detail:**

The Post Burial Detail had \_\_ funerals in July.

**Needed:** Honor Guard Members

Taps: \_\_

### **From Harold Smith Chaplain**

Bill Franklin Brotherton Passed from this life on July 9<sup>th</sup>. He was a member of Post 65 and was 89 years old. He was buried at Home Sweet Home Baptist Church. Post 113 performed the ceremony. I call his wife Martha and expressed the deepest sympathy on behalf of Post 65 and Veterans Heart Group. I took a Bible and a sympathy card to Nicholson Funeral Home for Martha. July 17<sup>th</sup>, I sent an application for a brick to Martha Brotherton.

I talked to Mike Morrison, and he is waiting for the results of the biopsy for the spot on his lung. Pray that he will get good news. July 22<sup>nd</sup>, I talked to Mike. His tests indicate for him to take heavy doses of chemo starting August 14<sup>th</sup> for 21 days. Then it will be burned out.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> I sent an encouragement card to George and Eartha Hoover from all of Post 65. Eartha Hoover went for a shot on July 24<sup>th</sup> for her back. George was sleeping because he did not rest the night before. Eartha brought George home today. August

3<sup>rd</sup>, George had a visitor that brought him lunch. She suspects that it was someone from Post 65.

Bob Dellinger had his eye surgery. He hopes to be at the membership meeting in August.

Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> Chuck Spangler went to ER for chest pain. July 22<sup>nd</sup> Chuck will have some tests. Chuck is feeling better and hopes to be back to normal soon.

July 17<sup>th</sup> I mailed an encouragement card to Doug and Barbara Price from all of Post 65 and DAV.

July 19<sup>th</sup>, I talked to Mack Little. His wife Judy has been in the hospital and is home now taking therapy. May she have complete healing.

Barbara Goble is having pain in her jaw. Jerry and Barbara are waiting for the okay to use oxygen to try and heal her jaw. July 21<sup>st</sup> Jerry admitted his wife in Baptist. Barbara got to go home from Baptist. She will be using the oxygenated device in Statesville.

Harold Smith, seen Dr. Brandon's PA July 26<sup>th</sup>, and he no longer does not have to wear the splint on his thumb.

Leon Clem got his picture in the newspaper on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Purple Heart Homes had a completion celebration for him. Leona is a member of the DAV.

### **Upcoming Veteran & Community Events:**

**Bingo:** Because of lack of attendance, we are suspending Bingo until further notice.

### **Riders:**

August – Fun ride! Meet at Tilly's @ 5:30 New leaders start.

August 10<sup>th</sup> – Deliver meals to Veterans.

August 19<sup>th</sup> – Rider meeting at Post 65 @ 10:00



Thanks,  
Randy

**Sons of the American Legion:**

**SAL SQUADRON 65 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2023!**

**Veterans Coffee & Benefits Meeting (Third Tuesday of each month):**

**August 15th at 9:00 AM.**

We hope to see you there! There will be coffee and donuts!

**SAL SQUADRON 65**

Our next meeting is **Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 2:00 PM** at Hendrick Motorsports, Concord, NC, to see the Legion Riders Legacy Run Arrival [https://ncpost65.org/files/Legacy\\_Run\\_2023.pdf](https://ncpost65.org/files/Legacy_Run_2023.pdf). There is also an American Legion Family Night at Truist Field on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 7:04 PM [https://ncpost65.org/files/Legion\\_Night\\_Baseball\\_2023.pdf](https://ncpost65.org/files/Legion_Night_Baseball_2023.pdf).

2024 Dues are now due. Please pay at your earliest convenience. You can also mail a check for \$20 to SAL Squadron 65, 2446 Salisbury Hwy, Statesville, NC 28677.

For more information contact Commander Carr by phone at 704-677-3196, or email [commandersons@ncpost65.org](mailto:commandersons@ncpost65.org) or [dcarr@att.net](mailto:dcarr@att.net).

Thanks!  
Don Carr

**MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We need help taking care of the lawn and landscaping at the Post. Richard Cimbricz has been working tirelessly keeping it in shape but needs help. Thanks to Gerald Wyatt and George Taylor who have stepped up to help mow. Let us know if you can help so we can put you in the rotation!

**For more information contact Commander Carr by phone at 704-677-3196,**

or email [commandersons@ncpost65.org](mailto:commandersons@ncpost65.org) or [dcarr@att.net](mailto:dcarr@att.net).

Thanks!

Don Carr

**Funding:** As with any Organization your Post needs funds to operate. Members have donated hundreds of dollars and hours of work to improve the building and to support programs. The generosity of our members to support the Post, the building, the dinners, and programs. Since we are a 501 (c) (19) nonprofit your donations may be tax deductible under States and Federal law. Consider leaving a legacy to Post 65. Contact the Post or view information at [legion.org/donate/](http://legion.org/donate/) to explore your planned giving options.

**Technology Classes:** Post 65 members, Don Carr can help you set up the VA's My HealthVet and Electronic entry for travel pay, as well as give one-on-one help with our computer or Smart Phone. Contact Don at 704-677-3196.

**Historical Page:** [Centennial/mylegion.org](http://Centennial/mylegion.org) –

**Editor's Note:** Thank you all for your support. Gloria Benfield email: [g\\_benfield@yahoo.com](mailto:g_benfield@yahoo.com).

A special congratulations to Mike and Karen Morris who got married on Saturday, August 5, 2023! **CONGRATULATIONS MIKE AND KAREN!**