

## American Legion Post 65 Newsletter

**December 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 @ 844-724-7842)



## Post Christmas Lunch

Will be Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Post, 11:00 am sign in and “Meet & Greet.” At 12:00 noon for Lunch there will be Ham, Turkey, Dressing, Gravy Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls, Banana Pudding, Strawberry Cheesecake, and Tea. 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.

The entertainment will be Hanline’s, instrumental, and vocal.

### **Commanders Corner:**

Commanders Corner December 2023 Newsletter Notes

Commanders Corner:

December is a special month because we celebrate Pearl Harbor Day and Christmas.

We remember Pearl Harbor Day because that was the day Japan attacked us. That act brought the United States into World War II.

Christmas celebrates the birthday of Christ. Let us all celebrate Christmas in our own unique way. Let us all remember the reason for the season. This world is in quite a turmoil. As we gather with family and friends, please take the time to unite and to count our blessings.

Our E Board meeting and monthly Membership Meeting for December have been canceled. We will be replacing our Membership Meeting with our Christmas meal and fellowship.

Our December Christmas meal will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at our Post at 12 noon. This meal will be catered for and please bring your favorite dessert to share.

Remember that we have put our Bingo on hold until further notice. If you are interested in starting up Bingo or helping/participating in Bingo contact one of the E Board members or one of our Officers.

We certainly appreciate our Unit 65 Auxiliary as they continue to support our Veterans. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Auxiliary, please contact Gloria or one of the Auxiliary’s members.

Post 65 has started a raffle to support our building projects and The Benny Wilhelm Scholarship. Please contact an E Board member to get your raffle tickets and support the Post.

We are excited to announce Post 65 has its own Honor Guard!! This team is all volunteers. Their mission is to take care of our own. We are in training and shortly we will begin serving our Post. Thanks to everyone on the team, especially Bob Waters. He was and is the driving force behind our Honor Guard from recruiting, cleaning weapons, to getting uniforms. Thanks Bob, you make us proud! Our honor Gard was invited to Mitchell Community College to participate in their Veterans Day remembrance ceremony. Thanks to everyone that participated and made this a memorable event.

#### Happenings in December

Dec 2 – Post 65 Christmas Holiday Meal

Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 8 – Riders Christmas Party

Dec 9 – Army Navy Gane

Dec 25 – Christmas Day

Dec 31 – News Year Eve

Jan 1 – New Years Day

2023 is ending and as I count my blessings, I recall some of my relationships with family and friends and American Legion family. Looking back at all our accomplishments we are certainly blessed with a leaderships team that guided us.

My sincerest thanks to everyone for 2023 and looking forward to a joyous and prosperous 2024!!

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 on Cell Phone 704-902-2901 or on the Post 65 landline 980- 362-4948.

Chuck Harris  
Commander  
704-902-2901

#### Job Openings in Post 65:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – **immediately**

Chaplain – next election

Quarter Master- New Position

Housekeeper - **immediately**

## **Membership:**

**Reminder: Membership dues will be going up \$5.00 in 2024.**

**Thank you to everyone who has renewed their 2024 membership!! We certainly appreciate your support!** July 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of 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.

## **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 Chairman:** 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.**

**December Birthdays:**

Joshua Anzini	12/12	James Bartlett	12/15
Bill Brendle	12/7	Loretta Downard	12/26
Tony Fox	12/26	Tim Garber	12/8
Joseph Golden	12/25	Chuck Harris	12/2
William Osborne	12/26	Ricky Saltzgeber	12/6
Leon Williams	12/31		

**Auxiliary:**

On behalf of the Auxiliary, I sincerely appreciate the Legions thoughtfulness by treating the Auxiliary for a "Girls Day" outing. It is an honor to serve our veterans for all they have done for us and our Country. In service, Dianne Wilson.

**Auxiliary Membership Renewal Time:**

Please take care of your 2024 membership in four easy ways: By phone, online, or mail. Go to [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org), Calling National HQ (317) 569-4570 Or mail directly to our Post or pay at our next meeting. Let's strive to have 100% membership status by this Fall Convention. If we achieve this, there will be a surprise presented by the Department and District! We can do it! Thanks to everyone that has already renewed.

Thank You everyone who has already renewed your membership.

Gloria Benfield

**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.

## **Information for Veterans:**

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

**There will not be a Veterans Coffee in December.**

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   0   funerals in August.

Taps:   0



**From Harold Smith Chaplain:**

November:

Sue Letrell had knee surgery. She has a lot of pain. David and Gloria went to visit Sue and took her a bowl cozy and walker pockets. She hopes everything goes well Monday when she gets her stitches out.

I mailed a thank you card to Saint John's Lutheran Church in Statesville for their generous donation to DAV Chapter 68.

Talked to Bob Dellinger and he and Carol are over Covid. Bob's eyes are 95% up to par. Talked to Roy Little's wife and his knees are now ok. He is taking therapy now for his shoulder.

Mac Little called on November 21<sup>st</sup> and said he had 30 staples taken out of his head yesterday. He is resting. He will have another operation the 27<sup>th</sup> that connects to his first operation. He will heal in 10 days, and a switch will be turned on. That should alleviate his uncontrollable shaking. Thank you, God, for what you have done. Please guide the surgeon's hands. May you make his surgery a success.

Mike Morris goes for a recheck on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Barbara Goble is recovering from surgery of putting a plate in her jaw.

Doug is happy at Maple Leaf. Doug fell at IMH and landed on his leg that had shrapnel in it. He has not been able to walk on it since. He does not use a walker. He likes the half blanket and uses his shirt protector. I do not believe he can tell where his pain is. Barbara thinks that sometimes Doug does not know who she is.

**Upcoming Veteran & Community Events:**

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

**Riders:**

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Post Christmas Party

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Rider’s Christmas Party at 5:30

December 9<sup>th</sup>– Army Navy Game at Post 65

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Deliver meals to Veterans at the Post.

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Lay wreaths @ Salisbury Cemetery @ 10:00.

Thanks,

Randy

**Sons of the American Legion:****SAL SQUADRON 65 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023!****SAL SQUADRON 65**

Our next meeting is next **Monday, November 27, 2023, at 5:30 PM** at Post 65. This will be our last meeting for 2023 because of Christmas. Come join us and get the latest updates on what is happening at Post 65. Please bring a treat to share.

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 – Bob Waters

From desk of the Historian:  
Major Garner Bagnal declares December American Legion Month.



https://www.newspapers.com/image/3624311

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SECTION TWO STATESVILLE RECORD & LANDMARK SECTION TWO  
 PUBLISHED IN THE HEART OF THE DIVERSIFIED AND INDUSTRIAL REGION OF PIEDMONT NORTH CAROLINA  
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1968

**Top Criminal Lawyer Takes Sirhan's Case**  
 LOS ANGELES (UPI)—James C. Hays, a Los Angeles lawyer, has taken the case of Sirhan Sirhan, the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office to his own firm.

**Conservative Eating Apple Brings Uproar**  
 LOS ANGELES (UPI)—A conservative Republican, James H. Hunt, has caused a stir in the Los Angeles area by eating an apple in a public place.

**NEW STEVENS BUILDING**—This is the new office building for J. P. Stevens Firm, located at 1105 W. 10th St. in Statesville, N.C.

**J. P. Stevens Firm Plans New Building**  
 J. P. Stevens, a textile manufacturer, has announced plans to build a new office building in Statesville, N.C. The building is to be located at 1105 W. 10th St. and is to be a 10-story structure.

**Organizer Of Chicago Demonstration Heard**  
 CHICAGO (UPI)—A man who organized a demonstration in Chicago was heard in court today. The man, who is named [Name], was charged with [Charge].

**AMERICAN LEGION MONTH PROCLAIMED**—Major J. Garner Bagnal has proclaimed December American Legion Month in Statesville, N.C. The proclamation was made on December 1, 1968.

**MACKS**  
 NEWTOWNE PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER  
 Thursday, December 5th... 5 P.M.-11 P.M. ONLY  
**FAMILY NIGHT DISCOUNT**  
**10% OFF**  
 ON ALL MERCHANDISE!  
 AND...  
**10% OFF**  
 On Unpaid Balances On All Lay-Aways That Are Picked Up And Paid For

**Editor's Note:** Thank you all for your support. Gloria Benfield email: [g\\_benfield@yahoo.com](mailto:g_benfield@yahoo.com).  
**Have a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year. Safe travels**