

## American Legion Post 65 Newsletter

**June 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 June 12th Post 65 meeting/supper. At 5:00 pm sign in and "Meet & Greet." At 6:00 pm for supper there will be Tacos with toppings. 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 & 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.

No entertainment.

Will be installing new officers.

### **Commanders Corner:**

We are stepping into another new month, June 2023. Our meal will be Taco's. Please bring your favorite desert. If you would like to help with dinner, be at the Post at 5PM. Should be fun!! Our Membership Meeting/Meal will include the swearing in ceremony of our new officers. We are still inviting anyone who is interested in the position of First Vice, Historian, or Procurement person. Please consider volunteering. Because of the lack of attendance at Bingo we are suspending Bingo until further notice. We have a new

lead for the Facility Committee. Please welcome Randy Fultz. A BIG THANK YOU to Chuck Spangler for his leadership, long hours, sacrifices, and dedication to make Post 65 a better place. Thanks again Chuck!!

American Legion Conference will be June 8. American Legion College is July 23. If you are interested in attending contact one of the Board members.

We would like to enter a float in the Troutman July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. Is anyone interested? Contact Chuck Harris @ 704-902-2901 or Eddie Bowman @ 704-252-0325. We are interested in getting an ice machine for our Post. We will be taking donations and raffle off different items. Our first item will be a clothes/blanket chest.

Our membership continues to step up and supports our Post. Thank you so much. Please continue to renew your memberships.

Chuck Harris  
Commander

### **Membership:**

Our membership continues to step up and supports our Post. Thank you so much. Please continue to renew your memberships. Remember our new year begins 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. Avoid the rush! Remember your membership renewals are due by June 30, 2023. I am looking 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 Membership TEAMMATE

**Job Openings in Post 65:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – immediately  
 Building Team Leader – next election  
 Chaplain – next election  
 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:****Membership:****Reminder: Membership dues will be going up \$5.00 in 2024.**

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. Thanks to all our members that paid their dues in 2023.

**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  
 David Benfield (980-223-1265): 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  
 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 for the list.**

**June Birthdays:**

Barber	Richard	6/7
Cartner	Robert	6/27
Froehlich	Raymond	6/17
Furlow	John	6/22
Gentle	Terry	6/9
Ginn	Douglas	6/12
Harris	Jerry	6/28
Holland	Jimmie	6/23
Johnson	Gene	6/8
Lawrence	Lester	6/15
Moore	Sean	6/9
Myers	Ralph	6/1
Pierce	Joseph	6/26

Robertson	Kenneth	6/21
Saxton	Robert	6/2
Smith	Albert	6/26
Stevenson	Jason	6/25
Strickland	Phillip	6/26
Thomas	Joseph	6/16
Warren	Thomas	6/2
Williams	Richard	6/17
Benfield	Gloria	6/14

### **Auxiliary:**

**Meeting:** Our next meeting will be **Thursday June 22, 2023, at 5:30 pm.** Bring a snack to share and I hope to see you there.

**Membership Dues:** National and State are increased the amount of dues for 2023-2024. We have raised our dues to \$40.

On Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> we sold poppies at Walmart. We would like to thank Harold, Bob, Barbara, Chuck, Dustin, Tony, Randy, David, and Gloria for all their hard work on getting donations for our Poppy fund. It was a wonderful day.

Thank you to all the ladies who came out Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> to work on a scrap book to take to the State Conference. We did a wonderful job.

### **FUNDS / SPECIAL RAFFLE**

Like any organization, the American Legion Post 65 Auxiliary needs funds to operate and to complete projects. We have completed a couple of projects (gifts to the VA and to Brookdale Village nursing home) but we have more to do. We are sending two girls to Girls State and gifts to the local home for veterans. We need funds – any “donations” would help! We have a great cookbook for a “donation” of \$40.

We are fortunate that Dianne Wilson has donated a beautiful patriotic quilt to help support our projects. Please consider donating!

Tickets for the Patriotic Quilt - 1 for \$5 and 3 for \$10

**Officer's:** Gloria Benfield President, Betty Davis is Vice President, Donna Arnette as Treasurer, Emma Ward as Chaplain, and Sgt-at-Arms is Heather Gessler, Auxiliary group as Historian. If anyone is interested in being Secretary, please let Gloria or Betty know.

**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.

**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):**

**June 20th at 9:00 am.**

Edison Platt, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Field Operations Manager, will be our guest speaker. You do not want to miss this meeting with the sharing of Veterans Benefits. Edison will be speaking on the new PACT ACT and other claims and benefits. He will also be taking questions to try and help all our Veterans.

Watch the YouTube video using the link below when Edison visited us on 9/20/22!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2KDXKG4BnE>

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

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 March.

**Needed:** Honor Guard Members

Taps: \_

### **From Harold Smith Chaplain**

**May:**

Ruth Geoff got to go home from the hospital Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. She was happy.

Talked to George Hoover's wife and she said he is getting along great. In fact, she said they went to Walmart.

Mike Morris said they did not have a chaplain for the District Meeting. I filled in for Chaplain for the District Meeting Saturday at Post 65.

Talked to Don Fultz and he got to go home May 19<sup>th</sup>. He will have rehab at home.

Don thanks everyone for all the prayers. He is thankful for those who came to visit. He brags on Post 65 for being so friendly to him.

Jerry Goble must stay with Barbara a lot now. She is going for an MRI to see if there is any cancer left. May God give them good news. On May 24<sup>th</sup> I talked to Jerry, and he said Barbara's MRI did not show cancer. She is feeling better today. Praise God for the good news.

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

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

### **Riders:**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Boone Bike Rally

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Fun ride! Meet at Tilly's @ 5:30 New leaders start.

June 8<sup>th</sup> – Deliver meals to Veterans.

June 10<sup>th</sup> – Pre – Ride route for poker run.

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Flag retirement. Meet at Tilly's @ 5:00 pm. Travel to Elks to retire and raise new flag.

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Prep for Poker run @ post at 5:00

June 17<sup>th</sup> – Poker Run!!!! All hands meet @ Great Western Statesville @8:00 am.

June 24<sup>th</sup> – Rolling Thunder NC Chapter 2 Poker Run @ Tilly's 9:00 am.

Thanks,

Randy



**Sons of the American Legion:**

Our next meeting is Monday, June 26, 2023, at 5:30 PM at American Legion Post 65. Get the latest information on what is happening at Hurst Turner Post 65. Please bring a treat to share!

**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).