

POST 30 NEWS



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Commander's Comments

As we kick off 2024, I'm excited to share the energy and enthusiasm at the Post. Last year was filled with incredible achievements and heartfelt dedication. Now, let's hit the ground running for an even more impactful year ahead!

We've got some fantastic plans in the pipeline – from engaging community events to supporting our veterans with renewed vigor. Your unwavering support and commitment have been the cornerstone of our success, and I'm truly grateful for all of our dedicated members.

This year let's continue our mission with renewed determination, unity, and passion. Together, we'll achieve new milestones, create lasting impacts, and strengthen our community bonds.

I'm looking forward to the amazing things we'll accomplish together in 2024. Here's to a year filled with purpose, camaraderie, and meaningful contributions!

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or have any veteran oriented events you'd like to highlight, please send us an email – alpost30sc@gmail.com.

-- Tommy Tripp, Post 30 Commander

Adjutant Advisory

As we dive into a brand-new year, I wanted to emphasize the vital role each of you plays as members of American Legion Post 30. Your membership isn't just a formality; it's the

backbone of our mission to serve veterans and our community.

Renewing your membership on time is crucial. It ensures our ability to provide essential support, advocate for benefits, and uphold our commitments. Your timely renewal allows us to hit the ground running, paving the way for another year of impactful initiatives.

We currently sit at 73% for 2024 dues paid. Help us kick off the new year on the right foot and reach our goal of 100% paid dues. If you haven't paid yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Our annual dues are \$55.00. We accept cash or check, and you can turn in your dues to me at our monthly meeting or you can mail your check, made payable to American Legion Post 30, to:

American Legion Post 30
P.O. Box 30
Edgefield, SC 29824

You can also pay your dues on-line by going to Mylegion.org.

Thank you for being part of our Post 30 family. Let's make this year the best one yet!

-- Jane Doolittle, Post 30 Adjutant

Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas Dinner was fantastic! We shared laughter, stories, and delicious food, creating a memorable evening filled with warmth and camaraderie. To those who joined us, thank you for making it truly special!

To those who couldn't make it, you were missed! We understand schedules get busy but know that you were in our thoughts as we celebrated together.

A huge shoutout to Third Generation, our caterer, for the mouthwatering food that left everyone delighted! Also, a heartfelt thanks to Christine Smith from Christine's Farm to Fork for joining us. We presented Christine with a certificate of appreciation for her instrumental role in raising \$1000 for us by pre-selling raffle tickets at the November Edgefield Arts With a Heart Market.

Your presence and support truly made the evening shine. A sincere appreciation goes out to all those who volunteered to stay and assist with taking down the decorations and cleaning up the post following the dinner.

Here's to more memorable gatherings and togetherness in the year ahead!

American Legion Oratorical Contest

In conjunction with Post 154 and Post 71 we've finalized the plans for our inaugural American Legion Oratorical Contest. Join us on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 1300 at Edgefield United Methodist Church, 309 Norris St, Edgefield.

We have three awesome contestants lined up! Two from the Koinonia CO-OP homeschool group will get sponsorship from us and Post 154, while Post 71 will sponsor one of their 2023 Boy's State cadets. With three contestants and three posts involved, all the contestants will move forward to the quadrant level.

As with any event we will need a few volunteers to help run the event. We must provide 1 timekeeper, 1 tabulator, 1 escort, and 1 usher. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Winston Boddie at 803-761-2508 or drop us an email at the Post email address. We will provide all instructions for the volunteers.

In case you didn't know the oratorical program is designed as "A Constitutional Speech Contest" for students presently enrolled in grades nine through twelve. Each student will

present an 8-to-10-minute prepared speech on some aspect of the Constitution along with a 3-to-5-minute impromptu speech on one of the articles. Its purpose is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States.

We hope you're able to join us. It's going to be an exciting event!

Chaplain's Corner

"New Year, New Beginnings"

I don't know about you but I worship a God of new beginnings. Everything I read in the Bible describes the many times God gave people - groups and individuals, second chances. God has personally given me second chances. God has allowed me to hit the 'reset button' in my life. For example, after a long failed first marriage, God restored me and brought my angel Jane into my life!

I like to think that seasons and new years are also reminders that we get a chance to start fresh, either on an old goal or mission, or a new mission. I want to become a licensed marriage family therapist this year, among other goals. What are some goals you want to achieve in 2024? Think of something you want to start anew or achieve for the first time in this new year. And call upon God to help you reach it! See you all at our January meeting. Bring someone!!

-- William Beaver, Post 30 Chaplain

Outstanding Items

We need your help wrapping up our successful pecan fundraiser by having all unaccounted funds turned in as soon as possible so we can complete our accounting.

Also, we appear to be missing one of our 6' tables. If you have any information about this please let us know.

Veteran Support – Spread the Word

The Department is holding another Veteran Experience Action Center (VEAC) March 21-23,

2024 at South Carolina National Guard, 1328 Old Dairy Dr, Columbia, SC.

March 21, 0900-1500 (Thursday)
March 22, 0900-1500 (Friday)
March 23, 0900-1400 (Saturday)

The VEAC is a great opportunity for eligible veterans and their dependents to be assisted by a team that includes Veteran’s Organization Service Officers, Department of Veterans 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. You must come prepared with the proper documentation about your case: DD214, all medical records about your disability both military and civilian.

Update from VA Augusta Health Care System

VA Augusta Primary Care Scheduling

VA Augusta Health Care System has launched a scheduling improvement initiative for our primary care service. As part of the initiative, VA Augusta is contacting Veteran patients to | reschedule existing primary care appointments. The initiative will greatly improve access to primary care appointments, as well as welcome new Veteran patients sooner. We appreciate your patience as we work to improve primary care access for new and existing Veteran patients.

VA Augusta Health Care System
706-733-0188

Calendar of Events

January 13, 2024

District 17 Meeting, Post 61, 200 S. Hendrix St, Leesville

January 18, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830

January 20, 2024

Post 30 Oratorical Contest, begins at 1300, Edgefield United Methodist Church

February 10 2024

Quadrant Oratorical Contest, Post 20, Greenwood, SC

February 15, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

March 21, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

March 21-23, 2024

VEAC, SCNG, 1328 Old Dairy Dr, Columbia, SC

NOTE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING:

You must call Jane Doolittle (803-480-1061) or email the post no later than the Monday prior to our scheduled meeting so we can have an accurate headcount for dinner.