



American Legion Post 0048 – Chesnee, SC

2014 Department Community Service Awards Report

June 1, 2015

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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2014 DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS REPORT

REPORT COVERS PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014**DUE DATE: June 15, 2015**

Reports will not be returned

Post Name: ChesneePost No. 0048District: 5Post Location: Chesnee, SC2014 POST MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 90

Check BOX	PROJECTS	CHECK BOX	PROJECTS
1. _____	Get out the vote	2. _____	Blood Donor Program
3. _____	Baskets for needy	4. <u> X </u>	Toys for Underprivileged
5. _____	School Recreation Equipment	6. _____	Accident Prevention/Safety
7. _____	Ambulance Service	8. _____	Rescue Unit Service
9. <u> X </u>	Observance Patriotic Holiday	10. <u> X </u>	Chaperone Service
11. <u> X </u>	Erection of Flag Poles/Memorials	12. _____	Care for Community Property
13. _____	Drug Abuse Prevention	14. _____	Immunization
15. _____	Health and Research	16. _____	Handicapped Children
17. <u> X </u>	Youth Activities	18. _____	Drum Corps
19. _____	Junior Bands	20. _____	Drill Teams
21. _____	Color Guards	22. _____	Sponsor Boy Scout Troop
23. <u> X </u>	Parties and Dances	24. <u> X </u>	School Awards
25. <u> X </u>	Oratorical Contest	26. <u> X </u>	Youth Recognition Day
27. _____	Emergency Shelter	28. _____	Paramedic Training

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| 29. <u> </u> Athletics | 30. <u> </u> Cancer Awareness |
| 31. <u> X </u> Use of Legion Hut Home | 32. <u> </u> Park Development |
| 33. <u> </u> Disaster Relief | 34. <u> X </u> Flag Education |
| 35. <u> X </u> Senior Citizen Projects | 36. <u> </u> Sons of American Legion |
| 37. <u> </u> Swimming Pools | 38. <u> </u> Playgrounds |
| 39. <u> X </u> Boys State | 40. <u> X </u> Public Relations |
| 41. <u> X </u> Local and V.A. Hospital Visitation | 42. <u> </u> Adopt a Highway Program |
| 43. <u> X </u> Law Cadet | 44. <u> X </u> JROTC |
| 45. <u> </u> Library Support | 46. <u> </u> Active Duty Military Support |
| 47. <u> </u> Blue Star Banner Program | 48. <u> </u> Medical Research Volunteers |
| 49. <u> X </u> Meals on Wheels Volunteers | 50. <u> </u> Soup Kitchen |
| 51. <u> </u> Reading Programs | 52. <u> </u> Language Comprehension |
| 53. <u> X </u> Human Needs Assistance (financial)
Home repairs, lawn mowing, etc.) | 54. <u> X </u> Participation in local fund
raising projects (United Way, Easter
Seals, Cancer, etc) |
| 55. <u> </u> Keep America Green (recycling programs) | |

List other Community Service Projects:

56. X Maintained a Public Handgun Range
57. X Conducted Public Handgun Competitions
58. X Conducted Public Turkey Shoots
59. X Maintained Former Military Equipment for Public Viewing
60. X Post Service Officer

NOTE: DESCRIBE BELOW THE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES CHECKED AND ANY OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS THE POST SPONSORED. IDENTIFY BY NUMBER.

SCRAPBOOKS ARE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE AS THEY REVIEW THE COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

Item # 4: Supported by monetary donation the local Chesnee Police 'Kops Kids' program providing toys and other items to area underprivileged children during the Christmas season. Post 48 provided our Post building for use in assembling, sorting and packaging the toys for distribution. Post 48 members provided volunteers and leadership for the City of Chesnee Program. Post 48 allowed the

free utilization of our Post building for 'Artistic Painting' classes with a large part of the tuition received donated to the Kops Kids Program.



(Painting Classes in our Post Building with the proceeds to Kops Kids. Some of the items that were purchased with Post 48 funding. Our volunteers sorting and loading.)

Item # 9: Observed Veteran's Day by assisting with the planning and organization of the City of Chesnee Veteran's Day Parade and Veteran Recognition Ceremony held on Nov. 15th, 2014. Secured the services of the Parade Grand Marshall and featured guest speaker: LTC Floyd (Hank) Winn (USMC retired and currently senior instructor of Marine and Navy JROTC). Secured and coordinated the services of antique vehicles for use by Chesnee area WWII veterans in the parade. Assisted with the parade line-up and the escort of aged veterans. Our members were honored to ride on our special Parade float.



(Post 48 Members and Parade Grand Marshall LTC Winn)



(LTC Winn and wife with Post 48 member; One of the WWII Vets being honored)



(Vice Cmdr. Bob Scherer and our Post 48 Parade Float)



(WWII Veterans on the front row; LTC Winn giving his keynote speech honoring veterans)

Item # 10: Provided free chaperone services including pick-up, transportation and return of elderly veterans for Post 48 meetings and other Post functions.

Item # 11: Displayed US flags (46 each) on each side of US Hwy 221 entering Chesnee (adjacent to Post 48's building and Egger's Funeral Home) for the following:

- A) Patriotic National Holidays: 4th of July, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, etc.**
- B) During Visitation and Funeral Services for veteran's at Egger's Funeral Home**
- C) During Visitation and Funeral Services for Post 48 Members**



Item # 17: Sponsored and conducted a 'cook-out' for the JROTC Battalion from Chesnee High School on Nov. 13th with 75 in attendance.



Item # 23: Conducted a Christmas Party for Post 48 members (and their families) complete with decorations, band and meal. Awarded our 2014 Post 48 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Terry Brown during the ceremony. Attended by community leaders to include the Mayor, Police Chief and City Council representative.



Item # 24 and 26: School Awards and Youth Recognition:

A) Supplied American Legion medals, ribbon bars and certificates awarded to Chesnee High School's JROTC 'Military Excellence' and 'Scholastic Excellence' designees.



(Cadet Daniel Norris receives the American Legion Military Excellence Award from Dept. of SC Vice Commander Bob Scherer; Cadet Zac Carter receives the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award from Post 48 Vice Commander Terry Brown)

B) Awarded a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating local high school senior.



Congratulations to Chesnee High School senior Jonathan Peterson who was awarded a \$500 college scholarship presented by A. L. Post 48. The presentation was made at the CHS Academic Awards ceremony held at Chesnee 1st Baptist Church on May 5 2014. Jonathan is an exceptional student and citizen of our community. He was elected as Student Body President and is a leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Jonathan has served for four years in the JROTC and has held the rank of Lt. Col. and Battalion Commander. This summer, Jonathan will complete military basic training for active duty and will start college at USC Upstate. We look forward to following his career.

Item # 25: Planned and conducted Post 48's 2nd Annual Oratorical Contest. Awarded American Legion Certificates to participants and a monetary prize to the winner. Secured the services of 4 qualified judges (Spartanburg Toastmasters, History Teacher and former College Professor). Post 48 volunteers served as Master of Ceremony, Contest Director, Tabulators, Timers and contestant escorts.



(Judges and audience)



(Hannah Blanton is announced as the winner with certificate and prize awarded by Master of Ceremony and Post 48 member LTC Kilcawley)

Item # 31: 2014 facility upgrades included installation of portable microphones and an amplifier system per the request of our senior members and community guests with hearing impairments. A rear deck was constructed to provide a space for outdoor grilling. The assembly area was improved by painting and floor refinishing. Office upgrades included procurement of a printer and installation of donated storage cabinets. With these upgrades, community functions at our Post 48 facility increased in 2014 to include the following:

- A) Chesnee High School indoor Cheerleader practice and pre-game preparation.**



- B) Rental of Post 48 facility for community/member functions (parties, anniversaries and celebrations) with discounted rental rates for Post 48 members.**

- C) Rental of Post 48 facility and handgun range for conducting Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) classes.**

- D) Chesnee High School JROTC indoor rifle team weekly practice (see Item # 44)**



- E) Monthly Post 48 meeting for members and invited guests with guest speakers and a provided meal. The Chesnee Police Chief (Danny Swofford), the Secretary of the SC Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (Mark Anthony), American Legion Dist. 5 Commander (Jack Wright) and American Legion Dept. of SC Vice Commander Bob Scherer were typical of the invited speakers.**



(The line-up for food and presentation of the Post 48 Legionnaire of the year award)



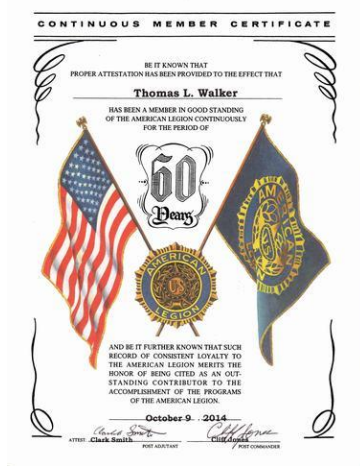
(Jack Wright presenting an award to Post 48 Cmdr Cliff Jones for obtaining 100% membership goal by Veteran's Day; Dept. Vice Commander addressing the membership)



(Cmdr. Jones presenting an Award of Recognition to retiring CHS JROTC Director and Post 48 member LTC Kilcawley)



(Cmdr. Jones recognizing the family of a recently deceased member; Cmdr. Jones presenting a Continuous 60 American Legion Membership Certificate to Tommy Walker (Korean War Veteran)).



F) Hosted the American Legion District 5 meeting in April with provided meal.



(Dept. of SC Commander Gene McDaniel addresses the attendees)

G) Memorial service for the family of a deceased community member in need; 100 in attendance.

Item # 34: Flag Education:

- A) Allowed the use of Post 48's Small Arms Range for an official flag retirement ceremony conducted by the local Boy Scouts. The Public was invited to attend, observe and respect. Post 48 members assisted.
- B) The Secretary of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (Mark Anthony) was invited to address and educate the membership of Post 48 at our September meeting. Mr. Anthony presented and displayed the chronological sequence of flags representing our colonies and fighting forces up to the American Revolution.



Item # 35: Arranged for representatives of a local funeral home to present to seniors various options related to funerals and burials with emphasis on pre-planning. This was conducted in conjunction with a normal monthly membership meeting, however, all senior members of the community were invited.



(Mr. John Eggers with Eggers Funeral Home)

Item # 39: Appointed a Palmetto Boys and Girls State Committee for promoting, fund raising, interview of candidates and selection of delegates. Post 48 provided full funding for 5 delegates at American Legion 2014 Palmetto Boys State and 2 delegates at American Legion Auxiliary 2014 Girls State.



2014 Palmetto Boys State Delegates from Post 48: Bobby Foos, Ben Cooley, Matthew Brock, Brandon Walker and Daniel Kimbrell



(2014 Palmetto Girls State Delegates from Post 48: Destinee Amin and Paige Bolton)

Item # 40: Maintained a web site: www.americanlegionpost48chesnee.com and Facebook page: AmericanLegionPost48ChesneeSouthCarolina for dissemination of information to members and the Community at large. The web site has current information regarding past and future post activity as

well as links to American Legion National and South Carolina sites. See the attached appendix for just two of the information pages from the web site. Post 48's Facebook page has 115 followers.

Item # 41: Post 48 member volunteers are available for transport of Chesnee area veterans to VA medical facilities. This has been advertised at our meetings and web site/Facebook page. Transported an elderly WWII veteran to the VA Clinic multiple times in 2014.

Item # 43: Appointed a Law Cadet Academy Committee and reviewed qualifications of candidates. Provided full funding for 1 attendee at the American Legion 2014 Nathan Wolfe Law Cadet Academy.



(2014 Nathan Wolfe Law Cadet from Post 48: Zac Carter)

Item # 44: Supported the local Chesnee High School JROTC Battalion including the following:

- A) Provided member volunteers and funded a cook-out at Post 48 for the entire JROTC Battalion. Cadets and Instructors briefed our members on their activities. Photos are at Item 17 above.
- B) Awarded a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating JROTC cadet (see item 24 and 26 response).
- C) Post 48 volunteered our Post facility without charge and the JROTC Rifle Team conducted bi-weekly indoor practice (and competitions) at Post 48 throughout 2014. This involved arranging for table/chairs to be temporarily relocated. Post 48 members also volunteer their time as assistant instructors.
- D) See Item # 24/26 response

Item 49: Three members of Post 48 volunteer for Meals on Wheels and provide weekly transport of meals to those in the community in need.

Item 53: Provided support to the family of recently deceased members to include visits, cards, and donation of bibles. Provided financial support to a veteran and member of Post 48 in need.

Item 54: Participated in local fund-raising for the Kops Kids Program (see response to Item # 4).

Item 56: Maintained a public Handgun Range for use by members, guests and the public at large. Facilities include distance markers, assembly shelter, parking area and wire fencing for target mounting. In 2014, Post 48 expanded the range to include 'Gong' metal targets.



(New Gong Targets and barrier; fencing for normal paper targets)



(Range shelter with displayed rules and procedures)

Item 57: Sponsored, staffed and conducted an 'Amateur Handgun Competition' for members, guests and the public in the spring and fall of 2014. Awarded monetary prizes and certificates to the top finishers.





Item 58: Staffed and conducted Post 48's annual 'Turkey Shoots' on Saturdays and Thanksgiving Day during the months of October, November and December of 2014. Open to members and the public.



Item 59: Maintained and properly displayed the following former military property on the Post 48 facility grounds:

a. AH-1 Cobra Helicopter



b. Navy Torpedo & depth charge



Item 60: Appointed Post 48's first ever Post Service Officer (PSO) to assist the veterans in our community and our members with veteran's benefits. Post 48's Adjutant and the newly appointed PSO attended Post Service Officer training in District 5 and given by the Spartanburg Veteran's Affairs Office. In conjunction with this appointment; the Spartanburg County Veteran's Affairs Officer (Mr. Greg Walker) attended our monthly membership meeting and gave a well-received presentation on the make-up and function of the county Veteran's Affairs Office.



Finally, the most important aspect of community service is encouraging our membership to 'get involved'. Each year, as we try to improve our presence in the community, more of our members want to participate and help out. Doing more in the community also has a positive impact on recruiting new members who see what is being accomplished and want to 'continue to serve' through the American Legion. As a result, Post 48 has exceeded the Department of SC membership goal for the 5th consecutive year!

Post 48 is proud of our community service record for 2014 and do, hereby, submit this document for your consideration for Department Community Service Awards.

Submitted by:

Post Commander or Adjutant

Title

Post No. 0048

Post Location: Chesnee, SC