



**The American Legion Post143
Combined Regular Monthly Membership Meeting
Thursday, February, 15, 2018**

Commander Merriss called the combined membership meeting to order at 6:00PM. All stood for a salute to the Colors. The meeting was declared regularly convened.

WELCOME VISITORS & GUESTS: by Commander Merriss:

- **Department/5TH district guests:** 5th Dist Cmdr Harold Watkins
- **Guests:** Chris Albright, Matt Nelson, A. Gonzalez, Jerry Culver
- **Prospective New Members:** None
- **Prospective Transferee's:** Herbert Childs-Vietnam, Ira Chandler-Vietnam, and Merlin Caldwell-Vietnam

COMMANDERS COMMENTS:

- **Birthdays:** Sandy Pate; Carlos Fuller's Wife, Ruth, will have a surprise 90th Birthday Party Feb 17th, 2---4 PM at the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. All are welcome
- **Anniversaries:** None

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a. **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:** By Jeanette Henson Comments/announcements
 - The AUX will assist SAL with the Irish Pot-Luck Dinner scheduled for March 8th at 6PM in the post's main meeting hall. All are welcome
- b. **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** By Jeanette Henson
 - More people throughout the community are expressing an interest in becoming a volunteer at Trinka Davis. However, Management is having problems scheduling a Training Session for the new volunteers

ILLNESS/SURGERY/RECOVERY: By the Commander

- Ronald Ray, Debra Robinson, Edna Scott, Mary Nelson, D Sammon, G.D. Hendrix, George Walker, Bill Hearnburg,
- Don Chavez and Wayne Driver

- Bob Hilliard mentioned that he sent cards to those mentioned above and also visited with some of those families. He also stated that the post members should visit those sick or in need as well. Let Bob know if there is someone in need and he will try to visit or at least send a card.

TAPS: By the Commander (Request a moment of Silent prayer for our fallen comrades)

- No Post members

BLESSING FOR THE SICK; PASSING; AND THE MEAL: by Chaplain Billy Bryant

GUEST SPEAKER: Jerry Culver told members of the post that when he was only 11 months old, his father, along with 15 other soldiers died in battle in a small town in Germany during World War II. He was told that the weather was so cold that day, that you could not load the ammo magazine into the rifle until the first round was discharged, melting the ice. Mr. Culver went on to say that growing up, he did not really know much about his dad except what relatives would relay to him from time to time. Mr. Culver grew up in Alabama and was able to attend Auburn University from a grant he received because his dad was a casualty of WW II. Many years later he traveled to Belgium on a business trip and while there, was able to provide local authorities with enough information that they were able to find out that his father was buried in Holland, a mere 45 minute drive from where he was staying. After 55 years, he said that he finally felt he got to know his Dad that day as he visited the gravesite where he was laid to rest.

BEGIN REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The regular Post meeting started at 7:05PM with three raps of the gavel for all to rise, salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Then all attendees uncovered while Don Levans offered a prayer. The POW/MIA Empty Chair was honored by the Sergeant at Arms, Joe Morgan. While standing, Sr. Vice Steve Fuller led the assembly in reciting the Preamble to the Legion Constitution. Commander Merriss rapped the gavel one more time and declared Post 143 Department of Georgia, regular meeting officially convened.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A roll call was taken and it was determined that enough members in good standing were present to declare a quorum.
- Membership & Guest attendance rosters are attached to the minutes of this meeting.
- There were no additional guests or Dept/Dist Officers to be recognized.

COMMANDERS REPORT: by the Commander Merriss

- The State of Georgia has 6 counties that participate in the Veterans Court program. It tries to help veterans that have committed some type of minor infraction a second chance and keep them from entering into the criminal judicial system. Carrollton is hoping to be the 7th county that participates in the "Veterans Court" program. This is scheduled to take place between the March-June timeframe
- The Commander passed out Post information cards for all to take. The back of the card also includes Veterans Affairs contact information.

ADJUTANT REPORT: Vacant (by Frank Joswick)

Correspondence: None

Approve Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote by members in good standing the minutes as written for Executive Committee meeting held on February 23, 2018 and the Regular membership meeting held on February 25, 2018

APPROVE NEW MEMBERS AND TRANSFERS: (by Steve Fuller)

A motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote by members in good standing to accept the following into the Post:

- **New Members:** None
- **Transfer Members:** Herbert Childs-Vietnam, Ira Chandler-Vietnam, and Merlin Caldwell-Vietnam

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: by Sr. Vice Steve Fuller

- Membership - Department has us at 80%. Green line is 92%. Still need to resolve membership goals and what the renewal rate should be. Expired members have paid dues for 18 but National is crediting them for the last year paid. Horace Geter and Daniel Farmer. Mailed - 25 Letters, made 7 phone calls. Mailed paid membership cards as they came in.
- Revitalization - 02/04/18. Made numerous calls to 400 members in our area. Transferred three paid up 400 members to 143 rolls and gained one new member without solicitation.
- If you know any Veterans in need. Please give their names to the Chaplin
- Secretary of State Payment was made on 2 Feb, 2018 and a copy was sent to Frank Joswick for filing
- Invited District SAL Officers to the Irish Pot Luck Dinner on March 08. Band secured for \$200

FINANCE OFFICER/FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR: by Chuck Feaselman:

- The Finance Officer read the January 2018 Financial Report to the membership. It will be filled and become a permanent record of the post.
- An application for the Trink Davis Grant Request for 2018-2019 was submitted. The grant request will be in the amount of \$7500. (Up \$2500 from last year) Commander Merriss said the Grant has helped 25 Veterans with financial needs so far this year, however, there is only \$557 remaining in this fund for the remainder of the Post year.

JR. VICE / AMERICANISM CHAIR: by Tim Bass

9-11/1st Responder Ceremony at CCVMP: by Tim Bass

- The 2018 Sept 9-11/1st Responder event is scheduled for September 8, 2018 beginning at 10:30am at the CCVMP

Junior Shooting Sport: by Frank Joswick

- CHS came in 2nd at state with a score of 2302 out of 2400, but missed going to regional by 20 points (needed 2322). Certificates will be presented and a brief Show & Tell will be given by Coach Mike Lewis during the Mar 15, 2018 meeting

Boys State: by Steve Fuller

- Will be identifying students that will be attending Boys State from 27 May thru 2 June 2018

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE: by Jr Vice Bob Hilliard

This Years' Special Olympics will take place at Carrollton High School on March 27, 2018 with a rain date of March 29th. Arrive by 9:00am to pick up a t-shirt and get your assignment. Paul Schuefler will be in charge of getting volunteers names, t-shirt sizes, and generally over-seeing the event.

HONOR GUARD: by Dale Robinson

The Honor Guard performed 5 Military Honors for deceased veterans since the last meeting and 2 more is scheduled for Jan 27th The Color Guard participated in Valentine's Ball. That was held on Feb 8, 2018

Dale Robinson said that the Honor Guard received a "Thank You" card containing \$150 form one of the Families in which a funeral service was held.

Jimmy Sanders stated that one of the funeral services was held for a destitute Veteran with no family in attendance. He was laid to rest in a Paupers Cemetery. Richard Guynn also commented that it was an honor to conduct the military funeral for veteran Alvin Turnipseed. The funeral home is still holding the burial flag until a family member can be located to present it to.

5th District Cmdr, Harold Watkins stated that there are procedures that allow a veteran's remains to be moved to a National Cemetery.

Bob Hilliard also commented that one of the families of a deceased veteran requested someone in uniform from the Air Force take part in their Military Honors funeral. Bill Hearnburg, an Air Force retired LTC, honored that request.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: by Richard Guynn

Special Committee Chair, Richard Guynn, briefed members that the Executive Committee on Feb 13th the recommended changes to the Post constitution, By-Laws and Standard operating Procedures. The Executive Committee approved the recommendations, with minor changes. The post will send out notices to the general membership informing them that the recommended changes will be presented at the next Regular Membership meeting scheduled for March 15, 2018. The committee will accept any additional recommended changes at that time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: by Joe Morgan

Joe Morgan welcomed the new members and asked them to see him after the meeting to order their new name tags or covers.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: by Commander George Wheelless

A copy of the previous meeting minutes and budget report was submitted to the Post 143 Commander for filing.

SAL will host an Irish Pot-Luck Dinner with live entertainment on March 8th at 6:00pm in the post's main meeting hall. He invited all to come and enjoy good food and watch Ronnie Pate's granddaughter dance to some Irish tunes.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Feb 17____5th District meeting, Post 216, Austell, GA. 8am registration and the meeting starts at 9am (Out by lunch)
- Mar 8____Irish Pot-Luck dinner at 6pm
- Mar 13____Next EC meeting @ 5pm
- Mar 15____Next GM meeting @ 6pm
- Mar 23-27__Department Spring Conference and Georgia American Legion College, Duluth, GA
- Mar 27____Special Olympics, Carrollton HS AT 9am. Rain Date, Mar 29th.

BUSINESS FOR GOOD OF THE LEGION: (MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE PERMITTED TO MAKE ANY SUGGESTIONS OF ANY KIND, CHARACTER OF DESCRIPTION, SAVE OF POLICAL OR RELIGION NOR WILL ANY MOTIONS BE MADE)

Legionnaires:

- Legionnaire Ron Knowles asked all new members that were voted into the post tonight to stand. All received a round of applause.
- Legionnaire Carlos Fuller invited all to attend his Wife's surprise 90th Birthday Party Feb 17th, 2---4 PM at the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church.
- Legionnaire Ron Price mentioned that the Marine Corps League will be selling raffle tickets for a 50 Cal Thompson Semi-Auto Sub-Gun. 500 tickets will be sold at a cost of \$10 per ticket. Tickets go on sale Feb 17th through November 2018

5th District:

Cmdr Harold Watkins began by stating that Sr Vice Steve Fuller is actively working the membership rolls and also recruiting current Post 400 members to transfer their membership to our Post. He went on to say that there are a lot of veterans, especially those from the gulf war era, that are in our local area that don't belong to any veteran organization. He said that we should invite them to the Post to see firsthand what the legion is all about. He continued to say the many gulf war veterans are also in need both financially and medically, and that our post family should try to do all we can to provide assistance for them.

He closed by saying that he and Sr Vice Steve Fuller will be counselors at Boys State again this year and that volunteers are always welcome, and if you can't volunteer, drive up for a day to see what Boys State is all about.

He thanked the Post family again for all the programs we are involved in and asked that we continue seek out and recruit younger veterans so that they can become the future of our post.

Department:

- No one present

CLOSING CEREMONY

- There was no further business brought forth at this meeting.
- **THREE RAPS OF THE GAVEL**
- (Membership stood in silence and uncovered while placing their right hand over their heart)
- *Don Levans lead us in the closing prayer*

COMMANDERS CHARGE

"TILL WE MEET AGAIN LET US REMEMBER THAT OUR OBLIGATION TO OUR COUNTRY CAN BE FULFILLED ONLY BY THE FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF ALL DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP. LET SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION BE EVER A MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND ITS MEMBERS. LET US BE EVER WATCHFUL OF THE HONOR OF OUR COUNTRY, OUR ORGANIZATION AND OURSELVES, THAT NOTHING SHALL SWERVE US FROM THE PATH OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY."

The Commander rapped the gavel three times; all performed a Hand Salute to the flag. The February 15, 2018 Regular Membership Meeting of Post 143, Dept. of GA adjourned at 7:50PM with one gavel rap.

Approval Date: _____

Commander Ted Merriss

Recorder Frank Joswick (Adjutant Position Vacant)