



**The American Legion Post143  
Combined Regular Monthly Membership Meeting  
Thursday, March, 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/5<sup>TH</sup> district guests:** None
- **Guests:** Ms Jwyanda Norman, Debbie Martin and Matthew Nelson
- **Prospective New Members:** None
- **Prospective Transferee's:** None

**COMMANDERS COMMENTS:**

- Birthdays: Jean Withner and Jennifer Merriss
- Anniversaries: Betty and Don Levans, Jean and Tom Withner

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- a. **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:** By Jeanette Henson Comments/announcements  
All had a great time as the Post family conducted bingo for the residents at the Trinkka Davis Village, Tuesday, Mar 13th
- b. **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** By Jeanette Henson
  - More people throughout the community are expressing an interest in becoming a volunteer at Trinkka Davis. However, Management is having problems scheduling a Training Session for the new volunteers

**ILLNESS/SURGERY/RECOVERY:** by AUX President Jeanette Henson

- Ronald Ray, Debra Robinson, Mary Nelson, Maddison Merriss, Ron Roy and Robert Billingsley, E. W. Tolbert
- W.A. Copeland will have hip surgery Apr 10th

**TAPS:** By the Commander

- No Post members

**Past Cmdr Don Levans lead us in prayer for the sick and the blessing of the dinner meal.**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Jwyanda Norman from the "Need it Most" Household Management Services spoke about the various non-medical services they provide such as:

"Helping Hand Package" includes Grocery shopping, light housekeeping and scheduling & Planning.

"Homemaker Package" includes the above plus errands, residential cleaning, daily reminders, family outings

"Custom Life Package" this package is customized to meet the individual's needs no matter how big or small depending on the type of package. Cost for services run between \$16 to \$20 per hour.

**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 Sergeant at Arms, Joe Morgan. While standing, Commander Ted Merriss 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:**

Commander Merriss stated that 5<sup>th</sup> District will not be having the Fishing for Freedom Event this year

## **ADJUTANT REPORT: Vacant**

Frank Joswick asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written for Executive Committee meeting held on February 13, 2018 and the Regular membership meeting held on February 15, 2018. Motions for each were carried and the minutes as written were approved. Copies will be filed and become a permanent record of the post.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** by Sr. Vice Steve Fuller

Commander Merriss said there were no new members to vote on this month. He went on to say that 5 District's overall 2018 membership renewal is at 85% and according to the Department; the Post's membership renewal rate is currently at 81.2 %. Everyone needs to do their part in reminding members to renew their membership dues for 2018.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Commander Merriss asked that a Nominating Committee be activated to select a slate of new officers for the 2018-19 Post Year. The committee will consist of Sr Vice Steve Fuller along with 4 additional members in good standing to be selected from the floor. A motion was made and carried to select the following 4 additional members to the Nomination Committee:

Past Cmdr Don Levans

Past Cmdr Ronnie Pate

Jimmy Sanders

Sam Pyle

### **FINANCE OFFICER/FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR:** by Chuck Feaselman:

Finance Officer Chuck Feaselman read the Financial Report for the Month of February and a copy will be attached to the meeting minutes. The commander accepted the Financial Report as read.

### **JR. VICE / AMERICANISM CHAIR:** by Tim Bass

#### **9-11/1<sup>st</sup> Responder Ceremony at CCVMP:**

JV Tim Bass stated that the 9-11 Event is scheduled for Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at the CCVMP beginning at 10:30am

#### **Junior Shooting Sport Program:**

Frank Joswick briefed members that due to a scheduling conflict, the CHS Riflery Team will not be able to attend the Mar 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as planned, but instead, will attend the Apr 19, 2018 Combined membership meeting.

#### **Boys State:**

JV Tim Bass said that he, SV Steve Fuller and AUX President Jeanette Henson visited Carrollton High School and meet with the students that will be attending Boys State May 27 thru June 2, 2018 He stated that he was very impressed with their attitude and willingness to participate in this event.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE:**

Bob Hilliard said that 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 and meet at the Flag pole to pick up a t-shirt and get your assignment.

April is Children and Youth Month for the American Legion. Schools are busy testing all (much) of April, but schools would welcome anyone interested in becoming a test proctor. Fifteen minutes of training. Easy to do, mostly being present to over-see the process, sharpen pencils & being in the room if teacher needs to leave. See Bob if you are interested.

**HONOR GUARD:**

Dale Robinson stated that the Honor Guard conducted four Military Funeral Honors during the month of February. Bryant Hightower, from the Martin-Hightower Funeral Home, presented a check for \$530 to purchase a Ceremonial Bugle to be used at Military Funerals.

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:**

Judge Advocate Richard Guynn, briefed members to review the preliminary recommended changes to the Constitution, By-laws and Standard Operating Procedures that were mailed/mailed to members. Anyone may provide their own recommendations between now and the next regular membership meeting scheduled for April 19, 2018. Once all the recommendations are compiled, they will go the Department for approval. He also stated that the Audit committee reviewed The SAL's financial records and all were found to be in order.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:**

Commander George Wheelless provided a copy of their February meeting minutes and budget report to the Post 143 Commander for filing.

The Irish Dinner, held on Mar 8<sup>th</sup>, was attended by 40 People who enjoyed the great food, fellowship and live entertainment. "Four Chaplain's" ceremony is scheduled for Feb 2019. At least 3 or 4 volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Executive Committee changed its meeting day to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. The meeting time remains the same (5PM)

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Mar 23-25 \_\_\_\_\_ GA Department Spring Conference & College, Duluth, GA
- Mar 27 \_\_\_\_\_ Special Olympics, CHS @ 9am.....Rain Date: Mar 29<sup>th</sup>
- Mar 27 \_\_\_\_\_ Annual 2018 West Georgia Non-Profit Networking workshop (Frank Joswick to attend)
- Apr 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Next EC meeting @ 5pm
- Apr 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Next GM meeting @ 6pm with CHS Riflery Team Awards Ceremony
- May 27-Jun 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Boys State @ Riverside Mil Academy, Gainesville, GA

**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:**

- Ron Price mentioned that the Marine Corps League is raffling tickets for a Thompson Sub Machine Gun. Anyone interested can go to the Marine Corps League meeting room to purchase tickets or get more info about the weapon.
- Past Cmdr Don Levans reminded everyone of the upcoming events at the CCVMP:
  - Apr 28<sup>th</sup> -- Honoring Confederate Veterans.....2PM.....Please attend
  - May 26<sup>th</sup>—Memorial Day (Gen Pershing impersonator to speak)
  - Jun 9<sup>th</sup> ----Flag Day
  - Sep 8<sup>th</sup>----Patriots Day (Remember 9/11)
  - Nov 10<sup>th</sup>----Honoring Desert Storm KIA's
  - Dec 16<sup>th</sup>—Wreaths Across America
- Past Cmdr Ronnie Pate reminded all that March 15<sup>th</sup> is the Legion's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Next year the Legion will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He went on to say that the post should consider some type of celebration for this milestone in history.
- He also stated that now that the nominating committee is formed, the Executive Committee needs to meet to select a Committee Chairperson. Cmdr Merriss recommended that the Executive committee meet immediately following the regular business meeting to select a chairperson for the Nominating Committee.

**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)
- *Past Cmdr 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 March 15, 2018 Regular Membership Meeting of Post 143, Dept. of GA was adjourned at 7:40PM with one gavel rap.

Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commander Ted Merriss

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder Frank Joswick