



**The American Legion Post143  
Combined Regular Monthly Membership Meeting  
Thursday, April 19, 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:** No
- **Guests:** Daniel & Martha McFodder, Will Simmons and Mathew Nelson
- **Prospective New Members:** James Doyle, Army-Vietnam; Eugene Manley, Army-Vietnam
- **Prospective Transferee's:** Ronnie Parson, Army-Vietnam, transferred from Post 145

**COMMANDERS COMMENTS:**

- Birthdays: Jimmy Sanders
- Anniversaries: Nora and Pete Sebastian, 55 yrs; Kathleen and Allen Katen, 52 yrs

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- a. **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** By Jeanette Henson
- . If anyone is interested in volunteering at the Trinka Davis Clinic, the VA will be holding an orientation session at the Post building, May 9, 2018 at 10:00AM. Contact Jeanette NLT May 1 at 770-301-4005 or jeanetteahenson@charter.net

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

- Debra Robinson, Mary Nelson, Ruth Fuller, Bill Johnston, Don Chavaz, Randy Purser, W.A. Copland, Dee Sammon and
- Linda Brock

**TAPS:** A moment of silent prayer was offered for the passing of post veterans:

- Robert Billingsley, U.S. Army – Vietnam and

**Chaplain Billy Bryant led us in prayer for the sick, those that passed, and the blessing of the dinner meal.**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** No

**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:**

Cmdr. Merriss stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> District convention will be held on May 19, 2018 at Post 160, Smyrna, GA. He went on to say that he would be attending and asked for a motion from the floor to nominate at least two additional members interested in attending. A motion was made and approved by voice vote to have Cmdr. Merriss, SV Steve Fuller and JV Bob Hilliard represent the Post.

## **ADJUTANT REPORT:**

### **A. Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes:**

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

### **B. New Member Balloting:**

Sr. Vice, Steve Fuller asked for a motion to accept the following prospective new members and transfers into the Post. A motion was made and by voice vote, the following veterans were accepted as new members of the post.

- **New Members:** James Doyle, Army-Vietnam; Eugene Manley-Army-Vietnam
- **Transfers:** Ronnie Parson, Army, Vietnam, Post 145 transfer

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Sr. Vice Steve Fuller said that he received a call from 5th district congratulating Post 143 on its updated membership renewal rate of 94.4%. Steve went on to say that the post is only 9 members away of reaching 100%. He continued by saying that Alex Cutts, a 2015 Boys State delegate, will be addressing the 2018 Boys State students at the next Awards Ceremony held by the post.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- Past Cmdr. Don Levans opened his remarks by informing the membership that in accordance with para. 2 of the Post Standard Operating Procedures, the committee, consisting of Past Cmdr Don Levans, Past Cmdr Ronnie Pate(Absent), SV Steve Fuller, Jimmy Sanders and Sam Pyle, worked for weeks contacting members to see if they would be interested in serving as Officers during the 2018-19 post Year. In addition to their slate of recommended officers, nominations were also accepted from the floor.
- **The following is a list of members recommended by the nominating committee:**
  - Joe Harrod for Commander
  - Dale Robinson for Sr. Vice Cmdr
  - Tim Bass, Sam Pyle and Charles Stuckey for Jr. Vice Cmdr's
  - Richard Guynn for Judge Advocate
  - Chuck Feaselman for Finance officer. Each name was presented before the membership separately.
- **Nomination From the Floor:**

Ron Price was nominated from the floor for consideration for the position of Finance Officer
- Don Levans thanked the membership for their participation in this important matter and said that a vote to accept the slate of officers will be held at the next regular membership meeting scheduled for May 17, 2018.
- A motion from the floor was made by Bill Hearnburg asking that each candidate vying for the Finance Officer provide a one page Biography prior to said vote. The Motion was accepted by voice vote from attending members in good standing.
- Cmdr Merriss said both individuals will send their bio's to him so they can be emailed to the general membership prior to the May 17, 2018 meeting.

### **FINANCE OFFICER/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Finance Officer Chuck Feaselman read the Financial Report for the Month of March, 2018. A copy was also provided to the general membership. The commander accepted the Financial Report as read and a copy will become a part of the Post records.

### **AMERICANISM CHAIR REPORT:**

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

Tim Bass stated that several members of the Post and CCVMP President Don Levans met on Apr 18<sup>th</sup> with BOC chair Marty Smith and other 1<sup>st</sup> Responders from Law Enforcement, Firefighters and EMC to discuss the upcoming Sep 9-11 event scheduled for September 8, 2018. It was decided that the 1<sup>st</sup> responders will take the lead regarding this event and the Post will take on a supporting role.

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

Frank Joswick briefed members that due to a scheduling conflict, the Carrollton High School Riflery Team had to postpone their April visit until the next combined membership meeting scheduled for May 17, 2018

### **Boys State:**

Steve Fuller said that 7 students expressed an interest in attending Boys State May 27 thru June 2, 2018. The post budgeted \$1,500 for 6 students to attend, leaving one (1) student that will be funded by SAL. Mt Zion does not have any eligible students to attend Boys State this year but 4 students are interested in attending Girls State.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHAIR REPORT:**

Bob Hilliard briefed members of the post that the Legion Dept. of Georgia has a \$1000 scholarship available. If any family member is graduating from High School this spring with high academic scores please pick up an application after the meeting. He went on to say the post will be recognizing Central HS JROTC and members who've earned high military and scholastic honors sometime in May, while the post will be recognizing Carrollton HS JROTC members Thursday, April 26, 2018. Cmdr Ted Merriss will present the Awards and Frank Joswick will take photos.

He also stated that there is a continuing interest in members interested in serving on Children and Youth committees.

### **HONOR GUARD:**

Dale Robinson informed the membership that the Honor Guard performed one Military Funeral Honors service for post member Robert Billingsley, U.S. Army, Vietnam.

Dale went on to mention that only members of the post are eligible for expanded Military Honors service. However, the type of service must be requested to receive either the standard or expanded Military Honors service, the funeral home or family must contact the Honor Guard team coordinator, Larry Boswell to arrange and schedule team or teams for the service. Services can be performed in church, cemetery, or other location with proper planning.

### **JUDGE ADVOCATE:**

Judge Advocate Richard Guynn read to the general membership the proposed changes to the Constitution, By-laws and Standard Operating Procedures. He then asked if there were any additional recommendations from the floor. The reply was negative. He then asked for a motion to accept the recommendations as written. A motion was made to accept and by voice vote, two thirds of members in good standing voted to approve the Changes as written. There were two "NO" votes. The Amended Constitution and By-Laws must be forwarded to the Legion Department of Georgia for approval before the revised document's can go into effect.

### **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:**

Cmdr Merriss, for Cmdr Wheelless, mentioned that the SAL will be holding a "Four Chaplain's Sunday" event scheduled for Feb 2019. At least 3 or 4 volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee. Contact George Wheelless for more information.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Sr. Vice Steve Fuller handed out blank Copies of the Consolidated Post Report and asked members to list their volunteer hours from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018 and return to him before May 29, 2018.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Apr 19 - 21 \_\_\_\_\_ National Commander will visit several Georgia Posts through Apr 21
- Apr 26 \_\_\_\_\_ Post 143 will present Certificates and Medals to the Carrollton HS JROTC
- Apr 28 \_\_\_\_\_ Confederate Veterans Ceremony at CCVMP beginning at 2pm (Sam Pyle will be the guest speaker)
- May 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Next EC meeting @ 5pm (To be conducted by Sr Vice Steve Fuller in the absence of Cmdr Merriss)
- May 3 \_\_\_\_\_ The Council On Aging will be holding their annual Spring Fest/Luncheon at the Carrollton Rec. Center
- May 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Ground Baptist Academy walk/run race
- May 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Next Combined Membership meeting @ 6pm
- May 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 5<sup>th</sup> District Convention at Smyrna Post 160
- May 25 \_\_\_\_\_ National Poppy Day
- May 28 \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Day Event at CCVMP (Gen Pershing impersonator to speak)
- May 27-Jun 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Boys State at Riverside Military 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:**

- Cmdr Merriss asked members to help support the new slate of Officers by filling the various appointed officer and committee chair positions that are currently vacant.
- Jr. Vice Joe Harrod said the Legion offers free \$5000 accidental death protection if you are on official post business and \$1000 for all other accidental deaths. Signing up on-line only takes about 5 minutes.  
Joe Harrod also mentioned that If you like Gospel Music, go to RRBC Sunday, Apr 22 at 7:00pm to hear the Mark Trammel Quartet perform.
- 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

**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)
- *Chaplain Billy Bryant 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 April 19, 2018 Regular Membership Meeting of Post 143, Dept. of GA was adjourned at 7:50PM with one gavel rap.

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

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

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Recorder Frank Joswick