



The American Legion Post143 Combined Regular Monthly Membership Meeting Thursday, October 19, 2017

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

WELCOME GUESTS: by Commander Merriss:

- **Department/5TH district guests:** None
- **Guests:** Ronnie, Maggie & Joey Martin, Josh & Rebecca Albertus, Zach & Jennifer Beecham, Donald & Brenda Server, Emily Huff and Michael & Jane Leavens
- **Prospective New Members:** None
- **Prospective Transferee's:**
 - Jack Atkins, served in the Army during the Vietnam War era. Transferred from post 400
 - Jimmy Davis, served in the Army during the Vietnam War era. Transferred from post 400

COMMANDERS COMMENTS:

- **Birthdays:**
Paul Schufler, Carlos Fuller, Joe Harrod and Pete Sebastian
- **Anniversaries:** Don & Runette Chavez, Carlos & Sandra Miller, Sam & Linda Pyle, Ted & Jennifer Merriss

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a. **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:** By Jeanette Henson Comments/announcements
 - A covered Dish style Thanksgiving Dinner will be served during the Nov. 16th regular membership meeting. A covered dish sheet was passed out to listing what side dishes are needed.
 - Please help in finding prospective members to join the Auxiliary
- b. **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** By Jeanette Henson
Only 10 volunteers are actively supporting the Trinkka Davis Clinic
- c. **CCVMP:** By Don Levans
Thanked legionnaires that are also members of CCVMP for their support in making the park the success it is.
CCVMP meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30PM (**New time**). Cost to join is \$10.00
Veterans Day Ceremony scheduled for Sat. Nov 11th. Music begins at 10:30AM and the Ceremony at 11:00AM
- d. **TOYS FOR TOTS:** by Lori Graham, T4T Coordinator
Thanked Post members for their service and participating in the Toys-4-Toys program again this year.
Collected \$20,000 in monetary donations last year and numerous toys were given out to children across the county.
Lori asked for volunteers to help collect toys at Wal-Mart. A date/time schedule was handed out. (See Bob Hilliard)
Toy collection boxes & donation boxes will also be placed at the Post.
Asked for donations to help pay to rent the VFW building which is to be used as a collection point for toys.
- e. **BOYS STATE:** by Zach Beecham, Donald Sever and Josh Albertus
The students that attended Boys State last year relayed to members of the post how thankful they were for the Post sponsorship and what it meant to be able to participate in such an enlightening program. They described the roles they played in setting up and managing a factious government. How inspiring it was to listen to WWII veterans speak of their war experiences and how important it is to honor and respect our nation's flag. All will pursue some type of military career.

SICK CALL/SURGERY: By the Commander

- Ronald Ray, Wayne Driver, Ron Price, Mary Nelson, and Joe Harrod

TAPS: By the Commander

No one to report

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MEAL: By the Commander

- a. A donation of \$5 per meal please
- b. **Guests, First Time Post 143 Attendees** & those members requiring extra time & the Trinka Davis Veterans will be first in line.
- c. The **FAR LEFT (facing podium)** room tables will follow.
- d. Form a food line in the hall way, please.
- e. Please remember to uncover while eating.
- f. Any food remaining will be donated to those in need.

BLESSING OF THE MEAL: by Chaplain Billy Bryant

BEGIN OCTOBER 19, 2017 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 Chaplain Billy Bryant 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

- If you haven't paid your 2018 annual dues, please do so in person or on-line. The cost is still \$30.00
- Vacancies still exist in the following areas: Adjutant, Service Committee Chair, Historian and Public Affairs Chair.
- Received a Thank-You card from Emily Huckeba thanking Dale Robinson and the Color Guard for participating in the 32nd annual Roopville Homecoming Festival on September 16, 2017
- Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner during the Regular Membership meeting scheduled for November 16, 2017. The AUX will coordinate the event. SAL will provide the main course. The Post family will bring the sides. Will have an abbreviated meeting only to include voting on the Post meeting minutes and any new members or transfers that will be in attendance.
- The Post will Schedule a Revitalization Day on Saturday, November 4th between 9:00am and 12 Noon at the Post. Contact the commander if you can volunteer. (Will be calling and asking Post 400 folks to consider transferring to post 143)
- A Post Family Newsletter is to be published this December covering the months from Sept through Nov. (Need someone to take the lead on this project)
- Attended GA Dept-of-Labor Job Fair on Oct 18th, where 113 visitors attended the event, of those, 7 inquired about the legion, 2 for the Aux and 1 for SAL. Thanked Frank Joswick, and Jo Ann and Earl Duncan for assisting.
- Beginning November 1st, veterans can apply for a "Veterans" ID card. Go to vets.gov for instructions
- A "Benefit Trail Ride" for the Peace at Home Project is scheduled for Oct 28th at the McIntosh Reserve. Cost is a \$15.00 donation, and includes a horse to ride and lunch.

ADJUTANT REPORT: Vacant (Duties shared by Steve Fuller & Frank Joswick until position is filled)

Correspondence: None

Approve Minutes: Members present and in good standing, approved by voice vote the Sept. 21, 2017 Regular Membership meeting and the October 10, 2017 Executive Committee meeting

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: by Sr. Vice Steve Fuller

Post Renewal Membership is at 57.6 %. Need to call members that are behind in paying their dues...

Starting to compile documents for the upcoming Caravan Audit to be held by 5th District on Nov. 18, 2017

Sheriff Langley will be presented with a Post plaque for outstanding support of Boys State for the years 2015 thru 2017.

Received a Thank-You Letter from the Cheek Family to all who provided military honors at their father's gravesite.

BALLOTING FOR NEW MEMBERS AND TRANSFERS:

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

- **New Members:** None
- **Transfer Members:**

Jack Atkins, served in the Army during the Vietnam War era. (Transferred from post 400)

Jimmy Davis, served in the Army during the Vietnam War era. (Transferred from post 400)

FINANCE OFFICER/FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR: by Chuck Feaselman:

Budget Summary:

Total Revenue as of 1 Sept, 2017 was: \$40655.24

Total Expenses were: \$ 5511.87

Total Revenue as of 30 Sept. 2017 was: \$35143.37

Post Family BBQ Fund Distribution:

\$3,993.84 (Legion-50%)

\$3,195.15 (Auxiliary-40%)

\$ 797.68 (S.A.L.-10%)

*Commander accepts budget statement as presented and is to be filed with the October 19, 2017 Regular Membership Minutes.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE: by Jr Vice Bob Hilliard

Halloween:

Frank Joswick and I will be participating in two Trunk or Treat events, one on Oct 26th at Pioneer Ford and one on Oct 31st at the first Baptist Church in Temple, If your church has a "Trunk-or-Treat" program let me know if you can participate. I can provide Legion materials with contact info and maybe some candy

Toys-for-Tots:

We are looking for volunteers to help with collecting Toys-4-Tots and donations from November through December. Review the November schedule that was passed out and let me know what dates/times you can attend,

Volunteers will be in front of 2 main doors at Wal-Mart for two to four hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Lori Graham keeps a record of how many persons she has for specific days and hours, so let me know ASAP if you would like to volunteer.

The Post and will also be accepting toys and monetary donations from now through December 15th (our last regular meeting).

Lori Graham will be providing both the T4T box and money donation box.

HONOR GUARD: by Dale Robinson

The Honor Guard performed six funeral services since the last meeting.

The Color Guard has been asked to participate in the Veterans Day Program at Bowdon Middle School on Nov. 10 and Bill Hearnburg will be the guest speaker.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE/RAFFLE TICKET SALES: by Jr Vice Joe Harrod

As of: 10/19/2017

Collected \$2,480 from tickets sales for the AR-15 and \$3,710 for the M-1 for a total of \$6,190. Had \$31 in Donations.

Tickets sold: **AR-15** **M-1**
 248 371

Tickets to sell: 252 129

Will be selling tickets at the following locations: Tractor Supply on October 21st from 8am to 4pm, Shot-Spot on October 28th and November 18th from 10am to 4pm. Contact Joe Harrod if you can help during the dates indicated.

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.

WERE THERE ANY COMMITTEE REPORTS MISSED

- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cmdr Merriss briefed members on the new banner that was placed in the main meeting hall. It outlines the various ways to contact or share comments with the post. The Banner contains the following information as stated below:



Cut and Save.



Post Family Contact information

Website: www.gapost143.org **Post WIFI:** usveterans
Facebook: facebook.com/American-Legion-Georgia-Post143
Email: contact@gapost143.org **Phone:** 770-830-5979

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Oct 20-22-----Dept Fall Conference, Duluth, GA (Post 143 will only attend Saturday, Oct 21)
- Oct 26/31-----Post will participate in two Trunk or Treat events. One at Pioneer Ford, one at 1st Baptist Church, Temple, GA
- Oct 28-----Benefit Trail Ride at McIntosh Reserve begins at 10AM. \$15 donation includes a horse to ride and lunch.
- Nov 4-----Post revitalization will be held at the Post building between 9am to noon. (Contact Cmdr. Merriss for sign-up)
- Nov 4/5/12-----Toys 4 Tots Collection at Wal-Mart. Need volunteers. (See Bob Hilliard for schedule)
- Nov 10-----Bowdon Middle School will host a Veterans Day program Nov 10th. The post color guard will participate & Bill Hearnburg will be guest speaker at the event.
- Nov 11-----Veterans Day Ceremony at the CCVMP: 10:30am music, 11:00am ceremony
- Nov 14-----Executive Committee Meeting at 5pm
- Nov 16-----Council-On-Aging Thanksgiving luncheon, 10am to 2pm. Post 143 Cmdr & Color Guard to participate
- Nov 16-----Limited Regular Membership meeting + Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 18-----5th District Caravan Audit will be held at Post 264, Mableton. Time TBD

“IS THERE ANY FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS MEETING REQUIRING A VOTE?”

- No further business brought forward.

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:**

- Steve Fuller will be guest speaker at Mt Zion High School on Nov 10th. Topic will center on veterans.
- Steve Fuller invited Jerry Culvert to speak at the Post’s December meeting. Topic will center on the loss of his father at the Battle of the Bulge.
- Wayne Driver thanked Post members for their support as he deals with his illness.
- Ronnie Pate noted that the students from Boys State all mentioned the nation’s flag and how it should be honored and respected. The Legion should make a resolution stating such. Steve Fuller said Legion Cmdr Rohan sent a letter to the NFL Commissioner condemning the disrespect shown by some of their players toward the FLAG.
- Cmdr Merriss talked to the coach at Mt Zion asking if it would be appropriate for the Cheer Leaders to carry the American flag (3x5) onto the field at the next football game. Permission was granted, Cmdr Merriss will provide the flag and the Captain of the Cheer Leading squad will carry it. Cmdr Merriss went on to say if it would be possible if other schools would do the same. Steve Fuller said he will make calls.
- Don Levans said he would provide any additional flags if needed.

- **Dept/5th District:**

- None

1. CLOSING CEREMONY

- There was no further business brought forth at this meeting.
- **THREE RAPS OF THE GAVEL, ALL RISE-UNCOVER**
(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 for all to raise and uncover for the closing prayer by Chaplain Billy Bryant. All recovered and performed a Hand Salute to the flag. The October 19, 2017 General Membership Meeting of Post 143, Dept. of GA adjourned at 7:40PM with one gavel rap.

Approval Date: _____

Commander Ted Merriss

Recorder Frank Joswick (Adjutant Position Un-Filled)