



## The American Legion Post143 Combined Regular Monthly Membership Meeting Thursday, September 21, 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/5<sup>TH</sup> district guests:** None
- **Guests:** Norman Lipscomb
- **Prospective New Members:** Eric Merriss-USAF, Billy Ray Hyatt-USMC, Jimmy Terrell-ARMY, Donnie Smith-USN
- **Prospective Transferee's:** None

### COMMANDERS COMMENTS:

- **Birthdays:**  
Karl Kissinger, Carlos Fuller & Allen Henson
- **Anniversaries:** William & Wanda Maddox; Warren & Jeanette Henson
- Our annual BBQ Fundraiser was completed on Friday. Several pictures were posted by the Times-Georgian. I wish to thank ALL volunteers for this event and those who sold tickets. Once I get the official report it will be put out to the Post. Those who have served throughout the years well done. . Kudos to Don Levans, Jeanette and those team leaders a well-organized event. We need more participation and interest for next year.
- On Saturday morning the Honor Guard traveled to Ropoville Homecoming. The Color Guard led the parade after-which we conducted a flag raising ceremony and Richard Guynn led the pledge of allegiance.
- Thanked all who picked up the meals, brought desserts, set up and worked the serving line and who will help with clean up

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a. **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:** By Jeanette Henson Comments/announcements  
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. **BBQ EVENT REPORT:** By Don Levans  
. Thanks to the Team Leaders and volunteers who did an exceptional job throughout the BBQ event, the Post had another successful fundraiser this year preliminary figures show \$11,000 was collected with \$580 in donations. Served 995 people, delivered 255 Meals, had 611 Take-outs, 81 walk-ins and 129 Dine-ins.

### SICK CALL: By the Commander

- Ronald Ray, Tim Bass Wayne Driver, Ron Price, Dee Sammon, Sue Almodovar, E. W. Torbet's wife, Warren Henson, Robert Billingsley and David Crews

### TAPS: By the Commander

1. Homer Coker

**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 Trink 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 SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The regular Post meeting started at 7:05PM with three raps of the gavel for all to rise to 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 will be 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.

Membership is 50.2 % toward reaching the post goals.

Vacancies still exist in the following areas: Adjutant, Service Committee Chair, Historian and Public Affairs Chair

Sunday, September 24, 2017 is Gold Star Mothers Day

Cold War Service Certificates are now available through the Department of Defense. See Commander for more info

**COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

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

Post Renewal Membership is at 50.2 %. Need to call members that are behind in paying their dues...

Starting to compile documents for the upcoming Caravan inspection which will be held at 5<sup>th</sup> District this year.

Sheriff Langley asked the Post if they would consider sponsoring the Kiwanis Bowl League this year. The Post Family voted unanimously to approve sponsoring the Kiwanis Bowl League by donating \$250. The Legion will donate \$100, the Legion Auxiliary will donate \$100 and the Sons of the Legion will donate \$50.

Received a Thank-You Letter from the Carrollton ROTC Commander

Commander Merriss signed a Certificate-of-Appeal to the Antique Auto Club for their past donations.

The Caravan Inspection will be held at 5<sup>th</sup> District

**BALLOTING FOR NEW MEMBERS AND TRANSFERS:**

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

**New Members:** Eric Merriss—Air Force, Donnie Smith---Navy, Jimmy Terrell---Army, and Billy Ray Hyatt---Marines

**Transfer Members:** None

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

Total Revenue as of 1 August 2017 was: \$29993.78

Total Expenses were: \$ 1983.54

Total Revenue as of 30 August 2017 was: \$28010.24

Community Fund Investment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr: \$165,414.66 (+15,414.66)

\*Commander accepts budget statement as presented and is to be filed with the September 21, 2017 Regular Membership Minutes.

**AMERICANISM:** by John Bassett for Jr. Vice Tim Bass

Need members to bring in worn cotton flags for flag 4 Retirement Ceremonies during Heritage Days

Will be participating in the Heritage Day Event at the AG Center

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE:** by Jr Vice Bob Hilliard

Commander Merriss will be awarding certificates to eleven Eagle Scouts on September 24<sup>th</sup> along with Ronnie Pate and Chuck Feaselman from the Marine Corp League and George Wheelless from the SAR.

The Post Children & Youth Committee is looking for one or two members to serve on the Boy Scout Committee.

**Heritage Days:** A walk-thru is scheduled for Wed, Sept 26th at 1700 hrs. Event Days are Thu. Sept 28th and Fri Sept 29<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast (0730) and a bag lunch will be provided both days. Still can use more Tour Guides. If you aren't available for both days, just let me know which days you can volunteer. You can also be the tour guide for a specific school if you have a Grandchild who will be attending.

If you have special diet needs (vegan - glucose free...). We can adjust your lunch accordingly. Let me know ahead of time.

If possible, wear a ball-cap indicating military service and your name tag. A reflective vest will also be provided.

**Halloween:** If your church has a "Trunk-or-Treat" program let me know if you can participate by handing out candy and Legion materials.

**Toys-for-Tots** We are looking for volunteers to help with accepting gifts and money November through December. Volunteers will be in front of Wal-Mart for two to four hours Saturdays and Sundays. Lori Graham keeps a record of how many persons she has for specific days and hours, so let us know ASAP if you would like to volunteer.

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

**HONOR GUARD:** by Dale Robinson

The Color Guard participated in a Roopville Founders Day Parade on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017

The Honor Guard performed four 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

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

As of: 9/21/2017

Collected \$2,240 from tickets sales for the AR-15 and \$3,390 for the M-1 for a total of \$5,630. Had \$25 in Donations.

Tickets sold:	<u>AR-15</u>	<u>M-1</u>
	224	339

Tickets to sell:	276	161
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In October, when people start getting ready for hunting season, will again sell tickets at Shot-Spot and Barnes Store.

**SERVICE OFFICER / SERVICE COMMITTEE:** by Angie Hale-Smith

Post 143 will co-host A Job Fair with the Dept. of Labor and the UWG college at the AG Center on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 between 10AM and 2PM Need 3 volunteers to help with parking. Contact Commander Merriss if you are available.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Vacant

**CYBER COMMUNICATIONS:** Randy Purser

1. Statistics
  - A. Likes (Since Inception): 116; People Reached Last Week: 72; People Reached Previous Week: 105
  - B. Members: 26
  - C. Inception: 11/10/2014
2. Member Requests: None
3. Popular Posts:
  - A. Before Annual BBQ Information (34 reached)
  - B. After Annual BBQ Information (33 reached)
  - C. Contact Information For Commander Merriss and Veteran Benefits (27 reach)
  - D. Gold Rush Festival in Villa Rica (26 reached)
  - E. University of West Georgia Volunteers at CCVMP (24 reached)

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** by Richard Guynn

A Post Financial Audit was conducted on August 16, 2017 and was found to be in good order and according to standard accounting procedures. A copy of this Audit Report will be filed with the September 21, 2017 Regular Membership minutes. The Audit Committee chair, Richard Guynn is seeking one more volunteer for the 3 member committee.

Special Committee Chair, Richard Guynn along with committee members Ronnie Pate, Bill Hearnburg and Frank Joswick will be reviewing the current Post Constitution, Bylaws and SOP's for any conflicts or changes that may be warranted.

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS / Welcoming:** by Joe Morgan

Members can pick up their Post name tags anytime during the Regular Membership meeting. If requested, Joe Morgan will assist with ordering Hats and Name Tags for the new members.

**HISTORIAN:** **Vacant**

**CHAPLAIN:** by Billy Bryant

No Report

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:** by Commander George Wheelless

As of 9/14/2017 The SAL membership renewal rate is at 80%.

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:**

- **DRAFT MINUTES:**

1. The Post membership voted unanimously to approve the September 12, 2017 Executive Cmte minutes as written

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Sept 24, Commander Merriss will be awarding certificates to 11 Eagle Scouts from Troop 179
- Sept 26, at 1700hrs: Heritage Day walk-thru for all volunteers
- Sept 28 – 29—Heritage Days at the AG Center 7:30AM
- Oct 10--Next EC meeting
- Oct 13—Job Fair at the AG Center between 10AM to 2 PM
- Oct 19—Next Regular Membership meeting
- Oct 20-23--Dept Fall Conference at Duluth, GA. Commander Merriss and JV Bob Hilliard will attend.
- Nov 11---Veterans Ceremony at the CCVMP beginning at 10:30 with music and 11:00AM Ceremony.

**“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:**

Ronnie Pate stated that Sunday, September 24, 2017 is Gold Star Mothers Day

Ronnie Pate thanked JV Joe Harrod for setting up the Raffle program

Don Levans reminded everyone that CCVMP will be holding a Veterans Day Ceremony of November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11AM but the Carroll County Symphony will begin playing at 10:30AM. He also thanked the Post for helping with the park clean-up.

SV Steve Fuller said that the Post had 11 new members join the Post since July 8, 2017 He also said he would like to invite the students that participated in Boys State Last year to the October 19th Regular Membership meeting to talk about what they experienced there. Student families will also be invited and stay for the dinner meal.

Cdr. Merriss thanked the five UWG Veteran students that helped with clean-up after the BBQ event on Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Dept/5<sup>th</sup> 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 September 21, 2017 General Membership Meeting of Post 143, Dept. of GA adjourned at 7:45PM with one gavel rap.

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

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Commander Ted Merriss

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Recorder Frank Joswick (Adjutant Position Un-Filled)