



# **THE PATRIOT**

AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER

## Ira Weaver Post 121

P.O. Box 247, Blairsville, Ga. 30512

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### **\*\* IMPORTANT \*\***

Please provide the Post us with an email address in order to continue to receive the full version of this NEWSLETTER. Thank you in advance for helping the Post save expenses.

### CALENDAR MAR 2019



- MAR 3 NAVY RESERVE BIRTHDAY
- MAR 4 HUG A GI DAY
- MAR 5 SEABEE BIRTHDAY
- MAR 10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**
- MAR 12 1030 HRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ó SAMMI SUBS  
K9 VETERANS DAY
- MAR 15 AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY**
- MAR 17 ST PATRICK'S DAY
- MAR 19 1730 FELLOWSHIP at VETERAN'S BUILDING  
1830 MONTHLY AL MEETING at VETERAN'S BUILDING  
1830 MONTHLY AUXILLARY MEETING at VETERAN'S BLDG.
- MAR 25 MEDAL OF HONOR DAY
- MAR 29 NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

**EDITORS NOTE:** *If you have calendar dates, event details, matters of interest to Members or Veterans in the community please pass them on to the Executive Committee c/o the newsletter. Thanks, Dan Navin, Editor, Jr. Vice Cmdr. - EMAIL: [fnave@windstream.net](mailto:fnave@windstream.net)*

### COMMANDER'S CALL

Hopefully the winter is almost gone and we can look forward to spring and a new beginning. We are meeting again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 with fellowship at 5:30. We have a lot going on this year and we will post the full schedule in next month's newsletter. We will be a part of the Ramp Festival at the Farmer's Market, since it will be the first of the year. We need some volunteers to take shifts in the booth. It is not hard; we will be recruiting new members for the Legion Family and accepting donations and selling Flags.

We had 187 Legion members not counting the Riders or SAL last year and the renewal time is fast running out, so **please renew quickly**. I think our current membership is around 150 members with new folks joining and transferring almost daily. To me it is not a numbers game, but being able to help our fellow Veterans and the community as a whole. Post 121 will continue to be a voice in the community.

Election time is coming shortly and we will have a couple of openings. If you are interested in serving as a committee chair or as a member of a committee, please let me know. We are in need of the following positions; Public Relations (informational officer); Volunteer coordinator; Event Coordinator. These are an immediate need. If you are or know of a WWII Veteran, let us know, we will pay their annual dues on their behalf. We have a number already.

See you on March 19 for our Monthly meeting.

Mike Ayers, Cmdr.

### **SR. VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Local Blairsville members - please make an effort to attend at least one meeting each 6 months. Carrying on the business and events for a post this large requires membership participation. Please consider volunteering to help a few hours for at least one event.

Looking for help: Legion Event Coordinator; Volunteer Coordinator. If we are going to continue to grow and be a positive influence in the community we need your help.

### **ADJUTANT'S CORNER**

Fellow Legionnaires: We need some more people to step up and get involved. Our post has grown and continues to grow. The more people that join the more work there is to do. If you can spare a few hours per week to help out, please call the commander or me.

We have a few members who have still not paid their dues for 2019. We are quickly approaching the time when unpaid dues will lead to suspension of membership and a month later to cancelation. If you have not paid, please do so.

### **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

#### **NEW Membership Incentive Program**

December 1, 2018 through May 8, 2019 National Commander Reistad's new membership incentive program offers rewards for both departments and posts. Departments will receive \$2,500 if they achieve 100% of their 2019 membership goal by the Armed Forces Day target date on May 8th, and an additional \$5,000 will be awarded to each department that hits 105% of their goal by the Delegate Strength target date. Posts will receive \$5.00 for each 2014, 2015, 2016 expired member who renews at their post for membership year 2019

There are a number of awards that individual legionnaires and our post can win for recruiting people, both new members and people transferring from other posts. Please carry one or two copies of our application, and if you give one to someone, put your name on the bottom where it says, "Recruited by: I want to start keeping track of our recruiters to apply for these awards.

Once again, we need DD214, a Record of Enlistment and Service, or an Honorable Discharge from as many of our members as possible. This is to support our "not for profit" status in case of an IRS audit. If you have not sent a copy of yours to me please do so at the Post's address, P. O. Box 247, Blairsville, GA 30514. If you don't have a copy of your DD214, get in touch with me and I will help you get a new one from the Archives.

WWII Vets: The post will pay the dues for all World War II veteran members. If you are a WWII era member, or know of someone who is a WWII era veteran, please send me an email at [tpd127.jack@gmail.com](mailto:tpd127.jack@gmail.com).

**If you have paid your dues and have your ID card, and you are still receiving reminders from Legion Headquarters, please let me know.** Send your name and ID number to the email address above so that I can check to see if there is any problem with your membership. Jack Waters, Adjutant

## **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2019 MEETING**

**Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121**

**Blairsville, Georgia**

**Date: 19 FEB 19**

Call to Order: Commander Mike Ayers called the regular monthly meeting of the Ira Weaver Post to order at 1933 hours.

Officers: Commander: Mike Ayers U.S.A.

Senior Vice Commander: Steve Stratman U.S.A.

Junior Vice Commander Dan Navin U.S.A.

Finance Officer: Ron Tanner U.S.A.F.

Adjutant: C. J. [Jack] Waters U.S.A.

Judge Advocate Roy Bateman U.S.N. [Absent]

Chaplain: Phil Gatlin U.S.A.F.

Post Service Officer Robert Spaulding; U.S.A.F. [Absent]

Sergeant at Arms: Roger Harkins U.S.M.C.

Historian/P.I.O.: Steve Stratman U.S.A.F.

Webmaster Steve Stratman U.S.A.F.

**Invocation:** Chaplain Phil Gatlin performed the invocation to open the meeting.

Quorum: It was noted that a quorum of 14 members was present. There were no guests.

Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting were not read as they are included in the Ira Weaver Patriot monthly newsletter. Upon motion made, seconded, and passed, they were approved.

Financial Report: Finance Officer Ron Tanner presented the financial report. We are going to invest another \$10,000 into Vanguard Mutual Funds. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the financial report. A copy of the Financial Report is available for review when requested.

**Speaker:** Legionnaire Zeb Blanchard reported on his activities with an organization which identifies, locates, works with, and counsels veterans who might be considering suicide or need assistance in other ways.

**Commander:** Mike Ayers reported We are still working hard on recruiting. We will be at more events than ever in 2019. For an unknown reason, our Facebook page was canceled. We have not been able to find out why. We will be taking part in the Ramp Festival this spring at the Farmer's Market. He then read off a list of festival and other activities we will be taking part in to recruit, sell flags, and collect donations.

Officer nominations will be coming up in May.

**Post Service Officer:** Absent from the meeting.

**Scholarship Committee:** Chairman absent. The Scholarship Committee is waiting for applications to arrive.

**Guests and New Members:** Name tags now in use at each meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

**Senior Vice Commander:** Legionnaire Stratman reminded all that the golf tournament is approaching, May 4, at 0900 at the Old Union Golf Course. He provided details including that the fee for a team of four is \$65. We expect to have more than 50 hole sponsors.

**Junior Vice Commander:** Soon, we will be able to tell if members are receiving the Ira Weaver Patriot newsletter or not. Vice Commander Navin requested that anyone who is not receiving it please notify him.

American Legion Riders: President Darrel Rich reported about 31 of our members this will be taking part in the Rolling Thunder ride. This will be the last year of Rolling Thunder due to the owners of the parking lot they use raising the rent tremendously. In March there will be a ride for fallen police officers and our ALR will take part.

**Chaplain Reported:** Reminded members that he needs assistance with members telling him if someone needs visitation or prayer. Chaplain, Legionnaire Phil Gatlin, visited ten World War II veterans this past week at the Stonehenge Nursing Home. One of their WW2 veterans died last week, and they added another one.

Sick Call: No sick calls mentioned.

Unfinished Business: N/A

The Good of the Legion: Legionnaire Dan Wickersham agreed to serve as Historian effectively immediately.

Memorial and Closing Prayer: The Chaplain said a prayer for the dead and rang the memorial bell in honor of two Legionnaires who died during the past few months, Legionnaire Roger Harkinsø Brother, a Vietnam veteran and legionnaire who died of cancer last month in Texas, and the non-member veteran who died at Stonehenge last week.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the post, it was moved, seconded, and passed that the meeting be adjourned at 1938.

Mike Ayers Commander

C. J. [Jack] Waters - Adjutant

### CHAPLIN'S CORNER

It is my honor to serve you as the Chaplain and I am always open for comments or suggestions. It has been my desire, and I believe, responsibility to serve you and your family in any way you would look to your pastor, priest, deacon or rabbi for prayer and spiritual support. Of course I am not full time, but will always do my best to meet your need. Prayer for you or a family member is always a priority for me and your request will always be at the top of my list. In addition to the nursing home visits I currently do monthly I would like to add any home-bound veterans or hospital patients that are members of Post 121. If you know of anyone who fits into either of those groups please notify me. If you feel there is a special need or function not currently being provided by your chaplain, please speak to me or e-mail/text.

Philip (Phil) Gatlin 678-232-1771 - [nasa428@windstream.net](mailto:nasa428@windstream.net)

### NORTH GEORGIA HONOR GUARD - NGHG

The North Georgia Honor Guard is an autonomous organization separate from all Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and comprised of volunteer members from the various VSOs including the American Legion Ira Weaver Post 121. The Blairsville, Union County area is part of the East Division Commanded by Wayne Roshaven, assisted by Sr. Vice Cmdr. Walter Scott and Jr. Vice Cmdrs. Jack McCorkle and Ken Sampson. The NGHG provides Military Honors at Veteran funerals and other services to assist at local Veteran related ceremonies. Cmdr. Roshaven welcomes all Veterans interested in becoming a member of the North Georgia Honor Guard to contact him for further information at 706-400-9095 or [wroshaven@yahoo.com](mailto:wroshaven@yahoo.com).

**North Georgia Honor Guard participated in numerous Veteran Funerals/Memorial Services/Veteran Events in the month of January.**

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

|                 |    |                  |    |                   |    |
|-----------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Harvey Schwartz | 02 | Jack Bailey      | 04 | Robert Goodpaster | 05 |
| John Cheek      | 08 | Raymond Williams | 13 | Jack Levy         | 14 |
| Karen Jordan    | 14 | Jerry Peeples    | 15 | Thomas Dykstra    | 17 |
| Wayne Vickery   | 20 | Cullen Waters    | 21 | Dick Cataldo      | 23 |

We hope you have a great day and wish you many more happy and healthy Birthdays !!  
If any birthdays are incorrect or missing please notify the Adjutant.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### **LEGISLATION TO INCREASE VETERAN'S PAYMENTS**

U.S. Rep. Elaine Luria, Chairwoman of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, recently introduced a Bill to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to veterans, and dependents for 2020.

The Bill, the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Act, would provide cost-of-living increases for [wartime disability compensation](#); compensation for dependents; clothing allowance; dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses; and dependency and indemnity compensation to children. If approved, COLA increases would start on December 1, 2019.

**ADVERTISING** - We are in the process of soliciting advertisers for this newsletter which has a substantial circulation of members and non-members and growing rapidly. Our rates are extremely reasonable and for a limited time we are offering a Baker's Dozen of 13 months for the price of 12 months of business card size. The American Legion Post 121 is also accepting sponsorships for various Veteran events and activities around the community. If you know of anyone interested in advertising or event sponsorship or offering a Veteran Discount to the Veteran Community please contact the Editor with the information.

**SAL** of The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents; grandparents; Stepparents or Step grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. If you know someone who fits this profile and wants to join the SAL please forward and email to [smstratman@legionpost121.org](mailto:smstratman@legionpost121.org)

**RIDERS** of This will be the last Rolling Thunder due to cost.

#### **SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE**

As part of a multi-year digital modernization effort, VA has reformatted VA.gov to consolidate information about VA programs. The consolidated website enables veterans to use their HealthVets, DS Logon, or ID.me account to track the status of benefits and claims, refill prescriptions, message their doctors, and request a Veterans ID Card. Visit the [new website](#).

The Department of Defense announced annual cost of living adjustments that will benefit military retirees and survivors during calendar year 2019. Most military retirees will receive a 2.8 percent increase to their retired pay beginning with the pay they receive on Jan. 1, 2019. Likewise, survivors of members who died on active or inactive duty, or survivors of military retirees who participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan, will, in most cases, see a 2.8 percent increase to their annuities beginning in January.

Robert Spaulding, Post Service Officer of [rspaulding@state.ga.us](mailto:rspaulding@state.ga.us) of 706-745-6341

#### **MIAP MONTHLY UPDATE** **(Missing in America Program)**

In its ten-year history, the Missing in America Project volunteers have visited 2,111 funeral homes, locating 15,145 unclaimed cremated remains of which 3,459 were Veterans and eligible dependents.

Without these hard-working volunteers, the Veterans cremains would languish on shelves in funeral homes and crematoriums for who knows how long. - Daniel J. Poirier (770-377-2377) Georgia State Coordinator-Missing In America Project.

#### **Veteran Discount**

**Support the businesses that support you! Always ask the business staff if a discount is offered to Veterans. Be sure to thank the business staff for the discount and pass the word to your fellow Veterans.**



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