



American Legion District 9

Meeting Minutes

Post 251, Duluth, 16 Aug 2025

District Executive Committee (DEC)

The Commander called the meeting to order and rendered hand salute. A prayer was offered followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Adjutant conducted a Roll Call: 11 District Officers and 14 Posts were present.

CC	P	Sgt At Arms	E	Post 201	P
SrV	P	Srv Off	P	Post 220	P
V1 H	E	Post 7	P	Post 232	P
V2 R	P	Post 16	A	Post 239	P
V3 C	P	Post 23	P	Post 247	A
V4 S	P	Post 45	P	Post 248	P
V5 W	P	Post 82	A	Post 251	P
Adjutant	P	Post 84	A	Post 307	P
Past CC	P	Post 104	A	Post 316	P
J.A.	V	Post 121	P	Post 328	A
Finance	P	Post 127	P	Post 2100	P
Chaplain	P	Post 149	E	Q=15	Y

Commander's Remarks:

- This DEC is for the budget only. In the future, we will only conduct a DEC when a vote is needed.
- Finance: the only income is refunds or kickbacks from the Dept or National for membership. However, across the Legion, membership is declining and so will the amount the District receives for membership. The District is not trying to make a profit, but breakeven.
 - Review of current budget: \$7,500 is the current income. Current balance as of 31 Jul 2025 is \$17,115
 - Proposed 2025-2026 budget:
 - CC Fund: \$500
 - NEF: \$500
 - Delegates for National Convention: \$2,000
 - Boys State: \$500
 - Oratorical: \$1,000
 - Wreaths Across America: \$350
 - Travel: \$750
 - Awards: \$250
 - Printing: \$200
 - SAL Youth Camp: \$200
 - Scholarships: \$1,000
 - Misc: \$250
 - TOTAL: \$7,500
 - It was **Moved/Seconded/Approved to accept this budget for 2025-2026 Legion year.**

The DEC closed

District 9 Family Meeting

The Commander called the Family General meeting to order. A hand salute was rendered followed by a prayer then the POW/MIA remembrance, and Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests were introduced: ALA Department President, Gail Raimey; ALA Department 1st Vice President, Pam Eckler; Legion Department Vice Commander, Ricky Baugh; District 9 Auxiliary President, Judy Lively; District 9 SAL Commander, Lary Parker; District 9 Riders Director, Darlyn Tillery.

Commander Remarks:

- The D9 Commander thanked Post 251 for their hospitality and the great lunch. Vice Ruiz welcomed everyone on behalf of the Post 251 Commander and thanked Unit 251 and the SAL for the food prep.
- 250 Challenge: in celebration of our Nation's 250th birthday, the Legion has launched the 250 Challenge. Go on mylegion.com to sign up and commit to 250 miles or service hours or anything that supports the Legion mission. The entire Family can join in this fun.
- Wreaths Across America: National WAA Day is 13 Dec so start thinking about your Post and how you can take part in this great mission. Wreath sponsorship is \$17/wreath.
- LIT: Legion Insurance. FREE to any member of the Legion Family. Takes about 5 minutes to sign up and if something happens to you while you're conducting Legion business, they cover you. Go to www.thelit.com to sign up. The Dept gets money back from the company when folks sign up
 - From the floor it was asked how the company can afford to do this and is it legit? The answer is yes; it is legit. And they can afford it because they offer other insurance plans, and they get folks to sign up for those which is how they're able to return some money back to the Dept.

Auxiliary President Remarks: The President thanked Post and Unit 251 for hosting the District meeting. She also recognized the Dept ALA Sgt at Arms Melanie Eckler, past District 9 President's and the current District 9 Unit Presidents.

Sons of the American Legion Commander Remarks: not present

Riders Director: the Director commented that most of the Riders were out riding today and that there was at least one member of District 9 on the Legacy Ride to the National Convention.

Commander

- Upcoming District Meeting dates:
 - 1 Nov 2025 (Canton, Post 45)
 - 7 Feb 2026 (Gainesville, Post 7)
 - 2 May 2026 (SugarHill, Post 121)
 - 1 Aug 2026 (TBD)

Next District Meeting: 1 Nov 2025 at Post 45 in Canton (160 McClure St, Canton GA 30114)

The American Legion District General Meeting

The Commander called the meeting to order. A hand salute was rendered followed by the Preamble to the Legion Constitution and Toast to the Flag by John Graf. The Adjutant conducted a Roll Call: 11 District Officers and 14 Posts were present.

CC	P	Sgt At Arms	E	Post 201	3
SrV	P	Srv Off	P	Post 220	1
V1 H	E	Post 7	3	Post 232	3
V2 R	P	Post 16	A	Post 239	1
V3 C	P	Post 23	2	Post 247	A
V4 S	P	Post 45	6	Post 248	3
V5 W	P	Post 82	A	Post 251	7
Adjutant	P	Post 84	A	Post 307	1
Past CC	P	Post 104	A	Post 316	2
J.A.	V	Post 121	2	Post 328	A
Finance	P	Post 127	4	Post 2100	2
Chaplain	P	Post 149	E	Q=51%	Y

Commander:

- Remembering Betty Herring. She will be missed.
- Several Posts received a 100% ribbon from the Department:
 - 23 220
 - 45 239
 - 82 248
 - 84 328
 - 149
- The District 9 Judge Advocate is vacant. This is an appointed position. If anyone is interested, please contact the Adjutant or Commander
- The Department has hired Past Department Commander Jim Fultz as the new Adjutant
- Budget: current balance is \$17,115. Additionally, we received a \$50 donation from Vice Windham who was the 50/50 winner.
- The new budget the DEC recommended was presented to the membership. It was **Moved/Seconded/Approved to accept the budget presented and accepted in the DEC for Legion year 2025-2026.** (see notes in DEC for outline of budget)
- The Commander received a personal check from the Dept for membership, and he donated that \$100 to the District Funds
- Membership: Sr Vice Callender handed out the new membership goals received from the Dept:
 - 10 Sep: 50% of goal 11 Feb: 85% of goal
 - 15 Oct: 55% of goal 11 Mar: 90% of goal
 - 13 Nov: 65% of goal 8 Apr: 95% of goal
 - 10 Dec: 75% of goal 13 May: 100% of goal
 - 14 Jan: 80% of goal
 - Sr Vice stated traditionally membership is responsibility of SrV at all levels but really, it's the responsibility of everyone. The Commander is currently working on each Post's goal.
 - TAL establishes the monthly targets, and the Sep goal is 50%. Those that aren't at 50% are candidates for revitalization. This is a team from the Dept that can help with recruiting.
 - By May 13th be at 100%. SrV will pull numbers after the first goal and send it to the Post CCs, SrV and Adjutants. It's a moving target; a snapshot in time so may not match your exact count. Last year, the District closed out at 97%. That's not too bad. We were one of the top 3 districts in GA.
 - 400: look up their zip code and contact them, ask them if they want in to your post and then fill out a member data form to transfer them to your Post

- The Commander gave kudos to SrV Jim C with membership and plans to get more involved than last year!
 - Get out and work your membership hard and work to make your goals. We missed 100% by a hair and we're the biggest district in the state. We can do it.
- National Convention: there's an App (TALNC25) and you're encouraged to look at it to see what's happening at the convention. Any Legion member can attend even if you're not a delegate; you can go to the general sessions. You need to register through the Dept but you can go. General Sessions are about 3 days and it's highly encouraged that you go just to learn about the Legion and what is going on across the Nation

Old Business:

- District Raffle: Larry Moore Post 232, Snellville is leading this effort: 50% of the D9 Posts are participating and we hope you join us now or next year.
 - \$5,000 jackpot. Live drawings every 3 minutes but you do not need to be present to win.
 - You must have a ticket to be at the drawing, but you do not have to be there to win.
 - If your ticket is drawn it's put back in the pot to win more. If your ticket is drawn, you'll be notified within 24 hours.
 - For D9 50/50 split of ticket sales. For each \$20 ticket you sell, \$10 goes to your Post. Show the flyer, people buy.
 - The QR code scans comes to Snellville, but Snellville is tracking by zip codes and will send a check to the Post that sold the ticket.
 - Posts that haven't joined but want to can still get tickets until 3 Nov to get involved and sell tickets.
 - Bass Pro is the sponsor of the weapons. The winner will receive a certificate and then the winner takes it to Bass Pro, and they can collect their prize or if they don't want the weapon, they will get a gift card from Bass Pro for equal value.
 - Contact Larry for More info. 470-774-0203 or hygrade17@gmail.com
- Website: the Adjutant went over the website and the feedback has been positive. If you have ideas of what should be on the website, let the Adjutant know.
 - If you have a Post website or Facebook page, send the info to the Adjutant so we can put a link on the website to get to your info. Georgialegiond9.org
- Leadership: As you bring on new officers, have a leadership meeting and train your new officers.
 - This helps people understand what the expectations are and trains and educates them.
 - Provides ability to track things/events
 - Sr Vice Jim amplified by explaining his Leadership Workshop. Went over 5-year plan/goals, etc. 2025 Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies is what you can use to help guide your Posts. It's a great reference to help; it's a point of departure – something to get you started.

Committee Reports:

- District Scholarships (John Tucker Post 248):
 - Scholarship is for graduating high school seniors. \$1000. Deadline is 1 Apr.
 - One applicant for this year and it was approved.
 - Going forward, when we get applications in, we'll have interview boards. 3 person boards to rack and stack the packages and interviews
- Service Officer (Ray Rollins Post 45):
 - Department only has one **certified** service officer, and she works at the Dept. Posts can't submit paperwork to the VA. They can help get the paperwork together and then send the veteran to the GA Dept of Veteran Affairs.

- Trying to get Service Officer training to teach the Post Service Officers what to do to help
 - If someone walks into your post; help them. Don't send them to another Post. Help them.
- Historian: (Lynne Rollins, Post 45)
 - In the Dept of GA only 1 book was turned in for 2024-2025.
 - You're doing great things, but you need to document what you're doing.
 - Capture your activities for future generations.
 - Use the Officers' Guide to learn how to put together a history book.
 - In Nov, Lynne will do a show-and-tell to all interested at the District Mtg.
 - Books for competition need to be presented to the stage at the Jun Dept Conferences
- Oratorical (POC Luis Ruiz, Post 251):
 - End of Feb/1 Mar timeframe for the Oratorical.
 - Location: Post 7 Gainesville
 - Now is the time to start talking about it
 - Luis can help you find the contacts at the school District and with your Post level competition
 - Recommend \$300, \$200, and \$100 for Post winners. D9 Winners are \$500, \$300, \$200

New Business:

- Around the District:
 - Post 248:
 - The SAL are starting a Military Museum next to the Post
 - Lumpkin County is giving 10 acres for a veterans cemetery
 - One of 6 scholarship winners for the Dept came from this Post
 - Post 232:
 - Gwinnett County Veterans Museum is celebrating its 20th Anniversary on Veterans Day – come out to the ceremony if you can
 - Post 307:
 - For the past several years they had to share a meeting space with Post 127; they are finally moving into their own home. Woo-hoo
 - Post 45:
 - 17-28 Sep hosting the County Fair
 - 10-11 Oct: hosting the Red, White and Blue BBQ with National Pit Masters – all proceeds go to homeless Veterans

Good of the Legion:

- Post 23, Hiawassee had their Post Grand Opening
- American Legion publishes a BLOG: check out Legion Magazine or the Legion website for more info

Next District Meeting: 1 Nov 2025 at Post 45 in Canton (160 McClure St, Canton GA 30114)

Chaplain: Closing Prayer

Salute the Colors

Commander: Declared District 9 meeting of The American Legion, Department of Georgia adjourned.

//signed//klm/19 Aug 2025//
 KATHY L. MERRITT
 Adjutant, District 9