

County Meeting  
March 16, 2017  
Minutes  
Union County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Paris at 6:03 pm. The invocation was given by Jack McKetchnie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Walker. The minutes from the February 16, 2017 County Meeting were approved as read.

Commissioner Paris stated that today, March 16, 2017, he will be signing a Proclamation designating April as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. The Blairsville area Parkinson's Disease Support Group is an affiliate of the GA Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, and the Leader of the affiliate, Chuck Esposito, will accept the Proclamation on behalf of the Members of the Blairsville area affiliate. At this point the Commissioner asked Mr. Esposito to come to the front.

While Chuck was coming to the front the Commissioner gave a brief introduction. Chuck Esposito was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 2006, joined the Blairsville area Parkinson's Disease Support Group in 2009, and has served as the Group's elected leader since December 2011. In addition to being here today to accept the Proclamation, Chuck agreed to spend a few minutes giving attendees a brief description of the disease and helping to raise awareness.

Commissioner Paris also told the attendees about him being fortunate to attend the American Parkinson Disease Association, Georgia Chapter annual Gala with Chuck, his family and friends in Atlanta and had a really great time. Chuck and his wife Brenda received the prestigious annual award for their outstanding service and commitment to the Parkinson's Community. Chuck gave a short but very powerful speech to the full house crowd while they were there.

The Commissioner read the Proclamation and signed. He then asked Chuck to speak. He gave all the attendees a description of Parkinson's Disease and the research being done to treat or cure Parkinson's Disease.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed March 5, 2017 as United States Navy Seabees 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday. In December of 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States' entrance into World War II, Admiral Ben Moreell was authorized to establish the "Naval Construction Battalions" on March 5, 1942. The earliest Seabees were recruited from civilian construction trades and placed under the leadership of the Naval Civil Engineer Corps with an emphasis on experience and skill. The Seabees construction projects were all completed while fending off enemy forces alongside Marine, Army and Navy Colleagues. For 75 years the Seabees have repeatedly demonstrated their skills as fighters and builders, building and fighting for freedom, and in peace time being Good Will Ambassadors all while living by the Seabee motto "Can Do!" Commissioner Paris asked all citizens to join him in recognizing the service, skill, and determination the Seabees have shown their country and its citizens. The Seabees recently had their second annual SEABEE Ball and the Commissioner was privileged to be invited to attend and it was an exceptional event.

The Commissioner proclaimed March 18, 2017 as Master Gardener Appreciation Day. The Master Gardener program is a volunteer horticultural educational training program sponsored nationwide by the Cooperative Extension of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Union County and Towns County Master Gardeners in 2016 volunteered 5,553 hours representing a savings of \$128,290 to Union and Towns Counties if their work had been performed by paid staff. In the spirit of volunteerism, Master Gardeners have provided and continue to provide valuable services to Georgia communities through education and training programs.

Commissioner Paris proclaimed the month of April 2017 as Donate Life Month. More than 121,000 men, women, and children await life-saving or life-enhancing organ transplants, with 5,590 residing in Georgia. A new patient is added to the national waiting list for an organ transplant every 10 minutes and 22 people die daily due to the lack of available organs. Donating life through organ, eye, and tissue donation is the ultimate act of generosity and kindness we can perform. LifeLink of Georgia is the non-profit, community service organization dedicated to the recovery of high quality organs and tissues for transplantation therapy. The Commissioner asked attendees to join him in honoring all those who made the decision to give the gift of life and to encourage all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry. The Commissioner's niece was the recipient of a liver 21 years ago this past May. The Commissioner said he had just returned from the Funeral of Brenda Abercrombie, an E-911 Communications Officer who has worked at Union Dispatch for 22 years. Brenda recently received a double lung transplant and for a short while it was very successful, but in the end, she passed away. But at least she had a chance at life and at age 54, she left way too soon.

The Commissioner accepted an Agreement between CSRA Probation Services, Inc. and Union County for probation services to Magistrate Court. CSRA Probation Services, Inc. assumed the existing services agreement that was between Sentinel Offender Services, LLC and Union County. There is no cost to the County for this service. The probationers have to pay for their own probation.

Commissioner Paris accepted an Agreement between CSRA Probation Services, Inc. and Union County for probation services to Probate Court. CSRA Probation Services, Inc. assumed the existing services agreement that was between Sentinel Offender Services, LLC and Union County.

The Commissioner gave a brief description of what his day had consisted of so far. At 8 am he was up on Richard Russell to see about placing a sign naming the peaks. At 9 am he had a meeting with the Sheriff and at 10 am he was in a meeting at the Fire Station for the planning of a funeral. Then at 11 am he went and looked at an issue on a county road. At 12 pm he attended the Vietnam Veterans Changing of the Guards Ceremony and then came back to the office to prepare a eulogy. At 2 pm he attended a funeral and upon arriving back at the Courthouse he met with a group of Boy Scouts as part of their Merit Badge Requirements. He then had the County Meeting at 6 pm and once that was complete he was going to be working on his questions which are due the next morning.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Jennifer Queen, County Clerk

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017

  
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Lamar Paris, Commissioner