



American Legion Post 68, Leland
Meeting Room, Blossoms Restaurant, Magnolia Greens, Leland
Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 15th, 2018 at 6 PM

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: Dale Todd, Commander*
Convened: 1800
Adjourned: 1950

Total Attendance: 33
Officers and Staff: 13**
Members: 29***
Guests: 2 + 2 new members

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Judi Buongiorne, Financial Officer; Jim Thompson, Exec Committee

***Includes Officers and newly signed members

Officers & Staff in Attendance: Dale Todd, Commander; Jim Zelenski, 1st Vice Commander; Dan Dodge, Adjutant; Lane Adrian, Service Officer; John Marone, Logistics Officer; Gerald Decker, Historian; Bill Smith, Sergeant at Arms; Lou Tranzillo, Greg Miller – Executive Committee, Art Dietrich, 2nd Vice Commander; Brian Danielson, Chaplain; Richard Fry, Public Affairs; Kathy McDonough, Membership;

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Call to Order: **Commander: Dale Todd**
Chaplain's Opening Prayer: **Chaplain: Brian Danielson**
POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: **Sergeant at Arms: Bill Smith**
Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: **All**

Old/Current Business:

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve October 2018 minutes. Minutes approved by all.

Guest Speaker: *Vice Admiral Dennis A Jones USN(ret)* (Intro by Brian Danielson)

Brian Danielson introduced Admiral Jones since both are from the Fairbury area in the state of Nebraska. Adm. Jones was accompanied by his wife Janet. Jones told stories from his book, "How an Admiral was trained on dry land" which talks not about the Navy but about his upbringing in Nebraska and how it prepared him for his future career. Each story from his book contains a lesson that he felt he learned during that time period of his life. Jones talked about submarines as he was a submarine commander during his Naval career. Here he talked about the men he served with, about refueling of nuclear subs, weapons aboard (Mark 48 torpedoes, Tomahawk & sidewinder missiles), propulsion, the importance of silence and quiet running and how submarines are independent weapons of deterrence and require no support system to execute their missions. He wrapped up his Naval talk regarding the relationship subs have with SEAL teams and how subs are used for intelligence gathering.

Commander Todd presented Admiral Jones with a Post 68 coffee cup as a thank you. Many members were intrigued by Jones' talk and later bought copies of his book

Introduction of New Members and Guests: 3 new members tonight: Thomas Lechner (new), Robert Penwell (transfer)
Don Davies (transfer)

Committee Reports:

Financial Report: *Judi Buongiorne, Finance Officer*

End of October 2018 balances:

Total account balance: \$9,557.28

Membership Report: - Dan Dodge & Kathy McDonough, membership chair

- Current roster shows 122 members in good standing (which includes 2 transfers)
- Renewals for 2019 continue with 69% of our membership having renewed as of the start of this meeting
- During tonight's meeting 3 more renewals were brought in bringing our renewal percentage up to 73%
- With 1 transfer and 1 new member we are now up to 124 members as of this evening
- Lou Tranzillo has been calling members who were dropped from the roles from 2017. Some members are planning to rejoin.

Concerns and Sick Call: Brian Danielson, Chaplin:

Nothing to report

Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian: Lane and Brian made calls on vets in area due to property damage from hurricane. Several properties in heavy need of repair. Lane contacted several support groups to provide assistance. 4 vets in total.

Current Activities:

After Action Reports:

1. Fish Fry Update – Ticket refunds: Greg Miller: Still waiting for a few more people to let us know if they need refunds. Deadline is Nov 30th with \$2,450 in donations earmarked for veteran support. We are also waiting for our deposit refund from the Town of Leland
2. Trunk or Treat – October 27th, 4pm Leland Town Park – Dan Dodge: Not as large of a crowd as expected or as large as last year. Still, there were 12+ trunks participating. We had a lot of candy donations resulting in a surplus which will be used throughout the year as needed.
3. Belk big Sales event: November 3rd – Dale Todd

155 Tickets sold in-store: \$775, 44 sold locally: \$220 for a total of \$995
There will additional funds from a percentage of counter sales. Overall, anticipated revenue to be over \$1000
4. Leland Senior Center Veterans Breakfast – Nov 9th Lane Adrian/Dale Todd
Local senior veterans and center staff were very happy to have us attend and be part of their celebration. We handed out poppies and flag stars to veterans who were there. The senior center director would like us to return when they do this sort of event again.
5. Veterans Day Parade – Nov 10th – Patty Kelley: Was a very large parade overall this year. Post 68 had 20+ members and guests participate as marchers, in 3 cars and 3 motor bikes. Marchers handed out flags and candy along the route. We also hosted 2 marchers from Post 10. We were very well received by those watching the parade.

2018/2019 Budget: Commander Dale Todd

Fund Raisers and sources of funds: We are looking at requirements for various areas of support, recurring costs, programs we want to fund and defining minor vs major fundraisers. Major will be anything with income expected to be over \$1000 with at least 5 planned for 2019.

Upcoming Events:

1. Navassa Veterans Dinner: Nov 17th
Dale/Lane: We were asked to participate in this veteran's dinner to bring our service and American flags.

We will be setting up the flags and mingling with the guests

2. Leland Christmas Parade: Dec 1st 5pm – 6:30pm
Town of Leland sent us a letter asking us to please attend this event. Consensus was that we will participate and march in the parade. Art Dietrich will have his car. Lou to help with coordination and getting other marchers. Several members signed up to march during the meeting. Email to be sent out to members with details.

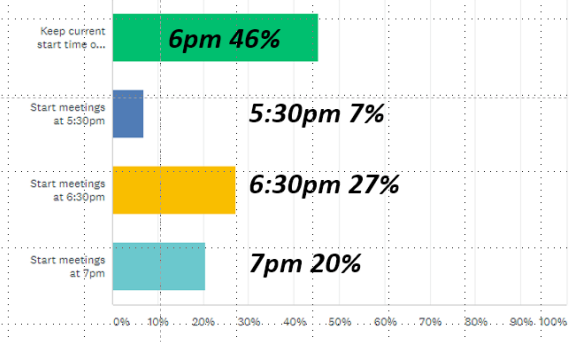
Future Events:

1. Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser – pushing out until 2019 – **Need lead ASAP!**
This event takes about 3 months to plan. Dale will provide guidance to whoever steps up to lead
2. Fund Raiser Event – Shades of Gray Concert: February
Lead for Venue required **ASAP!**
Gerald Decker: Execution
Lane has contacted WAAY and LCAC as a venue.
Gerald to contact Shades of Gray to let them know we are still trying to schedule this.
There is a DEC 1st deadline for a decision on whether we are to continue with event or not
Suggestion was made to possibly combine spaghetti dinner and this concert
3. VEAC: Veterans Experience Action Center event. April 26 – 28 - Lane. This is the next of these events for helping veterans with VA claims and other benefits.

New Business:

1. Committee to develop emergency procedures: Dale Todd: Asked for people with experience in the area of emergency procedures to help. Eric has had to develop similar procedures for Kiwanis.
2. 2019 Budget discussions: Funding requirements & sources, fund raisers, projected membership: Dale Todd
3. 2019 Calendar of Events: Dale Todd: Programming in officer/membership meetings, various events so we have a picture of what 2019 looks like for the Post. A draft will be sent out soon.
4. Recipients of Post 68 donations of financial support: Lane Adrian
Lane found 4 local veterans in immediate need of assistance due to hurricane damage.
\$500 will go to 3 people. \$300 to a 4th
5. December Meeting: Dale Todd: We discussed if we should have a meeting or it be some sort of social event. Most members voted in favor of no meeting but getting together at Blossoms meeting room informally for pizza and beer. John Marone and Jim Zelenski will officiate.
6. Boy Scouts Coordinators: Elliot Koppel & Herb Moore: Dale introduced these members.
7. Building spreadsheet of local, charitable organizations: Dale Todd: Creating a list of local organizations so we can determine where our funding goes and to make sure we know of all the various possible veteran resources in our area.
8. Post 68 Annual Veterans Travel Event: Dale Todd
Dale proposed that we continue with some sort of travel event. No inputs were received from the membership. We would need to start any planning in January
9. Flag Project – Jim Zelenski: We had been getting groups of flags from the American Honor Guard group. It is time for us to have our own. Jim wants 20 more American flags to round out our set. This will cost \$180. John Marone and Elliott Koppel both volunteered to cover the cost. We also have 12 branch flags. Some people are also donating various unit flags.
10. Post meeting schedule talks with Blossoms: Dale Todd

Post Member Survey: Survey to ask members what time meetings should start
 We have had 44 responses to our survey or about 36% of Post membership.
 Most votes are to keep the start time as it is at 6pm. Survey to end 11/30/18



11. Update process for Post By-Laws: Dale Todd: Jim Zelenski and Richard Fry are working on draft changes to our by-laws. A member of the leadership team had concerns over renaming of the post which will be addressed at the December officers meeting. Timing for these changes will be:

- a. December: 1st draft ready for Officers review
- b. January: Present changes to members
- c. February: 2nd presentation to members
- d. April: Vote by membership on by-law changes
- e. May: Submitting new by-laws to NC Department HQ

Note: Most correspondence will be via electronic copies of by-laws with some paper copies
 We would ask that members utilize electronic copies to keep printing costs down

By-Law changes include:

- Changing wording to be gender neutral
- Post name change: American Legion Post 68, *Jacobs – Carshaw, Inc.*
- Added Legion Riders
- Added Post Judge Advocate as an officer position
- Added wording for Public Relations officer
- Standing committees
- Section to define elections
- Updates to grammar and wording

MISC. ITEMS:

- 1.** Guest Speaker for January meeting: Elina DiCostanzo, Director of Resource Development, Brunswick Community College Foundation presenting a program on PAVE – Partnership with American Veteran Employment along with Vincent Walsh, veteran student who is being sponsored by this program
- 2.** SCC-Services Coordinating Council Membership: Richard Fry: Group meets quarterly. Post 68 has been placed on their web homepage: <https://www.nbservicegroups.org/>
- 3.** Changes to TriCare Dental program: Reminder to members who utilize TriCare benefits for dental insurance that they must sign up for new dental plans for 2019. Vision care is now available as an added benefit.

TriCare Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) ends Dec 31st

TriCare Dental recipients have until December 10th to enroll in Dental care for 2019

- Enrollees can get dental coverage in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program. Multiple plans are available
- You will NOT be automatically enrolled!
- You must enroll between Nov 12th and Dec 10th
- Visit Tricare.Benefeds.com for more information and to enroll

4. Job Fair: Veterans: Nov 16th at CFCC from 0900 – 1200

5. Service Demographic Project: Gerald Decker talked about a project he is working on to do a demographic survey of our Post members for their military experience. A form will be posted on our website and mailed if requested.

Meeting Wrap-up:

Next Membership Meeting – Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland
December 20th, 2018 at 6 PM – NOT A MEMBERSHIP MEETING! SOCIAL ONLY!

Next Officers meeting: January 10th
Our next membership meeting will be January 17th!

Membership Comments:

Dan Dodge indicated that they have a program at the Leland Senior Center called COUPS for TROOPS where grocery coupons can be dropped off at the center. The staff cuts them out and sends them to military families stationed overseas who can use them.

John Marone taking orders for Legion jackets. \$50 for jacket and \$5 for having your name engraved on it. Let John know if you want one. Must have cash in hand to pre-order.

Operation North Star: Sending a \$200 basket of North Carolina products to NC military members stationed outside the state. Will need name and address along with T-shirt size. (POC =)

Dale Todd asked members to step up to provide any type of assistance to the Post. Please let Dale know your background and what you might be interested in doing. An email blast will also be sent out.

Greg Miller indicated that there are holiday cards that kids create to be sent out to troops. Richard Fry has copies. Due by Dec 9th

Lane Adrian talked about a program called Veterans Law which provides legal assistance to veterans in need. A flyer for this program will be posted on the website.

50/50: Total collected was \$61. Won by John Marone who donated proceeds to flag funding

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplin

Adjourned at: __1950 hours__