



**American Legion Post 68, Leland**  
**Meeting Room, Blossoms Restaurant, Magnolia Greens, Leland**  
**Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6 PM**

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant  
APPROVED BY: Jim Zelenski, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander\*  
Convened: 1802  
Adjourned: 1950

Total Attendance: 38  
Officers and Staff: 11\*\*  
Members: 30\*\*\*  
Guests: 6 + 2 new members

\*Concurred

\*\***Officers & Staff Absent:** Dale Todd, Commander; Gerald Decker, Historian; Brian Danielson, Chaplin; Jim Thompson, Exec Committee

\*\*\*Includes Officers and newly signed members

**Officers & Staff in Attendance:** Jim Zelenski, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander; Art Dietrich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander; Dan Dodge, Adjutant; Elliott Koppel, Finance Officer; Lane Adrian, Service Officer; John Marone, Logistics Officer; Bill Smith, Sergeant at Arms; Lou Tranzillo, & Greg Miller – Executive Committee; Richard Fry, Public Affairs; Dan Fortini, Membership;

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**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Call to Order: **Commander: Jim Zelenski, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**  
Chaplain's Opening Prayer: **Chaplain: Jim Zelenski, pro tem**  
POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: **Sergeant at Arms: Bill Smith**  
Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: **All**

**Old/Current Business:**

Approval of prior meeting minutes: No meeting in December.

Guest Speaker: *Vincent Walsh, representing PAVE – Partnership for American Veteran Employment* (Intro by Dan Dodge)  
Accompanied by Elizabeth Wassum: Program Coordinator for Community and Donor Relation for the Brunswick Community College Foundation

Vincent is a retired 20-year Air Force veteran who has been taking courses in Aquaponics at BCC. The BCC Pave program has allowed him to maintain a flexible work schedule that does not interfere with his course workload. He was originally introduced to the PAVE program thru a fellow veteran friend. Vinny is now one of 11 ambassadors for the program and is working with 4 other veterans in his aquaponics program. Vinny presented a slide show of pictures showing his aquaponics and turf management work. He also indicated that he and others had to rebuild greenhouses after Hurricane Florence this year. With his love of horticulture and assistance from PAVE, Vinny was able to build his own personal greenhouse. Vinny was also presented an award for his work supporting and promoting PAVE at the New Hanover County Community Foundation on National Philanthropic Day Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Elizabeth explained the veteran's program at BCC now has 40 veterans involved. Students get paid over minimum wage and can maintain flexible schedules so as not to interfere with their coursework. The Foundation is also always working on fund raising to support veteran scholarships. Their next fund raiser will be the Bella Italia event February 2nd at \$100 /ticket which pays for a meal and donation to their scholarship fund. Various raffles and activities will be held throughout the evening. ( <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bella-italia-2019-presented-by-carolyn-clint-felton-dinah-e-gore-and-novant-health-tickets-52882882124> )

Introduction of New Members and Guests: 2 new members signed up tonight:  
Martin McCall (new member) – Active duty Navy  
Richard Jaskiewicz (transfer from Post 545, Wilmington) - Marine

## Committee Reports:

### Financial Report: *Elliott Koppel, Finance Officer*

End of December 2018 balances:

Total account balance: \$10,922.43  
Petty cash: \$95.50

### Membership Report: - Dan Fortini, *membership chair*

- Current roster shows 125 members in good standing
- Renewals for 2019 continue with 78% of our membership having renewed as of the start of this meeting
  - o 28 members remain unpaid for 2019
- During tonight's meeting there were no renewals received
- With 1 transfer and 1 new member we are now up to 127 members as of this evening
- Dan Fortini and Lou Tranzillo has been contacting members who still have not renewed for 2019. They also contacted members for 2018 dues with several more becoming current.

### Concerns and Sick Call: *Brian Danielson, Chaplain: (Jim Zelenski, pro tem)* Nothing to report

### Service Officer Update: *Lane Adrian:*

- VAEC: (Veterans Action Experience Center) Will hold another stand down event April 25 – 27 this year at the Elks club on Oleander Dr in Wilmington. Many VA reps will be on-site to assist veterans with claims, paperwork, etc. For the past 2 years, they have serviced over 800 veterans each year and have paid out over \$3million dollars in benefits. Lane and Dale Todd will be coordinating again this year. Letters have gone out to other veteran organizations to let them know of this event. Last year, Post 68 had the highest number of volunteers in District 9 at this event. Once we have more details, Lane will begin signing up volunteers for a shift.
- Brunswick Senior Center Veteran Meetup: Lane has met with Sandy Pocaro, a case officer at the Center regarding another meetup where veterans can hear about Post 68 and the American Legion along with other veteran related services. This will be Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 1pm at the Leland Senior Center.
- Local veterans receiving assistance: Post 68 has issued 5 checks to local veterans affected by Hurricane Florence totaling \$2300.
- Veterans Law Project: Provides legal assistance to low income veterans to help with VA claims and other military issues.
- Local Homeless: Lane and Lou Tranzillo will be attending a class in Shallotte on Friday Jan 18<sup>th</sup> regarding homeless veteran assistance. See Lane for a pamphlet. Web site: <http://www.legalaidnc.org/about-us/projects/veterans-law-project>

## New Business:

1. Updates to Post 68 Constitution and Bylaws  
Jim Zelenski and Dan Dodge explained to the gathered membership that the officers have been working on revising the Post's constitution and bylaws for several months now. Adjutant Dodge explained that all Post members have received the draft changes either via email or US postal mail. Roberts rules of order require that all members of an organization be given a copy of bylaw changes. The major areas of changes include:
  - o Post Name change to: John E Jacobs, American Legion Post 68, Leland, NC in honor of the only Leland veteran killed in action during Vietnam
  - o Revision of section defining elected vs. appointed officer positions
  - o Revision of section defining how the constitution and bylaws are amended
  - o Revision of section defining criteria for membership and suspension/expulsion
  - o Addition of Legion Riders to Post 68
  - o Revision of section defining standing committees and of the Executive Committee
  - o Revision of section defining how elections are to be carried out.
  - o Revision of section defining how voting for election of officers is performed
  - o Revision of section defining meetings and quorums
  - o Changes to make the text "gender neutral"
  - o Alignment with NC Department and National bylaws

Members were asked to make sure they read and understand these changes and to bring any questions, comments or concerns to the February meeting. Members can find the existing constitution and bylaws on our website along with the new draft at: <http://www.ncpost68.org/index.php?id=115>  
We will review the changes again in February with a vote by the membership in March. There was no discussion from the floor.

2. Post elections coming up – no discussions at this time

### **Current Activities:**

#### After Action Reports:

1. Leland Christmas Parade: Art Dietrich – Event was held Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and was the Town's first nighttime Christmas parade. Since Post 68 members have been involved in multiple parades, we were able to provide valuable advice to the Parade Committee. All in all, on a rainy night – we had 1 car and 6 Legion Riders bikes – who had to spend a lot of time in the rain. Post 68 was thanked by the mayor for our participation. An after-action report has been submitted for this event.

#### Upcoming Events:

1. Shades of Gray fund raiser at Fat Tony's of Wilmington: Lou Tranzillo and Richard Fry –
  - o Jim Zelenski started explaining this event to the membership then turned it over to Lou and Richard
  - o Lou discussed the event along with coupons that can be handed out which when given to a server at Fat Tonys will cause 10% of the guest's food and beverage bill to be a donation to Post 68 for all sales from 11:30 am until closing. Volunteers will be needed to pass out flyers to local businesses, hand out coupons on the day of the event and to run 50/50 raffle inside. Lou started a sign up sheet for volunteers that was passed around the room. The 50/50 drawing will be held just prior to 7:30pm and the winner does not have to be present. Richard is preparing news releases to all local media outlets. We are also purchasing a plaque and will print with certificates of appreciation to Fat Tony's, Shades of Gray and David Bohn for their participation and support of Post 68. Richard is working on certificate wording. John Marone will acquire the plaque. Media releases will direct people to our website. Note: Fat Tonys will NOT be taking reservations but, they will accept call-ahead seating requests.

Flyer: [http://www.ncpost68.org/files/201901009\\_Post68\\_Vet\\_Appreciation\\_Day\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.ncpost68.org/files/201901009_Post68_Vet_Appreciation_Day_Flyer.pdf)

Coupon: [http://www.ncpost68.org/files/201901009\\_Post68\\_Vet\\_Appreciation\\_Day\\_Ticket\\_2.pdf](http://www.ncpost68.org/files/201901009_Post68_Vet_Appreciation_Day_Ticket_2.pdf)

#### Future Events:

1. Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser – scheduling for April 2019 – **Need lead ASAP!**  
This event takes about 3 months to plan. Dale will provide guidance to whoever steps up to lead
2. NC Department mid-winter conference 14 Feb in Raleigh. See Commander Dale Todd or Adjutant Dan Dodge for details
3. VEAC: Veterans Experience Action Center event. April 26 – 28 - Lane. This event is for helping veterans with VA claims and other benefits.
4. Women Veterans Event: Rescheduled for Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. This event was cancelled due to the hurricane.
5. Oratorical contest, St James Post, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.

>>> Watch our Calendar and Events webpage for all our events and posted events from other organizations!



<http://www.ncpost68.org/index.php?id=116>

### **MISC. ITEMS:**

1. Guest Speaker for February meeting: TBD
2. Strategic Planning: Post member Roger Perkins has stepped up to help our Commander out in this area of planning for our Post
3. Flags: Jim Zelenski: Jim has all the additional flags needed. He now just needs remaining PVC pipes to make the flag holders. He also asked if anyone has a unit type flag that they would like to donate, he would make a pole for it as well. Jim also mentioned there will another flag collection event planned for June 2019 at the Brunswick Forest Commons area. More information to follow. There was discussion regarding placement of collection boxes at the Waterford and Magnolia Greens community centers.

### **Meeting Wrap-up:**

Next Membership Meeting – Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland  
February 21st, 2019 at 6 PM

Next Officers meeting: February 14<sup>th</sup>, Shelmore Pool area meeting room

50/50: Total collected was \$88. \$44 won by Bill Smith

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplain – Jim Zelenski, Pro tem

Adjourned at: 1930