



American Legion Post 68

Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland, NC

Meeting Minutes – September 19th, 2019 at 1800 hours

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: Dale Todd, Commander
Convened: 1800
Adjourned: 1938

Total Attendance: 42
Officers and Staff: 10**
Members: 31***
Guests: 11

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Art Dietrich, 2nd VC, Richard Fry-Public Affairs, John Marone-Logistics, Brian Danielson-Chaplain

***Includes Officers and newly signed members

Officers & Staff in Attendance: Dale Todd-Commander; Jim Zelenski-1st Vice, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Elliott Koppel-Finance Officer; Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Bill Smith-Sergeant at Arms; Dan Fortini-Membership, Lou Tranzillo-Executive Committee; John Hacker-Executive Committee, Mike Connors-Executive Committee

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Call to Order: **Commander: Dale Todd, Commander**

Chaplain's Opening Prayer: **Brian Danielson, Chaplain** (Dale Todd, pro tem)

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: **Sergeant at Arms: Bill Smith**

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: **All**

Current Business:

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve August 2019 meeting minutes as published. No comments received, motion made and seconded by membership and minutes approved by all members present via unanimous vote.

Guest Speakers: This was an evening dedicated to North Brunswick High School JROTC. Col Steve Baker (Post 68 member) was introduced by our own Rick de Moya. Rick mentioned that it was a privilege to have a JROTC unit of this quality, caliber and size (there are over 160 members) here in Leland. Their mentors' jobs are not to recruit for the military but to teach leadership and associated skills to these young people.

Col. Steve Baker, Commander and lead instructor for NBHS JROTC indicated he was honored to address members of our Post. Col. Baker referenced the last sentence of our American Legion pre-able which talks of "mutual helpfulness" and how the Legion and JROTC help each other. He talked about several programs the Cadets work on and indicated that JROTC is an elective activity at the high school. The cadets are required to wear different uniforms throughout the week depending upon which activities they are engaged in. Col Baker made proud mention that the JROTC rifle team came in 4th within the Army and 12th in the nation last year. A new building is being put up for JROTC. The unit conducts their meetings and classes away from the general school population. They have their own air rifle range and the new building will increase the capacity of that range. Cadets are involved in multiple competitions throughout the year with other high schools along with a PT competition.

He then went on to describe several new programs the Unit is starting:

- An academic bowl with a championship to be held in Washington, DC
- A Cyber Patriot Team competing in Cyber awareness and protection which would lead to competitions with other high schools. This program is sponsored by the Air Force.

- A robotics team which will build a robot for competition with other schools

Col Baker spoke on behalf of Cadet CMD Sgt Major Zach Parker who attended Boys State with Post 68 sponsorship. CSM Parker was involved in track & field competitions at school and was unable to attend. However, he did pass along some remarks for Col Baker to deliver. Zack thanked the Post for their invitation to speak this evening and that the trip to Boys State was the experience of a lifetime for him and the memories of this event will stay with him forever.

Col Baker then introduced Liana Slade who is the ranking cadet and Battalion Commander of the NBHS JROTC unit. Commander Slade talked about a fund raiser the JROTC is supporting. This is an online event (www.snap-raise.com/v2/fundraisers/north-brunswick-hs-jrotc-2019) with a goal of \$15,000. These funds will be used to help lessen the cost of excursions, field trips and tickets to the annual JROTC Ball for cadets who may not be able to afford to attend these events. To date, they have \$12,000 pledged. (Several Post members made spot donations to Commander Slade during the evening).

Commander Todd then presented certificates to Col Baker and Commander Slade to be presented to the 3 students who were sponsored by Post 68 for Boys & Girls State.

Finally, Rick de Moya asked Col Baker to talk about the JROTC inspection that was performed on the unit last year: This was a major inspection which Col Baker had the unit working hard to prepare for. After the inspection was over, NBHS JROTC received a score of 100% on this inspection – a score that had never been given to any other unit before. A very commendable achievement!

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Dan Fortini-Membership Chair

- We had 9 guests this evening along with 2 new members who are transferring in and 1 restarting their membership
 - Tim Walsh Sue Jaskiewicz Clay McCall Rick Paxton
 - Gordon Sheppard Rob Hubbard Adrian Sanders Phil Godshall (Shades of Gray)
 - Liana Slade Robert Huba

Mr Godshall from Shades of Gray band brought information on a Wilmington based charity called WARM – Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry whose mission is to repair, rebuild and make homes accessible and to inspire service, generosity and hope. More information on WARM can be found at: www.warmnc.org
 Commander Todd also received an invitation from Phil to a WARM luncheon and fund raiser event to be held Nov 17th from 11:30am to 1pm at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Activity Center. Dr Philip Brown, chief physician executive for the New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Admission is free but reservations are required thru the WARM website, click on News & Events link.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Installation of Officers: Michael Conners was installed as Executive Committee member this evening by Commander Todd
2. Constitution and By-Laws update: Commander
 - We have received our supplemental charter for name change. National already has us as John E Jacobs
 - The Department JAG is still reviewing our by-law changes
3. Membership Report: Membership Chair, **Dan Fortini**

Prior Month Membership:	121
New Members:	1
Transfers in:	0
Transfers out:	0
Resignations:	0
Dropped:	0
Active members as of August 1st	122

As of this evening, 58% of Post 68 members have renewed their memberships for 2020
 Several membership renewals received at tonight's meeting.
 We also received 6 transfer applications – Thanks to our membership chair Dan Fortini!

4. Financial Report: Finance Officer – **Elliott Koppel**

MONTH	July 2019	
BANK		
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$	9,661.25
INCOME	\$	1,145.00
DISBURSEMENTS	\$	1,241.62
ENDING BALANCE	\$	9,564.63
CASH BOX 1	\$	95.00
Cash Box 2	\$	50.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$	9,709.63

BALANCES PER ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTH		
General Fund	\$	(361.62)
50/50	\$	40.00
Poppy Fund	\$	-
Dues	\$	(40.00)
Donation	\$	100.00
Clothing	\$	165.00
BALANCES PER ACCOUNT		
General Fund	\$	3,904.39
50/50	\$	294.00
Poppy Fund	\$	1,500.00
Dues	\$	532.00
Donation	\$	3,585.17
Clothing	\$	72.25

DAY	General Fund		50/50		POPPY FUND		DUES		DONATION		CLOTHING / LOGO ITEMS
	INCOME	DISBURS MENT	INCOME	DISBURS MENT	INCOME	DISBURS MENT	INCOME	DISBURS MENT	INCOME	DISBURS MENT	
1-Jul		\$ 90.00									
5-Jul		\$ 61.40									
8-Jul							\$ 27.50				
10-Jul									\$100.00		
11-Jul		\$ 21.35									
11-Jul		\$ 98.19									
11-Jul		\$ 40.68									
17-Jul		\$ 50.00									\$165.00
19-Jul			\$ 40.00				\$840.00				
23-Jul								\$632.50			
31-Jul								\$220.00			

5. Concerns and Sick Call: **Brian Danielson (Dale Todd, pro tem)**

In performing our Buddy Call exercise, we have encountered member battling cancer. The Service Officer and Chaplain will be visiting him.

We received a call regarding a Calabash area veteran in need of financial assistance. Calabash taking lead but needing support from area Legion Posts. A St James who knows the VA system helped with payment reductions. Post 68 did help financially.

6. Service Officer Update: **Lane Adrian**

Lane read an inspirational quote from George Washington and then talked about a Seminar on Military Health Care to be held at the Leland Senior Center. He discussed some aspects of VA Aid and Attendance to assist veterans and their spouses financially who are below a certain income level. He also indicated that the VA is working on a policy which will pay for ER visits for veterans and will reimburse veterans for ER costs who have been denied in the past. Lane as a handout with more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Buddy Call / Phone Tree: Commander
 Was setup as an Emergency Preparedness tool. The Post kicked off a test of the phone tree during the September officers meeting using a template from National who suggests that Posts reach out and contact all their members annually. Positive results have been received so far. The exercise is not done yet however, based upon results and feedback, we will be able to fine-tune our process. Due to this exercise, we have found a member battling cancer and 2 members with invalid phone numbers who we will be reaching out to.
2. Membership Service Awards presentation in September: Commander
 - A first for Post 68. We recognized those members who hit continuous service milestones in 2018 and 2019. Each member identified will received a pin and certificate
 - A total of 38 names were called, 12 of whom were present at tonight's meeting
 - The longest serving member tonight was John Cook who received his 45 year pin
 - Pins and certificates for those unable to attend will be mailed or delivered by hand



MEMBERS RECEIVING PINS THIS EVENING

3. District 9 meeting: Commander Todd and Adjutant Dodge attended the last District 9 leadership meeting. The overall theme from National and Dept of NC is Membership! Also remember, that the Legion Act has been signed allowing more honorably discharged veterans the opportunity to join the Legion.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

Completed events:

1. Cars under the lights – Aug 17th Jim Zelenski
 - o Event was rained out. Jim waited 3 hours. Only 12 cars showed up
2. BELK Sale - Aug 24th – Dale Todd
 - o Over a dozen Post 68 members and/or spouses helped with ticket sales.
 - o Over \$1500 has been received so far
 - o Still waiting to hear about Sale Day proceeds
3. Founders Day – Sep 15th – Bea Frost
 - o Bea thanked all who helped and/or participated
 - o Overall attendance at the event was low due to weather
 - o We did sell 3 fish fry tickets and received \$50 from the 50/50
 - o The Post once again made a positive impression on the community



Upcoming Events:

1. Fish Fry Sep 21st (rescheduled) – John Hacker
 - John thanked all who have sold tickets. 150 sold so far
 - Most details have been ironed out. We are a go for this Saturday
 - Setup is at 12:30 on the day of the event
2. SCC Expo Sep 28th – Lane Adrian
 - Lane will be representing Post 68 at this event of non-profit community service providers
3. Officers meeting – Oct 10th
4. District 9 meeting hosted by Post 68 – Oct 12th
 - Commander will be asking for help from Post members for setup.
 - Any member can attend. There will be a free lunch
5. Department Fall Conference Oct 18,19
6. Trunk or Treat Oct 26th from 4 to 6pm – Dan Dodge
 - Dan will be reaching out to Post members with requests for candy and more details soon
7. BELK Sale – Nov 2nd – Dale Todd
8. Brunswick Forest Club Fair – Nov 8th
 - New event to highlight clubs and organizations within Brunswick Forest
9. Veterans Day Parade – Nov 11th
 - Now named SE NC Veterans Day Parade
10. Post membership appreciation picnic – Nov 10th – John Marone
11. Mallory Creek Vendor Fair – Nov 16th
 - New event
12. Pasta Dinner fundraiser November 21st – Patty Kelley
 - Signup sheet passed around for volunteers

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

- Still planning to organize an oratorical contest. Commander asks that anyone with experience with public speaking or teaching who would like to help mentor high school students.

Member Comments:

None

Meeting Wrap-up:

Guest Speaker for October meeting: Ed Hawthorn continues the story of his Grandfather's service during WWI

Next Officers Meeting: 1pm on Oct 10th @ Shelmore pool area

Next Membership Meeting: October 17th 6pm @ Blossoms

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer: **Brian Danielson, Chaplain (Dale Todd, pro tem)**

Adjourned at: 1934 hours

50/50: Was won by: Dan Fortini Total take was \$75 with \$55 to the Post