



American Legion Post 68

Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland, NC

Meeting Minutes – January 16th, 2019 at 1800 hours

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: Dale Todd, Commander
Convened: 1800
Adjourned: 1945

Total Attendance: 37*
Officers and Staff: 13**
Members: 31***
Guests: 6

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** none. All officers present

Officers & Staff in Attendance: Dale Todd-Commander; Jim Zelenski-First Vice Cdr; Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Elliott Koppel-Finance Officer; Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Brian Danielson-Chaplain; John Marone-Logistics; Richard Fry-PAO; Bill Smith, Sergeant at Arms; Dan Fortini-Membership; Lou Tranzillo-At Large, Mike Conners-At Large; John Hacker-At Large

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Call to Order: **Commander: Dale Todd, Commander**
Chaplain's Opening Prayer: **Brian Danielson, Chaplain**
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, seconded and passed by vote of membership present to approve December 2019 meeting minutes as published.

Guest Speakers: This evening we had 1 presentation and 2 guest speakers:

1. **Bill Nadeau**, Town of Leland Parks and Facilities Manager brought multiple display boards showing architectural drawings of proposed future park amenities. Post members were encouraged to vote for which design they most favored. Mr. Nadeau was on-hand to answer questions. Bill left @ 6pm just prior to our meeting start.
2. **Bailey Smith** was our Oratorical Contest winner who gave her winning speech on the Constitution to members present. She will be competing in the Division 9 Oratorical contest being held at St James Post 545 this coming Saturday. Bailey was well received by the membership and did a great job.
3. **Carlo Montagano**, Executive Director for Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity gave a presentation on the services that Habitat provides here in Brunswick County. Slides were provided. He also talked about a new program they have that emphasizes support to veterans called the Veterans Build Program, Veterans can be eligible for housing and/or home repairs & wheelchair ramps. Veterans will receive more relaxed requirements for receiving aid. Carlo is encouraging engagement between Habitat and other non-profit organizations. Carlo provided our Service Officer with various forms and material veterans can use to apply for services. Habitat is working on an intake program whereby Legion Posts can help veterans apply for support. First Vice Jim Zelenski suggested that the Post take advantage of this offer and work with Habitat.

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

- We had several guests this evening in addition to our guest speakers and presenters
 - Adriane Sanders: New transfer
 - Ben Womersley: New transfer
 - John White: New transfer and membership renewal
 - Robert Ross; New transfer
 - Adriane Sanders: Legion member visiting the Post
 - Spouses: Joeleen Dodge & Laurelle Womersley
 - Barretta Smith, mother of our Oratorical contest winner Bailey Smith

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Membership Report: Membership Chair, **Dan Fortini**

Prior Month Membership: December 2019	134
New Members:	0
Transfers in:	0
Reinstatements:	0
Transfers out:	0
Resignations:	0
Dropped: (Post Everlasting)	0
Active members:	134

- 25 unpaid members with 81% paid up. Members being contacted
- We are 103% towards our Department membership goal
- Note: After contacting members who had not yet renewed, several more renewals have been made.

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

RECONCILIATION		
MONTH	DEC 2019	
BANK		
BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 11,095.12
INCOME		\$ 3,917.63
DISBURSEMENTS		\$ 3,353.61
ENDING BALANCE		\$ 11,659.14
CASH BOX 1		\$ 90.00
Cash Box 2		\$ 50.00
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 11,799.14

BALANCES PER ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTH		
General Fund		\$ 1,527.52
50/50		\$ 24.00
Poppy Fund		\$ (1,200.00)
Dues		\$ (45.50)
Donation		\$ 53.00
Clothing		\$ 205.00
BALANCES PER ACCOUNT		
General Fund		\$ 5,063.05
50/50		\$ 294.00
Poppy Fund		\$ (153.90)
Dues		\$ 1,683.00
Donation		\$ 4,238.17
Clothing		\$ 276.50

3. By-Laws update: Commander – We have our new Charter document with a page for Post members to sign which was on a back table where members present were able to add their names.

4. Election Committee: Commander presented names for the 2020 election committee per our new bylaws. He also reviewed with members who was/was not eligible to run for their current office. (See table of positions below)

Dan Dodge - Lead
Art Dietrich
Joe Frost
Richard Fry
John Marone

5. Concerns and Sick Call: Brian Danielson, Chaplain – Nothing to report. Made offer to visit members if needed
6. Service Officer: Lane Adrian – (1) The PEC (Post Executive Committee) had approved funding to support the daughter of a local veteran who needed respite support. Was also able to get the veteran into the VA health system. (2) We helped a local veteran with his rent who was in danger of eviction. PEC approved a check to assist. Veteran is also unemployed. We are following up to see how else we can help. (3) Lane has forms and info for getting veterans into the VA health care system for anyone who needs them. This is our benefit which we earned!
7. Service Awards: Adjutant Dan Dodge – We started these in September and still have several to issue out to members. Tonight, Art Dietrich received his. 4 others were given to members who know the recipients and will take to them. The remaining 14 awards will be mailed out. Service awards will be presented again this coming September for anyone with an anniversary event (5, 10, 15 etc years).
8. BELK Charity Sale (November): Dale Todd – This last sale, which occurred November 9th at a time when we had many other events going on still brought in over \$600 to the Post.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **2020 Events:** Commander gave a quick overview of our 2020 events calendar emphasizing to members that we need help and support to run these events, many of which require a member to lead them. If no member steps forward, the event will not happen. We are planning to do our Fish Fry fundraiser this spring. In order to do so, we need a lead by the end of January. If no lead, there will be no event. The Fish Fry brought in over \$1000 this past year so it is an important fund raiser. A note to members will be going out soon. See list of events attached to these minutes. Please let Commander or any officer know if you are interested.
2. We received a certificate of Appreciation from the American Honor Guard for our support assisting with the Vietnam Traveling Wall project. Certificate was on display during the meeting with a copy on our website



CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

Completed events: December and January (to date)

1. Jacobs / Post Name Change reception Dec 14th: Commander. This ended up being a great community event with lots of media coverage. The Jacobs family was very impressed and supportive of the Post. PFC Jacobs parents were presented with a copy of our Charter with their son's name, a Post ball cap for Mr. Jacobs and a gold-star flag. We also received a thank you letter from the Vietnam Veterans group who were present.



2. Flag Retirement (January 4th): Dan Fortini – Estimated we burned from 300 – 400 flags. Quite a few Post members came out to assist. Dan gave special thanks to John Cook for supplying the burn barrels and for helping to arrange the event with the help of Dean's Automotive on Lansdale Road. Dean's selected one of the new, larger flags to display in his shop. We also have additional new flags in storage for any member who knows of someone or a business that could use it.



3. Oratorical Contest: We completed our first ever Oratorical Contest with 2 contestants from NBHS. Several Post members were on hand to assist. Many thanks to Joe and Bea Frost for mentoring our contestants



Upcoming Events:

1. Storage Unit Cleanup: John Marone will be looking into additional shelving. John Cook talked about getting a trailer for storage. Will discuss further with Marone
2. District 9 meeting – Feb 29th in Oak Island Post 454
3. Department mid-winter conference – Feb 13 – 15. Dodge driving. Will car pool with Fortini, Adrian and Fry

4. NBHS Change of Command and Awards – April 6th. Lou Tranzillo working this. There will be two \$100 awards along with a \$500 scholarship from the Post to selected JRTOC cadets.
5. VEAC April 15,16,17,18 Southport; Dale Todd spoke on the upcoming VEAC event to be held in Southport this year

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

The Commander reiterated his request for members to step up to participate in or lead Post events

Commanders leave schedule:

- Feb 10 – 20th – Will miss Feb officer and membership meetings
- Mar 12 – 25th – Will miss March officer and membership meeting

Adjutant leave schedule:

- March 6 – 13 – Will miss March officer meeting

Adjutant Dodge asked members if they knew of a “Michael Pinto”. The Post has been receiving mail for this person from the VA to our post office box. John Cook indicated that he received mail for this person years ago as well. We will be returning mail back to the VA for them to sort it out.

We had a Legion member (not from our Post) come to help at the Oratorical contest. He is working with The Smithsonian on a documentary film entitled “Gun Trucks of Vietnam”. Dale received a DVD copy of the show for members to check out. More info can be found on the Smithsonian website:

<https://www.smithsonianchannel.com/videos/how-us-soldiers-built-their-own-deadly-gun-trucks/64186>

Website:

Please check out new info that has been added to our website for events and services
Also, please check our calendar under “Web Site Updates”

Member Comments:

- Mike Conners spoke up regarding members volunteering for events. It seems that the same core group of Post members are doing the vast majority of the work regarding events. We need more participation from our membership to support our events and fund raisers.
- John Carter indicated that he was one our original Charter members who worked to setup a Post baseball team which eventually ended when the Post dissolved due to members not participating.
- John Marone indicated that new Post 68 jackets are available. He plans to submit an order this month @ \$55/jacket. Multiple people have asked for jackets but they need to pay UP FRONT before ordering. Get your check to John !

Meeting Wrap-up:

Guest Speaker for February meeting: Lindsay Maher, Executive Director for Brunswick Wellness Coalition

Next Officers Meeting: 1pm on Feb 13th @ Shelmore pool area

Next Membership Meeting: Feb 20th, Blossoms -

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

Adjourned at: 1945 hours

50/50: Was won by Bill Smith with \$23 to the Post

As of January 2020		Post 68 Officer Elections - 2020		
Position	Incumbent	Candidate	Candidate	REMARKS
Commander				Elected Position
1st Vice Commander				Elected Position
2nd Vice Commander				Elected Position
Finance Officer	Elliott Koppel			Elected Position
Post Historian				Elected Position
Post Chaplain				Elected Position
Sergeant At Arms				Elected Position
Member at Large				Elected Position
Member at Large	Mike Conners			Elected Position
Member at Large	John Hacker			Elected Position
Position	Incumbent	Candidate	Candidate	REMARKS
Adjutant	Dan Dodge			Appointed Position
Service Officer	Lane Adrian			Appointed Position
Judge Advocate				Appointed Position
Logistics Officer	John Marone			Appointed Position
Public Relations	Richard Fry			Appointed Position
Membership	Dan Fortini			Appointed Position

As of 12/17/19		POST 68 EVENTS PLANNING - 2020	
MONTH	DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
JAN	1/9/2020	Officers meeting	
	1/11/2020	Oratorical Contest	
	1/16/2020	Membership meeting	
FEB	2/13/2020	Dept Winter Conference	3 days
	2/13/2020	Officers meeting	
	2/20/2020	Membership meeting	
	2/22/2020	District 9 meeting	Ocean Isle Post
	TBD	Storage Unit Cleanup	Feb/Mar timeframe
MAR	3/12/2020	Officers meeting	
	3/19/2020	Membership meeting	
	TBD	NBHS boys/girls state nominations	March/April timeframe
	TBD	Boy scouts breakfast in Navassa	TBD
APR	TBD	JRTOC Awards ceremony	April/May timeframe
	4/9/2020	Officers meeting	
	4/15/2020	VEAC event	April 15-18 Southport
	4/16/2020	Membership meeting	
	TBD	Spring Belk Charity sale	April/May timeframe
MAY	5/2/2020	Division II meeting	
	5/7/2020	Officers meeting	
	5/9/2020	District 9 Meeting	
	5/21/2020	Post Elections/Membership meeting	
	TBD	Flag Placement Cemeteries	Late May / Memorial Day
	TBD	Spring fundraiser	Fish fry, BBQ, other
	TBD	Poppy Day collections	
JUN	6/3/2020	Dept Convention	June 3 - 6 in Raleigh
	6/11/2020	Officers meeting	
	6/18/2020	Installation of Post Officers	membership meeting
	6/18/2020	Membership meeting	
	TBD	Flag collection event	Mid-June
JUL	7/4/2020	July 4th parade	Magnolia Greens
	7/9/2020	Officers meeting	
	7/16/2020	Membership meeting	
	TBD	Flag retirement	June/July timeframe
	TBD	Belk summer sale	July/Aug timeframe
AUG	8/13/2020	Officers meeting	
	8/20/2020	Membership meeting	

	TBD	Leland under lights car show	
	TBD	Downtown Concert series wrist band sales	Aug/Sep
SEP	9/17/2020	Pinning/Awards ceremony	membership meeting
	9/10/2020	Officers meeting	
	TBD	Leland Founders Day	
OCT	10/8/2020	Officers meeting	
	10/15/2020	Membership meeting	
	TBD	Trunk or Treat	Halloween on a Saturday
	TBD	Belk pre-holiday sale	Setp - Nov timeframe
	TBD	Post membership picnic/social	
NOV	11/12/2020	Officers meeting	
	11/19/2020	Pasta Dinner Fundraiser	November membership mtg
	TBD	Brunswick Forest club fair	
	TBD	Leland Veterans breakfast	Sr Center
	TBD	Wilmington Veterans parade	
	TBD	Navassa Veterans service	
	TBD	Belk Winter fundraiser	Nov/Dec timeframe
	TBD	Holiday gift cards to Vets	
	TBD	Christmas cards to service members	
DEC	TBD	Leland Christmas parade	
	12/10/2020	Officers meeting	
	12/17/2020	Membership meeting	
OTHER POSSIBLE EVENTS			
		SCC meetings	various dates
		BFA meetings	various dates
		JROTC Change of Command ceremony	
		Battleship NC, Misc event	
		Coast Guard Cutter redeployment	July?