



# The Dispatch

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 – Leland, NC

PO Box 521 Leland, NC 28451 [www.ncpost68.org](http://www.ncpost68.org) & Facebook

## Post Officers

Commander:  
Dale E. Todd

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:  
Jim Zelenski

Adjutant:  
Daniel Dodge

Finance Officer:  
Elliott Kopple

Chaplain:  
Brian Danielson

Service Officer:  
Lane Adrian

Sergeant at Arms:  
Bill Smith

Logistics Officer:  
John Marone

Public Relations:  
Richard Fry

Membership:  
Dan Fortini

Members @ Large:  
Lou Tranzillo  
John Hacker  
Mike Conners

## Monthly Meetings:

Third Thursday of month  
Blossoms Restaurant  
Magnolia Greens  
1800 Tommy Jacobs Dr  
Leland, NC 28451

Meet 'n Greet: 5:30pm  
Meeting @ 6pm

Publication of:  
John E. Jacobs  
American Legion Post 68

607-237-4630  
[Adjutant@ncpost68.org](mailto:Adjutant@ncpost68.org)  
[www.ncpost68.org](http://www.ncpost68.org)



*Serving Those who have served*

## Post meetings and COVID-19 virus:

We had cancelled our March meeting and have already announced cancellation our April 2020 meeting. Notices have been published to membership and to local media outlets announcing the cancellations.

These cancellations have been due to our desire to keep our members safe from the COVID-19 virus. We are also abiding by NC State Governor Executive order 121 restricting meetings to groups of 10 or less and adhering to social distancing. The NC Department of the American Legion has also requested that all Posts in North Carolina cancel meetings and events until further notice.

Please note:

Our Post is STILL OPERATIONAL! Members of the PEC (Post Executive Committee) are providing leadership. Our Service Officer and Chaplain stand ready to provide support to members and local veterans whenever and wherever we can. Our Commander and Adjutant are working to provide information and news to Post membership. Our Election Committee is still working and the PEC is meeting using virtual meeting tools.

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## Future Guest Speakers:

MAY 2020:  
Non – Elections

June 2020:  
Frank Amoroso  
Novelist, attorney,  
professor  
Will speak on the  
Korean War

July 2020:  
Cindy Parson  
Wounded Warrior  
project

## Website News:

Please check our website regularly for important news, information and changes – especially now while we all battle COVID-19

## Post 68-Local Media:

Our Public Affairs Officer, Richard Fry regularly publishes meeting information and updates in the Wilmington STAR News along with the Brunswick Beacon newspapers



# John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Veterans serving Veterans!

### ELECTIONS:

Per our Bylaws, we are to freeze nominations for election of officers during our April meeting. Since this meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19, the Adjutant has been directed to send emails to Post members with email addresses on file and letters via USPS for those with no email, informing them that nominations for any office will be closed as of 9pm EDT on April 16<sup>th</sup> at which time the slate of officers will be closed. The Commander has asked all members desiring to participate in Post leadership to self-nominate for any position they wish to pursue.

Currently, we have a full state of officers for the 2020-2021 membership year to include new position – Judge Advocate.

Elections are still planned for our May meeting. In the event we must cancel the May meeting, we have received guidance from our Department Judge Advocate on how to conduct elections for office using electronic and manual ballot means. The election committee is currently working on this process.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Due to the closure of North Brunswick High School, the JROTC awards ceremony has been cancelled. Col Baker is working on a plan for getting our Post awards to the recipients. Boys/Girls State is still TBD.

### BUDDY CHECKS:

Membership coordinator Dan Fortini along with members of the PEC have been performing buddy checks – reaching out to Post 68 members checking to see if any member needs assistance.

### SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:

Our Service officer has been working with several local veterans on VA benefits and other issues.

### CHAPLAIN REPORT:

Nothing to report



# Post 68 Happenings:

## Post 68 Oratorical Contest – January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Post 68 held it's first ever American Legion Oratorical Contest January 11<sup>th</sup> with students from North Brunswick High School. Bailey Smith (winner) along with Dylan Mills (2<sup>nd</sup> place). Ms. Smith went onto compete in the District 9 competition Jan 18<sup>th</sup> where she came in 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many thanks to our judges, NBHS officials, Post volunteers and Mike Fegan, District 9 Oratorical Chairman

## Post 68 Flag Retirement Event– January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Many thanks to Dean Rathburn for allowing us to use his land and burn barrels for this event. Also many thanks to Post members John Cook & Dan Fortini for leading this delayed and much needed event.

## John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland, NC Presents Donation to the North Brunswick HS JROTC Air Rifle Shooting Team



On February 4, 2020 Post 68 Commander Dale Todd and Post 68 Adjutant Dan Dodge presented the North Brunswick High School (NBHS) Junior ROTC Air Rifle Shooting Team with a donation of \$800.00. The donation recognizes Post 68's continuing partnership with NBHS and is intended to help the team defray travel expenses for the 2020 JROTC Air Rifle Championships.

## MEMBERSHIP INFO:

Welcome new transfers!

## MEMBERSHIP STATS:

As of 1 April:

Members: 186  
2020 Dues Paid: 172

As of 1 June, any member over 2 years in arrears will be dropped from the roster.

2021 renewal season starts in July

## BURN PIT:

A place for commentary

This is my first crack at a newsletter format. Your feedback would be appreciated.

Thanks,  
Dan Dodge





## Post 68 Events:

Your Post PEC team has done much work planning events for this calendar year. Fund raisers, public service events, support for youth, etc. Many events have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 virus. However, once travel and movement restrictions are lifted, the PEC will again get back to work planning events for the remainder of the year.

**WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP AND HELP LEAD!**

## Upcoming Events: Many cancellations due to virus

May 2nd: American Legion District 9 virtual meeting

• May 21: Post membership meeting & elections.  
(TBD due to COVID19)

May 22: Poppy Day Remembrance-Richard Fry lead.  
(TBD due to COVID-19)

May 25: Cemetery Flag Placement-John Cook lead.  
(TBD due to COVID-19)

June 11-14: NC Dept. Convention: Raleigh, NC  
Selected officers and members

June 12: Unusable Flag Collection Event- Dan Fortini Lead

June 18: Post membership meeting & Officer installation

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Magnolia Greens July 4<sup>th</sup> parade: Cancelled. Support is TBD

July: American Legion National Convention - CANCELLED

Sep 11: Post 68 Blood Drive—Mike Conners/Dan Fortini leads

## Post 68 Legion Riders news: *Lane Adrian-Commander*

April events have been cancelled due to COVID-19



## COMMANDERS CORNER:

Fellow Post 68 Members:

We are certainly in the midst of some challenging times. The uncertainty of what the future holds along with the restrictions on travel, meetings and group activities create stress that we all are experiencing. It's important that we not lose touch with each other and that we don't forget that we are all here to help each other. This newsletter is intended as vehicle to help us to stay in touch and contains information about Post events, activities, cancellations and programs. We intend to make this a regular publication. Our Executive Committee members are staying engaged. We had our first Post Executive Committee (PEC) meeting using virtual tools last week. It went well so we will be able to continue to work together on Post business throughout the current emergency. We will be communicating with all of you via email (and regular mail for those of you without email) regularly to make sure everyone is OK and to provide you with information on veteran issues, local items of interest and Post activities. One item of immediate interest is our annual Post Election. The details are in this newsletter and additional information will be forthcoming.

If you are in need of assistance, or know of any veteran who is in need, please let us know. Our primary mission is still to help veterans in any way we can. We are all in this together so don't hesitate to reach out to share ideas, volunteer to assist when needed and/or just to talk. Take care and stay safe.

Dale