



The Dispatch

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

PO Box 521 Leland, NC 28451 www.ncpost68.org & Facebook

2019 - 2020

Post Officers

Commander:
Dale E. Todd

1st Vice Commander:
Jim Zelenski

Adjutant:
Daniel Dodge

Finance Officer:
Elliott Kople

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
www.ncpost68.org



Serving Those who have served

Meetings & COVID-19: *The saga continues...*

We once again had to cancel our June membership meeting due to concerns over the COVID-19 virus and also to abide by Executive order 141 from our NC State governor and AL Department of NC Commander.

We are still in Phase-2 of the Governor's stay-at-home order which is not scheduled to end until June 26th. In checking with Blossoms, their meeting is still unavailable for us to use. Please stay tuned and what your email/mail for further information.

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Post 68 Officers: 2020 – 2021 Year

Here is a list of your new Post Executive Committee Officers (PEC) affective as of 1 July 2020:

Commander:	John Hacker
1 st Vice Commander:	Dan Fortini
2 nd Vice Commander:	John Cook
Adjutant:	Dan Dodge
Finance Officer:	Jim Zelenski
Chaplain:	Lou Tranzillo
Service Officer:	Lane Adrian
Historian:	Brian Danielson
Sergeant at Arms:	Bill Smith
Judge Advocate:	Alan Simmons
Logistics Officer:	John Marone
Public Relations:	Richard Fry
Membership:	Herb Moore
Members at Large:	Elliott Koppel Mike Conners Dale Todd

Many thanks to our outgoing officers who have led our Post thru the past 2 years and who have put their time and effort into continuing to build up Post 68 and make our Post even more successful!



Guest Speakers:

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 Media:

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

Did you know?

The American Legion has a training webpage where you can find training for both members and officers:
<http://legion.org/training>

Veteran Suicide
Awareness &
Prevention:



Save A Vet Now:

<https://saveavetnow.org>



John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Veterans serving Veterans!

STORAGE TRAILER:



Post 68 member John Cook has generously donated a new trailer to use for storage of Post property. This gift will allow us to save the cost of renting a storage unit. Currently, the trailer is being painted with the American Legion logo and Post contact information. A team is being formed to build shelving and move contents. Please contact John Marone for more details.

POST MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:



Last month we opened a survey for members to take in order to gauge membership feelings towards CORONA Virus and meetings along with thoughts on our Newsletter. The survey is now closed but you can view the results at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-P3TKXB9D/>

BUDDY CHECKS:

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

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:

We helped Mrs. Tadem get a wheelchair ramp built along with safety items installed in her bathroom and home. Many thanks to Seabees for their support.

CHAPLAIN REPORT:

Please be sure to report to the PEC of the passing of any member or local veteran you hear about.

LOGISTICS OFFICER:

Shirts and Post hats are available now with our new name: John E. Jacobs. Golf Shirts: \$25.00, T-Shirts \$15.00, Hats \$15.00. Older items without “John E. Jacobs” are still available at a discount.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

News articles and photos of Post 68's JROTC Awards and Scholarships received excellent media coverage with full article write-ups and photos in the StarNews and Brunswick Beacon.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Membership renewals start in July. You can renew online, at meetings or via US Mail.

Post 68 Happenings:

Post 68 News and organization information has been being posted to both Wilmington Star News and The Brunswick Beacon has been posted on Next-Door and our website.

News from higher Headquarters:

The American Legion now has a twice-monthly podcast called: Tango Alpha Lima.
Listen in at: <https://Legion.org/tangoalphalima>

COMMITTEES: From the Commander

One of our ongoing challenges has been engaging members more effectively so that we can increase the number of members who are more actively involved in Post activities. In order to take our next real evolutionary step to achieve a broad level of consistent involvement, the PEC voted to activate our standing committee structure and to utilize those committees to do the work of the Post. Article V of our By-laws identifies possible committees. As a first step, the PEC has established 5 committees with a chairperson for each:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>
Americanism	Dale Todd
Publicity/Public Relations	Richard Fry
Membership	Dan Fortini
Service	Lane Adrian
Event	John Cook

Information on the duties of each committee will be communicated to everyone along with a request for volunteers to indicate which committee they are interested in.

Greetings from your new Commander:

I am honored and humbled to be elected as your new Post Commander. I have been with the American Legion for 11 years. 9 in California and Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and past post commander there, several years ago. I served in Vietnam as an Army Infantry Squad Leader at the ripe old age of 20 years old. We are in challenging times, many have likened the covid-19 pandemic to a full war. We as Veterans know that means we must stick together and help our members and our community. I call this new year of service to the post, **Legion Town U.S.A.** You will be hearing a lot of that from me. The purpose of this campaign is to roll out all the services we offer and can offer to our veterans and local community. People know there is an American Legion, but few really know and understand our services, our Volunteer efforts and the positive impact we have and will continue to make on our great community. We want the community to know we are here I call on our current members to step up and help our legion grow through membership and keep our community healthy and prosperous. **Volunteer**, get involved in one of our committees. It's time for all of us to step up and be heard.

Let the **4th of July** be our turning point with this so-called **NEW NORMAL**. Let us welcome this **4th of July with love and friendship**, we have lived in our cave and watched our nation get pulled apart on TV. Welcome your new independence this 4th of July, dust off that Legion cover and be heard, and **thank you for the opportunity to serve you.**

John Hacker

MEMBERSHIP INFO:

July 1st starts our new membership year. You will be receiving notices to renew your membership for 2021

MEMBERSHIP STATS:

As of 1 June:

Members: 184
2020 Dues Paid: 172

Stars by Bea:

As members of the American Legion we all understand the symbolism of our Country's flag- We readily recognize the stars as a symbol for each of the States. But stars have also been thought of as a symbol of the heavens and the goals to which humankind aspires and been used to symbolize a victory- think Battle Stars.

You can say "Your service is appreciated and Thank YOU" to a fellow Veteran by sharing a star from a retired flag.

Stars are available packaged in a ziplock bag with information about our Post and can be obtained by calling either Joe or Bea Frost at 910-769-0543.



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 COVID-19!

July 4th: Independence Day Parade @ Magnolia Greens

Time: Be at staging area @ 9:30am corner of Cornerstone & Grandiflora
We are marching with our Color Guard and Banner and will be joining Leland VFW. Park and Blossoms and walk to staging area. Please wear Your Post cap and shirt.

July 9th: Post PEC Officers meeting. 1pm via Zoom

July 16: Post membership meeting

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

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. The PEC is still meeting using virtual meeting tools. We continue to march and support Veterans!

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



American Legion Riders will be participating in a July 4th parade at Magnolia Greens. Please wear your Riders vest and Post 68 ball caps. Helmets should be optional. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Lane Adrian

COMMANDERS CORNER:

My term as Commander ends on June 30 and John Hacker will relieve me. So, this is my final Commanders Comments for our newsletter. Looking back on the past year, 2019-2020 was a successful year for Post 68. We continued the trend of the past 5 years of exceeding department goals for membership growth. We conducted 4 successful major fund-raising events in support of our programs. We completed a significant revision to our Post Constitution & By-laws (C&B), obtained approval from the Department and implemented changes included in the revised C&B, including renaming the Post. We aided veterans in Leland and, in partnership with other Posts in the area, aided veterans in other parts of the county. We continued our successful North Brunswick High School (NBHS) and Junior ROTC (JROTC) youth programs and added a new program with our first Post Oratorical Contest. We participated in multiple Leland, county and regional community events which helped us continue to publicize the Post around the region and support the community. Many of our plans for the last part of the 2019-2020 year had to be modified and/or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we go into the 2020-2021 year, there are still many uncertainties which will have to be dealt with as we develop our plans for the fall and winter. Still, while many Posts in the state and area basically closed down and went dormant, Post 68 remained active by working to stay connected with our members and to reach out to any veterans requiring assistance. The Post is well placed to move forward and continue to build upon our success of the past 5 years. I am honored to have served as your Commander and I know that John Hacker will do an outstanding job. Many thanks to all of you. Stay safe

Dale Todd, Post 68 Commander