



The Dispatch

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

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

2020 - 2021

Post Officers

Commander:
John Hacker

1st Vice Commander:
Dan Fortini

Adjutant:
Daniel Dodge

Finance Officer:
Jim Zelenski

Chaplain:
Lou Tranzillo

Service Officer:
Lane Adrian

Sergeant at Arms:
Bill Smith

Logistics Officer:
John Marone

Public Relations:
Richard Fry

Membership:
Herb Moore

Members @ Large:
Dale Todd
Elliott Koppel
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

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www.ncpost68.org



Serving Those who have served

Veteran Suicide Awareness Month

Suicide is a critical public health issue for the entire population and veterans are at an especially high risk. Nearly 47,000 people die by suicide each year in the U.S. and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death overall.

On Friday, September 18th, American Legion Department of NC Adjutant, Randy Cash drove down from Raleigh to meet with Post 68 CDR John Hacker and 1st Vice CDR Dan Fortini to discuss Veteran Suicide Prevention. Commander Hacker has been very involved with the SaveAVetNow organization and explained the mission to Adjutant Cash. Cash was very excited about this program and is encouraged that our portion of NC is taking an active role. The Department of NC will be assisting our Post with information and programs so our Service Officer can help get the word out to members and the surrounding community about suicide prevention.



POW/MIA SAFE!



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COVID-19 Status

October 2020 Meeting

Members: We continue to be under State of NC executive orders and are in phase 2.5 of reopening. Many members are still concerned over attending an in-person meeting in September therefore the September meeting was cancelled. We have been in contact with Blossoms regarding our October meeting. Blossoms IS OPEN for meals in the restaurant. They ARE allowing meetings to be held but with a maximum limit of 40 people in the building. We are currently working on the premise that we WILL hold our October meeting in person. With 15 members of the PEC of which ~12 will be present, that leaves space for about 28 members. With a limitation of 40, we will be forced to request that members RESERVE a seat at the meeting to make sure we do not exceed max capacity. Stay tuned for more information as we get back to normalcy!

Guest Speakers:

September 2020 meetings:
CANCELLED!
No guest for October

Website News:

Check our website regularly for important news, events, information and changes—especially now while we all battle COVID-19.

[HTTP://ncpost68.org](http://ncpost68.org)

Post 68 Media:

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

Did you know?

Resources Available to All Veterans:

For details, go to:

<https://www.milvets.nc.gov/resource-guide>

Resources for Disabled Veterans can be found here:

<https://www.military.com/benefits/disabled-veteran-benefits.html>



John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Veterans serving Veterans!

Post Chaplain:

Our newly elected Post Chaplain Lou Tranzillo who has been a strong Post 68 supporter since he joined the Post was presented with a new Legion hat and Chaplains pin during our annual Flag Collection Event. Lou was very pleased and thanks those officers in attendance who donated the funds.

Buddy Checks:

We want to say thank you for your military service and let you know how much we appreciate your membership. 2020 has been filled with serious challenges. Our 1st Vice Commander along with several officers have been reaching out to members as part of our Buddy Check initiative We wanted to touch base with you and see how you are doing and find out if there is anything we can do for you and your family. Remember your Post is always here for you. If you need assistance, know of someone deployed or someone who needs veteran help, call any Post officer or email Dan Fortini: dan14ef@hotmail.com. Your 2021 support is important, essential & helps our Post help others. Help us continue the mission by renewing your membership at www.legion.org/renew or by mailing it in if you haven't already done so.

Thank you members!

LOGISTICS OFFICER:

Shirts and Post hats are available 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.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE: Dale Todd

Oratorical contest: We are working with North Brunswick High School for candidates

JROTC: We continue to wait for word on what activities the JROTC members will be allowed to participate in.

Boys & Girls State: We expect dates for 2021 to be published soon.

JROTC Awards and Scholarship: We will begin to focus on these activities in the Spring.

AWARDS:

The Dept. of NC gives out several awards during the Annual Convention such as newsletter, Commander, JROTC, Employer of the year to mention just a few. Post 68 is working on submissions for Website, Newsletter and Law Officer of the year. If you would like to sponsor or work on an award, please contact your Commander or Adjutant for more information.

Post 68 Happenings:

September 11th weekend was very busy for Post 68 with 3 events happening.....

September 11th, 8:30 am, several Post members joined forces with the Leland VFW to celebrate Patriot's day at the Belville Veterans Memorial @ the Brunswick Riverwalk Park. Many dignitaries were in attendance including the mayors of Belville and Leland with an emotional speech by AF LTC Will Bishop (ret). The VFW was able to stream the entire ceremony over Facebook



AL Members @ ceremony

CDR Hacker

Post member Eric Mens

VFW CDR Decker

September 11th, Post member Mike Conners assisted by Dan Fortini kicked off our first ever Red Cross Blood Drive. In all, 43 pints of blood were collected with an original goal of 32. Per Alan Simmons, Red Cross volunteer and past Post 68 CDR, that 129 lives saved. Thanks to all who donated and all who volunteered to support this event. The Red Cross was very happy with our efforts. This event also resulted in some new members as well! Possibly 2 more drives next year! *(CDR Hacker does his part!)*



September 12th: Post 68 1st Vice CDR Dan Fortini ran our annual unserviceable flag collection event at the Brunswick Forest Commons. This year, due to COVID-19, the event was more toned down but, we still collected about 150 worn flags. The event also resulted in several donations, a new Post member and a new transfer into our Post!



Post Members on duty



Flag Collection Event



Collections!

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership renewals are in high gear! We achieved our September goal of over 50%. Our next goal is Oct 11th which we have already exceeded! If you have not renewed yet, please send it in! The Post can receive awards for renewals.

Membership Stats:

Members Assigned: 186 (+4)

Percent renewed: 56%

Post 68 Military Branch breakdown:

US Army: 45%

US Marines: 9%

Navy: 23%

Air Force: 23%

Coast Guard: 2%

2020 Membership:

America

What are all those emails about?

We receive several informative emails each week

Legion Act:

It was about 1 year ago that Congress approved the Legion Act allowing ALL honorably discharged veterans to join the American Legion – the nation's largest veteran support organization!



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:

Wreaths Across America: Post Member Bob Penwell (penwellrob@aol.com) is taking on the reins of sponsoring a Wreaths Across American Fund Raiser for the Post. The Post is currently selling wreaths for \$15 each to be placed on graves in the Wilmington National Cemetery on Dec 19th. A portion of your donation will benefit Post 68 and our efforts to support local veterans. Please make checks out to: Wreaths Across America and give to a PEC member or, you can now order ONLINE at: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0380P>

BELK TICKET SALES FUND RAISER: Yes Post 68 members, we are doing Belk ticket sales again this year. Belk Charity Day Sales have been successful fund raisers for the Post over the past several years. This fund raiser is VERY important as we have been unable to host fund raisers this year due to COVID-19. This year, your \$5 coupon will get you \$10 off your Belk purchase the days of the sale! What a deal!

Dale Todd has graciously agreed to lead this event again. Please contact Dale directly for tickets (daleetodd@gmail.com). Dale does need volunteers to man tables at the stores. The actual sale will be Oct 9-10-11. This year, we can also purchase tickets ONLINE! To buy your ticket online, user this link: <https://belk.donately.com/donate.html> Then Select State: North Carolina; Then Select Location: Wilmington NC - Independence Mall; Then Select Charity: American Legion Post 68; then proceed to "Continue to Payment." Contact Dale Todd with any questions: 240-338-5411 or daleetodd@gmail.com

October PEC meeting via Zoom: Thursday, Oct. 8th @ 1pm

October Membership Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 15th @ 6pm – Blossoms Restaurant.

Please note: This meeting is still in the planning phases. Stay tuned for more info!

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



No news this month

Lane Adrian

COMMANDERS CORNER:



Be sure to register to Vote!

This is a right for which countless Americans have fought and died for.

We need to set an example, for our sons and daughters and our families and for our community.

The right to vote should never be taken for granted, North Carolina seems to be a deciding state in the National election, and we have several State positions that will be decided by OUR vote.

Our right to vote truly sets us apart from those in the world who are oppressed. GO VOTE!

John Hacker, Proud Commander, John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland, NC