



# American Legion Post 68

## Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland, NC

### Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2020 at 1800 hours

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant  
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander  
Convened: 1800  
Adjourned: 1925

Total Attendance: 19\*  
Officers and Staff: 9\*\*  
Members: 17\*\*\*  
Guests: 2

\*Concurred

\*\***Officers & Staff Absent:** Dan Fortini-1<sup>st</sup> Vice CDR, Jim Zelenski-Finance officer, Brian Danielson-Historian, Dale Todd, Mike Conners, Elliott Koppel – Members @ large

\*\*\*Existing plus new members

**Officers & Staff in Attendance:** John Hacker-Commander, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Bill Smith-Sergeant @ Arms, John Marone-Logistics, Richard Fry-PAO, Herb Moore-Membership, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate

#### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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Call to Order: **Commander**

Chaplain's Opening Prayer: **Chaplain**

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

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: **All**

#### **Current Business:**

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Due to Corona Virus, our last membership meeting was in February of 2020. Motion made, seconded and passed by vote of membership present to approve February 2020 meeting minutes as published.

Guest Speakers: This evening we had 2 guest speakers:

1. **Dale Smith, AL District 9 CDR:** CDR Smith brought greetings from our NC Department Commander and Vice Commanders and wanted to inform the membership of what was happening within the NC Department.
  - Posts are starting to work and meet again. A few posts meeting in person.
  - Department Fall conference will be held virtually. Winter conference is still TBD
  - Boys / Girls state and Super trooper program may or may not be held in 2021
  - The 2021 Oratorical contest will be held
  - The NC Department will be raising dues by \$5 for all Legion members in North Carolina due to financial issues and obligations at the Department level. It is up to each Post to determine whether to pass the cost increase onto membership or not.

Commander Smith then presented awards to Post 68 for meeting and exceeding membership goals:

- For the previous fiscal year, Post 68 exceeded the Department Commander's goal of 103%. Award accepted by Commander Hacker on behalf of Past Commander Dale Todd.
- Commander Smith mentioned that he has some posts he has had to work closely with to meet goals. He said he loses no sleep over Post 68 as we are able to exceed expectations. Therefore, he presented a certificate of achievement to Past Commander Dale Todd for the Post exceeding its' goals. (accepted by John Hacker)

- Commander Smith then presented membership achievement pins to Past Commander Todd and Adjutant Dodge for meeting membership goals.
2. **Mike Fagen, AL District 9 Vice CDR:** Mike is responsible for membership and the Oratorical contest for Division 9. Mike indicated that Post 68 has already hit 79% towards membership goals for the year. Normally, we would only be expected to hit a minimum of 55% in October. He congratulated the Post on this achievement. CDR Fagen then talked about the Legion Act whereby any veteran can now join the Legion. Many younger veterans have taken advantage of this program with over 1000 joining from a Department direct mail campaign. These new members are then matched up with Posts within their zip codes.

The National Oratorical contest 1<sup>st</sup> place award is now up to \$25,000 with \$2,500 for each participant to help cover expenses. Posts have been working virtually with students via Zoom meetings. Format and location of contests in January is TBD.

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Herb Moore-Membership Chair

- New transfer member: Jamie Becker – US Army. Was introduced and is interested in becoming active in Post

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Membership Report: Adjutant, Dan Dodge

Prior Month Membership: February 2020	141
New Members:	1
Transfers in:	66
Reinstatements:	0
Transfers out:	1
Resignations:	0
Dropped: (Post Everlasting)	2
Active members:	205

- 72 unpaid members with 65% paid up. 5 not renewing.
- We are 77% towards our Department annual membership goal
- We have done several Buddy Checks to see if members needed any help during crisis

2. Financial Report: Adjutant, Dan Dodge for Jim Zelenski

Checking account balances as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

<b>Checkbook Balance as of 30 Sep 2020</b>		<b>\$7,087.16</b>
Projected General Fund Income 1 Oct 2020 - 30 Jun 2021	11,760.65	
Projected Poppy Fund Income 1 Oct 2020 - 30 Jun 2021	1,500.00	
		<b>\$20,347.81</b>
Projected General Fund Expenses 1 Oct 2020 - 30 Jun 2021	-12,411.26	
Projected Poppy Fund Expenses 1 Oct 2020 - 30 Jun 2021	-2,000.00	
Operating Cash -	150.00	
Minimum General Fund Balance	-4,000.00	
<b>Contingency Funds Available for Unplanned Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,786.55</b>

Note: The Post has gone to great efforts to reduce or eliminate expenses since we have been unable to perform fund raising activities that would normally add to our bank account...

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### 1. Post 68 Status due to Corona Virus outbreak – **Commander Hacker**

- Many events had to be cancelled including important fund-raising activities including National and Department events and activities
  - o Poppy day
  - o Memorial Day activities
  - o JROTC / NBHS events
  - o Boys / Girls State
  - o Annual service awards and pins for Post membership (delayed)
  - o Legion baseball, National Oratorical contest & Legion college
  - o Various local events and fund-raisers
- Elections cancelled due to cancellation of Department annual convention
- Officer transition & PEC meetings being held

### 2. Creation of Post Committees – **Commander Hacker**

- **Americanism**                      **Dale Todd**
- **Publicity / PR**                      **Richard Fry**
- **Membership**                      **Dan Fortini**
- **Service**                      **Lane Adrian**
- **Events**                      **TBD**
- **Awards**                      **TBD**

### 3. Cape Fear Voices newspaper honoring local veterans in their November edition – **Adjutant Dodge**

### 4. Ceremonies honoring veterans – **Bob Page**

Bob spoke on the importance that when performing any ceremony, especially in the public eye, that participants know what to do, perform rehearsals and practice and that they keep the ceremony professional. **DO IT RIGHT!** Bob will help any organization or group who plans to do an event or ceremony to ensure it is done with taste, done professionally and done correctly. Commander Hacker asked Bob to assist our Post in any such activities.

### 5. Wreaths Across American – **Bob Penwell**    **(penwellrob@aol.com)**

Bob spoke on the status of our Wreaths Across America fund raiser campaign. We have currently sold about 80 wreaths so far. On Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, wreaths will be delivered from Upstate NY to national cemeteries across the Country where volunteers will place them upon veteran graves after a short ceremony at each location. Also of note, we are NOT decorating graves. We are honoring the veterans interned there.

#### *Facts to remember:*

- If ordering online, make sure you use the code for Post 68:  
<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0380P>
- Each wreath is \$15 with \$5 coming back to the sponsoring organization
- Checks must be made out to Wreaths Across American and be given to Bob Penwell to ensure the Post gets credit for the sale
- Our goal is 150 wreaths with a cutoff date of November 30th

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Service Officer:** Lane Adrian: Very little activity due to Corona Virus. Have worked with 3 local widows to connect them with WARM for wheelchair ramps.

**Chaplain:** Lou Tranzillo: Spoke on the need for civility towards each other

**Legion Riders:** Lane Adrian: Had first meeting since February. All fund raisers cancelled so far this year.

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES:**

### *Completed events: February thru September*

1. May 6<sup>th</sup>: Alex Moskowitz birthday drive-by
2. JROTC awards were presented for Jacobs Scholarship and Military Excellence presented to recipients
3. Aug 9<sup>th</sup>: Flag presentation to daughter of WWII veteran
4. Aug 14<sup>th</sup>: Drive-by salute for WWII vet Paul Phillips
5. Sep 11<sup>th</sup>: Patriots Day celebration @ Brunswick Riverwalk Park Veterans Memorial
6. Sep 11<sup>th</sup>: First Post 68 blood drive – Mike Conners
7. Sep 12<sup>th</sup>: Post 68 flag collection – Dan Fortini
8. October: BELK charity sales event tickets – Dale Todd (will receive over \$600)

### *Upcoming Events:*

1. Veterans Day Parade, Wilmington: Cancelled
2. Veterans Day: Ceremony Town of Leland Park – 11am – 1pm, Details TBD – John Hacker
3. NC Department virtual fall conference: Oct 9 – 23
4. Town of Leland Trunk or Treat: Cancelled
5. Pasta Dinner: February around Valentine's day. Blossoms is on board. Commander working a team to lead event.
6. Fish Fry: TBD
7. Oratorical Contest: Dale Todd: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 3 students interested.

## **MISC. ITEMS:**

Commanders Comments: VERY proud to be here as your Commander!

The Commander also reminded those present that tonight was not a typical Post 68 meeting. We chose a shorter, simplified format to streamline the meeting and end earlier.

Member Comments: None

## **Meeting Wrap-up:**

Guest Speaker for November meeting: TBD

Next Officers Meeting: 1pm Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

Next Membership Meeting: 6pm NOV 19<sup>th</sup>, Blossoms meeting room

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer: **Commander Hacker, Chaplain Tranzillo**

**Adjourned at:** 1925 hours

**50/50:** Not held