



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
Leland, NC

607-237-4630
Adjutant@ncpost68.org
www.ncpost68.org



Serving Those who have served

Veteran's Day 2020 and COVID-19

The history of Veterans Day began in 1919 with President Woodrow Wilson's proclamation of Armistice Day, to be "filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory".

This Veterans Day will be unique. The COVID-19 virus has once again affected an activity and disrupted a tradition. The Wilmington Veterans Day Parade has been cancelled. However, we as a Veterans organization cannot sit by and do nothing.

Therefore, we have teamed up with members of the Leland VFW and the Town of Leland to sponsor a Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony to be held at the Town of Leland park. The ceremony will start at 11am and is expected to last 1 hour. For those unable to attend in person, the ceremony will be streamed live via Zoom. (A link will be emailed to all members). All in attendance will need to abide by all common COVID-10 precautions (masks, distancing, etc.).



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Post 68 STATUS: October 2020 Meeting

We held our first membership meeting since February this month. Our guests included District 9 Commander Dale Smith along with his Vice Commander Mike Fagan.

Commander Smith talked about the activities of the National & State organizations and what other Posts are doing. Our Post was presented with several membership achievement awards for our past Commander Dale Todd. Mike Fagan spoke on membership and Oratorical contest.

All in all, the meeting was a success with 21 in attendance. All safety precautions were observed. Members were comfortable.

Plans are underway for November!

Please note: This issue of "The Dispatch" will be our last monthly edition. this newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis with the next edition being Jan-2021



Guest Speakers:

Guest Speaker for Nov:

Tony Vilardi from
Save-A-Vet Now

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?

AmazonSmile to benefit Legion Charities!

For details, go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Vantage Point is the official online newsletter of the VA. Go to:

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAnage/>



John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Veterans serving Veterans!

Service Officer: Due to COVID-19, there have been no requests for assistance. We have however, been working with WARM to have wheelchair ramps installed for 3 widows of local veterans. Lane Adrian, Post 68 Service Officer

Military and Veteran Ceremonies: Post member Bob Page reminds us all that any time a veteran organization performs a ceremony honoring veterans IT NEEDS TO BE DONE CORRECTLY! Especially when in the public eye. We must show that we take performing ceremonies seriously! Members participating in ceremonies must plan them out and practice! Bob has volunteered to help ANY group ensure that the ceremony they are holding is done correctly and in good taste.



Wreaths Across America: We are pushing forward with this fund raiser headed up by Bob Penwell. Wreaths can be purchased online or via a Post member. As of Oct 30th, we had exceeded our goal of 150 wreaths and are still selling! 200 is a DOABLE NUMBER! Contact John Hacker: 949-275-3247 or Bob Penwell

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: Event lead Dale Todd has met (virtually) with 4 NBHS students interested in participating in this event. Two more students have also expressed interest. We have 4 other Post members signed up as student coaches. The contest is scheduled for January 9th, 2021.

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

Boys & Girls State: Boys State tentatively scheduled for June 14-20. No word on Girls State

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

POST AWARDS:

The Dept. of NC gives out several awards during the Annual Convention and Conferences. If you would like to sponsor or work on an award, please contact your Commander or Adjutant for more information. Currently there are forms for Boy Scouts, Service Officer, News Media awards, JROTC instructors, patriotic business awards and baseball hall of fame.

Post 68 Happenings:

Belk Charity Sale October 2020: Many thanks to those who volunteered to sell Belk discount tickets for the October sale. All in all, between in-store ticket sales + direct sales + on-line sales we sold 124 tickets which netted \$677 for the Post plus several dollars in donations. Quite a bit of funds raised for approximately 40 hours of work. Thanks to Dale Todd for organizing this fund raiser. Dale is currently working on a 2nd Belk sale event for November.

October 15th: Past Post 68 Commander Dale Todd received several membership achievement awards from our District Commander Dale Smith (accepted by current Commander John Hacker). Awards included: Surpassing the Department Commander's goal of 103%, achieving and exceeding membership goals for 2019-2020 year. Todd and Adjutant Dodge also received pins for meeting membership goals. Vice District Commander Mike Fagen spoke on membership and the National Oratorical contest.



LEFT: District 9 Commander Dale Smith presents membership achievement award for Past Commander Dale Todd (accepted by Commander John Hacker).

CENTER: District 9 Commander Dale Smith presents Past Commander Dale Todd and Adjutant Dan Dodge with pins for exceeding membership goals. (accepted by Commander John Hacker).

RIGHT: District 9 Vice Commander Mike Fagen spoke to the membership regarding membership goals and the National and Department Oratorical contents.

Not a Post sponsored event, but if you are interested in learning more about business and being an entrepreneur, consider the following FREE course for veterans sponsored by AARP, Coastal Lower Cape Fear SCORE, and the Small Business Administration Veterans Business center. The class is done online via Zoom from Nov 9 – 11th from 9:30am to 3pm. There are multiple sessions throughout the day so you can pick and choose what you want to participate in. Go to the following link to register:

<http://aarp.cvent.com/reboottobusinessveterans>

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership renewals are in high gear! We exceeded our October goal of 55% and we have already exceeded our November and December goals! If you have not renewed yet, please send it in! The Post can receive awards for renewals.

Membership Stats:

Members Assigned: 207 (+21)
Percent renewed: 65%
Percent towards goal: 81%

Membership Cards:

Members: Please remember that if you have paid your dues for 2021 and have not received your ID card, the Adjutant is holding them to save on postage costs. If you need your card, please come to a meeting or, email the Adjutant: adjutant@ncpost68.org to have your card mailed to you if you need it right away.

Post 68 Military Branch breakdown:

US Army:	46%
US Marines:	9%
Navy:	21%
Air Force:	22%
Coast Guard:	2%



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:

VETERANS DAY, NOV 11th: Post 68 is teaming up with our fellow veterans in the Leland VFW to host a Veterans Day Memorial Day ceremony at the Town of Leland park. The ceremony will begin at 11am and will last about an hour. If you plan on attending, please wear your Post uniform and cap and bring your mask. If you cannot attend but would like to participate, the meeting will be streamed via Zoom. An email will be sent to all members with the Zoom connection info.

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://wreathsacrossamerica.org/NC0380P>

November PEC meeting via Zoom: Thursday, Nov 12th @ 1pm

November Membership Meeting: Thursday, Nov 19th @ 6pm – Blossoms Restaurant.

Please note: Please contact Adjutant@ncpost68.org to make a reservation! We are still limited in the number of people we can have in the meeting room.

Annual Pasta Dinner: Currently being planned for February.

Annual Fish Fry fund raiser is still TBD.

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



Multiple fund raisers have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. We did hold our first meeting on Oct 15th since February!

If you know of a Veteran shut-In and would like them to receive a Christmas Box... Go to: <http://www.operationnorthstate.com/> and sign them up. The NC Department has received notice from several Chapters expressing their desire to help in the distribution of these boxes. Join in on this great program and lend a hand delivering boxes to OUR local Veterans unable to get out.

Lane Adrian Ride safe, keep your "social distance" by riding STAGGARD!

COMMANDERS CORNER:

The coronavirus pandemic is disrupting homes, workplaces, businesses, and other aspects of American life. Adhering to "shelter in place" and other safety guidelines has complicated conducting elections and conducting other regular business for many American Legion posts and Districts. We had our first meeting in many months, and I considered it a success. We sent out invitations, RSVP required. Those who showed up were given temperature checks. All wore masks. All were seated with 6 foot separation. We had 21 members and guests present. In contrast several other posts tried to hold meetings but had to cancel due to lack of members showing up. We attracted new members and several transfers, and we were able to give members an update on the health of our Post. More information will be included in our October newsletter. Please support the "Wreaths Across America" fundraiser during this Fall season. Deadline for your purchase is Nov 30th. If you need more information, please contact me directly at 949-275-3247

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