



# American Legion Post 68

## Post Membership Meeting Minutes – August 19th, 2021 In-person and online

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant

APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander

Convened: 1803

Adjourned: 1945

Total Attendance: 35\*

Officers and Staff: 11\*\*

Members: 33\*\*\*

Guests: 2 Zoom(online): 5

\*Concurred

\*\***Officers & Staff Absent:** Richard Fry-PAO, Herb Moore-Membership

\*\*\*Includes Officers AND newly signed members

**Officers in Attendance:** John Hacker-Commander, Dan Fortini-1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Jamie Becker-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Jim Zelenski-Finance Officer, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Wilson Tart-Sergeant at Arms, Eric Terashima-PAO/Web Master, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, Dale Todd-At Large, Rob Penwell-Membership

**Officers Missing:** Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Brian Danielson-Historian, John Marone-Logistics, Elliott Koppel-At Large, Richard Fry-At Large

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Commander – John Hacker

**Chaplin's Opening Prayer:** Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo (Performed by John Hacker)

**POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony:** Sergeant at Arms – Wilson Tate. Commander also recited POW Remembrance

**Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble:** All Members

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### CURRENT Business:

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Motion made / seconded and passed by unanimous vote of membership present to approve meeting minutes of prior month's membership meeting as published.

Guest Speakers: Elizabeth Grant – Volunteer Coordinator, American Red Cross. Intro by Alan Simmons  
Ms. Grant discussed how the Red Cross needs and utilizes volunteers for: disaster action team, blood donor ambassador and sheltering service. Volunteers are evaluated based upon their talents and the time they can give. The one trait that all volunteers need is "compassion". She also spoke on the need for blood and platelet donations. Members asked several questions including Military and Care Giver network (as used by one of our members), deployment to other countries such as Haiti. Volunteers can sign up for deployments after being trained. Deployments are usually about 2 weeks.  
*(A handout was given to all members present and is attached to these minutes)*

**Introduction of New Members and Guests:** Rob Penwell-membership

Juan Mata – new member. US Marine Corps. Also Debra Kerr, US Air Force signed up tonight.

Post member Veronica Carter was able to attend her first Post membership meeting tonight. Normally Carter is at Leland Town Council meetings.

**Membership Report:** Dan Dodge

Membership metrics as of: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Membership Renewals are in full swing!

CATEGORY	STATS
Prior Months Membership:	227
New Members	0
Transfers IN:	0
Transfers OUT:	0
Reinstatements:	0
Resignations:	0
Post Everlasting:	0
Active Members:	227
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Membership renewed %	34%
Increase in % over prior month	29%
Membership not renewed %	66%
2021/22 Membership Goal	192
Progress Dept Goal %	40%

- \* National has sent out dues renewal notices
- \* Please renew as soon as possible. Help Post 68 to be a Top Post in the Department with renewals
- \* NC is in 8<sup>th</sup> place in the country
- \* Our District is in 5<sup>th</sup> place at 28%
- \* Renew at meetings OR mail in your renewal
- \* Please pick up your 2022 ID cards at meetings

**Financial Report:** Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer

Checking Balance end of June: \$12,557.46

Balance end of July: \$11,692.02 We are doing well financially.

Many transactions due to membership renewals plus trailer insurance renewal

Please get any monies from donations at events to the event lead who needs to get them to the finance officer immediately.

TRANSACTION TYPE	DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	Line Item	CREDIT	BALANCE
	30-Jun-21					12,557.46
DEBIT	1-Jul-21	Check #1057, Loggo Shoppe, \$244.00, Post Shirts	244.00	4004		12,313.46
CREDIT	7-Jul-21	Membership Dues 7 x \$40.00 = \$280.00		5000	\$280.00	12,593.46
DEBIT	7-Jul-21	American Legion National Dues 7 X \$40.00 = \$280.00 - \$77.50 = \$192.50	192.50	5000		12,400.96
DEBIT	7-Jul-21	Flag & Emblem membership Pins and Certificates via Post Credit Card purchase by Dodge.	152.92	5003.02		12,248.04
DEBIT	8-Jul-21	Facebook Ads	24.47			12,223.57
MOBILE DEPOSIT	12-Jul-21	Membership dues 2022, \$40.00 check from Marone		4000	\$40.00	12,263.57
MOBILE DEPOSIT	12-Jul-21	Summer Basket, Check for \$100.00		4002.04	\$100.00	12,363.57
CREDIT	12-Jul-21	Donations to Post Rider from Hotdog sales event on 10 July 21.		4006	\$116.00	12,479.57
DEBIT	12-Jul-21	Return Deposit Item??? Unknown Status	40.00	4000		12,439.57
Debit	5-Jul-21	Check # 1059, Steve Long. JROTC Rifle Range Supplies	184.18	5005.05		12,255.39
Credit	13-Jul-21	Cash Deposit: \$115.00 Summer Basket raffle; \$23.00 straight donations; \$50.00 Service Hats - 3 Navy, 1 Vet and 1 USMC; \$5.00 Mask.		4002.04, 4003, 4004	\$193.00	12,448.39
DEBIT	15-Jul-21	Check #1058, Marone, Plaque for Car Wash from Coastal Engraving	85.87	5003.04		12,362.52

CREDIT	16-Jul-21	Cash deposit: \$97.00 - 2 Post Hats @ \$15.00 = \$30.00. 50/50 donation \$67.00 from 15 Jul 21 post meeting		4004, 4002	\$97.00	12,459.52
CREDIT	19-Jul-21	Membership Dues: 15 x \$40.00 = \$600.00 - \$40.00 from Marone already paid on 12 Jul 21. (\$240.00 cash and \$320.00 checks)		4000	\$560.00	13,019.52
DEBIT	19-Jul-21	AL Automatic Debit Membership Dues	412.50	5000		12,607.02
DEBIT	8-Jul-21	Check #1060, \$500.00 to Shallotte Post 550 to support needy veteran, approved by PEC on 8 July 21.	500.00	6000.02		12,107.02
DEBIT	19-Jul-21	\$50.00 Vendor Fee - "Leland Under the Lights" Car Show	50.00			12,057.02
DEBIT	26-Jul-21	ALNG Internet Payment Membership	165.00	4000		11,892.02
DEBIT	20-Jul-21	Check # 1062, BFA, School Packback Program	200.00	5004.08		11,692.02
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>As of 31 Jul 21</b>				<b>11,692.02</b>

## OLD BUSINESS:

### 1. Brunswick Community College Scholarship update – Commander

We have finalized our Scholarship criteria and forms for an annual BCC Veterans scholarship award. The Post is able to offer this scholarship due to our fund raising efforts. The Post PEC has approved an annual \$500 award. We will be having a final meeting with representatives at BCC to present this scholarship to them. Wilson Tart, who is also the HR director at BCC indicated that Brunswick Community College has won the title of BEST Community College in the country two years in a row! BCC has recently re-engaged their Veterans Service Office who will assisting with this scholarship.

### 2. Plaque presented to Carolina Shores Carwash for their Support of Post 68 – Commander

Commander Hacker and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Fortini presented a plaque to the owner of Carolina Shores Car Wash for their support of Post 68. During our Poppy drive this year, Carolina Shores donated \$1 from every car wash that day to the Post for a total donation of over \$700! The Commander encouraged members to get their cars washed at this business and to wear your Post 68 cap when you do!



## NEW BUSINESS:

### 1. BOOTS on the Ground veteran suicide prevention program – Commander

A 15-point program has been sent to our District Commander for evaluation. American Legion Department of NC ask that this program start small at the District level first. Commander will present program to other Post Commanders at the next District meeting.

### 2. NC Maritime Museum at Southport Opportunity - Commander

District 9 Vice Commander Mike Fagan has announced that the NC Maritime Museum at Southport has invited the American Legion to participate in the Museum's annual "Living History" weekend at the Museum Sep 18 & 19. District 9 Posts will be participating in this event. The theme for the program is World War I. The Legion's part of the program will be to demonstrate how the American Legion, which was formed after WWI is still serving the country and its veterans today. There will be an American Legion tent at the event where Legionnaires can meet the public. This is also a great way to secure new members for our area Posts. We expect Post 68 to be asked to participate in this event by having Post members take on assigned shifts. More details to come.....

## OFFICER REPORTS:

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:** Dan Fortini: Dan indicated we have a very ACTIVE Fall schedule. He asked several event leads to provide updates (see EVENTS section below for details).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:** Jamie Becker: Thanked all who participated in the Buddy Call program. As a result of this latest Buddy Call of Post members, we were able to determine that several members were in need of assistance. She has pins to present to those who did the calling.

Regarding the Events Committee, we currently have a lead assigned for all upcoming events so the events committee taking a back seat. Becker asked all members to PLEASE go to the POST CALENDAR on our website. Details for each event are posted there. Here is a DIRECT LINK to the Post calendar: <http://ncpost68.org/index.php?id=103>

**American Legion Post 68**

Today ← → August 2021 Print Week Month Agenda

**Leland Under the Lights car show**

When Sat, August 21, 3pm – 9pm

Where Lowes parking lot in Brunswick Forest ([map](#))

Description Lead is Mike Mabee. Post 68 will have an informational tent setup giving out pony water bottles. Setup is about noon at the 21st. We will get the tent and other supplies from our trailer and setup in the Lowes parking lot.

[more details](#) [copy to my calendar](#)

Just click on the event name

Jamie has been ill and will be stepping back from her duties for the remainder of August.

She has asked for members to STEP UP to help at the Boiling Spring Lakes both AND supporting tables at Piggly Wiggly for raffle and fish fry ticket sales. We have two more baskets to raffle off: Fall and Christmas. These are VERY IMPORTANT events, and we NEED YOUR HELP and PARTICIPATION.

**Service Officer Update:** Lane Adrian –

Lane discussed how our Post, along with several other Posts in Brunswick County worked together to help a needy veteran secure housing so he and his family (4 children) would not be left homeless. The veteran has a good job now and a much better future as a result of our coordinated assistance. He is expected to join Post 68 as a member.

Lane reminded members of an upcoming program called Veteran Smiles where the ECU School of Dentistry will offer free dental services to “at risk” veterans. The event is scheduled for Sep 24<sup>th</sup>. Please let Lane know of any veterans who could benefit from this program.

Lane asked that any member or veteran filing a VA claim go thru him. Department HQ is keeping track of service officer assistance regarding VA claims.

Lane also discussed a program for the caregivers of veterans to assist with aid and attendance.

**Chaplain Update:** Lou Tranzillo - not present

**Adjutant Update:** Dan Dodge:

**PAO Update:** Eric Terashima: Working on a PR & marketing program for the fish fry. He has a goal to increase fish fry sales. He will also be working the manning of tables at Piggly Wiggly and selling of tickets. Finally, many members have been liking and sharing Post 68 entries on Facebook which raises our FB in overall rankings.



**Sergeant at Arms:** Wilson Tart: Wilson gave an update on our Honor Guard. He is working on getting a Post member from each branch of service on the team.

**Logistics Update:** John Marone – not present

**Legion Riders Report:** Lane Adrian: The Riders are struggling but surviving!

**Webmaster:** Eric Terashima:

**Additional Officer Updates:**

Dale Todd: At-Large Member: Discussed the upcoming VEAC event at Wilmington Post 10 starting Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>. The will be staffing 3 shifts/day for 3 days.

Also, Oratorical Contest is spinning up now. Schools are not allowing ANY other in-building activities so we may have to host Oratorical at Blossoms again.

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES: Check our website calendar for details and info!**

Completed events: July 2021:

- 1. Flags at the Battleship: July 5<sup>th</sup>- Hacker
  - 2. BSL market: July 10<sup>th</sup>: Becker
  - 3. Meeting with BCC and tour: July 14<sup>th</sup>
  - 4. Riders hot dogs fund raiser at CCHD July 10<sup>th</sup> - Lane
- \* all of the above events were previously reports on...*



August Events:

- 1. **Elderhaus event:** Aug 18<sup>th</sup> – Commander Hacker: Flag folding and presentation



**From the Elderhaus Facebook page:** This week we had the first of our monthly "This Day in History" series about our Veterans and their service. Representatives from the Legion Post 68 came to speak about the flags over the NC Battleship. In September 2021, the Legion Post 68 will do a special flag raising ceremony at our new facility and raise the flag on our flagpole. We will receive a special certificate to commemorate the event. On September 8, 2021, they will be presenting about the "Boat Lift Miracle of 9/11." Such a great experience for our participants and staff!

2. **Leland under the lights car show:** Aug 21<sup>st</sup>: Mike Mabee  
3pm - 8pm. Lowes grocery parking lot in Brunswick Forest. Informational setup and community outreach event. Setup about noon to get items from trailer and get setup in Lowes parking lot. Several Post members have signed up to participate.

## Upcoming Events:

### SEPTEMBER:

1. **Elderhaus** grand opening new location: Sep ? – Hacker – Raising of flag (Date is TBD)
2. **Flag Disposal** – Sep 4<sup>th</sup> Fortini – 9am setup Dean’s Auto. 2 burn barrels
3. **Blood drive:** Fortini Sep 10<sup>th</sup>. Fortini – WWAY in Leland. Goal is 4 blood drives / year
4. **9/11 ceremony** with Town of Leland: Penwell Starts 9am sharp! We will have several dignitaries from other towns attending. Rob Penwell will be the MC. Post members helping to setup should get to Town Hall a bit after 8am. Penwell suggests HAVING A MASK READY! In case of rain, ceremony will be in the Town Hall lobby.
5. **VEAC:** Sep 23 – 34 – 25 – Going well. Another reminder will be going out to Posts to participate.

### OCTOBER:

1. **BSL Market:** 10/3 – Jamie Becker – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
2. **OCTOBER meeting: Membership service pins** – Dodge. 25+ years of service
3. **Fish Fry Fund Raiser:** 10/16 – Dan Fortini – Deans Automotive on Landvale Rd.
  - a. About 4 hours for 400 meals. Signup with Fortini to help out
4. **Riders hot dog fund raiser** – October 16<sup>th</sup> – Lane Adrian - Wilmington Harley Davidson
5. **Tables at Piggly Wiggly/Food Lion/Car wash (NEED POC and help for EACH MONTH)!**
6. **Wreaths Across America:** Rob Penwell – 64 wreaths right now (20 from last year)
7. **Trunk or Treat:** Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Jim Woods – Asking for candy donations from members. BRING TO MEETINGS!
8. **OPERATION NORTH STATE:** Oct 12 thru 18: Oak Island. multiple days of fishing. Helping out veterans.

### NOVEMBER:

1. **Veterans Day Parade:** Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – Marone
2. **BSL Market:** Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Becker – volunteers needed!
3. **Table at Piggly Wiggly** – Nov (TBD) – volunteers needed!

### DECEMBER:

1. **BSL Market:** Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Becker – volunteers needed!
2. **Table at Piggly Wiggly:** Dec (TBD) – volunteers needed!
3. **Members Only Pasta Dinner:** Dec 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Wilson Tate
4. **WAA wreath placement** at Wilmington Cemetery Dec 18<sup>th</sup>: Penwell – goal is 1000 wreaths!

## **MISC. ITEMS:**

Commanders Comments:

Member Comments:

## **NEXT MEETING:**

Guest Speaker for September 2021 meeting: Eric Terashima – Returning from Afghanistan

Next Officers Meeting: September 9<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: September 21<sup>st</sup> 6pm – IN PERSON/ZOOM @ BLOSSOMS  
District 9 Commander official visit

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

**Adjourned at:** 1945 hours

## **50/50:**

Prize was not claimed. \$96 was taken in and deposited into the Post account