



# American Legion Post 68

## Post Membership Meeting Minutes – October 21st, 2021

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant with Jamie Becker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander in attendance  
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander Total Attendance: 41\*  
Convened: 1802 Officers and Staff: 12\*\*  
Adjourned: 1925 Members: 39\*\*\*  
Guests: 2 Zoom(online): n/a

\*Concurred

\*\***Officers & Staff Absent:** Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Eric Terashima-PAO, Elliott Koppel-At large

\*\*\*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, Jim Zelenski-Finance Officer, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Brian Danielson-Historian, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, John Marone-Logistics, Wilson Tart-Sergeant at Arms, Dale Todd-At Large, Richard Fry-At Large, Rob Penwell-Membership Large

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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

**Chaplin's Opening Prayer:** Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo (prayer from 9-11 ceremony)

**POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony:** Sergeant at Arms – Wilson Tate. (Bill Smith pro-tem) 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 previously published and distributed.

Guest Speaker: Dale Smith – District 9 Commander – Official Visit

Commander Smith talked about how important the VEAC is in Suicide Prevention. He provided many thanks to Dale Todd, Lane Adrian, and all who volunteered. He also spoke of importance of attending as many meetings as you can (District/Division). He noted that he NEVER has a worry with Post 68!

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Rob Penwell-membership

We had several new members this evening along with a member spouse. Thank you, Mrs. Tart!

**Membership Report:** Dan Dodge

Membership metrics as of: September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

CATEGORY	STATS
Prior Months Membership:	227
New Members	6
Transfers IN:	1
Transfers OUT:	0
Reinstatements:	0
Resignations:	2
Post Everlasting:	0
Active Members:	232
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Membership renewed %	50.4%
Increase in % over prior month	29.0%
Membership not renewed %	49.6%
2021/22 Membership Goal	192
Progress Dept Goal %	60.4%

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

**Beginning Balance: \$12,425.65**

**Ending Balance: \$12,280.25**

Major Expenses:

- Fall Basket: \$121.73
- Flags for parades: \$159.50
- BCC Scholarship: \$500.00
- Adjutant supplies: \$204.97
- Coffee Mugs: \$ 89.57
- 911 Ceremony Exp.: \$ 54.95

**Current balance: \$15,674.52 – a new record high!**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Member feedback regarding September meeting format and minutes: Skipped at meeting but offline feedback has been positive from both membership and officers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Service Awards: 16 Post members are due to receive continuous service pins for 25+ years of service to the American Legion this year. 5 members were present this evening to receive their pin and certificates from Commander Hacker who was assisted by Dale Todd, Jamie Becker and Wilson Tart. Awards for members not present will be handed out at a later date. Thank you all for your service and dedication! Members present receiving their pins this evening:

Nan York (30), Walter Denniger (30), John Marone (25), Alan Simmons (25) and Rob Penwell (30).

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

### **October Events:**

#### **OCTOBER:**

1. **BSL Market:** Oct 3rd – Jamie Becker – rained out
2. **Fish Fry Fund Raiser:** Oct 16th – Dan Fortini –  
Great day with great weather. We did not do as well as hoped but we still made out pretty good.  
Many thanks to the 20+ members/spouses who volunteered.  
We sold just under 200 tickets and served about 170 dinners
3. **Riders Fund Raiser:** October 16<sup>th</sup> – Lane Adrian - Wilmington Harley Davidson
4. **VEAC:** October 14-16: Dale Todd – Post 68 had 17 volunteers at the event and was #1 for Post participation!  
Many happy faces of veterans coming out of the event!
5. **Table at Piggly Wiggly: Oct 15<sup>th</sup>** – Terashima and Becker
6. **Trunk or Treat:** Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Jim Woods – NO MORE CANDY PLEASE! Contact Jim directly if participating. Be at Founders Park at 1pm to help setup and return at 3pm for the event.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **NOVEMBER:**

1. **Veterans Day Parade:** Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – Marone
  - Post 68 will be leading the parade this year
  - Women veterans will be Grand Marshals at the parade and will march together
  - We will be working on setting up a car pool to the staging area
  - Riders will be there

Veterans Parade on Nov 6, meet up in parking lot behind BB&T on Village Road before 8:15am! We are number 13 in the lineup, but first organization in the parade. We have the shirts, Gloves and beret's for the Honor Guard. If anyone is interest in being part of the honor guard, let Wilson Tart know. Line up as: Banner, walkers, Legion Riders, 2 trailers. I told (as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice) all female Vets are to meet at the Wilson Center @ 10:00 and let them know you are a Grand Marshall in the Parade. They will drive us down the parade route and bring us to position # 8 Starting point. Contact me for further information. I have attached a map of the parade route.

2. **ElderHause Flay Raising:** Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – See John Hacker for details
3. **Leland Sr Center Breakfast:** Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 1pam
4. **BSL Market:** Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Becker – PLEASE STEP UP AND HELP OUT! Last one this year!
5. **Table at Piggly Wiggly**

#### **DECEMBER:**

1. **Table at Piggly Wiggly:**
2. **Members Only Pasta Dinner:** Dec 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Wilson Tate
3. **WAA wreath placement** - Wilmington Cemetery Dec 18<sup>th</sup>: Penwell

#### **JANUARY:**

1. **Oratorical Contest:** Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Dale Todd

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Dan Fortini: We are planning for 2 fish fry type events/year and a blood drive each quarter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Jamie Becker: Still need help with BSL Market setups
- Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian – (reported by Brian Danielson) – We have been helping a local vet living in a broken RV with his wife and kids. The family has received at least \$1200 in donations from Post 68 and other sources to date. We've managed to find them a place to park the RV. Veteran is currently employed at Holiday Inn in Leland.
- Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo
- PAO Update: Eric Terashima – Facebook ads are reporting to be reaching over 15,000 Facebook users
- Logistics Update: John Marone
- Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian – Riders had first meeting in a while. 1 new member. They need to build ranks.
- Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge
- Webmaster: Eric Terashima - Adding buttons to purchase fish fry tickets, Wreaths and highlight local business supporters
- At-Large Officer Updates: Dale Todd / Elliott Koppel / Richard Fry  
Dale Todd: Oratorical Contest – Scheduled for Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, location is still TBD. We have 6 students from NBHS interested in participating. We will be needing Post members to volunteer as coaches and at the event.
  
- Additional Officer Updates: Wilson Tart: Still looking for more members to help out with Honor Guard!

## **MISC. ITEMS:**

### **Commanders Comments:**

Thanks for all the member participation and expecting more as we grow. I also attended a Rotary Mtg @ 7:30 10/11 promoting WAA. Post 68 has also made a donation to Lincoln Elem. Thanks to all for the Candy, volunteers, etc for Trunk or Treat on 10/30.

### **Member Comments:**

Margo Chestnut: There is a flag raising ceremony at her housing complex Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Danielson: Legion riders had good fund raiser on 10/16 at Wilmington Harley Davidson

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**Next Officers Meeting:** November @ 1pm via Zoom (may be rescheduled...)

**Next Membership Meeting:** November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm – IN PERSON/ZOOM @ BLOSSOMS  
*Speaker: Anita Hartsel- Brunswick County VA rep*

## **Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer:**

**Adjourned at:** 1925 hours

## **50/50:**

Prize was awarded to Vinney Dimizio for \$69