



American Legion Post 68

Post Membership Meeting Minutes – JUNE 16th, 2022 Meeting held at Blossoms Restaurant, Leland, NC / Zoom

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander
Convened: 1800
Adjourned: 1902

Total Attendance: 41*
Officers and Staff: 9**
Members: 38***
Guests: 3 Zoom: n/a

Note: Total numbers present DO constitute a quorum.

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Jim Zelenski-Finance, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Brian Danielson-Historian, Wilson Tart-SgtAtArms, Eric Terashima-PAO, Elliott Koppel/Richard Fry-At Large

***Includes Officers AND newly signed members

Officers in Attendance: John Hacker-Commander, Dan Fortini-1st Vice, Jamie Becker-2nd Vice Commander, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, John Marone-Logistics, Rob Penwell-Membership

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Commander - 1800 hours

Chaplin's Opening Prayer: Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo – Special prayer for Memorial Day (Dan Fortini, protem)

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: Sergeant at Arms – (Jamie Becker-protem)

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All Members

CURRENT Business:

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

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Rob Penwell-membership

Three guests this evening:

TC Turner – USMC (prospective member)

George Heilman (and wife) – WWII veteran from Leland. Indicated it was his first visit to a Legion meeting

Penwell also reminded members that the new membership year for 2022-2023 starts 1 July and members can renew their dues starting at the July membership meeting as the preferred way of renewing.

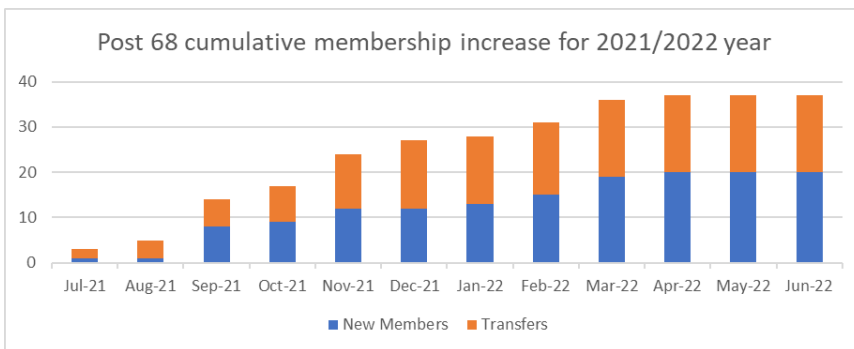
Guest Speakers:

None – Post installation of officers

Membership Report: Dan Dodge As of end of May, 2022

CATEGORY	STATS
Prior Months Membership:	245
New Members	0
Transfers IN:	0
Transfers OUT:	0
Reinstatements:	0
Resignations:	0
Post Everlasting:	0
Active Members:	245

Membership renewed %	83.7%
Increase in % over prior month	29.0%
Membership not renewed %	16.3%
2021/22 Membership Goal	192
Progress Dept Goal %	106.8%



Financial Report: Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer (Dan Dodge protem)

- Please turn in expenses as soon as possible
- Be sure to get approval from Commander, Finance Officer or Adjutant before incurring ANY expenses

Beginning Balance: \$10,410.44 May 1 2022
 Ending Balance: \$16,199.91 May 31 2022

Highlights:

- Income from Fish Fry along with expenses
- District 9 meeting expense
- Adjutant expenses (stamps, tri-folds, misc.)
- Income from Poppy day, Suicide Awareness donation
- Income from Blood Drive, BSL, hats, donations, misc
- Jacobs wreath expense

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Commander: Good first half of 2022** – Commander Hacker talked about the Post’s accomplishments and successes during the first half of the year.

Joining Chamber of Commerce
Good returns from BSL events
Fish Fry
Rice Fest
Memorial Day activities
JROTC Graduation and awards
Interfacing with BCC

Oratorical Contents wins for Post and District 9
Good income from basket raffels
Membership Pancake Breakfast
Two blood drives
Legion Riders events
Battleship Support

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Installation of Officers for 2022-2023:

Installation of Officers present was performed by Past Commander Dale Todd. The following officers were installed using the standard short-form ceremony:

John Hacker-Commander	Dan Fortini-1 st Vice Commander
Rob Penwell-2 nd Vice Commander	Dan Dodge-Adjutant
Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate	John Marone-Logistics Officer
Jamie Becker-Sgt at Arms	
Jim McAvoy-At Large	Marty Keck-At Large

* Officers not present will be installed by the Commander at future meetings

2. Post Awards from Department Convention: Dale Todd – Post 68 received two awards from the National America Legion organization regarding the reaching of membership renewal goals. Both certificates were signed by National Commander Paul Dillard. (Copies of these certificates will be placed on the Post website – virtual bulletin board page).

- a. First, the Post was awarded a Certificate of Meritorious Service for surpassing its all-time high of enrolling new members
- b. Second, the Post was awarded an ALL-TIME-HIGH certificate for increasing membership continuously for the past 6 years.

Dale also talked to members about actions taken during the Annual Department of North Carolina convention

- Increase in dues by \$5 to take effect 1 January 2023 (Post 68 will NOT raise dues at this time)
- Dale Smith, previously our District 9 Commander was voted to become the District II commander
- Mike Fagan was elected to be District 9 Commander. A District Vice Commander is still needed.....
- Mike Donnelly elected as new Department of North Carolina Commander. Donnelly is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer. His two themes this year are: Membership and Communications. We need to act MORE as a team!

Suicide Awareness: Commander Hacker gave a briefing and slide show to the membership regarding our Suicide Awareness program. This is a program that is being targeted to not only Legion Posts and the Department but also to any Community Organization that would like to be informed. We did receive a grant from FOCUS/ATMC to support the program and pay expenses. We are working with Post 10 in Wilmington regarding resources. He would like to form a Post Committee to work and promote this program.

District 9 Commander: Mike Fagan was present and presented 2022 membership accomplishment pins to Commander Hacker and Adjutant Dodge for meeting membership goals. Fagan mentioned that he is working on a District-wide Service Officer and Oratorical budget.

OFFICER REPORTS:

- 1st Vice Commander: Dan Fortini: Discussed Fish Fry, blood drives (2 more scheduled). Asked to help BCC develop their own blood drive program. BCC may need to ask Post members for additional help. The Red Cross has indicated that Post 68 as an organization has brought in more pints of blood this year than any other organization in the County! We expect to have another Fish Fry this fall and will definitely need participation from Post membership.
- 2nd Vice Commander: Jamie Becker: Color Guard is forming up – WE NEED MEMBERS!
- Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian – Working with a local veteran couple on a wheelchair ramp. Working with another local veteran on past-due rent. Helping a 102 year old veteran to paint his deck.
- Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo:
- PAO Update:
- Logistics Update: John Marone: Got hats and shirts available. November 11th is Veterans Day Parade. Post 68 is signed up to participate again.
- Sergeant at Arms:
- Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian –
- Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge Website event scheduling system seemed to work well. Being rewritten over the summer to be less maintenance on the back end
- Webmaster: Walter Fair now supporting our website
- At-Large Officer Updates: Dale Todd / Elliott Koppel / Richard Fry
- Additional Officer Updates:

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

PRIOR MONTH - MAY COMPLETED EVENTS:

- District 9 meeting: May 7th @ Blossoms Post 68 hosting
 - Meeting was attended by 24 Legion members representing 9 of 19 District posts
 - This was the last District meeting for Dale Smith who very much appreciated the lunch we sponsored
- **Riders fundraiser:** 5/14
- **Blood drive:** May 13th – Fortini
 - 58 pints were collected with 12 Post members supporting the event
 - The Red Cross has indicated that Post 68 is one of the largest area groups helping support blood drives
 - BCC has indicated they would like assistance from Post 68 to setup and run their own blood drive to be lead by BCC Veteran Services. Post 68 plans to partner with them but they will own the process and the event
 - Thanks to Rob Penwell for procuring 2 golf carts from Magnolia Greens to help shuttle donors
 - Thanks to Dr Ludwig dental office for the use of their parking lot
- **Poppy Day:** May 27th - Tranzillo
- **Memorial Day – Flags at Cemeteries** May 30th – Cook/Hacker. Hacker getting wreath. VFW will accompany us during this event. 9am at First Baptist Church of Leland on Village Road

>>>> Bring Water, Bug Spray, Sun Screen and a screwdriver (in case the ground is hard)

- **Post Elections:** May meeting - Dodge
- **BSL-** Cancelled for May 14th – ~~CANCELLED~~ Will do this May 14th (Jamie)
- **Pancake Breakfast for members:** 29 May: Zelenski/Simmons Need RSVP's FREE!

Upcoming Events: June

1. Annual Dept of NC Convention: Raleigh – June 9-12 Selected members attending

Upcoming Events: July / August:

1. None. No BSL over the summer

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

- Suicide Awareness presentation....

Member Comments:

- Alan Simmons talked about saluting the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Veterans are allowed to salute the flag out of uniform
 - Legion protocol is to remove the cap, holding the cap with the right hand – plain side out over the heart
- Alan also mentioned that 90 cents of every dollar the Post collects goes BACK in the community
- Alan indicated that Hurricane season is here now and that the Red Cross is getting ready and might need volunteers to help out during a crisis
- Dan Fortini would like to start a list of people who are willing to volunteer. This would be a “quick list” of contacts

Note: VEAC expected to be Nov 10-11-12 but still open ended.....

NEXT MEETING:

Next Officers Meeting: July 14th, 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: July 21st @ 6pm – Speaker expected to be a representative from Leland Cultural Arts Center discussing their programs

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer:

Meeting Adjourned at: 1910 hours

50/50: Won by Alan Simmons. \$63 to the Post

See additional documentation from this meeting and this month as addendums to these minutes.

PHOTOS from COMPLETED EVENTS FROM MAY 2022:

