



# American Legion Post 68

## Post Membership Meeting Minutes – AUGUST 18th, 2022 Meeting held at Blossoms Restaurant, Leland, NC / Zoom

---

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant  
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander  
Convened: 1800  
Adjourned: 1930

Total Attendance: 58\*  
Officers and Staff: 13\*\*  
Members: 51\*\*\*  
Guests: 5      Zoom: 2

Note: Total number of members present DOES constitute a quorum. Dan Fortini running Zoom

\*Concurred

\*\***Officers & Staff Absent:** Tony Schirillo-PAO, Elliott Koppel-At Large, Jim McAvoy-At Large

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

**Officers in Attendance:** John Hacker-Commander, Dan Fortini-1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Rob Penwell-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Jim Zelenski-Finance, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Jamie Becker-Sergeant at Arms, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, John Marone-Logistics, Eric Mens-Historian, Eddie Jenkins-Membership, Marty Keck-At Large

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commander - 1800 hours

**Chaplin's Opening Prayer:** Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo (Rob Penwell, pro-tem)

**POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony:** Sergeant at Arms – Jamie Becker

**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: Eddie Jenkins/John Hacker - membership

Jamie Jenkins – Post 10 - USCG

Jeff Mendenhall – USMC - Visiting with Eric Mens

Bob King III – Navy – attended last meeting, become new member today

Turner Bond, Jr. – USMC – Attended last meeting, became new member today

Deanna King – Owner, PostNet of Leland (company who made our banners)

Also, WWII/Korean veteran George Heilman, US Navy and his wife were honored by Commander Hacker

**Guest Speaker:** Sean Riley – Importance of Prior Planning, Introduced by Jim Zelenski.

He is the Regional Director of PRECOA <https://whyreplan.org>

Mr. Riley served in the USMC and is currently in the US Army Reserve as a Drill Instructor.

Sean used a slide show and talked extensively about how families of veterans can receive the most benefits upon the death of the veteran or the veteran's spouse. Veterans buried in National cemeteries can save up to \$15,000 vs. a private cemetery.

Important takeaway was: Your DD214! Make sure you not only have it, but your family knows where it is! For more assistance, contact Lori Taylor @ Andrews Mortuary – 910-791-7055

Packets of information were left for members to take.

Bob Page mentioned that Patriot Guard services must be requested by the Family. Once requested, the funeral home can help make arrangements.

Please note: The Adjutant has another 12 copies! Please contact Dan Dodge if you would like one.



*Commander Hacker presents our speaker Sean Riley with a Post 68 coffee cup as a thank you for his presentation*



*Sean Riley gives his pre-planning presentation*

**Membership Report:** Dan Dodge

During the month of July we brought in 1 new member and reinstated another. 2 members dropped from our roles at their request. Had to perform roster count error correction due to errors in National database Renewals ahead of any past years!

CATEGORY	STATS	DUES PAID YEAR	COUNT	PCT
Prior Months Membership:	225	2021 NOT PAID	21	9.1%
New Members	1	2022 Not Paid	111	48.1%
Transfers IN:	0	Up to date: 2023 Dues Pd	99	42.9%
Transfers OUT:	0	<b>Total Assigned</b>	<b>231</b>	
Reinstatements:	1	Regular	188	81.7%
Resignations:	0	PUFL's	18	7.8%
Dropped from roles	2	Transfers	23	10.0%
Post Everlasting:	0	Honorary Life Members	0	0.0%
Error Correction to roster	5	Moved out of area	1	0.4%
Active Members:	230	Members not renewing	0	0.0%
-----		<b>Total Members</b>	<b>230</b>	
Membership renewed %	42.9%			
Increase in % over prior month	0.0%			
Membership not renewed %	57.1%			
2022/23 Membership Goal	206			
Progress Dept Goal %	48.1%			

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

Beginning Balance: \$16,684.18 July 1 2022  
 Current Balance: \$14,429.36 July 31 2022

Review of prior month transactions. Please be sure to submit any expenses with our approved expense form

We have a new raffle basket now:

Many thanks to Debbie Zelenski for building this one!



**AMERICANISM COMMITTEE:**

**Dale Todd:** Discussed what this committee is which also includes youth and JROTC. Rick de Moya is taking over as the interface to NBHS and the JROTC. Dale will continue with the Oratorical contest. Please see Dale if you are interested in serving on this committee. Slide displayed when to fly the American Flag at half-mast.

- Memorial Day

- Peace Officer Memorial Day (May)
- Patriot Day (Sep 11)
- National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service (Oct)
- Pearl Harbor Day (Dec 7)
- Or, if a State governor or the US President makes a proclamation asking flags to be at half-staff
- Sign up to be notified @ legion.org/newsletters

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. Suicide Awareness Update – Hacker: We now have two large banners on aluminum frames purchased using grant money. PostNet of Leland is veteran friendly and gave us good pricing. We have also begun to place veteran resource links and numbers on our website. We did not simply place phone numbers and links there – we called and verified each to ensure the data is correct and the agency will respond. Just look for the large button on our homepage! More presentations of our suicide awareness program have been scheduled. The presentation we did at St James 543 Post went very well.

**Quick Links to Vital Resources:**

CDR Msg	Renew your Dues	Post Calendar	About/Location	Legion Signup
Brunswick VA	MyLegion.org	Digital Dispatch	Dept of NC web	Riders Signup

**SUICIDE AWARENESS RESOURCES**

2. New Event Volunteer Signup system: Dodge – The new event signup system on our website appears to be working well. Many members have not only signed up to participate in several upcoming events but have also registered on the website. Please be sure to let Dan Dodge know ([adjutant@ncpost68.org](mailto:adjutant@ncpost68.org)) if you encounter any problems or, if you have any suggestions. If you need help navigating the system, please let Dodge know!

Post 68 Event News & Information

[Post Events](#)   [Post 68 Home Page](#)   [My Events](#)   [Calendar](#)



**John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68**

**Member Volunteer Signup**

Pick an opportunity and then click on "View & sign-up" link

---

**Available/Open Volunteer signup opportunities for Post members:**

Title	Date of Event	Open Spots	
Leland Under the Lights Car Show	August 20, 2022	9	<a href="#">View &amp; sign-up &gt;</a>



We encourage you to register on our website and sign-in so you can

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Additional Post Opportunities: Dodge – At our last PEC meeting, the idea was brought up to engage our members in other, smaller tasks. Tasks that members may have an interest in, would not be an officer-level position, or would not take a lot of time. Below is a list of suggested positions. There will be revisions and additions. We are currently typing up a short description of each with responsibilities so members will know what each position entails. Please consider stepping up for one of these or suggest something new – especially if you have a personal interest or have the skill set. Please contact any PEC member if you have an interest or have questions.

- Grant writer (Eric Mens)

- Social Media Manager
  - Coordinating / interfacing with vendors
  - Tracking of donors
  - Events Manager / Calendar manager
  - Newsletter czar
  - Post-marketing manager
  - Someone to “own” 50/50
2. Post 68 Org Chart: Penwell: Post 68 is getting large enough now that we felt it was time to formalize our organizational chart, document additional responsibilities, and event leads for standing events. It is expected that an event lead will take responsibility to built a team to run the event. Lots of work has gone into setting up this initial chart. We will be adding another page to document standing committees. There is more work to be done. A copy of the org chart will be included with these minutes and will be placed on our website.

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Dan Fortini - Please get signed up for our next blood drive on Sep 9<sup>th</sup>!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Rob Penwell – The Town of Leland is putting together a team to help work the new Veterans Memorial at the Town park. Penwell is on that team. Please forward any comments or suggestions to Rob!
- Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian – The Leland veteran who’s home was wrecked by hurricane has received delivery of materials to fix his home. Lowes is working details on labor for installation. Should be 2 to 3 more weeks. This is all thru Lowes’ HomeTown Hero program. A couple of members asked if they could help out. Lane will check.

UNCW is putting on a program to honor WWII and Korean war vets at the grand opening celebration and reception for the new Military Affairs office. Invitation only. Thursday Sep 15<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 4:30. Reservations must be in by Sep 1<sup>st</sup>. Lane to check if a Post Officer can attend.

We are also making a \$500 donation to Veteran Smiles. August 26<sup>th</sup> will be Veteran Smiles day at the EC School of Dentistry for at-risk veterans. Come and show your support that day!

- Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo: absent
- PAO Update: Tony Schirillo: absent
- Logistics Update: John Marone - we have shirts! Do not know our position in the Vets Day parade yet
- Sergeant at Arms: Jamie Becker: Color Guard is alive! We have uniform parts now. Let Jamie know if you are interested in participating OR if your event needs the services of the color guard

BSL (Boiling Spring Lakes) Saturday sale is restarting on September 3rd. NEED YOUR HELP to make this successful! Post 68 is well known in the area now. Please use the signup system to participate. October will be the 1<sup>st</sup> or the 29th

- Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian – Riders did have a meeting tonight. Their next event is a fund raiser selling hot dogs at Wilmington Harley Davison on Sep 24<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and get a hot dog, make a donation and check out some great bikes!

- Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge: Please renew your dues! Please visit our website and event volunteer signup!
- Webmaster: Walter Fair:
- At-Large Officer Updates: Koppel, McAvoy, Keck:
- Judge Advocate: Alan Simmons:
- Historian: Eric Mens: Please send Eric any photos from Post events. As the historian, he needs them.
- Membership: Eddie Jenkins: Talked about dues renewals. We still have over 100 members who need to renew.

Eddie and the Commander also talked about the upcoming John Jacobs Sr. 100-year birthday presentation. We need to keep this very simple and low-key. We are NOT going to have a drive-by. We will have our trailer. Color Guard will be there. We will present a certificate. Family worried about his health. We will assemble at a col-de-sec down the street. Presentation at 5:15 sharp.

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

### **Prior Month Events: July**

1. None

### **AUGUST EVENTS:**

- Blue Star Mothers meeting: Aug 17<sup>th</sup> presentation – Suicide Awareness - Hacker
- Leland Car Show: Zelenski Aug 20<sup>th</sup> – Signup via event system
- Jacobs drive-by: Aug 27<sup>th</sup> KEEP IT SIMPLE! See Hacker for details
- Blue Star Mothers – Cape Fear Jetport – Presentation – Aug 25<sup>th</sup> Suicide Awareness - Hacker

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE USE OUR NEW POST VOLUNTEER EVENT SIGNUP SYSTEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

### **SEP/OCT/NOV/DEC 2022 EVENTS**

- BSL: Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> + October: We are on for September! Using event signup system to participate!
- Marine Corps League: Presentation (not on calendar)
- Blood Drive: Sep 9<sup>th</sup> – Fortini – Use event signup !
- Founders Day: Sep 10<sup>th</sup> – Bea and Joe Frost are leads. Use signup system!
- Riders Hot Dog fundraiser: Sep 24<sup>th</sup> (Adrian) Wilmington Harley
- Red Cross at Camp Lejeune, Marine Retirees’’: Sep 25<sup>th</sup> - Hacker – Suicide Awareness
  
- Flag Collection: Oct 8<sup>th</sup> - Fortini
- Fish Fry: Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Zelenski and Simmons
- Trunk or Treat: Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Lead is TBD
  
- Veterans Day Parade: Nov 12<sup>th</sup> - Marone
- VEAC: Nov 17-19 Adrian and Todd
- Pasta Dinner: Nov 17<sup>th</sup>: In leu of Nov meeting – THIS IS A FUNDRAISER - Zelenski
  
- December meeting: Dec 15th
- WAA wreath placement: Dec 17th

EVENT	DATES	LEAD	Needed / Have
Car Show	Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>	Zelenski/Simmons	20 / 11
BSL Market	Sep/Oct	Becker	8 / 5
Jacobs drive by	Aug 27 <sup>th</sup>	Hacker	
Blood Drive	Sep 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fortini	20 / 9
VEAC	Nov 17-19	Todd/Adrian	
Founders Day	Sep 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bea and Joe Frost	10 / 7
Riders Fund Raiser	Sep 24 <sup>th</sup>	Adrian	6 / 1
Flag Collection	Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Fortini	20 / 5
Fish Fry	Oct 15 <sup>nd</sup>	Zelenski co-lead. Evan, Penwell	40 / 4
Truck or Treat	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	???????	

## **MISC. ITEMS:**

### Commanders Comments:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Rob Penwell was not at our July meeting because he was at the Town of Leland monthly board meeting to receive an award for his work on the Town Planning Board.

### Member Comments:

- Mike Mabee Pointed out that the owner of PostNet who made our large banners was present – Deanna King

## **NEXT MEETING:**

Next Officers Meeting: August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: August 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm – Our guest speaker will be an Army veteran Sean Riley who will talk about Burial Planning.

**Closing and Chaplain's Prayer:** Rob Penwell, pro-tem

**50/50:** Won by Art Deitrick, \$120 pot with half to winner

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

We were also collecting food to help out flood victims in Kentucky. We will take all we collected to VFW Post 12196 who will get it to agencies to help out.



Post Command John Hacker and new member TC Bond show banner with all the food Post members brought in tonight! Every bit helps!



Post Command John Hacker, Alan Simmons, Rob Penwell and Jim Zelenski showing off our new Suicide Awareness banners! Below, Lane Adrian and Mike Mabee





**ORG CHART: As presented & updated by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Rob Penwell**

Control-click this ORG CHART graphic to download a PDF copy!

