



American Legion Post 68

Post Membership Meeting Minutes – DECEMBER 15th, 2022 Meeting held at Blossoms Restaurant, Leland, NC (no zoom)

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander
Convened: 1800
Adjourned: 1915

Total Attendance: 43*
Officers and Staff: 14**
Members: 41***
Guests: 2 Zoom: n/a

Note: Total number of members present DOES constitute a quorum.

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Eric Mens-Historian, John Marone-Logistics

***Includes Officers AND newly signed members

Officers in Attendance: John Hacker-Commander, Dan Fortini-1st Vice, Rob Penwell-2nd Vice, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Jim Zelenski-Finance, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Jamie Becker-Sergeant at Arms, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, John Marone-Logistics, Tony Schirillo-PAO, Eddie Jenkins-Membership, Jim McAvoy-At Large, Bea Frost-At Large, Elliott Koppel-At Large

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Commander - 1800 hours

Chaplin's Opening Prayer: Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo

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

2 guests this evening: Bruce Hickson (USAF) and JoAnne Britt (USAF)

Guest Speaker: None

Membership Report: Dan Dodge

- Our Post is 81% towards our Department membership goal.
- 254 members currently assigned, up 15 over the past 2 months
- Oct/Nov activity: 11 new members, 6 transfer in, 1 transfer out, 1 deceased

Financial Report: Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer

Beginning Balance: \$16,175.86 November 1st, 2022

Ending Balance: \$17,020.30 November 30th, 2022

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Buddy Calls:** Eddie Jenkins and Dan Fortini are setting up

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Deceased Member:** John Fracalossi (passed Nov 5th)
2. **Background Check requirements:** Needed for interfacing and interacting with any youth. We are working on clarification on rules but we need to do it in the meantime.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Commander Hacker gave a summary of Post accomplishments over the past year to include:

- Discussion of how successful our Wreaths Across America campaign has been
- Sponsorship of Scout Troop 747 and development of a memo-of-understanding with them
- Initial discussions of forming an official Auxiliary for the Post
- Accomplishments and events for the year with emphasis on holding events and letting the public know we are here.
 - o 4 blood drives just this year!
- Suicide Awareness program
- (See addendum to minutes for a listing of 2022 events and things the Post has done)

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

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

Your PEC has been working on a new events schedule for 2023 in an effort to balance out events more evenly across the year. A copy of this schedule is included with these minutes. Currently, there are no events to sign up for. Once events are approved, they will be added to our calendar

NOVEMBER EVENTS - recap

- **Builders Showcase Nov 10th** – Crosswinds Church, Lanvale Rd (Hacker)
- Veterans Day Parade: Nov 12th – Note: We are already signed up for next year!
- VEAC: Nov 17-19 – 573 vets helped. Post 68 had most volunteers again.
- Pasta Dinner: Nov 17th

DECEMBER:

- BSL: Dec 3rd (canceled)
- December meeting: Dec 15th - Short and sweet!
- WAA wreath placement: Dec 17th
- BLOOD DRIVE. Dec 9th – 40 pints collected

JANUARY:

- Oratorical Jan 7th
- PHH mission complete ceremony at home of local vet we have been helping – 1/23/23

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

Member Comments:

- Zelenski: Suggested forming a “Flag Committee” to be all things related to caring for the United States colors.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Officers Meeting: January 12th, 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: January 19th@ 6pm – Focus will be on our 2023 budget and events calendar. We should be able to do a Zoom call for those who cannot participate in person

Closing and Chaplain’s Prayer:

50/50: Total pot was \$146 won by member Dennis Berger who donated all proceeds back to the Post

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

American Legion, Department of North Carolina, District 9 quarterly meeting 12/14/22 @ Post 10

Hacker/Dodge Notes: 11 of 19 Posts were present. Good turnout

>> Post 68 awarded the “Cardinal” membership award for obtaining 81% of goal and meeting early bird membership renewal goals. Several other Posts in District 9 also received this award.

>> Discussion about Camp Lejeune water, still confusing but do not go to any attorney, a lot of fraud out there. Go to Legion Posts for NC for further updates. Attorneys Bergman & Moore working with National American Legion to help members get their claims thru the VA and to help make sure veterans are not taken advantage of by other law firms.

>> We discussed Post 68 accomplishments for the past quarter. So many posts not as active as we are, CONGRATS to all.

>> Discussed Youth Abuse policies for AL, more to come. Its good and it is the right thing to protect youths and the Post. All about background checks and verifications.

Notable notes from other District 9 Posts:

- 551 Southport: Putting together Christmas packages for shut-ins
- 550 Shallotte: This post just getting restarted. Held awards banquet
- 545 Wilmington: Working Toys for Tots campaign
- 543 St James: Working with Blue Star Mothers on car-packages for deployed troops
- 503 Calabash: Worked food drive with BFA. Held Golf outing
- 454 Oak Island: (Post reorganizing) – working on an Auxiliary unit
- 129 Pleasure Island: Working on forming a Riders group, meals for those in retirement home
- Post 120: New flyers, bumper stickers, redid website. Helping homeless at Ashly House

Interesting Fact: 95% of all veterans in North Carolina are NOT Legion members!