



**American Legion Post 68, Leland**  
**Meeting Room, Blossoms Restaurant, Magnolia Greens, Leland**  
**Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 6 PM**

COMPILED BY: Eric Mens

APPROVED BY: Jim Zelenski, Commander \*

Convened: 18:05

Adjourned: 19:30

Total Attendance: 37

Officers and Staff: 9 \*\*

Members: 31\*\*\*

Guests: 6

\*Concurred

\*\*Officers Absent: Art Dietrich, John Marone

\*\*\*Includes Officers and newly signed members

**Officers & Staff in Attendance:** Jim Zelenski, Commander; Alan Simmons, Vice Commander; Eric Mens, Adjutant; Greg Miller, Financial Officer; Dale Todd, Service Officer; Lane Adrian, Public Affairs; Dan Dodge, Post Historian; KC White, Sergeant at Arms; Kathy McDonough, Membership.

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**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Commander

**Presentation of Colors:** Commander

**Chaplain's Opening Prayer:** Brian Danielson

**POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony:** KC White

**Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble:** All

**Speakers** – Kirsten Crook, Director of Operations and Carolyn Weinzapfel, Office Manager and Volunteer/Events Coordinator, Horseplay Farms and Home of Our Heroes, talked about their programs for veterans and individuals with special needs. Horseplay Farms is a 60-acre farm located at 1757 Clemmons Road SE, Bolivia, NC, 28422. In addition to providing boarding and riding lessons, the farm also provides equine therapy for veterans and individuals with special needs. Our Heroes, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charity founded in 2013 to honor and serve members of the community who are facing or who have overcome great challenges in life. Our Heroes primarily uses horses that have been neglected, abused, or are facing the challenges of age. Horseplay Farms and Our Heroes hosts a Military Monday every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month from 5-8 PM with free dinner, music, and activities for participants. To attend, please RSVP at (910) 253-7722. For additional information about either Horseplay Farms or Our Heroes, visit <http://www.horseplayfarms.net/>.

**Current Business**

• **Member Recognition** – Commander

Commander Zelenski recognized the following members for their service and support during March 2018:

- Members who volunteered at the March 22-25, 2018 Veterans Benefits Experience Center (VBEC): Lane Adrian, Gerald Decker, Art Dietrich, Dan Dodge, Richard Fry, Alan Greene, Richard Hollebeak, John Marone, Herb Moore, Alan Simmons, Bill Smith, Jeff Steward, Jim Thompson, Dale Todd, Lou Tranzillo, Jim Zelenski.  
Not previously recognized: Judy and Mike Buongiorno.
- Rick de Moya, Pete Erbe, and Bill Kous for their work on ensuring that we were able to sponsor an attendee at Boys State 2018.
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- Gerald Decker for volunteering to take on the role as Fundraising Chair.
- Dan Dodge for creating the Post 68 Virtual Bulletin Board at <http://www.ncpost68.org/index.php?id=104>

• **Introduction of New Members or Guests in Attendance** – Kathy McDonough, Membership Chair

- One new member in attendance this evening: Kenneth Schiess (AF)

- Guests this evening included:
  - \* Nancy and Shannon D'Abrosca (member spouse and son)
  - \* Cindy Bryant (member spouse)
  - \* Karen Van Dreumel (member spouse)
  - \* Kirsten Crook (speaker)
  - \* Carolyn Weinzapfel (speaker)

• **Membership Report (as of March 8, 2018)** – Adjutant

- One new member signed up at the meeting. Fourteen members have been dropped by National due to non-payment of dues. Total members as of this date: 110 on our local roster.

• **Concerns and Sick Call** – Chaplain: None reported

• **Approval of Minutes** – Commander: Minutes from the March 15, 2018 membership meeting were e-mailed to members on March 23, 2018. The Minutes were approved by acclamation tonight.

• **March 2018 Financial Report** – Financial Officer

General Fund Balance	\$4,724.17
Building/Contingency Fund	1,088.50
Poppy Fund Balance	787.72
Total Account Balance	\$6,600.39

**Recent disbursements:**

- \$400 for 2018 Boys State Participants
- \$100 for two American Legion Awards
- \$ 70 for Annual Post Office Box Renewal

**After Action Report (Preliminary)**

- Veterans Benefits Experience Center (VBEC)
- Post 68 Leads: Dale Todd and Lane Adrian
- Initial Feedback:
  - \* Held over three days - March 22, 23, and 24, 2018
  - \* At Elks Lodge, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington
  - \* Potentially, to be held in Brunswick County in 2019
  - \* 754 veterans were served in 2018 (down from 2017)
  - \* 8 out of 19 Posts in the District participated
  - \* 54 Legionnaires volunteered over the three days
  - \* Post 68 was first in numbers of members who volunteered: 18

• **Veterans Issues and Updates** – Dale Todd, Service Office

- Current Veterans Assistance Issues: The Seabees have completed building the wheelchair ramp for the Cote family. Electrical work is scheduled for the coming week.
- Current local veteran and high utility bill for water was brought to our attention at VBEC (could not be addressed through VA claim/assistance program). Landlord has declined to take any action. Steps taken to date include replacement of water meter but legal review of current rental agreement may be in order to identify tenant versus landlord responsibility for upkeep of property, etc.
- The above issue has identified the need for the Post to have access to legal counsel on an as needed basis, preferably on a “pro bono” basis (e.g., Legal Aid of North Carolina located in Wilmington, Post 68 members who are licensed to practice in North Carolina, etc.). Further research needs to be done.

**Old Business – Commander (unless otherwise noted) Updates on:**

- Update on Flag Retirement Ceremonies – Gerald Decker, Lead
  - Gerald Decker has assumed the Lead for this event assisted by Lou Tranzillo.
  - Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled April 28, 2018 at sundown (7:54 PM), will begin at 7 PM at The Villages, Brunswick Forest
  - Spousal Support Group – Host to Coffee and Dessert after the event at The Commons from 8 to 9:30 PM
  - JROTC Color Guard (Rick de Moya/Col. Baker)
  - Rain date is Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM.
  - A practice session to be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9 AM
  - Volunteers needed to help setup and breakdown the site at 6 PM
  - Site will be open area, next to Lowes
  - Need to identify members of the Burn Detail
  - To volunteer, contact Gerald at (706) 424-0830
  
- Update on NBHS Flagpole and Freedom Wall Project – Adjutant in the absence of Rick de Moya, Lead
  - North Brunswick Kiwanis is the lead organization
  - Freedom Wall dedication, May 7, 2018 at 4 PM in the NBHS Library
    - \* Rick de Moya, Master of Ceremonies
    - \* School Superintendent has been invited as well as School Board members
    - \* Speakers are expected to include partners from Cape Fear Exchange Club and Kiwanis
  - Still developing partnerships for the Flag Pole Plaza due to complexity/expense
  - Flag Pole Plaza – may need to identify different location onsite due to issues with trees
  
- Annual Poppy Drive
  - Saturday, May 19 from 8 AM to 2 PM
  - Food Lion (Mt Misery Road), Port City Java (Brunswick Forest), Piggly Wiggly, and Carolina Shores Car Wash
  - To volunteer, contact Jim Zelenski at (301) 535-1120
  
- Update on May Elections and Candidate Bios
  - Elections will be held at the membership meeting on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> (previously May 17<sup>th</sup>) (no speaker).
  - Candidate Slate and Bios e-mailed with meeting agenda on March 11, 2018.
  - Vice Commander Alan Simmons reviewed the full slate of Officer candidates for the upcoming elections, asked for any additional nominations from the floor (there were none), and officially closed the slate of Officer candidates for 2018-2019. Elections will be on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at Blossoms Meeting Room, 6 PM.
  - Swearing in by District 9 Commander scheduled for June 21, 2018

**New Business – Commander (unless otherwise noted)**

- Wristband Sales, Wilmington Downtown Concert Series
  - Easy 3 - 4 hour fundraising opportunity
  - Post 68 was selected for the second year in a row
  - Dan Dodge is the Event Lead
  - We will need eight volunteers to work when we know the date
  
- Fundraising Chair
  - Gerald Decker has volunteered
  - Stay tuned for further discussions on fundraising
  
- American Legion Awards
  - Successful Candidate from NBHS for participation in the 2018 Tarheel Boys State – Santiago Lopez

- 2018 JROTC Awards made to:
  - \* Military Excellence Award - Cadet First Sergeant Matthew Cason
  - \* Academic Excellence Award - Cadet Captain Iran Ruiz
  - \* Scholarship Award - Cadet Captain Matthew Smith
- Good Citizenship Award – Letter requesting selection and name of awardee was sent to Leland Middle School on April 11, 2018.

### **Future Business – Commander**

- Post 68 Operating Policies and Procedures
  - Officers are working on draft document
  - Will provide procedural guidance
  - Future briefing to membership for adoption by simple majority vote of members in attendance

### **Upcoming Events**

- Flag Retirement Ceremony, Saturday, April 28, 2018, 7 PM, The Villages, Brunswick Forest (please arrive by 6:45 PM)
- Freedom Wall Dedication, Monday, May 7, 2018, at 4 PM, North Brunswick High School Library
- Military Monday, May 14 (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month), Horseplay Farms, 5-8 PM (free dinner, music, activities), 1757 Clemmons Road SE, Bolivia, 28422 (please RSVP at (910) 253-7722)
- Poppy Drive, Saturday, May 19, 2018, 8 AM–2 PM (Piggly Wiggly, Port City Java (BF), Food Lion (Mt. Misery Rd), Carolina Shores Car Wash)
- Post 68 Elections (no speaker) Thursday, May 24, 2018, Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland, 6 PM
- Cemeteries Flag Placement, Saturday, May 26, 2018 from 9 AM-Noon, meet at First Baptist Church, Village Rd, Leland
- Installation of Officers for 2018-2019, Thursday, June 21, 2018, Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland, 6 PM

### **Other Announcements and Administrative Odds and Ends**

COL Steve Baker: The NBHS Academic Bowl and the Leadership Bowl teams (four members each) will advance to the National Competition in DC.

Alan Simmons: Dennis Walsh, former owner of Macgrooders where we previously have held our meetings until they closed is seriously ill and hospitalized in Raleigh. The JROTC Military Excellence award is named and awarded in honor of his father, a highly decorated WW II vet.

Adjutant: Tara Hurst has asked to speak to the Post in September about our participation in the 2018 Veterans Day Parade.

**Next Membership Meeting** – Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland, May 24, 2018 at 6 PM

**50/50:** Total pot \$98. Brian Danielson won \$49 (used to buy drinks at the bar for members).

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