



**American Legion Post 68, Leland
Meeting Room, Blossoms Restaurant, Magnolia Greens, Leland
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 6 PM**

COMPILED BY: Dan Dodge
APPROVED BY: Jim Zelenski, Commander *
Convened: 18:05
Adjourned: 19:40

March 15th, 2018
Total Attendance: 34
Officers & Staff: 8 **
Members: 30 ***
Guests: 4

***Concurred**

****Officers Absent: Art Dietrich, Eric Mens, Brian Danielson, KC White**

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

Officers & staff in Attendance:

Jim Zelenski, Commander, Alan Simmons, Vice Commander, Greg Miller, Financial Officer, Dale Todd, Service Officer, Lane Adrian, Public Affairs, John Marone, Supply Officer, Dan Dodge, Post Historian, Kathy McDonough, Membership.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Call to Order: Commander

Presentation of Colors: Commander

Chaplain's Opening Prayer: Alan Simmons

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: Lane Adrian

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All

**Speaker – Anita Hartsell, Senior Veterans Service Officer, Brunswick County Veterans Services
(Intro – A. Simmons) (2 Handouts were passed around – uploaded to website)**

Anita Hartsell provided several handouts to all present and began discussing each with the members present.

Topics included:

- **VA program to provide veterans more options regarding claim disagreements**
- **The Decision Ready Claim program (DRC)**
- **Types of claims that can be run thru the DRC program**
- **Veteran Diseases associated with Agent Orange**
- **Blue Water veterans and Agent Orange exposure**
- **Forever GI Bill – Veterans Educational Assistance Act**
- **MyHealthvet web site**
- **VA Dental Insurance program**
- **IRS corrections of taxes taken from veterans in error**
- **VA ID Cards**
- **New tool to allow veterans to upgrade their discharge status**
- **VBEC event and stand down**
- **Veterans separating from the military health care workshop**
- **Benefits and programs – Brunswick Veterans Service Office**

Several members and guests asked questions of Anita. Following her presentation, Anita was presented with an engraved keepsake thank you gift from Post Officers by Commander Jim Zelenski and Vice Commander, Alan Simmons. Pictures to appear on website.

Anita was the first Post 68 speaker after the post was reorganized in 2013.

Current Business:

• Member Recognition – Commander

Commander Jim Zelenski recognized the following post members for their service and support during the prior month:

- **Dan Fortini and Lou Tranzillo for their outstanding work in ensuring the success of our Flag Collection Day!**
- **Gerald Decker for stepping up to take the Lead on the Flag Retirement ceremony!**
- **Kathy McDonough for mailing nearly forty 2018 membership cards to our members and making the poster display board for the Flag Collection Day!**

Per the Commander: Your support and willingness to step-up to a challenge and take charge is much appreciated!

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

One new member in attendance this evening:

- **Dennis Van Dreumel**

Guests this evening included:

- **Bob Page**
- **Dave Philpot**
- **Colby and Mary Johnson**
- **Anita Hartsell**

• Membership Report (as of March 8, 2018) – Membership Chair/Commander

3 new members + 1 transfer in, with 14 members dropped by National gives a total of 107 members on our local roster

• Concerns and Sick Call – Chaplain

None reported

• Approval of Minutes – Commander

Minutes from February 15th, 2018 meeting were e-mailed to members on February 20th, 2018. The Minutes were approved by acclamation tonight.

• February 2018 Financial Report – Financial Officer

General Fund Balance	\$6,044.14
Building/Contingency Fund	985.50
Poppy Fund Balance	742.72
Total Account Balance	\$7,772.36

Recent disbursements:

\$500 for NBHS Freedom Wall project
\$126 for Post D&O insurance
\$120 for Post T-shirts

➤ **After Action Report: Flag Collection Day – Commander**

- * **March 3, 2018, 8 AM – 4 PM, Leland Town Park**
 - * **Great participation by Post 68 members**
 - * **Leland Boy Scout Troop 747 participated**
 - * **Collected over 150 flags**
 - * **Proceeds from food and drink sales \$217**
 - * **Donations \$45**
 - * **50/50 Raffle Net \$26 (\$26 to J. Buongiorne)**
 - * **Lessons Learned**
 - * **Lou is delivering letters to thank donors: Harris Teeter, Piggly Wiggly and Lowes**

➤ **Update on Financial Audit for year 2017 – Lou Tranzillo**

- * **Audit took place on March 13, 2018**
 - * **Members present: Greg Miller (Financial Officer), Executive Committee Member Lou Tranzillo, and Judi Buongiorne (Candidate for Financial Officer)**
 - * **Last year's financial records were audited and no discrepancies found**
 - * **Lou commended Greg Miller for the fine shape of the books and indicated he was not aware of how much work was involved**

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

➤ **Current Veterans Assistance Issues**

We are wrapping up assistance to Mrs. Cody with a wheelchair ramp and electrical work to be done by the Sea Bees

➤ **Update on March 2018 VBEC and Stand-down**

Dale reminded members about the upcoming VBEC event and continued to request additional volunteers

- * **Thurs., Fri., and Sat., March 22, 23, and 24, 2018**
- * **Elks Lodge, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington**
- * **Includes “Stand-Down” for homeless vets**
- * **Box lunches provided for veterans and volunteers on Thursday and Friday. Lunches will be provided for volunteers on Saturday but not for veterans.**
- * **Only event of this type in the United States.**
- * **25+ employees from the VA Regional Office in Winston Salem, supported by local Veteran Service Officers and other veteran organizations will meet with veterans to provide real time claims support.**
- * **The 2017 VBEC paid out about \$2 million in benefits to over 780 veterans over the 3-day period.**
- * **We expect 1,000 veterans to attend the 2018 VBEC.**
- * **Volunteers are critical to event's success. Over 100 volunteers from the American Legion, VVA, Marine Corps League, UNCW Student Vets, other veteran's organizations, and sponsor companies will support the event.**
- * **We still need volunteers for certain shifts, including set up and take down, during the event. Contact Dale Todd or Lane Adrian to volunteer.**
- * **Website: <http://www.vbec2018.com/>**

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

- Update on May Elections and Candidate Bios

Commander Jim Zelenski reviewed our full slate of officer candidates for upcoming elections reminding members that they may still post for any position and there would be no write-in candidates

• **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) The Villages, Brunswick Forest**
- * **Spousal Support Group – Host to Coffee and Dessert after the event at The Commons from 8PM to 9:30PM**
- * **JROTC Color Guard (Rick de Moya/Col. Baker)**
- * **Rain date expected to be Flag Day, June 14th**
- * **There will be a meeting Monday, March 19th at Jim Zelenski's house 1pm to discuss details**
- * **A practice session to be held the night before on April 27th**
- * **Volunteers needed to help setup and breakdown the site at 6pm**
- * **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 – Rick de Moya, Lead**

New Business – Commander (unless otherwise noted)

- * Kiwanis is the Lead
 - * Estimated completion date for Freedom wall May 7th @ 4pm in high school library
 - * Estimated date for Flagpole plaza is Veterans Day
 - * Developing partnerships
 - * Flag pole plaza still in planning phase
 - * High School committed to providing funding
 - * Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Saturday February 24, 2018 raised at least \$1,800
 - * Still supporting JROTC shooting team and Boys State
 - * Working on supporting Oratorical competition for high school along with good citizenship award for the middle school
- **May Poppy Drive** Locations and Volunteer Opportunity (still need a Post Lead (coordinator) for this event)
- * Locations: Food Lion (Mt Misery Road), Port City Java (Brunswick Forest), Piggly Wiggly, Carolina Shores Car Wash
- **Wristband Sales**, Wilmington Downtown Concert Series (still need a Post Lead (coordinator) for this fundraiser)
Dan Dodge volunteered to take the lead on this project

Be sure to VOTE for Post 68 @

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018Downtownsundowncharitywristband>

• **Four Chaplains Reading – Alan Simmons, Vice Commander**

Alan Simmons lead the Post in a first time reading of “The Four Chaplin’s”, a dramatic story of courage, bravery, focus and sacrifice in the face of death and disaster.

Post 68 to work to hold an annual ceremony for the Four Chaplin’s reading.

Future Business – Commander

The Post briefly entertained the suggestion to march in the 2018 Azalea Fest parade. However, many Post officers and members will not be available to participate so the Post will decline.

There was also brief discussion involving renaming the I-140 bridges for Veterans. The Town and County are considering a request from the local American Legion Posts in the Brunswick County for this action.

Upcoming Events

- Veterans Benefits Experience Center, March 22 – 24, Elks Club, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington
- Flag Retirement Ceremony, Saturday, April 28, 2018, Sundown at Location TBD
- Poppy Drive, Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 8 AM–4 PM (Piggly Wiggly, Port City Java (BF), Food Lion (Mt. Misery Rd))
- Cemeteries Flag Placement, Saturday, May 26, 2018 from 9 AM-Noon, meet at First Baptist Church, Village Rd, Leland

Other Announcements and Administrative Odds and Ends

Bill Carshaw asked about an award for the Legion Oratorical contest. Rick de Moya indicated that there were 3 other awards given to the JROTC but are given during their annual change of command ceremony. Oratorical will be worked for 2019.

Two awards were given to Lane Adrian during the District meeting which were then presented to our Commander Jim Zelenski.

- 1) **Certificate of Commendation from American Legion, Department of North Carolina to Post 68 for recruitment and retention of members**
- 2) **Certificate of Meritorious Service from American Legion, Department of North Carolina to Post 68 for equaling or surpassing the Post's previous all-time high membership enrollment record.**

Commander Jim Zelenski asked our web master Dan Dodge to build a virtual bulletin board on our web site to post the various awards Post 68 has received.

Next Membership Meeting – Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland, April 19, 2018 at 6 PM

50/50: \$109 received. Was won by Mike Buongiorne. Mike donated \$34 in winnings back to the Post.

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



American Legion Department of North Carolina

Certificate of Commendation

Presented to

Post 68 Leland

In recognition and sincere appreciation of your efforts in the Recruitment and Retention of members which elevated your Post to the designation of Class E. Your accomplishment has contributed to the advancement of The American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.

Presented this day of June 29th 2018

Handwritten signature of Tierian Cash in black ink.

TIERIAN CASH
Department Adjutant

Handwritten signature of Carol D. Barker in black ink.

Carol D. Barker
Department Commander

The American Legion



Certificate Of Meritorious Service

For Faithfulness In The Performance Of Duties, And Meriting Special Confidence And Esteem Because Of Manifested Cooperation And Loyalty. Recognition Is Hereby Accorded For Meritorious Service Rendered As Hereinafter Set Forth, And Presented To

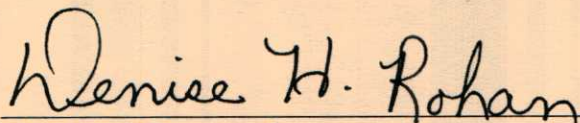
Leland Post 68

Department of North Carolina
The American Legion

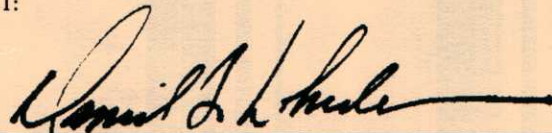
Who Has Rendered Meritorious Service By Enrolling For The Year 2018, A Membership Equaling Or Surpassing Its Previous All-time High. This Enrollment Was Accomplished By December 31 Preceding The Beginning Of The Calendar Year Indicated.

In Witness Whereof, This Certificate Is Given To Said Post, Under The Hand Of The National Commander, And Duly Attested By The National Adjutant, At Indianapolis, Indiana, This 17th day of January, 2018, And Countersigned By The Commander And The Adjutant For The Department.

ATTEST:



National Commander

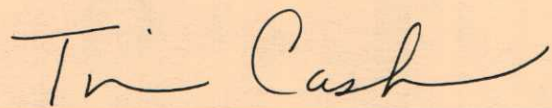


National Adjutant

Countersigned:



Department Commander



Department Adjutant