



**MEETING MINUTES
POST 68 LELAND, DEPARTMENT OF NC
THE AMERICAN LEGION**

COMPILED BY: Eric Mens, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: Jim Zelenski, Commander *
Convened: 18:05
Adjourned: 20:00

DATE: Jan 18, 2018
Total Attendance: 34
Officers & Staff: 12 **
Members: 32 ***
Guests: 2

* Concurred
** Officers Absent: Greg Miller, Financial Officer
*** Includes Officers and newly signed members

Officers and Staff Present: Jim Zelenski, Commander; Alan Simmons, Vice Commander; Art Dietrich, 2nd Vice Commander; Eric Mens, Adjutant; Brian Danielson, Chaplain; Lane Adrian, Public Affairs; Dale Todd, Service Officer; KC White, Sergeant-at Arms; Dan Dodge, Historian; John Marone, Supply Officer; Kathy McDonough, Membership; Executive Committee: Lou Tranzillo

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Presentation of Colors

Chaplain's Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplain

MIA/POW: KC White, Sergeant-at-Arms

Call to Order: Commander

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All

Speaker: Eric Mens introduced Melissa Monroe, Deputy Director, Brunswick County Board of Elections. Melissa addressed issues related to voting in Brunswick County, her job responsibilities, how the growth in the County (particularly the influx of residents into the northern part of the County) has affected her job, and the need for volunteers to work at the polls on each election day. During Presidential election years, as many as 400 poll workers are needed to work at locations throughout Brunswick County. Pay is a minimum of \$150 on Election Day. Orientation and computer skills training for potential poll workers starts this month and runs through February. The attached brochure provides additional information on how our members can become poll workers for the 2018 elections. To sign up to be a poll worker, go to: <https://doodle.com/poll/tv796inv53f554yu>

Post 68 Success Story: In a surprise visit to Post 68, Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Michael De Slaughter presented Post 68 with a Memorandum expressing thanks for our participation in providing cards, letters, and cookies to Air Force personnel deployed in Incirlik, Turkey over the 2017 holidays. Accompanying the letter was a flag that was carried aboard an A-10 Warthog from the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (Flying Tigers) on December 17th and onboard an KC-135R Stratotanker during Operation Inherent Resolve on December 27, 2017. Appropriate Certificates of Authenticity accompanied the flag. Thank you to all our members who took the time to write cards (each envelope also included a Post 68 business card and cut-out star) and in particular, to Patty Kelley for baking delicious chocolate chip cookies for the troops! See the attached documents.

Membership Report: Post 68's Local Roster shows that we have 122 members after accounting for two transfers out. As of the meeting date, 80 percent of the members have paid their 2018 dues. One member, Joe D'Amato paid his dues for 2019 tonight. Kathy McDonough has the 2018 membership cards available as members sign in at our meetings. Two spouses attended and two new members joined the Post at the meeting (Bob Meisner and Tim Parvis).

Chaplin's Report: No Sick Call reported.

Approval of Membership Minutes: Minutes from December 21, 2017 meeting were e-mailed to members on January 7, 2018. The Minutes were approved by acclamation tonight.

Financial Report: As of December 31, 2017 – our account balances were:

General Fund Balance	\$7,046.00
Building/Contingency Fund	861.50
Poppy Fund Balance	<u>1,172.72</u>
Total Account Balance	\$9,080.22

Service Officer Report: Dale Todd, Post Service Officer, reported the following:

- Mr. Wright passed away one week ago. Mr. Wright was not a member of our Post but came to our attention through Anita Hartsell, Senior Veterans Service Officer, Brunswick County Veterans Services. Several Post members have been involved with Mr. Wright over the last few months by providing him with transportation to his medical appointments. With his death, our services are no longer needed.
- Mr. Cote first came to our attention as a veteran in need through Meals-On-Wheels. As a result of our involvement, Brunswick Housing Opportunity has arranged for a local electrician to resolve the electrical issues with his home; a Seabees organization has agreed to build a handicapped ramp for him; and we are working with the local Meineke shop (veteran-owned) to address his vehicle problems. We will ascertain the final, limited amount that we are willing to provide towards the vehicle repairs and follow-up on the other work scheduled at his house.
- Veterans Benefits Action Center (VBAC) remains in the planning stages for 2018 and has been renamed the Veterans Benefits Experience Center (VBEC). A veterans “Stand-down” will be held on site as well to provide showers, clean clothing, food, and medical and dental services to the area’s homeless veterans.
 - ✓ 22, 23, 24 March 2018 – we will need volunteers to work the event
 - ✓ Volunteer Roles are being defined – information on responsibilities will be provided as received
 - ✓ Location - Elks Club, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington
 - ✓ Website: <http://www.vbec2018.com/>
 - ✓ Post Lead – Lead (Dale Todd, Service Officer)

Update on 2018 Events – Commander:

- Survey of Homeless Veterans in Brunswick County
 - ✓ County-wide, evening of Wednesday, January 24th
 - ✓ To help out, contact Lane Adrian at (630)-251-7040
- Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) Quarterly Commodities Distribution
 - ✓ Thursday February 8, from 7:30 AM to Noon
 - ✓ Shallotte (at the Brunswick Beacon)
 - ✓ Volunteers will carpool from Port City Java, The Villages, Brunswick Forest, at 7 AM
 - ✓ Plan for lunch at the Purple Onion afterwards
 - ✓ To help out, contact Eric Mens at (703) 626-9104 or (910) 399-7290
- Unserviceable Flag Collection
 - ✓ March 3, 2018 from 8 AM – 4 PM, Leland Town Park (no charge)
 - ✓ Potentially Piggly Wiggly to provide barbecue (rather than cook hamburgers and hot dogs ourselves)
 - ✓ Contact Bobby Hunt at (910) 409-0812 if you can help on flag collection day
- Flag Retirement Ceremony
 - ✓ April 28, 2018, Leland Town Park (no charge) at sundown
 - ✓ Potentially the NBHS JROTC will participate
 - ✓ Potentially a local Boy Scout Troop will participate
 - ✓ For more details or to see how you can help, contact Bobby Hunt at (910) 409-0812

Update on Projects/Initiatives

- **High School Project** - Rick de Moya reported that he recently met with Paul Price, Principal of North Brunswick High School (NBHS,) and several school staff members on the NBHS Flag Pole and Freedom Wall Project. The Freedom Wall will be located outside the library and will house copies of historical documents (e.g., the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, etc.). Over the years, add-ons to the main high school building have resulted in the flag pole now being at the center of the school. Construction of a flagpole plaza in front of the school is somewhat problematic due to several large swamp oaks that have grown in the potential plaza location and that will most likely need to be cut down or relocated (if possible). Completion date is scheduled for May 2018. However, due to the plaza issues, it is very likely that the project will not be completed until the Fall 2018. This project is a joint Post 68 and Kiwanis Club of North Brunswick effort. Kiwanis has agreed to provide \$1,000 towards funding the project. Post 68 involvement will primarily be in the planning and construction phases of the project, as well as possible needed fundraising depending upon the final design of the project.
- **American Legion Oratorical Competition** – Rick de Moya reported that he recently attended the Oratorical Competition held at Legion Post 543 St. James. NBHS currently does not have a Speakers Club but the principal is supportive of establishing one in the future. Rick will attend the Division 9 competition that will be held at Wilmington Post 10 in February in the hopes that Post 68 will be able to conduct its own competition next year.

New Business

- Post Elections in May 2018
 - ✓ The following positions must be filled:
 - Commander
 - Vice Commander
 - Adjutant
 - Finance Officer
 - Post Historian
 - Post Chaplain
 - Post Service Officer
 - Sergeant at Arms
 - ✓ The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the candidate slate and conduct of election.
 - ✓ Contact Lou Tranzillo at (910) 383-9746 if you are willing and able to serve in a Post leadership position.
- Richard Fry proposed that the Post start a Pull Tab project and collect pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Richard will be the lead on the project and asked members to start collecting their own pull tabs. Ore information to follow. Contact Richard at (703) 851-4322 if you have questions.
- Bill Carshaw provided materials for the Honor Flight Program and suggested that our Vietnam veterans may benefit from participation. Rick de Moya and Eric Mens will follow-up on the program and potential Post candidates.
- The Commander reported that Post 68 is gaining more recognition in the community as we have been invited to participate in Leland's Parks and Recreation (P&R) Advisory Committees and thereby provide input into future P&R community projects.

Next Meeting on February 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM, Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland

50/50: Total collection was \$123.00. The winner, Valerie Valiant (spouse of Roy Valiant) won the 50/50 drawing and her share of \$61. The remaining \$62.00 will go to the General Fund.

Closing Formalities

Meeting Adjourned at 20:00



2018 Election Dates

If you are interested in being a poll worker, please mark these dates on your calendar now!

2018 Primary

- Early Voting
Thursday, April 19 through
Saturday, May 5
- Primary Day
Tuesday, May 8

2018 General Election

- Early Voting
Thursday, October 18
through Saturday,
November 3
- Election Day
Tuesday, November 6

You must have attended a Poll Worker Orientation Session in order to be invited to attend further training or assigned to work at early voting or on Election Day!

For further information visit our website at:

www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections

OR

www.brunswickpollworkers.com

Questions?

Send us an email:

pollworkers@brunswickcountync.gov

Contacts:

Melissa Monroe
Deputy Director, Poll Worker Recruitment and Training

Adrienne Rushton
Assistant Deputy Director, Poll Worker Recruitment and Scheduling

Poll Workers



Interested in elections?

Want to serve your
community?

Find out if being a poll
worker is right for you!

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**



75 Stamp Act Dr NE, Building H · PO Box 2
Bolivia, NC 28422
910.253.2620

www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections
pollworkers@brunswickcountync.gov

Poll workers—the face and heart of the elections process!

Each election, hundreds of poll workers are utilized in order to facilitate an efficient, accurate election in Brunswick County.

We rely on volunteers interested in serving their community and ensuring the election is conducted in accordance with election laws.



Poll workers are needed to staff every polling place in the county—

- To greet voters and direct them to the correct location
- Answer questions and provide customer service
- Check voters in on an electronic poll book system
- Issue voters the correct ballot on electronic voting machines
- Ensure every voter is offered the opportunity to cast a ballot

Is being a poll worker right for you?

There is a lot involved in being a poll worker—training, time and knowledge! How do you know if it is a good fit for you?

Review the requirements to determine if it might be right for you.

A poll worker must:

- Be a registered voter in Brunswick County
- Not currently an office-holder, candidate or near relative of a candidate
- Not currently an official of a political party, including precinct party officials
- Be able to work the entire day on Election Day—6:00 am until at least 8:30 pm—this may involve sitting or standing for extended periods of time
- Have moderate computer skills—we use electronic poll books!
- Have an active, individual, regularly checked email account—we rely on electronic communication!
- Regular access to the internet
- Attend orientation and successfully complete computer class

What are the “perks”?

- Paid stipend for working election day! - Minimum of \$150!
- All training provided!
- Opportunity to work early voting for an hourly pay rate!
- Great experience to add to your resume!
- Serve your community and get to know your neighbors!



How do you start?

The first step in becoming a poll worker is to attend **Poll Worker Orientation**.

This is your introduction to elections and the ABCs of being a Poll Worker. This free, informational seminar is required for all new poll workers and available as a refresher course to returning poll workers. All are welcome. Please sign-up to receive reminders and to ensure the instructor has adequate material prepared. This class will be held in the County Commissioner’s Chambers at the Government Complex.

2018 Poll Worker Orientation Sessions

- Tuesday, January 23— 6 pm
- Thursday, January 25—2 pm *40 min.*
- Tuesday, February 6—9 am
- Wednesday, February 7— 6 pm
- Thursday, February 15—2 pm
- Thursday, February 22—6 pm

To register visit:

www.brunswickpollworkers.com

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
447TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP (USAFCENT)
INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY



28 Dec 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR AMERICAN LEGION POST 68

ATTN: Mr. Eric Mens

FROM: 447 EAMXS/22 EAMU

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

1. Deployments during the Holiday Season can be difficult for some troops and their families. It is no different for our Airmen from the 916th Air Refueling Wing. Separating Airmen from their close family and friends during the holiday season is a sacrifice that no commander wants to ask from their Airmen. Unfortunately, our enemies do not afford us the latitude to relax during the holiday season. As a result, our leadership has the difficult task of mitigating the effects from the separation. One way of brightening up their holiday is by sending our Airmen care packages. It is quite extraordinary watching their eyes light up when they get a box of goodies or even just a card. It shows them that someone cares enough to take time out of their busy schedules to send something to let them know that they are not forgotten. Our deployed Airmen are genuinely appreciative of the gesture.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you and your volunteers for taking the time to make cards, letters and cookies for our Airmen. We appreciate your generosity, thoughtfulness and personal sacrifice you and your volunteers have given up for our Airmen. And for this, you are TRUE PATRIOTS!!

3. We hope that all of you at American Legion Post 68 had an exceptional Holiday Season! And wish that you all have a prosperous New Year!

WILLIAM F. DUNN, Captain, USAF
Maintenance Officer

ADRIAN H. DARBY, CMSgt, USAF
Superintendent



THIS FLAG WAS PROUDLY FLOWN ABOARD
AN A-10 WARTHOG IN SUPPORT OF
OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE



PRESENTED TO
AMERICAN LEGION POST 68
FROM THE
74TH EXPEDITIONARY FIGHTER SQUADRON
"WORLD FAMOUS FLYING TIGERS"

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THIS FLAG WAS FLOWN IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO
GIVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. IT DISPLAYS AMERICA'S UNWAVERING
RESOLVE TO DEFEAT THE TERRORIST THREAT.

CAPT MATTHEW "LOCO" UNDERWOOD
CALLSIGN: BOAR 52 MISSION #: 302
DATE: 17 DECEMBER 2017



Matthew Underwood
THUNDER!

TAIL NUMBER: 79-0157

Certificate of Authenticity

THIS FLAG WAS FLOWN IN HONOR OF

AMERICAN LEGION POST 68



Incirlik AB, Turkey



On December 27, 2017, this flag was flown on a combat mission during Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. It flew on a KC-135R Stratotanker, Call Sign Octane 52, Tail#64-14834. It completed an aerial refueling mission over hostile territory in support of a flight of F-15 Eagles as well as an E-3 Sentry (AWACS) aircraft. Flown by dedicated members of the United States Air Force, this flag represents our commitment to the Global War on Terror.

"Let all who look upon it see a symbol of freedom, a standard of justice, and a promise to remember those who died in its defense".