



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

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Historian and Acting Adjutant \*  
APPROVED BY: Dale Todd, Service Officer and Acting Commander \*  
Convened: 18:05  
Adjourned: 19:15

DATE: Sep 21, 2017  
Total Attendance: 31  
Officers & Staff: 7 \*\*  
Members: 30 \*\*\*  
Guests: 1

\* Concurred

\*\* Officers Absent: J. Zelenski, A. Simmons, A. Dietrich, E. Mens, G. Miller, KC White, L. Adrian

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

Officers and Staff Present: Dale Todd, Service Officer; Dan Dodge, Historian; Brian Danielson, Chaplain; John Marone, Supply Officer; Kathy McDonough, Membership; Executive Committee: Lou Tranzillo, Bill Smith

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**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Meeting was preceded with a 50-60 slide show of Post 68 events that occurred this past year.

**Presentation of Colors:** Post colors not present. Existing American flag at Blossoms utilized.

**Chaplain's Prayer:** Brian Danielson

**MIA/POW:** Moment of silence due to flag not present

**Call to Order:** Dale Todd, Acting Commander

**Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble:** All

**Introduction of Guest Speaker:** Tara Hurst, Event Coordinator, Public Administration Office, "Step up for Soldiers."

Ms. Hurst was a last-minute addition to the agenda at the request of Post 68 member Dominick Calderon, Jr. Dominick has been involved with the planning of the Wilmington Veterans Day Parade (John Marone is the Post 68 lead working with Dominick). Ms. Hurst wanted to meet our WW II veterans (Bill Carshaw and Robert Stafford) as WW II veterans will be the Grand Marshals of the parade. There were no notes or handouts. Further updates will be provided.

- Ms. Hurst spoke on the upcoming Veterans Day Parade in Wilmington on Saturday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a first-time event for Wilmington and its surrounding area.
- Parade participants will meet at the Cape Fear Community College (CFCC), Schwartz Center.
- Staging time is at 7:00 AM. The parade starts at 9:30 AM. Staging area is by the Schwartz Center.
- Route: CFCC parking lot, down Front Street, left on Orange St., and end at the USO. where refreshments will be provided for parade participants.
- Marine Corp band will participate.
- Special recognition for WWII or Korean vets who will be riding in cars.
- Vietnam vets that did not get properly recognized will form a group.
- Separate banners for each group.
- Motorcycle group.
- Post 68 color guard with a float/trailer for members to ride on if they so desire.

**Introduction of New Post Member and Presentation of Certificate:** Reflecting a recent vote by the Post Officers, Dale presented Mr. Robert Stafford, a former Marine and WWII veteran, with a certificate for an Honorary Lifetime Membership (HLM). HLM status means that Post 68 will pay Mr. Stafford's dues for his lifetime. Mr. Stafford was accompanied by his son, Ron Stafford, who is a recent transfer from Wilmington Post 10. Robert brought pictures showing his father as a young Marine. He also brought an article from a 1940's paper that talked about Mr. Stafford's gallant contributions to the US Marine Corp.

**Membership:** Kathy - 128 members. Handed out 2018 cards to members present for current year. Two new members were in attendance: Reginald Kidd and Wes Cox.

**Chaplin's Report:** No Sick Call reported.

**Approval of August 17<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** Minutes from the August meeting were e-mailed to the members on September 5<sup>th</sup>, along with a copy the Membership Survey. The date for survey responses has been extended to October 1<sup>st</sup>. Total attendance at the August meeting was 34. Minutes approved by Acclamation.

**Finance Report:** Finance Officer absent. Reference made to financial numbers presented in the briefing slides.

**Service Officer:** Dale Todd, Service Officer, discussed what support has been provided to local vets:

- A vet who is blind with cancer. Helping with transportation. Dale asked for help from members to support this effort. At least one member volunteered.
- A vet in a bad house, getting support from town on repairs. Meineke Muffler to help with fixing the car.
- A vet with long running claim problems is helped to get support from VA.
- A vet has mementos from WWII uncle. Checking with family first on what to do with them.
- A vet who had only service 4 months contacted us for benefits support.

**Wilmington Sundown Concert Fundraiser:** Dale talked about success of this event and thanked those who participated.

**Upcoming Events:** Dale went thru list of upcoming events:

- Pancake breakfast (Lead is Kathy). Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 9 – 11 AM at Brunswick Forest Commons. Looking for volunteers to help with cooking. She will have a meeting with volunteers. Free breakfast for members and families.
- Spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Going to be at Blossoms in meeting room. Dale working details. Will be asking for help with setup. This event will be held on November 16, 2017, in lieu of the November membership meeting.

**Survey:** Dale made comments to members about the importance of this initiative.

## **New Business**

- o Spousal Support Group: Belk sales ticket. \$5 for each ticket. Pure profit. Sales at store. Will be at next Post meeting selling tickets.
- o Designating Mallory Creek and Brunswick Forest connector road in honor of local veterans. Will be discussed at Leland Town Council meeting if we can get it on the agenda. Members can attend in Legion shirts. Mike Callahan spoke (on council). Members can email or send letters to members of the Town Council. They need at least 3 votes from the board. Be kind, patient but persistent.
- o First time event: Non-Profit Expo at the Leland Cultural Arts Center, Sep 30<sup>th</sup> (Lead is KC White).
- o Leland Trunk or Treat: Dan Dodge gave update on T or T event. Kid friendly theme. Asked for donations from members in the form of candy, bales of straw, corn stalks. Bring to our next meeting.
- o Wilmington Parade: John Marone is the Lead. Asking for post members to participate. Lou Tranzillo suggested calling members to get them to participate. There will be float for those who cannot walk. Lou will work with John and Dale on calling list.
- o Free Breakfast for Vets at Leland Cultural Arts Center on November 11<sup>th</sup> conflicts with the Wilmington parade.
- o Christmas Parade Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Working on getting a lead for this event. Asked for help from membership.
- o Col Baker: ROTC instructor – year 3 of partnership with JROTC at North Brunswick High School. Working with Rick de Moya. Rifle team should be nationally ranked this year. Color Guard looking good. 130+ students in this program. Members can link their Harris Teeter VIC card to 8704 as they get cash donations to the group.
- o Mike Callahan asked for feedback on Leland Founders Day event. Dale and Dan responded. One new member signed up that day. Mike also indicated that the Town Council made proclamation for POW/MIA day and to fly the POW/MIA flag on the day of recognition, September 15, 2017.
- o Rick de Moya: Quickly discussed tax write offs to ROTC. Asked about flag ceremony which Dale indicated has been moved to next year.

- Pete Erbe: Suggestion to send out meeting agenda and minutes prior to meetings (this has been regularly done).
- 9/11 – Bike ride “343” from Harley to downtown. Over 400 bikes. Was quite a showing.

### **Next Meeting on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**

**50/50:** \$102 total collected; \$51 went to the winner, Roger Weigold.

### **Parting Comments:**

**Roger Weigold** indicated he had quite a run-around with the VA. They could not find him in any computer database so he could get registered. He was in NSA so the VA did not have him on record and his DD214 was “empty”. A friend of his who is also an ambassador helped get his DD 214 issue fixed. 147,000 vets are in this situation. He mentioned this story in case we hear of any other vets in this situation.

**Lou Tranzillo** commented about veterans having access to the Post Exchanges online. Lou’s records were destroyed in fire. He was told his records are being re-created. Evidently there is a backup set of records for those who served overseas.

### **Closing Formalities**

Meeting Adjourned at 19:15