



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

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Historian and Acting Adjutant \*

DATE: 19 Oct 2017

APPROVED BY: James E Zelenski, Commander

Total Attendance: 21

Officers & Staff: 5\*

Members: 15\*\*

Convened: 18:18

Adjourned: 19:35

Guest: Debbie Zelenski

\* Absent: Alan Simmons, Art Dietrich, Eric Mens, Brian Danielson, Dale Todd, and Lane Adrian

\*\* Includes Officers and newly signed members

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**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**Presentation of Colors:** Commander, James Zelenski

**Chaplain's Prayer:** Commander, James Zelenski

**MIA/POW:** KC White, Sergeant At Arms

**Call to Order:** Commander, James Zelenski

**Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble:** All

**Special Notes:**

- Spousal Support Group were selling Belk tickets this evening (Debbie Zelenski)
- 50/50 Raffle was being run by Post Member, Richard Fry
- Richard Fry talked with KC White to volunteer to drive vets to appointments
- KC White indicated that Town of Leland plans to erect a Veteran's memorial/monument in the redesigned municipal campus plan, and possibly rename Village Road to Veterans Way.

**Introduction of visitors and new members:** John Marone, Logistics Officer

- New members who signed up tonight:
  - o Yvonne Cox – Air Force
  - o Veronica Carter - Army

**Introduction of Post Speaker by the Commander:** – Rick de Moya, Post 68 NBHS Liaison

- Rick explained his role as interface and coordinator with the Brunswick High School JROTC team.
- He is working on a relationship with the HS to create a partnership regarding Boys State. The four students the Post sponsored this year were very successful. Looking at opportunities for three more.
- The North Brunswick Kiwanis club wants to partner with other small organization and in working with the high school principle whereby Kiwanis and the Legion would provide leadership and supervision to JROTC and Key Club members at the school. JROTC and Key Club working together on projects.
  - o The HS has no flagpole. The HS principle is proposing a small concourse area for a flagpole for ~ \$2000 with a possible dedication ceremony on Memorial Day
  - o Proposal for a Freedom Shrine or Shelf in the HS library with historic documents of the US under glass. Such as Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, etc.

- Rick was asking for permission from our Commander to go forward with the Kiwanis in working with JROTC and Key Club to help fund raise and build the Freedom Shrine
- Note: Greg indicated he was working with the Kiwanis to build an Honor Wall at the HS.
- Rick was also requesting permission from the Commander to talk with the HS principle & HS English department regarding American Legion Oratorical competition in addition to get the HS to pay the \$500 prize money.
- Rick will report status and findings during November Officer's meeting as authorized by the Commander.

**Membership Report:** John Marone: Post currently has 122 members.

**Chaplin's Report:** Jim Zelenski, No Issues to Report.

**Approval of September Minutes:** The Minutes from September Post meeting were e-mailed to the members on September 28. The September minutes were approved by approved by Acclamation.

**Finance Report:** Greg Miller, Post Finance Officer/Treasurer: As of September 30, 2017, the General Fund Balance is \$3,814.51. The Poppy Fund ending balance is \$1, 813.52. The Building/Contingency Fund balance is \$754.00. Grand total in account is \$6,3823.03. The Posts funds have increased by \$331.21 during month of October. The Treasurer's Report was approved by Acclamation.

Greg Miller talked about setting up a possible GO FUND ME site to allow for donations to a building fund. He has talked to manager of BBT Bank in Brunswick Forest who says he would setup a free account for these funds to come into. Lou Tranzillo, Post Member indicated he knows of someone who is familiar with Go Fund Me Accounts and would attempt to obtain further information.

**Veterans Issues and Updates / Service Officer:** KC White

- KC continues to assist Mr. Wright of Leland with visits to his doctor. KC currently working with Eldercare to provide assistance to Mr. Wright

**Old Business:**

**Updates on Events:**

**Trunk or Treat – Dan Dodge**

- Dan Dodge was collecting candy at tonight's meeting. Several large bags had been donated. Dan's neighbors had also donated playdough and candy.
- Members were invited to participate and come in costume to the event on October 28, from 4-6pm.

**Free Pancake Breakfast for Post members**

- Commander reminded post members that the Post Officers were providing a free pancake breakfast for all post members and their families on November 12, from 9-11am at the Commons, Brunswick Forest.

**Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser**

- KC issuing tickets to members to sell
- Lou Tranzillo suggested that next year (with enough lead time) that we send tickets to each member asking them to sell or buy them
- More information/update to follow upon the return of POC/Lead, Dale Todd, Post Service Officer

**Membership Survey: 20 returned to date. Survey has been extended**

- We received one hand written survey this evening
- Commander extending survey into January
- Lou Tranzillo suggested being able to do the survey online, perhaps via Survey Monkey. Dan Dodge to check into it.
- Additional Discussion:

- How to make meetings more interesting to get members out
- Phone tree to contact members to come out
- Pete Erbe indicated he had concern over number of members turning out. The Commander stated he would welcome any further new ideas from the post members on maximizing post participation.

### **Veterans Day Parade – John Marone**

- Has signup sheet for those interested in marching/riding in parade, on November 11, Downtown Wilmington
- John Cook will have his trailer and truck for riders
- John setting up car pool from the old Macgrooders parking lot at 7:30am on day of parade since parking will be an issue at event.
  - John will send out a blast email to members for whoever needs a ride

### **Community Services Expo - KC White**

- KC White discussed the September 30th Expo event the Post participated in at the LCAC for North Brunswick non-profit groups offering services to the Community. Numerous new contacts were established to help Veterans in need.
- KC White indicated this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the Post has participated in this event

### **New Business**

#### **Brunswick Family Assistance – Jim Zelenski**

- Commander discussed there is a Brunswick Family Assistance Commodities Distribution day on November 9, from 7:30am to 12:00pm at the Brunswick Beacon Building in Shallotte. Post members desiring to volunteer need to meet at the Port City Java parking lot in Brunswick Forest at 7:15am to carpool to the event.
- POC is Eric Mens, 910-399-7290 or armyvet6770@gmail.com

#### **Exchange Benefits:**

- Commander discussed this benefit for Veterans and that we have links, etc. on our web site
- KC White advised that if a Veteran could not be validated now, they should try again after Veterans Day
- Dan Dodge indicated that he had already tried out the links, gotten verified and setup an account on AFSS web site

**Other:** Debbie Zelenski reported the Spousal Support Group had already collected \$360 from the Belk Charity Sale tickets in support of the Post.

### **Upcoming Events**

- \* November 16, 2017 – NO Meeting, Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner In Lieu Of Meeting
- \* December 21, 2017, Guest Speaker, District 9 Commander, Nelson Anderson

**50/50:** Total Collected: \$54.00, Payout: \$27.00, Winner: New member-Veronica Carter who donated winnings back to the Post. Thank You!

### **Closing Formalities**

Meeting Adjourned at 19:35pm