



**American Legion
Leland Post 68
Meeting Notes for April 20, 2017**

COMPILED BY: Brian Danielson, Chaplain and Eric Mens, Adjutant

DATE: April 20, 2017

APPROVED BY: Jim Zelenski, Commander

Total Attendance: 31

Convened: 19:00

Officers: 9

Adjourned: 20:30

Members: 26*

* Including Officers

Guests: 5

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

NOTE: The meeting was conducted in PowerPoint presentation. Members who wish to receive a copy of the slide presentation may do so by e-mailing the Adjutant at armyveter6770@gmail.com

Call to Order: Jim Zelenski, Commander

Presentation of Colors

Chaplain's Opening Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplain

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: KC White, Sergeant at Arms

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All

Officers in Attendance:

Jim Zelenski, Commander ✓

Allan Simmons, 1st Vice Commander ✓

Art Dietrich, 2nd Vice Commander ✓

Eric Mens, Adjutant ✓

Greg Miller, Financial Officer ✓

Brian Danielson, Chaplain ✓

Lane Adrian, Public Affairs ✓

KC White, Sergeant at Arms ✓

John Marone, Supply Officer ✓

Dale Todd, Service Officer ✓

Vacant, Post Historian ____

Guest Speaker - Stephanie Bowen, Executive Director, Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) spoke to us about the BFA mission, how it is funded, how BFA can assist veterans in need, and how we can assist BFA, etc.

Special Guest - Tom Cerniglia, District 9 Commander, complimented Post 68 on attaining over 100% of its membership goal and presented the Post with a certificate and flag streamer noting the achievement.

Current Business:

- Protocol – KC White, Sergeant at Arms, reminded the members about proper procedures for standing, saluting, and addressing the Commander and the membership body on matters before the membership.
- Introduction of New Members or Guests in Attendance
- Concerns and Sick Call – *Chaplain asked members to contact him with any news about sick members.*
- April 2017 Membership Report: *We have 96 paid-up members. Sent 3 “Project Stay Active” letters in March.*

- Approval of March 16, 2017 Minutes – *Approved*
- Treasurer’s Report for March 2017 – *Accepted*

General Fund Balance	\$ 842.43
Poppy Fund Balance	<u>816.79</u>
Total Checking Account Balance	\$1,659.22
Previous Period Ending Balance Reported	\$3,718.49
March Month-End Decrease -	\$2,059.27

The current balance reflects recent payments of \$1,400 for Boys State, \$175 to secure the town facility for the Fish Fry, \$246.56 to help pay for a veteran’s outstanding VA co-pay debt, and a Food Lion \$150 Gift Card for the same the veteran to purchase food and sundry items (alcohol and tobacco products are excluded from purchase).

Upcoming expenditures are expected to total \$725 which includes \$500 for a JROTC scholarship and \$225 for awards and medals to JROTC NBHS students and one Middle School student. That would leave the Post with a near future total balance of \$934.22 (\$117.43 in the General Fund and \$816.79 in the Poppy Fund).

BOTTOM LINE: We need a dedicated Fundraising Committee Chair so that our Financial Officer, Greg Miller, can devote his time to financial and other Post responsibilities. We also need committee members who will actively work with the Chair to organize and schedule potential fundraising events. Please consider volunteering!

Old Business

- Boys State - Checks for selected students to attend Boys (or Girls) State MUST be issued by Post 68. We wrote a check for \$1,400 for four students (two were funded by Post 68, one funded by an “anonymous” donor, and the fourth funded by his family).

At its April 12th meeting, the Officers unanimously agreed to establish a Line Item in the 2017-2018 Budget that reflects Post 68 commitment to annually FULLY fund two students (REGARDLESS of financial capability) to attend either Boys State or Girls State in the future.

- Veterans Benefits Action Center – (D. Todd/Lane Adrian) - Held over three days – March 30 and 31, April 1st. North Carolina is the only state that holds these events. 766 veterans from six states were served. Cadre of VA health and claims professionals and representatives from State and County veteran’s services organizations. Over 300 claims filed and \$895,592 in retroactive benefits paid. Other VBACs will be held at locations throughout the year in NC. Wilmington event will be held again in 2018. Many thanks to the Post 68 volunteers who participated!
- Brunswick County Veterans Coalition (BCVC) and Veterans to Veterans (V2V) Report - Lane Adrian

V2V - Post 543 provides one member to man the V2V office at Brunswick Community College one day a week. Need has not been as much as initially anticipated.

BCVC – Discussions included the “Honor Flights” to Washington, DC and the “Veterans Planning Guide.” The guide is issued by the Dignity Memorial network, a national network of funeral, cremation and cemetery services providers and is a resource for veterans and their families. To receive a copy of the guide, call 1-866-508-5834 or visit <http://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-us/veterans/planning-guide.page> .

New Business

- Post Elections - Must be held at May meeting. Lou Tranzillo will lead the Elections Committee. Current Officers have agreed to serve another 1- year term. John Marone is relinquishing his position on the Executive Committee member to retain his position as Post Supply Officer. Nominations for other members to serve in

Post positions should be made known to Lou Tranzillo immediately so that a proper ballot can be made and a vote recorded at the May meeting.

- The Spousal Support Group has offered to conduct a Flower Bulb Fundraiser to benefit the Post – date TBD. Fish Fry and the Summer Concert Wristband Sales are expected to be significant Post fundraising events. Given the current state of Post finances, the Officers agreed to allow the Support Group to move forward with planning a Flower Bulb Fundraiser. Other ideas proposed included a Bingo Night (possible venue of the Leland Room at the Brunswick Forest Fitness Center or the Leland Cultural Arts Center). We could award prizes but not cash prizes. Given the amount of planning that would need to go into such an event and to obtain prizes, identify potential donors, etc., the idea was tabled.
- Veterans Day, Nov 11th - Officers have agreed to participate in the Leland Veterans Day Breakfast, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Michael Braddock is the current President of the Chamber. The Commander will make contact to arrange for us to man a recruitment table and ask that Post 68 be recognized as the only VSO serving veterans in this part of Brunswick County. In addition, the Officers will continue planning to host a “members and families” breakfast and a potential location on the Sunday of Veterans Day weekend.

Tara Hurst, an organizer of the Wilmington Veteran’s Day Parade, has asked if our Post would participate in the parade. The NBHS JROTC has agreed to march in the parade. Dale Todd, our Service Officer, on behalf of our Post will invite Ms. Hurst to speak to the membership at the May meeting about our potential participation.

- Post Protocol - Keep each other “in the loop” on communications with external entities and/or personnel that involve Post business or participation in events. “Situational Awareness” - Better to include all Officers in the chain of communications rather than leave someone off who may have additional knowledge or knowledge unknown to the others. For record-keeping purposes and especially, in the absence of a Post Historian, forward copies of external correspondence to the Adjutant.
- Post Building Fund - Officers agreed to:
 - ESTABLISH a long-term (e.g., 10-year) goal to facilitate purchase of a permanent home for Post 68.
 - ESTABLISH a separate savings account or other vehicle (e.g., Certificate of Deposit) for donations and certain fundraising proceeds to go towards funding the project.
 - Considerations include: developing a long-range plan to achieve the goal, membership growth in future years, funding needed to purchase AND maintain a facility, financial assistance or other help that may be available (e.g., County, Town or donors), other tools may help raise funds (e.g., grants, “Go Fund Me” campaign, etc.), and other undefined issues.
 - Adjutant and Commander will draft a “Memorandum of Intent” to memorialize the decision and present it to the membership for adoption in the near future.
- Adjutant is developing policies and procedures to help govern internal Post operations such as financial controls (e.g., cash accountability, member reimbursement, vendor payment, etc.), protocol in the event of the death of a member, etc. Currently in first draft form and will be presented to the Officers in final draft form for approval by late summer. Will be presented to the membership for final adoption. Intended to be a “living document” that serves as a modifiable guide to Post operations.

Upcoming Events – Post 68 members needed to volunteer to assist (contact the POC)

- * Flag Collection Day, Sat. April 22nd, Brunswick Forest Commons - POC Bobby Hunt or Dan Fortini
- * Poppy Drive Fundraiser, Sat. May 20th, Lowes Food, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion (Mt Misery Rd)
- * Graveside Flag Placement, Sat. May 27th, meet at First Baptist Church, Leland - POC Alan Simmons
- * Fish Fry Fundraiser, Sat. July 29th, Leland Town Park, 102 Town Hall Drive – POC John Cook.
- * Flag Retirement Ceremony, Date TBD, The Village at Brunswick Forest - POC Bobby Hunt

Display Your Pride

- * Post 68 baseball caps are available. One free to new members; additional caps will be available for \$15.00 each.
- * Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps & Coast Guard ball caps are available for purchase at \$15.00 each.
- * Post 68 polo shirts are available to order. Cost is \$28.00 each; \$2.00 extra for sizes 2XL and up. Cost must be paid at time order is placed (Note: \$5.00 from each sale benefits the Post 68 general fund).
- * Post 68 jackets are available for \$45 each (\$3 more for XX and XXX), payable at time of order.
- * Contact John Marone, Post 68 Supply/Logistics Officer, at: jonflyfish@aol.com

Odds and Ends

- * Post 68 baseball caps are not part of the official uniform of the American Legion.
- * Kathy McDonough will keep track of all members who have received a Post 68 baseball cap.
- * Only the service caps, available through the Legion Flag & Emblem Sales, are the official uniform and should be worn at all official functions, including Post meetings.

50/50 - \$106 total pot: \$53 to the General Fund (John D'abrosca won \$53 but donated \$30 donated back to the Post to pay for coffee).

Chaplain's Closing Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplain

Meeting Adjourned at 20:30.