



**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: Feb 15, 2018
Total Attendance: 29
Officers & Staff: 12 **
Members: 28 ***
Guests: 1

* Concurred

** Officers Absent: Greg Miller, Financial Officer, KC White, Sergeant-at-Arms

*** 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; Dan Dodge, Historian; John Marone, Supply Officer; Kathy McDonough, Membership; Executive Committee: Lou Tranzillo, Jim Thompson

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Presentation of Colors

Chaplain's Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplain

MIA/POW: Lane Adrian, Public Affairs

Call to Order: Commander

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All

Speaker: Rick de Moya introduced Col. Steve Baker, Senior Army Instructor, North Brunswick High School, and member of Legion Post 68. Col. Baker spoke about the JROTC program at North Brunswick High School, events that the cadets participate in throughout the year, and thanked the Post for its support including the scholarship and recognition programs and participation in Boys State. Col. Baker invited Post members to participate in the Change of Command Ceremony at the High School on April 23rd at which time the Post 68 medal awards will also be made.

Member Recognition: The Commander recognized the following Post 68 members for their work in our community in representing our "can do" spirit –

- Lane Adrian, Patty Kelley, Kobe Kelley, and Dale Todd for working the BFA Commodities Distribution on February 8th.
- Bobby Hunt for his work to date on Flag Collection and Flag Retirement events (Bobby had to step down as the Lead).
- Dan Fortini for taking the Lead on the Flag Collection Day (we need a Lead for the Flag Retirement event).
- Dan Dodge, Post Historian, for his continued excellent work on updating the Post 68 website.

Membership Report: Post 68's Local Roster shows that we have 122 members on our Local Roster. One transfer to Post 1981 (National) has been completed. As of the meeting date, 86 percent of the members have paid their 2018 dues.

Chaplin's Report: No Sick Call reported.

Approval of Membership Minutes: Minutes from January 18, 2017 meeting were e-mailed to members on January 21, 2018. The Minutes were approved by acclamation tonight (one minor spelling correction).

Financial Report: As of January 31, 2018 – our account balances were:

General Fund Balance	\$6,657.14
Building/Contingency Fund	923.50
Poppy Fund Balance	<u>742.72</u>
Total Account Balance	\$8,323.36

Recent Financial Actions:

Veteran Assistance - January expenditures included \$430 of \$750 allocated for car towing and materials for Seabee-built ramp for veteran in need (Dave Cote).

February Disbursements and Approvals to date :

- Disbursed \$500 for VBEC (Veterans Benefits Experience Center scheduled for March 2018)
- Disbursed \$44 to the Veterans Service Fund
- Disbursed \$44 for AL contribution to Battleship NC
- Disbursed \$100 to Friends of the Battleship NC
- Approved \$500 for the NBHS Freedom Wall Project
- Approved \$100 increase to Boys State to reflect increased 2018 fees
- Purchased Poppies for 2018 - \$97.95

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

- We have a \$320 balance of the original \$750 set-aside for Mr. Cote. As reported last month, a result of our involvement, Brunswick Housing Opportunity has arranged for a local electrician to resolve the electrical issues with Mr. Cote's home; a Seabees organization has agreed to build a handicapped ramp for him; and we have worked with the Leland Meineke shop (veteran-owned) to address his vehicle problems.
- Planning continues for the 2018 Veterans Benefits Experience Center (VBEC). This "unique to North Carolina" program which allows veterans to adjudicate their VA claims with onsite VA representatives served over 700 veterans last year and saw over \$1M paid onsite in veterans claims. VBEC will also include a veterans' "Stand-down" with showers, clean clothing, food, and access to medical and dental services for the area's homeless veterans.
 - ✓ Setup will be on Wednesday, March 21st
 - ✓ 22, 23, 24 March 2018 – we will need volunteers to work the event (contact Lane Adrian or Dale Todd)
 - ✓ Volunteer Roles are being defined – information on responsibilities as it becomes available
 - ✓ Location - Elks Club, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington
 - ✓ Website: <http://www.vbec2018.com/>
 - ✓ Post Lead – Lead (Dale Todd, Service Officer)
- We updated Nelson Anderson, District 9 Commander and the Legion Posts in attendance on our current Post projects and membership status at the District 9 meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2018 in Elizabethtown, NC. Commander Anderson presented us with a Commander's coin and Adjutant's coin for once again exceeding our membership growth goals (we are the fastest growing Post in District 9). Both coins were presented to Jim Zelenski, Commander and Eric Mens, Adjutant at the Post 68 membership meeting on February 15th.

Update on 2018 Events – Commander:

- Unserviceable Flag Collection – has a new Lead (Dan Fortini)
 - ✓ Saturday, March 3, 2018 from 8 AM – 4 PM, Leland Town Park (same location as last year's Fish Fry)
 - ✓ Setup tables, chairs, etc. on Friday, March 2nd from 2 - 4 pm
 - ✓ We will sell hot dogs, chips, and drinks for \$5
 - ✓ The Spousal Support Group will make cookies to include with the meal
 - ✓ The American Honor Guard will provide flags to post onsite (Lane Adrian)
 - ✓ Contact Dan Fortini at (413) 834-4106 if you can help on flag collection day
- Flag Retirement Ceremony – Due to personal circumstances, Bobby Hunt had to step down as the Lead. Dan Fortini is NOT available for this event, so we need a member to volunteer for the Lead role.
 - ✓ Saturday, April 28, 2018, Leland Town Park 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 Jim Zelenski at (301) 535-1120

Update on Projects/Initiatives

- **High School Project** – (Refer to January 2018 Minutes for project background). Rick de Moya reported that the project has been split into two phases due to the complexity of Phase Two (Flag Plaza). The Post Officers recently approved the disbursement of \$500 for the Freedom Wall Project (Phase One). The total cost of the Freedom Wall project will be split between Post 68, Kiwanis (which has donated \$1,000), and the Cape Fear Exchange Club. Completion date for the Freedom Wall is scheduled for May 2018. However, due to the flag plaza issues, it is very likely that Phase Two will not be completed until Fall 2018. The Kiwanis Club is hosting a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, February 24th from 8 – 10 am at Fat Tony's. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the total project costs.
- **American Legion Oratorical Competition** – Rick de Moya reported no significant change from last month except that the NBHS principal is still interested in having a Speakers Club. If that happens, that would lay the groundwork for Post 68 to mentor some students to participate in a future Legion Oratorical Competition.
- **Boys State 2018** – Costs for participation have increased by \$50 from \$350 to \$400. The Officers recently voted an increase of \$100 to the budget Line Item to cover the increase in fees. Applications have been distributed at the school and Rick expects a fair number of students to apply (same as last year) which will make vetting of the applicants challenging. If more than two students are found to be exceptionally qualified, Rick will brief the Officers accordingly. Last year, we had an “anonymous” donor fund one of the four students who were ultimately selected to attend Boys State.

New Business



- We have Post 68 T-shirts available for purchase (\$12). Contact John Marone to buy one.
- Schedule your calendars now for Saturday, May 19th as that will be our Poppy Drive. We are currently working to identify individuals to work at several locations including Port City Java in The Villages at Brunswick Forest, Piggly Wiggly, and Food Lion (Mt. Misery Road). More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- We have submitted our application to participate in the 2018 Wilmington Sundown Concert Series. This was an easy fundraiser last year that brought in several hundred dollars. We will need eight volunteers to work the event if we are successful in being selected for participation. More information to follow as it becomes available.
- Post Elections on Thursday, May 24, 2018 (please note the change in date from May 17th due to a Blossoms scheduling conflict!) There is NO Post meeting on May 17th as the meeting date is now May 24th for this event only!
 - All currently elected Officers have maxed-out their two-year obligation. We currently have candidates for the following positions to serve 2018 – 2019 (see attached):
 - Commander
 - Vice Commander
 - Finance Officer
 - Post Historian
 - Post Chaplain
 - Post Service Officer
 - Sergeant at Arms
 - We currently have no candidate for the Adjutant's position.
 - Contact the Commander at (301) 535-1120 if you have any questions about the Adjutant's position or any other position that you may want to serve in.

Upcoming Events, Meetings and Speakers

- Saturday, March 3, 2018 – Flag Collection Day, Leland Town Park, 8 am – 4 pm
- Thursday, March 15, 2018 - Anita Hartsell, Senior VSO, Brunswick County Veterans Office, Blossoms at 6 pm
- Thurs – Sat, March 22, 23, and 24, 2018 – VBEC, Elks Club, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington

- Thursday, April 19, 2018 – Kirsten Crook, Horseplay Farms' Veterans Programs, Blossoms at 6 pm
- Monday, April 23, 2018 – NBHS JROTC Change of Command Ceremony
- Saturday, May 19, 2018 - Poppy Drive, multiple locations, 8 am – 4 pm
- Thursday, May 24, 2018 – Elections (No Speaker), Blossoms at 6 pm
- Saturday, May 26, 2018 – Flag Placement at Local Cemeteries, meet at First Baptist Church, Leland at 9 am
- Thursday, June 21, 2018 – Julie Wilsey, Director, Wilmington International Airport, Blossoms at 6 pm

Next Meeting on March 15, 2018 at 6:00 PM, Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland

50/50: Total collection was \$98. Lane Adrian was the winner of \$48. The remaining \$50.00 will go into the General Fund.

Closing Formalities

Meeting Adjourned at 20:00

Post 68 Officers Elections - 2018

Position	Incumbent	Candidate	Candidate	REMARKS
Commander	Jim Zelenski	Dale Todd		Elected Position
Vice Commander	Alan Simmons	Jim Zelenski		Elected Position
2nd Vice Commander	Art Dietrich	Art Dietrich		Appointed Position
Adjutant	Eric Mens	VACANT		Elected Position
Finance Officer	Greg Miller	Judi Buongiorne		Elected Position
Post Historian	Dan Dodge	Dan Dodge		Elected Position
Post Chaplain	Brian Danielson	Brian Danielson		Elected Position
Post Service Officer	Dale Todd	Lane Adrian		Elected Position
Sergeant At Arms	KC White	Bill Smith		Elected Position
Executive Committee	Lou Tranzillo	Lou Tranzillo		Elected Position
Executive Committee	Jim Thompson	Jim Thompson		Elected Position
Executive Committee	Bill Smith	Greg Miller		Elected Position
Logistics Officer	John Marone	John Marone		Appointed Position
Public Relations	Lane Adrian	Richard Fry		Appointed Position
Membership	Kathy McDonough	Kathy McDonough		Appointed Position

As of 7 Feb 2018