

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

COMPILED BY: Eric Mens, Adjutant

DATE: June 15, 2016

APPROVED BY: Jim Zelenski, Commander

Total Attendance: 29	Time: 19:00
Officers: 6	Convened: 19:10
Members: 26*	Adjourned: 20:35
Guests: 3	* includes Officers

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Presentation of Colors: K.C. White, Sergeant at Arms

Chaplain's Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplain

MIA POW: Greg Miller, Adjutant

Call to Order: Alan Simmons, Commander

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All

Guests: Tom Cerniglia, Commander, District 9

Recognition of New Members: Len Kiausas, Bob Morschauer (A), Roger Weigold (A)

Installation of New Officers: Tom Cerniglia, Commander, District 9

Commander – Jim Zelenski

1st Vice Commander – Alan Simmons

Adjutant – Eric Mens

Treasurer – Greg Miller

Chaplain – Brian Danielson

Sergeant at Arms – K.C. White

Executive Committee – John Marone, John Cook, and Pete Erbe

Opening Statement by Alan Simmons, Outgoing Commander: Thanked the members for the growth in membership. Presented a personal check for \$100 to be used for the Post 68 Flag Fund. The fund now totals \$275. Addressed the recent \$500 scholarship and the medals awarded for Scholarship and Military Excellence that were accompanied by \$50 checks to the receiving individuals. Addressed the “Good Citizenship Award” and American Legion medal awarded to a Leland Middle School student.

Approval of April 20, 2016 minutes – Minutes previously e-mailed to members; accepted by Acclamation.

Financial Report - Greg Miller, Treasurer: April 30, 2016, General Fund Ending Balance - \$4,084.32; Poppy Fund - \$495.93; Treasurer’s Report approved by Acclamation.

General Discussion:

JROTC Committee – Pete Erbe/Lou Tranzillo: No Report

Fund Raising Committee – Greg Miller: Poppy Drive – Total Raised \$855.97; Hats-\$45.00 (General Fund)

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Committee – Alan Simmons: No Report

Graves Registration and Memorial Committee – Alan Simmons: Memorial Day Flag placement-we had a great turnout by post members and family, placed about 100 flags, and covered four cemeteries. The PFC John Edwin Jacobs Memorial –

Headstone was found at the end of Hopper Road (Mt Misery) in a family gravesite that is not accessible to the public. Town has fenced off property due to illegal dumping. See below on "Jacobs Memorial," also.

Membership Committee – K.C. White/John Marone: 69 members paid for 2016; approx. 20 members in arrears.

Public Relations Committee – Jim Zelenski: Town of Leland Founders' Day, Saturday, September 10th, 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Leland Municipal Park, 102 Town Hall Drive, Leland. Booth space cost is \$50 for 10x10 (\$100 for 10x20); Town does not waive booth fees for tax-exempt organizations; discussion as to the booth size needed, no decision reached; spouses will sell baked goods; applications due No Later Than September 2, 2016, but booth locations are on a first-come-first-served basis. In addition, Bill Carshaw (our longest serving Legion member) has offered to donate all of his artwork to the Post so that we can sell it at Founders Day, with the stipulation that funds raised from the sale be used for the Post Flag Fund.

North Brunswick High School (NBHS) Rifle Team – Jim Zelenski: Need a volunteer to be the liaison to the team (request from NBHS to sponsor their team). No specific time commitment identified. No volunteers from members in attendance.

Old Business:

Van to Provide Service for Veterans – Brief discussion on options. Peter Caillaud offered to initiate some research on van possibilities (sponsorship, rental agencies, dealerships, etc.) and will report back to the Post at its next meeting.

Veteran to Veteran Program – Tom Cerniglia: This is an embryo program in partnership with Brunswick Community College (BCC) to support veterans in Brunswick County who are BCC students and who may have service-related disabilities, PTSD, or other issues. Volunteers man an office on the BCC main campus in Leland and serve as facilitators to listen to veterans, direct veterans to community resources that may be helpful, man a "Hot Line," etc. Training is provided for all volunteers. Currently, 14 Legion members from the District man the office but more volunteers are needed. The office is manned with two volunteers at a time and individual commitments usually range about 8-10 hours a month. There is an interest in expanding the program to Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington as well as UNCW, where the veteran student population numbers about 1,600 and 2,000 vets, respectively. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members interested in learning more about the program.

New Business:

Working with Homeless Vets – Mike Callahan (Leland Town Council): what we were doing to help homeless vets in our area. There are over 1,000 homeless vets in the County. Many have unmet mental as well as physical needs. Discussion followed. Jeremie Nelson noted that Vigilant Hope in Wilmington has a van/trailer combination that they take to sites frequented by homeless people to allow them to shower and get haircuts. Jeremie offered to contact Vigilant Hope to check on their availability or other options available to provide the same type of services to Brunswick County veterans.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Golf Tournament – John Marone: proposed that the Post sponsor a hole in the VVA Golf Tournament to be held September 17, 2016, at the Olde Point Golf and Country Club, Hampstead, NC (see attached flyer). VVA will provide signs for sponsored holes. Alan Simmons will raise the issue at the next Officers Meeting.

Post 68 Shirts – Joe D'Amato: presented two shirt styles at a proposed cost of \$32 to \$52 each. Alan Simmons asked Joe to do additional research to see if we could find shirts within the \$30-\$35 price range.

Jacobs Memorial – Mike Callahan: has been working with David Hollis, Leland Town Manager, to ensure that the proper parties are involved in development and dedication of the Jacobs memorial at the Senior Citizens Center currently under construction on Town Hall Drive. There is interest in establishing a larger memorial to all veterans.

Speaker for July 20, 2016 Meeting – Fred Roche, VA Administrator, Wilmington Health Care Center. If you have issues that you want Mr. Roche to address to the Post, please e-mail them to Eric Mens, Adjutant, at armyvet6770@gmail.com

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Plans are underway for an October fundraiser at Macgrooders in Leland.

Holiday Party – Plans are underway for a Post 68 Holiday Party in January 2017 in lieu of December 2016.

50/50 – \$106 Total-- Congratulations and thanks to Ron Henderson, who donated his share to the Flag Fund.

Closing Formalities

Meeting Adjourned at 20:35 Minutes Compiled by: *Eric Mens*, Adjutant