

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

COMPILED BY: Eric Mens, Adjutant

DATE: July 20, 2016

APPROVED BY: Jim Zelenski, Commander

Total Attendance: 45	Time: 19:00
Officers: 3	Convened: 19:10
Members: 29*	Adjourned: 21:00
Guests: 16**	* Including Officers
	** Including spouses

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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

Chaplain's Prayer: Brian Danielson, Chaplain

MIA POW: K.C. White, Sergeant at Arms

Call to Order: Eric Mens, Adjutant

Officers Roll Call:

Planned Absence – Jim Zelenski, Commander; Alan Simmons, Vice Commander; Joe D’Amato, Supply Officer

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All

Guests: George Eisenhower (N), Karl Pfeifer (A), Bruce Edwards (A), Barry Gerhardt (A), Mike Hartsday (N), John Leighliter (N), Ray Hoelschor (N)

Recognition of New Members: Jim Allegrino, Dan Dodge, Gary Craig, Art Dietrich (A)

Approval of June 15, 2016 minutes – Minutes previously e-mailed to members; accepted by Acclamation.

Financial Report - Greg Miller, Treasurer: June 30, 2016, General Fund Ending Balance - \$5,150.48; Treasurer’s Report approved by Acclamation.

Speaker: Introduced by Eric Mens

Guest Speaker: Fred Roche, Administrator, Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care Center (HCC), Wilmington; accompanied by Tyra Hoffman, VA Volunteer Services Specialist

Mr. Roche discussed several issues related to the HCC, the VA in general, addressed questions from the audience, and made himself available after the meeting to address member’s concerns one-on-one. Highlights included:

- Potential privatization of VA health services remains a significant concern.
- The Choice program is still experiencing significant contractor performance as well as payment issues.
- Safe drinking water issues still exist at the Wilmington HCC.
- A third Audiology Booth has been added to the Wilmington HCC to address significant need. You do not need a referral from a primary care doctor to get an audiology appointment.
- Veterans are encouraged to use Secure Messaging as a means to communicate their medical needs and concerns to the VA staff. (Currently, veterans need to be authenticated for Secure Messaging on site at the HCC. Starting

in January 2017, onsite authentication will no longer be required. Volunteers at the HCC can help veterans establish a Secure Messaging account.)

- HCC only handle initial or emergency prescription needs. After that, prescriptions are filled through the mail fulfillment center in Charleston, SC.

The Acting Commander, Eric Mens, presented Mr. Roche with a Post 68 baseball cap in thanks for his presentation.

Old Business:

Veteran-to-Veteran Program – Eric Mens stated that he, Greg Miller, Mike MacDonald, and Roger Weigold attended the V2V meeting hosted by Post 543 at Brunswick Community College on July 20, 2016. Notes from that meeting are attached for general membership information.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Golf Tournament – Mack Mitchell: The VVA Golf Tournament is being held on September 17, 2016, at the Olde Point Golf and Country Club, Hampstead, NC. Applications for foursomes are available (\$260).

New Business:

- Leland Founders Day, September 10, 2016 – Post 68 will man two booth spaces and will have Bill Carshaw's donated watercolors available for sale (proceeds to the Flag Fund). The Spousal support group will sell baked goods and (donated) bracelets. We need shift volunteers to man our table from 3 – 9 PM. Sign-up sheet will be circulated.
- DD 214's or separation papers should be provided to the Adjutant. (I will compile a list of members for whom I have copies).
- 2017 Membership Dues – Notices have been mailed. Please renew with Greg Miller and not online.

50/50 – \$104 Total: \$52 to the General Fund; \$52 to Lane Adrian

Closing Formalities

Meeting Adjourned: 21:00 Minutes Compiled by: *Eric Mens*, Adjutant