



American Legion Post 68

In-personal and online Meeting Meeting Minutes – April 15th, 2021 at 1800 hours

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant

APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander

Convened: 1804

Adjourned: 1925

Total Attendance: 34*

Officers and Staff: 13**

Members: 25***

Guests: 4 Zoom(online): 5

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Brian Danielson-Historian

***Includes Officers AND newly signed members

Officers in Attendance: John Hacker-Commander, Jim Zelenski-Finance Officer, Dan Fortini-1st

Vice Commander, Jamie Becker-2nd Vice Commander, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Jim Zelenski-Finance Officer, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Dale Todd-At Large, Elliott Kopple-At Large, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, Bill Smith-Sergeant at Arms, John Marone-Logistics Officer, Richard Fry-PAO, Herb Moore-Membership, Eric Terashima-Web Master

Zoom call managed by Eric Terashima

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Call to Order: **Commander**

Chaplain's Opening Prayer: **Chaplain**

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: **Sergeant at Arms** Pledge
of Allegiance and Preamble: **All**

Current Business:

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Motion made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote of membership present to approve meeting minutes of prior month's membership meeting as published.

Guest Speakers: None this evening

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Dan Fortini-1st Vice, Herb Moore-Membership Chair

- Tonight we had a total of 8 guests of which 5 signed on to become Post members:
Nicole and Kirk Paulson, Ulysses Jenkins, Eddie Jenkins, Mike Mabee
- Guests included: Kenneth Bambury, Castile Robbins, Andy Poulos, Ron Melworm

1. Membership Report: Dan Fortini, Dan Dodge
 Membership metrics as of: March 31st, 2021

POST 68 MEMBERSHIP STATS		AS OF: 3/31/2021	
PRIOR MONTHS COUNT:	216		
Number of Assigned members:	227	NC Department goal:	107
Number with PAID dues	187	Post 68 goal:	170
Number with UNPAID dues	40		
Number of PUFL members	13	Dept goal OBTAINED:	187.9%
Number of LIFE members	1	Post goal OBTAINED:	118.2%
Total PAID members (Paid + PUFL + HLM)	201	Assigned Percent Paid:	88.5%
		Assigned Unpaid %:	17.6%
Members NOT renewing	6		

2. Financial Report: Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer

Account balances as of 31 March 2021. Finance Officer also briefly reviewed our 2021/2022 budget
Major financial transactions this month from:

- Fish Fry expenses and income
- Basket raffles
- Veteran support costs
- JROTC award expenses

Checkbook Balance as of 31 Mar 21			\$13,275.27
Projected General Fund Income 1 Apr 2021 - 30 Jun 2021	1,495.00		
Projected Poppy Fund Income 1 Apr 2021 - 30 Jun 2021	1,500.00		
Accounts Receivable	576.81		
Golf Basket Income (\$105.21)			
Clothing Sales (\$471.60)			
			\$16,847.08
Projected General Fund Expenses 1 Apr 2021 - 30 Jun 2021		-8,784.57	
Projected Poppy Fund Expenses 1 Apr 2021 - 30 Jun 2021		-1,377.37	
Accounts Payable		-1,075.12	
Coastal Seafood for Fish Fry (\$337.00)			
Trailer Expenses (\$721.64)			
Golf Basket Expenses (\$16.48)			
Operating Cash		-150.00	
Minimum General Fund Balance		-4,000.00	
Contingency Funds Available for Unplanned Expenses			\$1,460.02

Note: Our current golf themed raffle basket is worth \$260

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Post Elections:** Dan Dodge – Dodge explained how Post elections process works. During our April PEC meeting, the PEC board voted to approve our slate of officers. This evening, Dodge explained that as of our April meeting, we close and freeze the ballot after asking if there are any additional nominations. Protocol was followed whereby Dodge asked the membership 3 times if there were any additional nominations, there being none, Dodge then asked for a motion to be made to close and freeze the ballot for elected positions. Motion was made and seconded. Members were asked to approve the motion which was passed by unanimous show of hands. Ballot of elected positions is now frozen. Membership will officially vote on the slate of officers during our May membership meeting with installation to be held during our June meeting.

March: Provide status of candidates and slate of officers to membership

April: Provide status of candidates and slate of officers to membership

Ask for additional nominations during membership meeting

Freezing of ballot

Final approval of candidates by PEC board

May: Vote by Post membership on slate of officers during membership meeting

Incoming Commander makes appointments

June: Installation of officers, elected and appointed

As of 4/6/21		Post 68 Officer Elections - 2021/2022		
Position	Incumbent	Candidate	Candidate	REMARKS
Commander	John Hacker	John Hacker		Elected Position
1st Vice Commander	Dan Fortini	Dan Fortini		Elected Position
2nd Vice Commander	Jamie Becker	Jamie Becker		Elected Position
Finance Officer	Jim Zelenski	Jim Zelenski		Elected Position
Post Historian	Brian Danielson	Brian Danielson		Elected Position
Post Chaplain	Lou Tranzillo	Lou Tranzillo		Elected Position
Sergeant At Arms	*Bill Smith	Wilson Tart		Elected Position
Member at Large	Mike Conners	Richard Fry		Elected Position
Member at Large	Dale Todd	Dale Todd		Elected Position
Member at Large	Elliott Koppel	Elliott Koppel		Elected Position

2. **JROTC status:** Dale Todd. Todd reviewed current status of JROTC Rifle Team support for carpentry work. Then covered Boys State and Girls State status, both of which are being held. Post 68 is sponsoring students to each with Todd managing the selection and interviewing process. Finally, we have winners for our annual Post 68 Jacobs Scholarship along with JROTC Military and Scholastic excellent awards. Waiting for word from NBHS as to how these awards are to be presented to the recipients.

3. **Plaque presentation for Blossoms:** John Hacker. Because of their continuous support of Post 68, we presented a plaque to Kelly Lackey, manager at Blossoms, thanking them for their support.



4. **Fish Fry event update:** Dan Fortini. Fortini gave a summary update of the results of our Fish Fry event.
 - We sold out of fish with 333 tickets sold, 250 meals served
 - Net income was \$2803. Very successful.

- Many thanks to Dean's automotive for allowing us use of his land to hold this event. Also, many thanks to John Cook and his team for doing the cooking.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **MyLegion website revamp:** Dan Dodge. Dodge explained to membership how myLegion.org has been upgraded. Members need to re-register with the site. Getting a password seems to be complicated.

[MyLegion.org Video Training Series](#)

Video series to help users navigate and get the most out of the features and tools available at MyLegion.org
(<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8339635>)

[Training Tuesdays](#)

Presentations and videos ranging from account registration to membership processing
(<https://www.legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays>)



2. **Buddy Call:** Dan Fortini: Will be asking members to form a committee with Jamie Becker to reach out to contact all members in the Post. Looking for 10 to 20 members in total for a small amount of effort. Buddy call will be performed in the May to June timeframe. A request to signup will be placed on the website.

OFFICER REPORTS:

1st Vice Commander: Dan Fortini: The National American Legion organization wants Posts to transfer in members who are in the NC 1981 Post or holding area to get them active in a local Post. We have been doing just that and then welcoming members into our Post.

2nd Vice Commander: Jamie Becker: We will be setting up at Boiling Spring Lakes this Saturday at the BSL market and again on May 15th. Please see me to sign up to participate. When we did this in March it was VERY successful.

Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian (Lou Tranzillo): We perform many fund raisers specifically to support veterans such as Poppy Day where we give out poppies in exchange for a donation. Funds raised this way are specifically earmarked to be used only to support veterans. Lou also talked about the successful Vietnam Veterans Day observance sponsored by the VFW.

Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo

Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge: Letters have been sent out to members without contact information on file, especially email. The Post is going to electronic delivery of minutes, newsletters and information so it is important to have an email address on file.

PAO Update: Richard Fry: Star News has been taken over by USA Today so they have not been quite so responsive. The Beacon, WWAY and WECT are still options. We have started publishing stories in Cape Fear Voices and The Magnolia Greens Newsletter along with Nextdoor. In addition, we have been sending copies of our event writeups with photos to the Department Adjutant who is now publishing them in the Department Spot Light bulletin.

Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian

Webmaster: Eric Terashima: Has started running targeted ads on Facebook to promote the Post. Using PAO articles from the Easter Basket sales, Boiling Spring Lakes market and Scouts at the Battleship, 3 ads for \$25 has created a lot of interest in social media. We will continue with similar targeted ads.

Additional Officer Updates:

John Marone: Logistics: Let new members know he had Post shirts and hats for sale.

Dale Todd: At-Large Member: Girls State will be virtual with 3 candidates with a sponsorship fee of \$75 each
2 other Post members are assisting with interviews. Session is June 14 thru 18th

Boys State: Will be in-person. We have budgeted for 2 candidates to be held Jun 20th thru 26th

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

Completed events: February/March 2021:

1. Blood Drive: Dan Fortini Feb 4th
2. BSL market: Jamie Becker March 6th
3. Oratorical metal presentation: Dale Todd March 12th
4. Check presentation to Lincoln Elementary School: John Hacker/Brian Danielson March 19th
5. Fish Fry: Dan Fortini March 27th
6. Vietnam Veterans recognition in concert with Leland VFW: John Hacker March 29th

April Events:

1. Battleship Color Guard walk thru: April 2nd
2. Battleship Flag Raising: April 10th
3. BSL Market: April 17th
4. Flag Collection Event: Dan Fortini April 24th. 8am to 4pm. Setup and teardown. Plan to have hot dogs for donations. All Post flags will be on display. Plus, we will be doing non-perishable food collection.

May Events:

1. BSL Market: May 15th
2. Poppy Day: May 21st
 - o Poppy day setup (Jim Z) 4 locations. **Locations and Points of Contact are on our website homepage!**
3. Blood drive: Dan Fortini May 28th
4. Cemetery Flag Placement: John Hacker May 29th
5. Memorial Day: May 31st no Post activities

Upcoming Events:

1. Department Annual Convention: June 10 – 12th
2. Flag Retirement Ceremony: June 12th - Dan Fortini
3. Girls State: June 14th – 18th
4. Boys State: June 20 - 26
5. VEAC – August Lane Adrian / Dale Todd
6. Stand down event in October - TBD

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments: Commander indicated that Post 6 received an award for Best Website in the Department! Also, we have been talking for quite a while with Martha Jacobs regarding a scholarship at BCC. I recently talked with a rep from BCC and they are very interested. BCC also has about 20 veteran students at the college.

Member Comments:

NOTE: Debbie Zelenski is willing to try to reform our Spousal Support Group under the direction of 2nd Vice Commander Jamie Becker. More into to come.....

Zoom component of meeting: This was the first time we have ever done an in-person meeting and a Zoom meeting at the same time. Generally, it worked fairly well. We of course have lessons learned that we will apply next month to make the overall experience better, both for those at Blossoms and for those online.

NEXT MEETING:

May 20th Live @ Blossoms. No Speaker. Membership vote on slate of officers. We will also plan on broadcasting this meeting via Zoom for members who are unable to attend in person. COVID precautions will be taken.

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer: **Commander Hacker**

Adjourned at: 1949 hours

50/50: Was won by Richard Fry. Total take was \$100 with \$50 to the winner. Richard donated \$20 BACK to the Post.



**JOHN E. JACOBS AMERICAN LEGION POST 68, LELAND
HOSTS
COMMUNITY UNSERVICEABLE U.S. FLAG COLLECTION DAY**

**Bring your faded, torn and tattered unserviceable American flags to the
Brunswick Forest Community Commons
2501 Brunswick Forest Parkway, Leland, NC**

Saturday, April 24th, 2021, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Refreshments Available – Donations Appreciated

Stop by our tent to meet & greet some of your local vets.

