



American Legion Post 68

Post Membership Meeting Minutes – February 17th, 2022 Meeting held at Blossoms Restaurant, Leland, NC / Zoom

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander
Convened: 1802
Adjourned: 1920

Total Attendance: 44*
Officers and Staff: 10**
Members: 37***
Guests: 7 Zoom: 8

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Jim Zelenski-Finance, Brian Danielson-Historian, Dale Todd-At Large, John Marone-Logistics, Wilson Tart-Sergeant at Arms, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate

***Includes Officers AND newly signed members

Officers in Attendance: John Hacker-Commander, Dan Fortini-1st Vice Commander, Jamie Becker-2nd Vice Commander, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Elliott Koppel-At Large, Richard Fry-At Large, Rob Penwell-Membership, Eric Terashima-PAO

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Commander

Chaplin's Opening Prayer: Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo – Special prayer for the Four Chaplains

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: Sergeant at Arms – Wilson Tart (Bill Smith pro-tem)

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All Members

CURRENT Business:

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

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Rob Penwell-membership

Two new guests tonight: Veterans but not members: Michael Profancik and Andy Poulos

Two guest Legionaries: Steve Murr, Service Officer from Post 543 and Gayle Smith from Post 503 representing their Legion Riders group

New member: Ed Grinnel who signed up this evening as a new member

Plus our speakers for the evening: David McCracken and Jessie Corvey representing Veteran Smiles

Guest Speakers: Veteran Smiles – Introduction by service officer Lane Adrian
Col David McCracken (ret), LTC Jessie Covery (ret)

Veteran Smiles started in 2019 as a comprehensive effort to provide dental care to at-risk veterans. Was developed in conjunction with East Carolina University for North Carolina residents only. On 1 day/year – they help 30 selected veterans to walk away with a complete set of dentures with much of the cost being paid by Veteran Smiles foundation. All monies for Veteran Smiles come from donations. In many cases, the veteran (depending upon their financial status) will pay for part of their treatments. Next Veteran Smiles day is scheduled for 26 August with ECU School of Dentistry where they hope to help up to 40 veterans. In 2021, a total of \$51,000 was spent on a total of 104 veterans.

Post Service Officers have a form the veteran can fill out to request assistance.

Commander Hacker presented both participants with a Post 68 mug as a thank you for their time and presentation.

At the end of the Veteran Smiles talk, Post 68 Service Officer Lane Adrian presented Col McCracken a check for \$500 to be used to help Brunswick County veterans.



Commander Hacker presents mugs to our Veteran Smiles speakers



Service Officer Lane Adrian presents check for \$500 to help support Veteran Smiles

Membership Report: Dan Dodge

Membership metrics as of: January 31st, 2022

>> 1 new member: Erway

>> 1 member lost to Post Everlasting: Robert Stafford, WWII Marine Veteran

>> 9 membership renewals

CATEGORY	STATS
Prior Months Membership:	236
New Members	1
Transfers IN:	0
Transfers OUT:	0
Reinstatements:	0
Resignations:	0
Post Everlasting:	1
Active Members:	236

Membership renewed %	78.0%
Increase in % over prior month	3.8%
Membership not renewed %	22.0%
(20 from 2020 / 32 from 2021)	
2021/22 Membership Goal	192
Progress Dept Goal %	95.8%

Conflict	count	percent
Korea	9	3.8%
Lebanon/Grenada	15	6.4%
Other Conflicts	9	3.8%
Panama	2	0.8%
Persian Gulf	33	14.0%
Vietnam	152	64.4%
War on Terror	12	5.1%
WWII (Estes & Vereen)	2	0.8%
Missing War Era	2	0.8%

Financial Report: Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer

- Please turn in expenses as soon as possible
- Be sure to get approval from Commander, Finance Officer or Adjutant before incurring ANY expenses

January 2022 opening balance: \$13,738.80

January 2022 closing balance: \$10,479.88

** Transaction register to be included with meeting minutes

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Oratorical Contest status:** Todd

Our Post Oratorical contest winner Solomon Smith of NBHS will be competing in the Department of North Carolina Division competition on Saturday, Feb 26th @ Post 543 St James.

2. **Post 68 2022 Elections status:** Dodge

Dodge discussed elections with members. Nominations for all elected and appointed positions are now open. Any member may nominate themselves for any position. Nominations will stay open until our April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Post 68 2022 Calendar of events: Commander

Commander Hacker reviewed several upcoming events to include:

- Division Oratorical contest
- North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce Business Expo
- North Carolina Rice Festival
- BSL markets
- April Fish Fry

2. Need for Volunteers to support Post events: Commander

Commander Hacker stressed the need for members to step up and assist with our events

OFFICER REPORTS:

- 1st Vice Commander: Dan Fortini: Asking members to volunteer to help out at events. Remember, this is YOUR POST! We need you for the Fish Fry and Flag collection and retirement events. May 13th will be our next blood drive.
- 2nd Vice Commander: Jamie Becker: Boiling Spring Lakes market will start up again March 5th. Please come and help out. We will be setting this up once a month. We need 4 people to assist.
- Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian – Lane gave a summary of assistance we are providing for area veterans. Details were discussed last month. Post 543 St James continues to provide assistance as well.

Veteran needing assistance rebuilding home after hurricane: Kobe Kelly (Sea Bees) is project managing this effort. Lowes in Southport agreed to supply materials. Working on getting labor. Post 543 assisting.

Veteran whose home burned down was visiting the Post tonight. Is in temporary housing but will be needing all sorts of household items

The veteran we provided a donated hover-round chair too passed away a few days ago. Patriot Guard Riders provided an escort.

- Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo: Discussed upcoming Poppy Day activities
- PAO Update: Eric Terashima –
- Logistics Update: John Marone:
- Sergeant at Arms: Wilson Tate:
- Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian –
- Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge
- Webmaster: Eric Terashima
- At-Large Officer Updates: Dale Todd / Elliott Koppel / Richard Fry
- Additional Officer Updates:

CURRENT ACTIVITIES: Check our website calendar for details and info!

Note: Due to time constraints, we did not review all events completed and upcoming. Additional known information has been added to this list of events..... **See details at end of minutes for upcoming event**

Completed Events in January:

1. Post Oratorical Contest: Jan 8th
2. Blood Drive (1 of 4) @ WWAY: Jan 7th
3. Elderhaus visit: Jan 7th
4. Homeless survey: Jan 27th
5. District 9 Oratorical Contest: Jan 29th

Current Month Events – February:

1. Elderhaus: Feb 17th – Grand opening 2-4pm - Hacker Ribbon cutting / raise flag
2. Department Mid-Winter Conference: Feb 17-19 Dodge, Todd, Adrian
3. Division Oratorical Contest: Feb 19th – St James – Todd
4. Chamber Business Expo: Feb 26th – LCAC - Hacker

Upcoming Events: March & April

1. Department Oratorical Contest: March 5th in Greensboro – Todd/Hacker
2. NBHS JROTC Ball: March 5th - Todd
3. BSL: March 19th – Becker (re-scheduled)
4. Veterans Benefits Live (VEAC) in Cary March 17-19 (optional)
5. Legion Birthday: March 15-17
6. Vietnam War Veterans Day, sponsored by VFW Post 12196: March 29th

1. National Oratorical Contest: April 22-24
2. Leland Sr Center visits: Adrian (TBD)
3. NBHS JROTC Awards and Change of Command Ceremony: April 11th - Todd
4. Post Legion Riders fund raiser: April 16th - Adrian
5. Fish Fry: April 23rd 10am to 3pm - Fortini

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

Commander Hacker indicated that he is working on presenting a plaque to a member of the Brunswick County Sheriff's office on March 17th for Deputy of the Year.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Bataan Death March. More information at:

[About Bataan – Bataan Memorial Death March \(bataanmarch.com\)](http://bataanmarch.com)

Member Comments:

Patty Kelly is currently working on a scholarship application for the Colon Furr Nursing Scholarship sponsored by the Department of North Carolina American Legion. She is working with Brunswick Community College to identify a suitable candidate.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Officers Meeting: March 10th 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: March 17th @ 6pm – Guest speaker: TBD

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer:

Meeting Adjourned at: 1920 hours

50/50:

Prize was awarded to Gordan Sheffield. Total collected was \$60

See additional documentation from this meeting and this month as addendums to these minutes.

UPCOMING POST 68 EVENT DETAILS:

Dept of NC Division II Oratorical Contest			Saturday, Feb 26th	10am – noon
LEAD:	Dale Todd	240-338-5411	daleetodd@gmail.com	
LOCATION:	St James Post 543 - 4136 Southport Supply Rd SE, Saint James, NC			
WHAT?:	Post 68 Oratorical contest winner Solomon Smith will compete again			
SETUP TIME:	n/a		VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:	2 + spectators
EXPECTATIONS:	Smith will win the contest and move onto the Department Oratorical contest			

North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce Business Expo & shredding event			Saturday, Feb 26th	10am – 2pm
LEAD:	John Hacker	949-275-3247	jhacker131@outlook.com	
LOCATION:	Leland Cultural Arts Center 1212 Magnolia Village Way in Leland			
WHAT?:	Post 68 will have a table inside the venue for public information and membership recruiting. Selling raffle tickets.			
SETUP TIME:	0.375		VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:	3 to 4
EXPECTATIONS:	More exposure to the public, membership and selling tickets			

North Carolina Rice Festival			Saturday, March 5th	9am – 3pm
LEAD:	John Hacker	949-275-3247	jhacker131@outlook.com	
LOCATION:	Leland Cultural Arts Center 1212 Magnolia Village Way in Leland			
WHAT?:	Post 68 will have a canopy set up outside the venue for public information and membership recruiting. Selling raffle tickets			
SETUP TIME:	8am		VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:	3 to 6
EXPECTATIONS:	More exposure to the public, membership and selling tickets			

Boiling Spring Lakes Market			Saturday, March 19th	9am – 2pm
LEAD:	Jamie Becker	910-620-8507	jbecker2@ec.rr.com	
LOCATION:	The Office Coffee and Wine Bar 3280 George II Hwy, Boiling Spring Lakes, NC 28461			
WHAT?:	Post 68 will have a canopy set up outside the venue for public information and membership recruiting. Selling raffle tickets			
SETUP TIME:	8am		VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:	3 to 6
EXPECTATIONS:	More exposure to the public, membership and selling tickets			

Vietnam War Veterans Day		Tuesday, March 29th	5pm – 6pm
LEAD:	John Hacker	949-275-3247	jhacker131@outlook.com
LOCATION:	Town of Leland Founders Park 113 Town Hall Dr in Leland		
WHAT?:	Post 68 will be ASSISTING VFW Post 12196 by supplying and setting up flags		
SETUP TIME:	4pm	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:	3 to 6
EXPECTATIONS:	Helping out another veterans organization		

MNTH	DATE & DAY	EVENT NAME	EVENT Time	EVENT LOCATION	EVENT LEAD	COMMENTS/Other Organizations @ Role, Event Audience	VOLUNTEERS
APRIL	Sat Apr 2nd	BSL Event	8am-3pm	The Office in BSL	Becker	The Office - offering setup space	3 or more
	TH Apr 7th	PEC Meeting	1pm	Zoom link	Hacker		
	April 11th	NBHS JROTC Change of Command and Awards Ceremony			Todd / Baker		
	Sat April 16th	Legion Riders fund raiser	11 to 2	Wilmington Harley Davidson	Adrian	Selling hot dogs at dealership	yes
	Th Apr 21st	Post Membership Meeting - Freeze ballot	6pm	Blossoms	Hacker	Blossoms-Venue, a speaker, members	
	Fri Apr 22nd	National Oratorical Contest			Todd	AL National - host	none
	??	Leland Sr Center Visit		Leland Sr Center	Adrian	Leland Sr. Center as hosting	several
		JROTC AWARDS?					
		Boys/Girls state interviews?					
	Sat April 23rd	Fish Fry (confirmed) 23rd as a		Cancelled-no response	Fortini	Deans Auto - setup space, John	15ish

JANUARY TRANSACTION REGISTER:

TRANSACTION TYPE	DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	Line Item	CREDIT	BALANCE
	31-Dec-21					13,738.80
DEBIT	1-Jan-22	ALNH Membership Payment	\$82.50	4000		13,656.30
DEBIT	5-Jan-22	Debit Card Purchase Ulta, Winter Spa Basket	\$106.62	4002		13,549.68
DEBIT	5-Jan-22	Debit Card Purchase Hobby Lobby, Winter Spa Basket	\$26.69	4002		13,522.99
DEBIT	5-Jan-22	Check # 1097 to Logo Shoppe, 18 Post Hats	\$288.00	4004		13,234.99
DEBIT	3-Jan-22	Debit Card Payment by Dodge for Web Site Annual Renewal, Thinkweb, Inc.	\$199.00	5001.03		13,035.99
DEBIT	7-Jan-22	Check #1096 to Jamie Beckers, Service Hats Invoice #1000006445	\$72.60	4004		12,963.39
DEBIT	7-Jan-22	Blood Drive, donuts via debit card	\$20.05	6000		12,943.34
CREDIT		Transfer from PayPal, Spa Basket Sales		4002.02	\$19.46	13,172.80
CREDIT	10-Jan-22	Cash Deposit: SPA Basket Sales of 180.00 and 3 service hat sales of \$30.00		4002.02 4004	\$210.00	13,153.34
DEBIT	10-Jan-22	ALNH Membership Payment	\$55.00	4000		13,117.80
DEBIT	6-Jan-22	Check #1099 - 2nd Place Oratorical winner	\$300.00	5005.03		12,817.80
DEBIT	7-Jan-22	Check #2001 for \$150.00 to Hacker, Chamber of Commerce reimbursement	\$150.00	5007.01		12,667.80
CREDIT	14-Jan-22	\$200.00 deposit, \$40 cash and \$160 in checks, 5 Membership dues		4000	\$200.00	12,867.80
DEBIT	12-Jan-22	Check #2002 to ASG Specialties - Post Jackets, Invoice #37542	\$762.00	4004		12,105.80
DEBIT	18-Jan-22	Check #2004 to Michael Profancik, veteran in need, per Lane Adrian, line item #7000.02	\$500.00	7000.02		11,605.80
DEBIT	6-Jan-22	Check #1098- 1st place Oratorical winner: Smith	\$500.00	5005.03		11,105.80
DEBIT	19-Jan-22	Flag & Emblem Via debit card for Poppies and Grave Marker Flags, \$285.94	\$285.94	5004.03: Flags; 5004.04: Poppies		10,819.86
CREDIT	21-Jan-22	Mobile deposit of donation (check) \$292.50 from Debra and Gary Pile		4003	\$292.50	11,112.36
CREDIT	21-Jan-22	Mobile deposit of donation (check) \$500.00 from Bob Page, NC Patriot Guard		4003	\$500.00	11,612.36
DEBIT	24-Jan-22	ALNH Membership Internet Payment	\$137.50	4000		11,474.86
CREDIT	24-Jan-22	Cash deposit, 50/50 from 20 Jan 22.		4002.01	\$26.00	11,500.86
CREDIT	25-Jan-22	Five Membership Deposits		4000	\$200.00	11,700.86
CREDIT	27-Jan-22	Deposit of \$121.00, post jacket, hat and shirts		4004	\$121.00	\$11,821.86
DEBIT	22-Dec-21	Check #1095 to Post 543 - District Oratorical Contest	\$500.00	5005.03		\$11,321.86
DEBIT	20-Jan-22	Check #2005 to Logo Shoppe via John Marone for \$450.00, half deposit for 60 JEJ Post hats.	\$450.00	4004		10,871.86
DEBIT	25-Jan-22	Check #2006 to Lane Adrian, reimbursement, hotel fee for homeless vet.	\$364.48	7000.02		10,507.38
DEBIT	31-Jan-22	ALNH Membership Internet Payment	\$27.50	4000		10,479.88
Ending Balance		As of 31 Jan 22				10,479.88

COMPLETED EVENTS FROM JANUARY 2022:

Post 68 Oratorical Contest: Jan 8th –

Blood Drive: Jan 7th (1 of 4)



District Oratorical Contest: Jan 29th –

