



American Legion Post 68

In-person and online Meeting Meeting Minutes – July 15th, 2021 at 1800 hours

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant

APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander

Convened: 1803

Adjourned: 2000

Total Attendance: 37*

Officers and Staff: 11**

Members: 32***

Guests: 5 Zoom(online): 1

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Dan Fortini-1st Vice, John Marone-Logistics, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Brian Danielson-Historian, Richard Fry-At Large

***Includes Officers AND newly signed members

Officers in Attendance: John Hacker-Commander, Jamie Becker-2nd Vice Commander, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Jim Zelenski-Finance Officer, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Wilson Tart-Sergeant at Arms, Eric Terashima-PAO, Alan Simmons-JAG, Dale Todd-At Large, Elliott Koppel-At Large, Rob Penwell-Membership

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Commander – John Hacker

Chaplain's Opening Prayer: Chaplain - Lou Tranzillo

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: Sergeant at Arms – Wilson Tart (New POW/MIA display in place)

Note: Prior to Sergeant at Arms starting the POW/MIA ceremony, Commander read the POW/MIA Remembrance Service which explains what all the items on the POW/MIA table with empty chair entail.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All Members

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 and distributed to members.

Guest Speakers: **Solomon Smith:** NBHS JROTC Cadet and student sponsored by Post 68 to attend NC Boys State. He was also the recipient of the Post 68 Scholastic Excellent Award this year. Solomon was accompanied by his parents (both prior members of the Military) and his older brother. Solomon was introduced by Post 68 At-Large member Dale Todd (Americanism Committee chair and youth programs). Smith detailed his experience while attending Boys State as very interesting, exciting, challenging and educational. His team went thru a scenario of running a city thru setting policy, running elections and campaigning. He was able to forge new relationships and friendships while at Boys State. All-in-all a great experience. Solomon thanked the Post for sponsoring him. Post Commander John Hacker then presented Smith with a Post 68 mug.



Solomon Smith congratulated
by Dale Todd



Solomon Smith receives Post 68
mug from Commander Hacker

Our second guest speaker(s) were Alan and CeCe Simmons representing the American Red Cross. They gave a presentation and talk to Post members regarding hurricane and disaster preparedness. This was a very interesting presentation with slides and handouts with important information for all. The main theme and take-away was “Be Red Cross Ready”. “Prepare so you can protect”. Make a kit & be prepared. Keep a card in your wallet with important information. Install Red Cross app on your phone and enable emergency alerts. Slides and handout will be made available on our Post website: ncpost68.org

Additional Information can be found on the RedCross.org website:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane.html>

Information on Red Cross phone apps can be found at:

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps.html>

Introduction of New Members and Guests: Rob Penwell – Membership chair

The Smith family: Christian, Adolph, Maria and Solomon Smith
Mark Santos, US Army who just got back to the US. (Brought in by Vincent Dimizio)

Membership Report: Dan Dodge - Adjutant

Membership metrics as of: June 30th 2021

New membership fiscal year has started as of 1 July with a headcount of 227

MEMBERSHIP for JUNE 2021

CATEGORY	STATS
Prior Months Membership:	238
New Members	0
Transfers IN:	0
Transfers OUT:	0
Reinstatements:	0
Resignations:	0
Post Everlasting:	0
Active Members:	238

* Official count of 227 members as of 1 July due to 9 members being dropped for non-payment of dues and 2 members transferring out

* National sending out dues renewal notices

* Please renew as soon as possible.

* Renew at meetings OR mail in your renewal

* Please pick up your 2022 ID cards at meetings

Financial Report: Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer

Balance end of May: \$12,487.65

Balance end of June: \$12,557.46

Our summer basket raffle brought in \$462 and was won by Post member Evan Jones.

Zelenski reviewed the final 2022 budget with membership showing several updates including:

- \$500 to Brunswick Community College to setup a veteran student scholarship
- \$200 to BFA to support their student backpack project
- Entries to track Legion Rider expenses and fund raisers

Motion made & seconded to accept the proposed 2022 budget as reviewed. Vote taken and unanimously approved by all members present. Finance Officer's budget will go into effect for our 2021/2022 fiscal year.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Elections: Completed, new officers in place. (No discussions).
2. Buddy Call completed: Jamie Becker

We completed a very successful Buddy Call program with several Post members stepping up to help contact members. We receive a lot of positive feedback from members who we contacted. At least two members could use assistance and will be followed up on by our Service Officer and Chaplain. Several address book corrections were received. Another Buddy Call will take place in about 6 months.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Honor Guard – Wilson Tart: Tart is heading up the effort to rebuild our Honor Guard and is looking for a few good Legionnaires! If interested in participating, please contact the Adjutant or Wilson Tart directly.
2. Town of Leland Council Meetings – John Hacker: In order to ensure that the Leland Town Council is aware of Post programs and events, 1st Vice Commander Dan Fortini attended the monthly Town Council meeting to give an overview of what our Post has been doing
3. BFA Book Bag program donation of \$200 (Christmas in July!) – Alan Simmons – Post 68 will be making a monetary donation to Brunswick Family Assistance in support of their children's book bag program.

OFFICER REPORTS:

1st Vice Commander: Dan Fortini: Attending Leland Town Council meeting

2nd Vice Commander: Jamie Becker: Spoke regarding the Post's events committee. Jamie considers every member of Post 68 to be a member of this committee is one way or another. Jamie has been working with Eric Terashima on a new feature of the Post Calendar which would allow members to sign up to support an event. Becker then went thru the list of all upcoming events for the remainder of the year asking for member participation.

Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian absent, no report given

Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo - no report

Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge: New membership year starts in July. National will be sending out dues renewal cards after July 1. Please come to meetings with your \$40 check and pick up your new ID card. We are trying to save \$\$ on postage by not having to mail members their cards. We want to get as many renewals as possible during the first 3 months of the renewal period.

PAO Update: Eric Terashima: Working to increase the scope of our media coverage.

Logistics Update: John Marone - absent, no report given

Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian – absent, no report given

Webmaster: Eric Terashima: Facebook ads for Post events are doing VERY well! Please be sure to not only LIKE a Facebook posting but also SHARE it. Sharing creates the best impact within Facebook

Additional Officer Updates:

Dale Todd: At-Large Member:

VEAC: Dale talked about this year's VEAC event to take place in September at Post 10 in Wilmington. Dale and Lane are the volunteer coordinators again this year for the event. An email has already been set out to members asking for support and to sign up. Several members have already stepped up. Please be sure to participate in this important event to support area veterans.

Oratorical Contest: Dale read a note from Madalyn Smith who was the winner of Post 68 Oratorical contest thanking the Post for their support and for sponsoring this event.

American Legion Charities: Dale described how the Department of NC has setup an C3 group to accept donations from companies and corporations that allows those companies to take a larger tax break. Details will be discussed at the next PEC meeting with Post officers.

Rob Penwell spoke on Wreaths Across America. Members have received an email regarding this event. Currently, Rob is working on letter to commercial businesses and has asked for support with contacting local businesses and also to have a contact in Waterford. Rob asked that members print off the letter regarding WAA to share with friends and neighbors. This year's goal is 1000 wreaths.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

Completed events: June 2021:

1. Department Annual Convention: June 10 – 12th
2. Flag Retirement Ceremony: June 12th - Dan Fortini **CANCELLED**
3. Photo op with John Cook: June 14th 2pm
4. Girls State: June 14th – 18th
5. Flag Raising – Leland Sr Center: June 15th noon – Lane Adrian
6. BSL Market – June 19th – Jamie Becker
7. Boys State: June 20 – 26 – Dale Todd

July Events:

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| 1. Flags at the Battleship: July 5 th - Hacker | Done! |
| 2. BSL market: July 10 th : Becker – Last BSL event until October | Done! |
| 3. Riders hot dog sales at CCHD July 10 th – Lane | Done! |
| 4. Meeting with BCC and tour: July 14 th – Hacker | Done! |

Upcoming Events:

1. USS NC Battleship Flag Raising Aug 13th - Hacker
2. Future blood drives: Fortini Sep 10th - Fortini
Also, present flag/shadow box to WWAY (Alan Simmons)
3. Having a 9/11 ceremony with Town of Leland: Rob Penwell
>>> 9am Leland Town Hall (members needed to help setup!)
4. September meeting: Continuous Membership pins (25 years +) - Dodge
5. VEAC: Sep 23 – 24 – 25 @ Post 10 in Wilmington - Dale Todd / Lane Adrian
6. Riders hot dog fund raiser – October 16th – Lane Adrian
7. Wreaths Across America: Rob Penwell
>> Needs people help with selling to commercial businesses
8. Fish Fry: Oct 22nd: Fortini (tentative date)
9. Trunk or Treat: Oct 30th – **Need Lead**
10. Veterans Day Parade – Nov 6th: Marone
11. Membership Appreciation Pasta Dinner: Dec 16th meeting - Wilson Tart
Gift Basket raffle, 50/50, RSVP, Members and Spouses

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

Commander thanked the Simmons' for their presentation from the Red Cross and also briefly discussed working with Elder Haus. More details to come.

Commander showed members a plaque that will be given to the owners of Carolina Carwash in Leland as a thank you for supporting our Post. He asked that members get a car wash and wear their Post caps.

Commander presented Past Commander Dale Todd with a certificate from the AL Dept. of NC for exceeding the Post membership goals for 2020.



Member Comments:

Bob Page indicated that the Patriot Guard rode with Homes for Troops and presented the keys to a mortgage free home to a disabled veteran from the Afghanistan conflict. To date, over 320 homes have been given to veterans – mortgage free.

NEXT MEETING:

Guest Speaker for August 2021 meeting: James Jarvis – American Red Cross

Next Officers Meeting: August 12th @ 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: August 19th 6pm – IN PERSON/ZOOM @ BLOSSOMS

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

Adjourned at: 2000 hours

50/50:

\$67 pot won by Scott Wargo who donated his share back to the Post.