



American Legion Post 68

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

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander
Convened: 1802
Adjourned: 1930

Total Attendance: 37*
Officers and Staff: 12**
Members: 32***
Guests: 5 Zoom: 4

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Brian Danielson-Historian, John Marone-Logistics, Wilson Tart-Sergeant at Arms, Rob Penwell-membership

***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, Jim Zelenski-Finance Officer, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Dale Todd-At Large, Elliott Koppel-At Large, Richard Fry-At Large, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, Eric Terashima-PAO

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Commander

Chaplin's Opening Prayer: Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo – Special prayer for the people of Ukraine

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: Sergeant at Arms – Wilson Tart (Jamie Becker-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 (by Dan Fortini)

New member Malcolm Hunter signed up tonight. Malcolm is US Army and was brought in by Ray Rumsey
We also had a guest: Emily Jenkins brought in by Eddie Jenkins

Guest Speakers: Dick Rogers representing the USS North Carolina Battleship

Dick Rogers is a retired Navy Captain with 29 years of service. Rogers indicated that Post 68 in Leland was one of the lead groups providing support to the Battleship in the Cape Fear Area. The Battleship is in its 80th year of life with 60 years in Wilmington. Rogers brought a presentation for the meeting (will be provided for members). He told the story of Richard Fox who helped save a fellow seaman (Richard Reed) during a battle only to meet him again later in life.

Rogers pointed out that the main mast of the ship was undergoing extensive repairs due to time and rust. The mast has been removed to be rebuilt at a cost of about \$1 million. The mast should be reinstalled by June of this year.

Rogers also indicated that a plan is being developed to deal with parking lot flooding. No taxpayer money is used to support the Battleship and it is 2nd most visited memorial in North Carolina. A short Q&A followed the presentation. Commander Hacker presented Rogers with a Post 68 mug as a thank you.



Commander Hacker presents Dick Rogers of the USS North Carolina with a thank you Post 68 coffee mug for his presentation to the membership.

Membership Report: Dan Dodge As of end of February, 2022

2 new members: Grinnell and Holliday

1 new transfer member: Hartman

1 Renewal for 2022

239 members assigned to Post. 20 unpaid for 2021. 31 unpaid for 2022

94% of Post members up-to-date on dues

97% towards Department membership goals

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

February 2022 opening balance: \$10,479.88

February 2022 closing balance: \$10,195.11

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 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. We have had several members step-up to nominate themselves. We still need nominations for: Sergeant at Arms, Member-at-Large, Historian along with someone to help with the website.

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*		Rob Penwell	Elected Position
Finance Officer	Jim Zelenski	Jim Zelenski		Elected Position
Post Historian	Brian Danielson			Elected Position
Post Chaplain	Lou Tranzillo	Lou Tranzillo		Elected Position
Sergeant At Arms	Wilson Tart			Elected Position
Member at Large	Richard Fry*			Elected Position
Member at Large	Dale Todd*		Marty Keck	Elected Position
Member at Large	Elliott Koppel	Elliott Koppel		Elected Position
Position	Incumbent	Appointed		REMARKS
Adjutant	Dan Dodge	Dan Dodge		Appointed Position
Service Officer	Lane Adrian	Lane Adrian		Appointed Position
Judge Advocate	Alan Simmons	Alan Simmons		Appointed Position
Logistics Officer	John Marone	John Marone		Appointed Position
Public Relations	Eric Terashima*		Tony Schirillo	Appointed Position
Membership	Rob Penwell*		Eddie Jenkins	Appointed Position

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation to Deputy of the Year: Commander

Post Commander John Hacker presented a plaque to Brunswick County Deputy Adam Locklair as Deputy of the year. Locklair was accompanied by 3 other fellow deputies and his young daughter.



Brunswick County Sheriff Adam Locklair receives Deputy of the Year award from Commander Hacker along with a Post coffee mug

2. **Website event volunteer scheduling:** Dodge – Not presented due to time. Slides will be included in an addendum
3. **Department Dues increase:** Todd
Dale Todd, who is also a member of the Department Finance Commission, talked to Post members regarding a planned increase of membership dues from the NC Department. Dues from the Department have not been raised in 20 years. Department membership is down and costs are rising. The Department does not want to reduce the number of programs they support. This increase of \$5 is expected to be approved during the annual Department Convention this year and would take effect 1 January 2023. Each Post needs to evaluate the increase and determine what action to take. The Post 68 Executive Committee will be discussing this topic to determine what action the Post will take regarding a dues increase. If Post 68 does not increase member dues to match the Department dues increase, the Post will lose approximately \$1000/year in funds. More news to come as the PEC reviews.

Commander Hacker followed up by saying that all events we put on are supported by our members and that fundraising is our lifeblood.
4. **Thank you from Elderhaus:** Commander - Not discussed due to time
5. **American Legion Birthday:** Commander – This is the 103rd birthday of the American Legion. A cake was brought in and shared with all members present.

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. Discussed Fish Fry. We have tickets to sell. Let Dan know if you want a block of them to sell to neighbors and friends. Also, the Quilt raffle will be drawn at our July meeting.
- **2nd Vice Commander: Jamie Becker:** Boiling Spring Lakes market has started up again. We make quite a bit of money at this event from raffle tickets. Please come and help out. We will be setting this up once a month. We need 3 to 4 people to assist. The MAY date has changed. Keep watch of the calendar. If there are no volunteers, this event will be dropped.

- Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian – Continuing to support same 3 veterans from last month. Good progress being made with all 3.

Lane also has forms for Veteran Smiles and VA disability compensation

- Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo: Discussed upcoming Poppy Day activities. Has also accompanied our Service Officer on several calls to area veterans.
- PAO Update: Eric Terashima –
- Logistics Update: John Marone:
- Sergeant at Arms: Wilson Tate:
- Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian – Riders meeting was cancelled tonight
- Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge
- Webmaster: Eric Terashima
- At-Large Officer Updates: Dale Todd / Elliott Koppel / Richard Fry

Dale Todd discussed youth programs: We have interviewed 1 candidate for Girls State and we have 1, non-JROTC candidate for Boys State. The JROTC rifle team is doing very well and is going to the finals. JROTC awards will be presented on April 11th.

- 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 events**

Completed 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

Current Events: March

1. JROTC Ball – March 5th - Commander
2. BSL: March 19th – Becker - Picking winner of SPA basket
3. Vietnam War Vets Mar 29 – VFW – Only supplying flags
4. Rice Fest: LCAC – March 5th – Commander

Upcoming Events: April

1. BSL: April 2nd - Becker
2. JROTC Awards: April 11th – Todd

3. Post Legion Riders fund raiser: April 16th - Adrian
4. Fish Fry: April 23rd 11am to 3:30pm - Fortini

Upcoming Events: May

1. District 9 meeting May 7th – We are hosting. Lane: At Blossoms. Cost is \$20/person for lunch. They expect 20 to 25 people
2. Blood drive: May 13th – Fortini
3. Poppy Day: May 27th – Tranzillo – Currently 3 locations: Pig, Car Wash, Bridgewater Wines.
4. Memorial Day – Flags at Cemeteries May 30th – Cook
5. Memorial Day – Event at Battleship – May 30th - Hacker
6. BSL May 21st – Becker **(TBD)**
7. Post Pancake Breakfast for membership: May 29th – Simmons and Zelenski 7am – 11am. BF Commons.

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

Commander Hacker reminded members of all the great events and fund raisers we have this year and thanked several Post members who stepped up and helped out with open positions tonight.

Member Comments:

John Cook talked about an investigation into contaminated water at Ft. Ord, CA.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Officers Meeting: April 14th, 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: April 21st @ 6pm – Guest speaker: Josh London with information about insurance, taxes and other financial topics.

Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer:

Meeting Adjourned at: 1930 hours

50/50:

Prize was won by Judy Buongiorne who donated \$20 back to the Post. Pot was \$95 with \$60 to the Post.

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

Guest speaker slide deck along with online event signup included as attachments to meeting minutes email

UPCOMING POST 68 EVENT DETAILS: Sign up for events on our Post Website: <http://NCPost68.org>

Boiling Spring Lakes Market			Monthly	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			

Fish Fry April 23rd			Saturday, April 23rd	8am - 5pm
LEAD:	Dan Fortini	413-834-4106	dan14ef@hotmail.com	
LOCATION:	Deans Performance Automotive, Landvale Rd in Leland			
WHAT?:	Annual Fry Fry fund raiser			
SETUP TIME:	8am - 5pm	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:	15+	
EXPECTATIONS:	Raising funds to support veterans, youth and community			

Blood Drive #2			Friday, May 13th	10am - 2:30pm
LEAD:	Dan Fortini	413-834-4106 C	dan14ef@hotmail.com	
LOCATION:	WWAY Studios 1224 Magnolia Village Way, Leland			
WHAT?:	Pot 68 sponsoring blood drive with Red Cross. Greeting donors, selling raffle tickets, talking up potential members			
SETUP TIME:	9am	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:	~ 10	
EXPECTATIONS:	Ticket sales and new members along with public awareness. 60 pints.			

Poppy Day			Fri, May 27th	9am - 2pm
LEAD:	Lou Tranzillo	910-383-9746	ltranzilla@bellsouth.net	
LOCATION:	4 locations: Piggly Wiggly, Shores Car Wash, Bridgewater Wines and Ace Hardware			
WHAT?:	Public awarness of veteran sacrifices			
SETUP TIME:	8am	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:		15+
EXPECTATIONS:	Give out poppies and collect any donations			

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		NBHS	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 - Feeze Ballot	6pm	Blossoms	Hacker	Blossoms-Venue, a speaker, members	
	Sat April 23rd	Fish Fry		Deans Automotive	Fortini	Deans Auto - setup space, John	15ish

MNTH	DATE & DAY	EVENT NAME	EVENT Time	EVENT LOCATION	EVENT LEAD	COMMENTS/Other Organizations @ Role, Event Audience	VOLUNTEERS
MAY	Sat May 7th	District 9 meeting (Post 68 hosting)	Noon-2pm	Blossoms	Hacker	District 9 Commander, Leland Sr Center for venue and a company to provide lunch	3 or 4
	TH May 12th	PEC Meeting	1pm	Zoom link	Hacker		
	Fri May 13th	Blood Drive 2 of 4	10am-2pm?	WWAY in Leland	Fortini	Red Cross-Provides expertise, WWAY provides facility	10 needed
	Th May 19th	Post Membership Meeting - Post Elections	6pm	Blossoms	Hacker	Blossoms-Venue, a speaker, members	
	Sat May 21st	BSL Event - TBD!	8am-3pm	The Office in BSL	Becker	The Office - offering setup space	3 or more
	Fri May 27th	Poppy Day		The Pig, Carwash, Bridgewater	Tranzillo	Offering Poppies to the public in remembrance of service	12+
	SUN May 29th	Post Members Pancake Breakfast	7am - 11am	The Commons building Brunswick Forest	Zelenski, Simmons	Free pancake breakfast for members and spouses	yes
	Mon May 30th	Flags in cemetery's		several local cemeterys	John Cook	Remembrance of past veterans	10+
	Mon May 30th	Battleship event		USS NC Battleship	Hacker	NC Battleship-venue	?

COMPLETED EVENTS FROM FEBRUARY 2022:



Elderhaus ribbon cutting and flag raising ceremony

Division II Oratorical Contest with Post 68 contestant Solomon Smith Coming in 2nd place



North Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo