



American Legion Post 68

Post Membership Meeting Minutes – OCTOBER 19th, 2022 Meeting held at Blossoms Restaurant, Leland, NC / Zoom

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant
APPROVED BY: John Hacker, Commander
Convened: 1800
Adjourned: 1930

Total Attendance: 45*
Officers and Staff: 13**
Members: 44***
Guests: 1 Zoom: 2

Note: Total number of members present DOES constitute a quorum. Jamie Becker running Zoom session.

*Concurred

****Officers & Staff Absent:** Eric Mens-Historian, Alan Simmons-Judge Advocate, Elliott Koppel-At Large

***Includes Officers AND newly signed members

Officers in Attendance: John Hacker-Commander, Dan Fortini-1st Vice, Rob Penwell-2nd Vice, Dan Dodge-Adjutant, Jim Zelenski-Finance, Lou Tranzillo-Chaplain, Lane Adrian-Service Officer, Jamie Becker-Sergeant at Arms, John Marone-Logistics, Tony Schirillo-PAO, Eddie Jenkins-Membership, Jim McAvoy-At Large, Bea Frost-At Large

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Commander - 1800 hours

Chaplin's Opening Prayer: Chaplin - Lou Tranzillo

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: Sergeant at Arms – 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: Eddie Jenkins/John Hacker - membership

4 new members & 1 transfer signed up tonight:

- Tony Shook - Transfer

- Al Gettel
- John Quick
- Peter Otten
- Steven Hatcher

Guest Speaker: Post members Dale Todd and Lane Adrian gave Post members an in-depth briefing on the upcoming VEAC event to be held in November at Post 10 in Wilmington. Post 68 members can register to volunteer using the Post website volunteer signup system. Be sure to indicate T-shirt size and if you have an existing VEAC volunteer T-shirt.

- Even if you signup to be a volunteer, you can also signup to be seen by a VA counselor
- 20 to 30 volunteers are needed/day
- 17 other States are now doing their own VEAC with North Carolina being the first
- The name of the event is being changed to: VA Benefits Live – Your Hometown

Lane and Dale also talked about the PACT ACT. Post 10 will be sponsoring a Town Hall meeting on Oct 22 to discuss Pact Act or Camp Lejeune Water Contamination issues. (see flyer attached to meeting minutes)

Membership Report: Dan Dodge

- Our Post is 63% towards our Department membership goal.
- 239 members currently assigned
- During September: 1 transfer, 2 pending transfers, 2 new members

Financial Report: Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer

Beginning Balance: \$12,596.21 September 1st, 2022
Ending Balance: \$13,612.85 September 30th, 2022

Debbie Zelenski working on a holiday raffle basket along with a Super Bowl-themed basket

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **WEBSITE Updates:**
 - Contact Us form {NEW!} Added to capture requests via website without exposing our email addresses
 - PACT Act and VA benefits links – added to home page
 - October Commander's message {YouTube}
 - Other announcements added as news articles
2. **Fall Basket Raffle winner:** Iva Smith of Boiling Spring Lakes (presented by Jamie Becker)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PACT ACT and Camp Lejeune water problem: Post 10 town hall Oct 22nd
2. Wreaths Across America Kickoff for 2022: Rob Penwell
 - a. Please be sure to make checks out to Wreaths Across America NOT Post 68
 - b. We have 5 weeks left in this campaign which ends the end of November.
 - c. We have only sold 46 to date. Looking to sell 600.
 - d. Mike Mabee helping out with commercial donations. Could use some help
 - e. We have posters to pass out. Asking members to help spread them around. See flyer attached to these minutes that you can print off and hand out

OFFICER REPORTS:

- 1st Vice Commander: Dan Fortini -
 - Fortini thanked everyone who came out to support our Fish Fry. We had 20 to 23 members help out, some new. This will be Fortini's LAST fish fry as lead.
 - Red Cross Blood Drives: Post 68 received an award from the Red Cross as a Premier Blood Partner.
 - Flag Collection: Not a good turnout we think due to location. Looking into having a member who lives in each of our local communities help coordinate a flag collection for that community.
 - Flag Retirement: We plan on being at Dean's Automotive field the first couple weeks in November to burn flags with the Scouts.
 - Dan also talked about replanning and spreading out our fundraising events so we are not asking members and the public for money several times during short periods of time.
- 2nd Vice Commander: Rob Penwell: Talked on WAA (see above)
- Service Officer Update: Lane Adrian
 - Making progress with veteran who lost home to hurricane. Purple Heart homes is now helping out
 - Service Officer and Commander were present at Leland Sr. Center lunch last week during their Veterans Meetup lunch. Talked about Post events. The Sr. Center does refer vets to Post 68 for assistance. There will be Veterans breakfast on Nov 10th. If attending, they ask that you call in so they have a count.
- Chaplain Update: Lou Tranzillo: no report
- PAO Update: Tony Schirillo: no report
- Logistics Update: John Marone - Call John to get a shirt. He has ordered 8 jackets
- Sergeant at Arms: Jamie Becker: BSL for December will be Dec 3rd (event to be added to signup system). Color Guard is ready for Veterans Day parade.

- Legion Riders Report: Lane Adrian – Many thanks to Bob Page, Patty and Kobe Kelly for helping out during Riders hotdog fundraiser.
- Adjutant Update: Dan Dodge:
- Webmaster: Walter Fair:
- At-Large Officer Updates: Koppel, McAvoy, Frost:
- Judge Advocate: Alan Simmons: not present
- Historian: Eric Mens: Not present but send him photos!
- Membership: Eddie Jenkins: Get those dues in!

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

***** PLEASE USE OUR POST-VOLUNTEER EVENT SIGNUP SYSTEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE EVENTS *****

SEPTEMBER 2022 EVENTS

- BSL: Sep 3rd - Went well except for not having support in the afternoon. No BSL in October
- Marine Corps League: Presentation – Hacker – very well received and future VEAC signups
- Blood Drive: Sep 9th – Fortini – Another VERY successful event!
 - 54 donations = 58 units
 - \$300 in receipts
 - Red Cross is loving Post 68!
- Founders Day: Sep 10th – Very bad weather but we did it anyway!. Post 68 was there!
- Riders Hot Dog fundraiser: Sep 24th (Adrian) Wilmington Harley – Went well

OCTOBER 2022 EVENTS

- Flag Collection: Oct 8th – Fortini – Change of venue! Founders Park, Leland! Low turnout
- Fish Fry: Oct 15th – Fortini - Went very well. Thank you to all members who helped out
- Trunk or Treat: Oct 15th – Lead is Zelenski – Great PR event for the community

NOV/DEC 2022 EVENTS

- Veterans Day Parade: Nov 12th - Marone
- VEAC: Nov 17-19 Adrian and Todd
- Pasta Dinner: Nov 17th: In leu of Nov meeting – THIS IS A FUNDRAISER - Zelenski
 - Limited to 75 seats per seating. One at 5pm and one at 6:30
 - Zelenski has tickets. \$20 per seat
- December meeting: Dec 15th
- WAA wreath placement: Dec 17th

MISC. ITEMS:

Commanders Comments:

- John Jacobs Sr. birthday Dec 4th – Tony wrote a great press release
- Working on another grant from FOCUS for Suicide awareness program
 - o Also working on presenting our program to American Legion Dept HQ commander

Member Comments:

- Bob Page: Noted that Mission BBQ will be giving out free food to Veterans on Vets day
- Bill Smith indicated that he needed a new retired ID card for his wife and got the run around trying to get one. Also, ID cards have changed.

NEXT MEETING:

Next Officers Meeting: October 13th, 1pm via Zoom

Next Membership Meeting: October 20th @ 6pm – Our guest speaker is TBD

Closing and Chaplain's Prayer:

50/50: Won by Bill Weissenberg who received \$38 with \$38 to the Post.

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