



**American Legion Post 68, Leland**  
**Meeting Room, Blossoms Restaurant, Magnolia Greens, Leland**  
**Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 18th, 2018 at 6 PM**

COMPILED BY: Daniel Dodge, Adjutant  
APPROVED BY: Dale Todd, Commander\*  
Convened: 18:00  
Adjourned: 19:45

Total Attendance: 34  
Officers and Staff: 13\*\*  
Members: 32\*\*\*  
Guests: 2

\*Concurred

\*\***Officers & Staff Absent:** Judi Buongiorno, Financial Officer; Jim Thompson, Exec Committee

\*\*\*Includes Officers and newly signed members

**Officers & Staff in Attendance:** Dale Todd, Commander; Jim Zelenski, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander; Dan Dodge, Adjutant; Lane Adrian, Service Officer; John Marone, Logistics Officer; Gerald Decker, Historian; Bill Smith, Sergeant at Arms; Lou Tranzillo, Greg Miller – Executive Committee, Art Dietrich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander; Brian Danielson, Chaplain; Richard Fry, Public Affairs; Kathy McDonough, Membership;

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**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Call to Order: **Commander: Dale Todd**  
Chaplain's Opening Prayer: **Chaplain: Brian Danielson**  
POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: **Sergeant at Arms: Bill Smith**  
Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: **All**

**Old/Current Business:**

Approval of prior meeting minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve August 2018 minutes. Minutes approved by all.

Guest Speaker: *Michael Kirchner, Children of Peace International (Vietnam)* (Intro by Dan Dodge)

Mr. Kirchner talked to the membership regarding his Air Force service during Vietnam which led to him working with Children of Peace International. CIP works with children of Vietnam to help provide schools, education, tuition & health benefits. CIP was formed in 1993 by Tam Binh to support Tam's orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City. The organization has since expanded to include work in multiple cities across Vietnam. The group's mission is not to assume responsibility as a total provider of services to these children but to be a friend and supporter and to help provide the means for the people to build a healthy community with a promising future.

Mike provided a slide show for members to reference during his talk. (Slides can be found under October 2018 meeting slides on the Post 68 website.) Several members asked questions of the speaker. A BIO of Mr. Kirchner can be found in the attachments to these minutes. Commander Todd presented Mike with the gift of a Post 68 coffee mug as a token of our appreciation for speaking with us.

Introduction of New Members and Guests: This evening we had 1 guest other than our speaker. Bill Ryder served in the Coast Guard in and around the Great Lakes area. Bill is transferring to Post 68 from a post in the Central Square, NY area.

WebSite updates: Dan Dodge, webmaster

- New menu structure
- Many changes to home page
- BLOG section added to home page for smaller new articles
- Working on pictures from Vets to Washington trip

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Financial Report:** *Judi Buongiorno, Finance Officer*

End of September, 2018 balances:  
Total account balance: \$11,251.76  
General Fund balance:  
Veterans to Washington: \$0.00

### **2018/2019 Budget:** *Commander*

Fund Raisers and sources of revenue: Commander Todd is working with the officers regarding what fund-raising events we have and what revenue each provides. Dale has asked that all members submit ideas to him for any type of fund-raising event Post 68 may be able to hold.

### **Membership Report:** *- Kathy McDonough, membership chair*

Current roster shows 120 members in good standing.  
Renewals for 2019 continue with 60% of our membership having renewed as of the start of this meeting  
During tonight's meeting 4 more renewals were brought in bringing our renewal percentage up to 63%  
Thanks to those who brought in their DD214's!

### **Concerns and Sick Call:** *Brian Danielson, Chaplin:*

Robert Stafford his home now after being hospitalized. The wife of member John Carter recently passed away. John was the first Chaplin of Post 68. A sympathy card was sent.

**Service Officer Update:** *Lane Adrian:* Lane made several check-up visits to area veterans both pre and post hurricane to ensure people were safe. This weekend, Land and Brian will be visiting 2 area vets whose names were obtained thru referrals from other agencies.

**AWARDS!** This evening, our Commander presented awards to three Post members:

- Kathy McDonough was presented a certificate of appreciation from outgoing Commander Jim Zelenski for her support during Jim's tenure
- Gerald Decker was presented with a Vietnam Memorial Coin by Post 68 Commander Dale Todd for his efforts organizing, planning and leading the Veterans to Washington trip
- Art Dietrich was presented a certificate of appreciation from outgoing Commander Jim Zelenski for his support during Jim's tenure

## **Current Activities:**

### **After Action Reports:**

Wristband Sales, Augusts 19<sup>th</sup> – Adjutant Dan Dodge, Lead  
\$143.25 in donations, \$453 from sale for a total of \$596.25. 9 members present

BELK Sale Fund Raiser, Back to School sale: August 25th - Commander Dale Todd, Lead  
Sold 135 tickets for \$675 in store. Another 53 tickets locally for \$265. Sales percentage check from Belk to Post 68 was \$146 for 2 people showing up giving total funds received \$1086

BFA Food Distribution 8/30 – Dale/Eric – Several Post 68 members participated

Founders Day, September 8 Update – Public Relations Officer Richard Fry, Lead  
This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year we have participated. 50/50 grossed \$222. Winner (Judy Ball) donated their winnings back to the Post. Public attendance at event was low.  
NOTE: We need to attend Leland's planning meetings for Founders Day next year! (Amy Ryan's office or Alice). Also check with Post members who are on the Town Council

Fish Fry Update - Greg Miller, Lead – Cancelled due to hurricane

Letter has gone out to members regarding refunds / donations with form to request refunds  
Richard to put out messages to local media regarding ticket refunds  
Using [Commander@ncpost68.org](mailto:Commander@ncpost68.org) for public email address  
See email correspondence in Attachments that was sent to members...

Veterans to Washington trip: Gerald Decker, Lead

Overall, \$33,000 was raised for this event with \$6000 being raised thru fund raising.

\$100 was given back to each paid participant

Family Medical donated the use of 5 wheel chairs

One person got sick on the bus before it left and received a full refund. Her husband was so grateful

he gave a \$100 donation to the Post

All thought that upon returning to Leland and seeing the large American flag, the JRTOC color guard and

Hearing Col Baker's speech was most impressive

Other events that were cancelled due to hurricane:

Vietnam Wall @ Independence Mall

Female Veterans Expo

SCC Services Coordinating Council Expo

### Upcoming Events:

Trunk or Treat – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 6pm Leland Town Park – Dan Dodge, Lead

Several Post 68 members have made donations of candy to be passed out

We also ordered more small rings to be handed out to the kids

See email in Attachments that was sent out to Post members

If you attend, suggest bringing water and a chair

Belk big Sales event: November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dale Todd, Lead

This is the BIG sales event of the year. Dale is asking for volunteers to help sell in-store tickets

Tickets were also for sale during tonight's meeting

See email in Attachments that was sent out to Post members

Please sign up for a time slot with Dale at either the Mayfair location

BFA Food Distribution November 7 – 8. Dale Todd, Eric Mens

This is a very large distribution event covering 2 days. Day 1 will be packaging up food with

day 2 being distribution. Meeting place and time will be announced when available

Veterans Day Parade – Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Patty Kelley, Lead

○ Need a driver for truck and trailer

○ Meeting at ACE Hardware parking lot at 9am to carpool to parade start location

○ Sign-up sheet going around for marchers

○ Need to know about any WWII or Korean war vets along with any Purple Heart recipients

○ See email in Attachments that was sent out to Post members

### Future Events:

North Brunswick / Leland Christmas Parade – December 1<sup>st</sup> – **NEED LEAD!**

Alan Simmons indicated that the Town of Leland has taken over this event with several

restrictive rules in place such as requiring that all vehicles be decorated with 1000 lights and marchers

must also have a light source. Members also discussed whether the Post should even participate in the Parade

due to the new requirements. Most of the members present favor not participating. If anyone has any

objections or comments to the contrary, please share them with the Adjutant and Commander. Parade would be

5 – 6:30pm

Shades of Gray Concert and fund raiser – **NEED LEAD SOON!**

Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser – pushing out until 2019 – **Need lead**

Commander Todd indicated that this event takes about 3 months to plan and is considering holding

the dinner in March of 2019

## **New Business:**

**2019 Budget discussions:** Funding requirements, funding sources, fund raisers, projected membership

As mentioned above, Commander Dale is reviewing all our various fund-raising events along with the amount of revenue they procure and matching this against budgetary needs. All Post members are encouraged to come up with creative ideas for additional fund raiser projects.

**Website help found!** Mike Conners has offered to learn to assist Dan Dodge with the Post website

**Ongoing relationship with local Boy Scouts:** Post 68 enjoys a good relationship with local Boy Scouts. Elliott Koppel, a prior scout himself, has stepped up take the lead and be a liaison with them.

**Post meeting schedule talks with Blossoms:** Commander Dale Todd

We have been talking with Blossoms regarding meetings for 2019 and start times. The reason we are meeting at 6pm is because Blossoms was closing their bar early and many Post members wanted to drop in for a night cap after meetings. Now that Blossoms is hosting karaoke on Thursdays, they are staying open until about 10pm. This would allow us to start meetings a little later in the evening.

Keep on eye on your emails, we will be putting out a SURVEY to Post members asking for feedback and opinion regarding meeting start times. We will be using Survey Monkey to do this. Stay tuned!

**Storage Unit:** The Post 68 storage unit located at American Mini-Storage on Lanvale Road had a few inches of water during the hurricane due to flooding. We lost some signage, poster boards and flags got wet and had to be cleaned. Also, some Post 68 property is still at some members homes. We are looking into other accommodations. Other ideas presented including purchasing of our own trailer or obtaining space at Blossoms.

**Processes and Procedures:**

Because of Hurricane Florence, our officers have determined a need for an “Urgent and Emergency Situations / Determining if members need assistance during emergencies” – type of process to better prepare for the next emergency situation that arises. Commander Todd will be putting together a team to tackle this procedure.

**Guest Speaker for November meeting:** Dennis Jones, Vice Admiral USN (Ret), Author of “Parables from the Prairie” (How and Admiral was Trained on Dry Land)

## **Meeting Wrap-up:**

**Comments from Membership:** Gerald Decker was running a silent auction of several items left from the DC trip fundraising efforts. He brought in another \$40.

Gerald also talked about a possible reception for those who participated in the Veterans to Washington trip. Possible in conjunction with the Christmas parade a party or the December meeting?

**Next Membership Meeting** – Blossoms Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens, Leland  
November 15th, 2018 at 6 PM

**50/50:** Total collected was \$93. Won by Brian Danielson.

**Closing Ceremony and Chaplain's Closing Prayer:** Brian Danielson, Chaplin

**Adjourned at:** \_\_1945 hours\_\_

# ATTACHMENTS

## **Michael Kichner BIO:**

R. Michael (Mike) Kirchner and his wife Sheryl are retired and live on Fifty Lakes Drive in Boiling Spring Lakes, NC. They are originally from Berkshire County Massachusetts. Mike has two grown daughters and four grandchildren.

Mike is an Air Force vet and served from 1966-1970. He served two tours in Vietnam attached to Det. 5, 6922 Security Wing as a radio intercept analyst.

For the past twenty-nine years, Mike's primary hobby has been Kiwanis, and for the 1999-2000 administrative year he was the Governor of the New England and Bermuda District. Through Kiwanis Mike became familiar with Children of Peace International.

Mike has been active with Children of Peace International since 2010 and has been traveling to Vietnam for the group since then. He was elected to their Board of Directors in 2013, and now serves as the Volunteer Assistant to Executive Director, Binh Rybacki. Mike has spent between 3 and 6 weeks in Vietnam in each of the past five years.

## **EMAIL Sent to members 10/6/18 RE: Wilmington Veterans Day Parade announcement**

Dear Post 68 Membership:

The Wilmington Veteran's Day Parade is only 37 days away!!

I am the lead in organizing the 2018 Veteran's Day Parade in Wilmington for the American Legion, Post 68.

**The parade is on November 10, 2018, at 1100.** It will begin in the Cape Fear Community College Parking Lot heading south on Front Street, then taking a left on Orange Street and ending at the USO Building. If you're interested in carpooling to Wilmington, we will leave from the Ace Hardware parking lot in Leland at 0900 on November 10th.

This year's Veteran's Day Parade will honor World War II, Korean, and Purple Heart Veteran's. If you are any of these or know of anyone in our area, please let me know.

I am hoping the color guard members, Lane Adrian, Alan Simmons, and John Marone will be available to march in the parade. Please confirm with me.

We need to get an estimate of how many people will be marching, as well as how many vehicles, to include motorcycles, will be in the parade. We are anticipating there will be 3 or 4 cars or trucks in the parade for those who want to be in the parade, but are not able to walk the parade distance. If you are interested in marching, riding in a vehicle, an American Legion Rider member and want to ride your motorcycle, or bringing another vehicle to be in the parade, please send me an email or give me a call ASAP.

John Cook has a conflict and won't be able to participate this year. He has offered his truck and trailer for the parade. His trailer has seats in it for those who can't walk the entire parade route. However, we need to find someone who can drive his truck. If you're interested, please let me know as soon as possible.

Last year's parade was a very memorable experience so I hope you will join us this year.

Please feel free to share this information; however, **all information needs to come back to me** as I'm coordinating this event and want it to be successful.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Patty Kelley  
[Majpat37@live.com](mailto:Majpat37@live.com)  
910-622-2995

**EMAIL Sent to members 10/8/18 RE: TRUNK or TREAT Announcement**

*Comrades! It's that time of year again for the Town of Leland TRUNK or TREAT Event. Halloween is upon us!*

We all had a great time the past couple of years and our community, especially the children, really appreciate Trunk or Treat. Also remember, we have families who are experiencing hard times due to Hurricane Florence. Trunk or Treat can give the kids a break and offer them some fun. Last year we had over 1000 kids come thru the line

**Town of Leland Trunk or Treat will be held October 27th from 4 - 6pm**

We can get to the park about 90 minutes early to setup the car.  
American Legion Post 68 is sponsoring 1 vehicle.

Dan Dodge signed up to run TorT last year. We had a blast doing it.  
I am throwing my hat back in the ring to lead this event again - UNLESS, someone out there really wants to do it. Let me know. Otherwise, this year's theme will be kid friendly again focusing on Halloween Fun.

**What I need from YOU.....**

- Donations of bags of candy to be given out. We need about 2000 pieces. Bring candy to the Oct 11th Officers meeting, Oct 18th Membership meeting or drop them off at my house: 2125 Forest View Circle, Leland (Brunswick Forest)
- Let me know if you will participate to hand out candy to the kids. If so, please consider a costume

**TODO:**

- Order new plastic spider and gem rings to give out      DONE
- Register online with Town of Leland for 1 car              DONE
- How to decorate the vehicle                                      TBD
- Solicit donations of candy from membership                In Process
- Water / refreshments for attendees                              TBD
- Costumes (we will be Day of Dead skeletons)                Go for It!
- Sign Post Members to participate in costume                In Process

Daniel E Dodge  
Adjutant, Post 68 Leland, NC  
[adjutant@NCPost68.org](mailto:adjutant@NCPost68.org)  
607-237-4630

**EMAIL Sent 10/17/18 RE: Fish Fry Cancellation**

COMRADES:

As previously reported, Post 68 Leadership cancelled this year's Fish Fry fundraiser, which was scheduled for Saturday September 22 at the Leland Town Park. The Fish Fry will be rescheduled for a 2019 date to be determined.

Tickets sold for this year's Fish Fry will NOT be honored for next year's event.

\*\*Current Fish Fry ticket holders may request a refund or donate the ticket cost to Post 68. Donations will go to local hurricane relief. We are currently in the process of contacting as many ticket holders as possible.

If you purchased or sold Fish Fry tickets, **and have not yet been contacted**, please let us know by November 30 if you and/or people you sold tickets to wish a refund or to donate to the Post for local hurricane relief:

1. Contact any non-Post 68 member who you sold tickets to and ask what they want to do
2. Contact either Greg Miller at (518) 894-3437 or [FlyBoyFB111A@gmail.com](mailto:FlyBoyFB111A@gmail.com) or Lou Tranzillo at (910) 383-9746 or [ltranzi@bellsouth.net](mailto:ltranzi@bellsouth.net) with any questions

3. **Enclosed is a FORM** to be used to request refunds for yourself and/or people you sold tickets to. Please fill out the form and mail, along with any unsold tickets, stubs and money you haven't returned to:

Greg Miller  
2089 Shelmore Way  
Leland, NC 28451

Fish Fry proceeds not refunded by November 30 will be donated to local hurricane relief efforts.

Dale Todd, Commander  
American Legion Post 68 Leland, NC

**EMAIL Sent 10/18/18 RE: BELK Sales**

Fellow Legionnaires,

As many of you know, in August the Post participated in a Charity Sale event sponsored by Belks. As a result of selling tickets in the store and directly to friends & neighbors, the Post was able to make \$1,086. Belks does several of these sales each year and the biggest in terms of sales is the Pre-holiday sale which has just started and will end with the Charity Sale Day on Saturday, November 3. We are signed up to participate in this sale with proceeds going to assist with hurricane relief and other veteran needs. The details on this sale are outlined below. Please take a look and let me know if you can assist in any way.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Dale Todd,  
Commander, Post 68