



American Legion

Post 68

MEETING – March 15, 2018



Order of Business

- * **Post Regular Meeting Call to Order**
- * **Guest Speaker**
- * **Current Business**
- * **Old Business**
- * **New Business**
- * **50/50**
- * **Adjournment**

Call To Order

Commander:

- * Announce the meeting is about to open - One rap of the gavel.
- * Three raps of the gavel and all who are present shall stand at attention.
- * All - Face the Colors
- * “Hand salute”
- * “Two”

Chaplain's Opening Prayer

- * Remain standing and uncover**
- * The Chaplain will offer prayer**

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony

“A POW/MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor!”

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair

Pledge of Allegiance

All:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Everyone re-cover

Preamble

**For God and Country,
we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

- * To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America:**
- * To maintain law and order;**
- * To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;**
- * To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;**

Preamble

- * To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;**
- * To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;**
- * To make right the master of might;**
- * To promote peace and goodwill on earth;**
- * To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;**
- * To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.**

Meeting Convened

Commander:

“I now declare American Legion Post No. 68, Department of North Carolina, regularly convened.”

Speaker Introduction

Intro – Alan Simmons

Anita Hartsell

**Senior Veterans Service Officer
Brunswick County Veterans Services**

Post 68 Current Business

MEMBER RECOGNITION – Thanks to:

- **Dan Fortini and Lou Tranzillo for their outstanding work in ensuring the success of our Flag Collection Day!**
- **Gerald Decker for stepping up to take the Lead on the Flag Retirement ceremony!**
- **Kathy McDonough for mailing nearly forty 2018 membership cards to our members and making the poster display board for the Flag Collection Day!**

Post 68 Current Business Membership

New Members or Guests in attendance - Membership Chair

- * Welcome New Members: Tim Parvis and Gordon Shepherd**

Membership Report

- * We currently have 108 members in good standing on our local roster**
 - Fourteen members were dropped for non-payment of dues (2017)**
- * The Legion Membership year runs from Jan 1st – Dec 31st**
- * Renewals for 2019 will start in July 2018**

Post 68 Current Business Sick Call and Approval of Minutes

- * **Sick Call - Chaplain**
- * **Request for Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2018**
- **Minutes were e-mailed to members of February 20, 2018**

Financial Report for February 2018

General Fund Balance	\$6,044.14
Bldg/Contingency Fund	985.50
Poppy Fund Balance	<u>742.72</u>
Total Account Balance	\$7,772.36

Recent Financial Actions

Recent Disbursements:

- ✓ \$500 for NBHS Freedom Wall Project
- ✓ \$126 for Post D & O Insurance
- ✓ \$120 for Post T-Shirts

Other Financial News

After Action Report - Flag Collection

- * **March 3, 2018, 8 AM – 4 PM, Leland Town Park**
- * **Great participation by Post 68 members**
- * **Leland Boy Scout Troop 747 participated**
- * **Collected over 150 flags**
- * **Proceeds from food and drink sales \$217**
- * **Donations \$45**
- * **50/50 Raffle Net \$26 (\$26 to J. Buongiorne)**
- * **Lessons Learned**

Other Financial News

Post 68 Annual Financial Review

- * Scheduled for March 13, 2018**
- * Greg Miller (Financial Officer), Executive Committee Members Lou Tranzillo, Bill Smith, Jim Thompson, and Judi Buongiorne (Candidate for Financial Officer)**
- * Review last year's financial records**
- * Issue report to Officers and members including findings and any recommendations.**

Veterans Issues and Updates

Post Service Officer

- * **Current Veterans Assistance Issues**
- * **Veterans Benefits Experience Center (VBEC)**
 - * **Thurs., Fri., and Sat., March 22, 23, and 24, 2018**
 - * **Elks Lodge, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington**
 - * **Includes “Stand-Down” for homeless vets**
 - * **Box lunches provided for veterans and volunteers on Thursday and Friday. Lunches will be provided for volunteers on Saturday but not for veterans.**

Veterans Issues and Updates

VBEC Cont'd

- * **Only event of this type in the United States.**
- * **25+ employees from the VA Regional Office in Winston Salem, supported by local Veteran Service Officers and other veteran organizations will meet with veterans to provide real time claims support.**
- * **The 2017 VBEC paid out about \$2 million in benefits to over 780 veterans over the 3-day period.**
- * **We expect 1,000 veterans to attend the 2018 VBEC.**

Veterans Issues and Updates

VBEC Cont'd

- * **Volunteers are critical to event's success. Over 100 volunteers from the American Legion, VVA, Marine Corps League, UNCW Student Vets, other veterans organizations, and sponsor companies will support the event.**
- * **We still need volunteers for certain shifts, including set up and take down, during the event. Contact Dale Todd or Lane Adrian to volunteer.**
- * **Website: <http://www.vbec2018.com/>**

Old Post Business Post 68 2018 Elections

- * **Candidates for Elected Post Positions**
 - * **Candidate Slate and Bios e-mailed with meeting agenda on March 11, 2018**
 - * **Any more candidates?**
 - * **Elections process**
 - * **Swearing in by District 9 Commander scheduled for June 21, 2018**

Post 68 Positions Open for Election 2018 - 2019

- * **Commander**
- * **Vice Commander**
- * **Adjutant**
- * **Finance Officer**
- * **Post Historian**
- * **Post Chaplain**
- * **Post Service Officer**
- * **Sergeant At Arms**

Positions – Incumbents – Candidates 2018 -2019 Elections

Position	Incumbent	Candidate	REMARKS
Commander	Jim Zelenski	Dale Todd	Elected Position
Vice Commander	Alan Simmons	Jim Zelenski	Elected Position
2nd Vice Commander	Art Dietrich	Art Dietrich	Appointed Position
Adjutant	Eric Mens	Dan Dodge	Elected Position
Finance Officer	Greg Miller	Judi Buongiorno	Elected Position
Post Historian	Dan Dodge	Gerald Decker	Elected Position
Post Chaplain	Brian Danielson	Brian Danielson	Elected Position
Post Service Officer	Dale Todd	Lane Adrian	Elected Position
Sergeant At Arms	KC White	Bill Smith	Elected Position
Executive Committee	Lou Tranzillo	Lou Tranzillo	Elected Position
Executive Committee	Jim Thompson	Jim Thompson	Elected Position
Executive Committee	Bill Smith	Greg Miller	Elected Position
Logistics Officer	John Marone	John Marone	Appointed Position
Public Relations	Lane Adrian	Richard Fry	Appointed Position
Membership	Kathy McDonough	Kathy McDonough	Appointed Position

As of 12 Mar 2018

Old Post Business Update on Flag Retirement

- * **Gerald Decker has assumed the Lead for this event assisted by Lou Tranzillo.**
- * **Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled April 28, 2018 at sundown (7:54 PM) The Villages, Brunswick Forest**
- * **Spousal Support Group – Host to Coffee and Dessert after the event at The Commons if available**
- * **JROTC Color Guard (Rick de Moya/Col. Baker)**
- * **Need to identify members of the Burn Detail**
- * **To volunteer, contact Gerald at (706) 424-0830**

Old Post Business NBHS Updates – Rick de Moya

- * NBHS Flag Pole Plaza and Freedom Wall**
 - * Kiwanis is the Lead**
 - * Estimated completion dates**
 - * Developing partnerships**
 - * Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, Saturday February 24, 2018 raised at least \$1,800**
- * Boys State 2018 Competition**

New Post Business

- * **Poppy Drive May 19**
 - * **Still need a Post Lead!**
 - * **Food Lion (Mt Misery Road), Port City Java (Brunswick Forest), Piggly Wiggly, Carolina Shores Car Wash**
 - * **Volunteer sign up**
- * **Wristband Sales at Wilmington Downtown Summer Concert Series**
 - * **Still need a Post Lead**
 - * **VOTE for Post 68 at:**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018Downtownsun
downcharitywristband](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018Downtownsun
downcharitywristband)

New Post Business

- * **Four Chaplains Reading – Alan Simmons**
- Other New Business**

Upcoming Post Meetings

- * April 19, 2018 - Horseplay Farms' Vet. Programs*
- * May 17, 2018 – Elections (No Speaker)*
- * June 21, 2018 – Julie Wilsey, Director, ILM (also, swearing in of new Officers)*

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars!

- * April 28 – Flag Retirement Event***
- * May 19 – Poppy Drive***
- * May 26 – Cemetery Flag Placement***
- * June 21 – Swearing in of New Officers***

50/50



Closing Ceremony

Commander:

“Is there any further business to come before the meeting? If not, the Chaplain will lead us in memorial service.”

The Commander gives three raps of the gavel, and members rise, uncover, and stand in silence.

Chaplain’s Prayer

Closing Ceremony

Members re-cover and remain standing

Commander: “Sergeant-at-arms, recover the POW/MIA flag.”

Commander’s Charge:

“Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our Country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of The American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our Country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.”

Closing Ceremony

Commander:

“Hand salute”

“Two”

Commander:

“I now declare this meeting of Leland Post No. 68, The American Legion, Department of North Carolina adjourned.”

Commander: One rap of the gavel