

**History of
Post 68
The American Legion
Leland, NC
For 2016 to 2017
By Daniel E Dodge**

Introduction:

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. (1)

The organization is comprised of 55 Departments, one each in the 50 states with additional departments in the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Individual Departments can have additional levels between themselves and the posts.

The Department of North Carolina is subdivided into 5 Divisions with a Department Vice Commander (often called Division Commanders) who has the responsibility for the districts under their charge. In addition, each Division is sub-divided into 5 Districts. Each district is led by a [District Commander and Vice Commander](#). (2)

American Legion Post 68 is one of the fastest growing Legions in North Carolina. Originally founded in 1973, the post was revived in 2014 and has benefitted from a large number of new Brunswick County residents who were already American Legion members before retiring to the region. The post has grown to 108 members with the majority being Vietnam veterans along several from Desert Storm and with a few representatives from the Korean War and 1 from WW2. The post also includes four women veterans

TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE:

< list all pages, topics, subjects, appendices >

Contents

Introduction:	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE:	3
PREAMBLE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION CONSTITUTION (3)	5
Index of photos:	6
Chapter 1: Post Officers	7
Chapter 2: Roster of Post Chairmen	8
Chapter 3 – One-year Post History by month	9
July 2016 Post 68 American Legion	9
August 2016 Post 68 American Legion	10
September 2016 Post 68 American Legion	12
October 2016 Post 68 American Legion	13
November 2016 Post 68 American Legion	16
January 2017 Post 68 American Legion	17
February 2017 Post 68 American Legion	19
March 2017 Post 68 American Legion	21
April 2017 Post 68 American Legion	23
May 2017 Post 68 American Legion	26
June 2017 Post 68 American Legion	27
APPENDICIES:	31
APPENDIX 1 - PHOTOGRAPHS	32
December 2016:	32
JANUARY 2017:	34
APRIL 2017	35
MAY 2017	38

APPENDIX 2 – Internet, Social & Public Media 41

APPENDIX 3 – 2016/2017 Budget 45

APPENDIX 4 – Misc. Items..... 46

APPENDIX 5 – POST NEWS LETTERS..... 47

APPENDIX 6 – POST MEETING MINUTES 48

PREAMBLE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION CONSTITUTION (3)

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;
- 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.

Index of photos:

Pic 1 Bill Carshaw with WW2 Recognition award at Christmas Parade.....	32
Pic 2 Post 68 member Bill Carshaw as one of the Parade's Grand Marshalls.....	32
Pic 3 Post 68 members who participated in the Annual Town of Leland Christmas Parade 2016.....	32
Pic 5 Members of NBHS JROTC Shooting Program	33
Pic 6 Thanks to the efforts of Bill Carshaw and Post members we now have our new Post Colo.....	34
Pic 7 American Legion Junior Shooting Program Team Award:.....	34
Pic 8 Post 68 members at American Flag collection event - Brunswick Forest Commons area	35
Pic 9 Post 68 Serviceable Flag Day turn in event at the Brunswick Forest Commons	35
Pic 10 Post 68 Serviceable Flag Day turn in event at the Brunswick Forest Commons	35
Pic 11 Post 68 member Alan Adrian at Flag turn in event	36
Pic 12 Spousal Support Group member with the "Donation Dog"	36
Pic 13 Post 1st Vice Commander Alan Simmons with Our Shining Star: JROTC MAJ Rebecca Lindsey Rebecca has been accepted to Louisiana State University and will be pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in History along with joining the Navy	37
Pic 14 Our Military Excellence Medal Recipient: JROTC/MAJ Thomas Wallace with 1st Vice Commander Alan Simmons who has received a full, four-year college scholarship to NC State.....	37
Pic 15 Scholastic Excellence Medal Recipient C/LTC Zachary Potter received a four-year ROTC Scholarship to Campbell University to pursue a degree in Christian Studies followed by military service in the Army Chaplains Corp. (L-R) KC White, Zachary Potter, Alan	37
Pic 16 Trinity Memorial Cemetery, Leland.....	38
Pic 17 King Memorial Cemetery, Leland	38
Pic 18 Zion Memorial Cemetery, Leland	38
Pic 19 Goshan Memorial Cemetery, Leland.....	38
Pic 20 Pictured (L to R) Lou Tranzillo, Alan Simmons, 1st Vice Commander, Jim Widerman, Manager and Jim Zelenski, Post Commander. Not pictured Chip Spoons, Asst. Manager	39
Pic 21 xxxx xxxxx manning the Poppy Day drive at Food Lion in Leland.....	40
Pic 22 Commander Jim Zelenski w/wife June, Allen Simmons, xxxx xxxx manning the table at Lowes Foods, Brunswick Forest	40
Pic 23 Commander Jim Zelenski w/wife June, Allen Simmons, xxxx xxxx manning the table at Lowes Foods, Brunswick Forest	40
Pic 24 xxx xxx..... staffing a table at Piggly Wiggly in Leland	40
Pic 25 xxx xxx..... staffing a table at Piggly Wiggly in Leland	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Pic 26 Greg Miller w/wife xxxxx providing support for Poppy Day at Port City Java in Leland	40
Pic 27 Greg Miller w/wife xxxxx providing support for Poppy Day at Port City Java in Leland	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Chapter 1: Post Officers

	Commander	Jim Zelenski	afblueberet7494@gmail.com
	1 st Vice Commander	Alan Simmons	bandaid125@gmail.com
	2 nd Vice Commander	Art Dietrich III	dietriaw50@gmail.com
	Adjutant	Eric Mens	armyveter6770@gmail.com
	Treasurer/Finance Officer	Greg Miller	FlyBoyFB111A@gmail.com
	Chaplin	Brian Danielson	brian.e.danielson@gmail.com
	Sergeant at Arms	K.C. White	ken.white1031@gmail.com
	Service Officer	Dale Todd	daleetodd@gmail.com
	Supply Officer	John Marone	jonflyfish@aol.com
	Public Relations Officer	Lane Adrian	laneadrian@att.net
	Historian	Dan Dodge	lifesgood50@gmail.com

Executive Committee:

	Lou Tranzillo	tranzillo@bellsouth.net
	Jim Thompson	jim66t@yahoo.com
	Bill Smith	depbill@att.net

Chapter 2: Roster of Post Chairmen

Membership Committee, Chair, Kathy McDonough Katconnaughton@hotmail.com

Flag Retirement Committee: Chair, Bobby Hunt huntb11@icloud.com

Chapter 3 – One-year Post History by month

July 2016 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

The 2016-2017 year for Post 68 began with a new commander from elections in June. Outgoing commander Alan Simmons had thanked the members for the growth in membership of the Post. He presented a personal check for \$100 to be used for the Post 68 Flag Fund. The fund now totals \$275. He also addressed the recent \$500 scholarship and the medals awarded for Scholarship and Military Excellence that were accompanied by \$50 checks to the receiving individuals. Finally he addressed the “Good Citizenship Award” and American Legion Medal awarded to a Leland Middle School student. Incoming Commander Jim Zelenski thanked Alan for his service and leadership of the post and for a smooth transition.

Guest Speaker:

This month's meeting was started by a presentation from our guest speaker Fred Roche, Administrator for VA Health Care Center in Wilmington, accompanied by Tyra Hoffman, VA Volunteer Services Specialist.

Mr. Roche discussed several issues related to the HCC, the VA in general, addressed questions from the audience, and made himself available after the meeting to address member's concerns one-on-one.

Highlights included:

- Potential privatization of VA health services remains a significant concern.
- The Choice program is still experiencing significant contractor performance as well as payment issues.
- Safe drinking water issues still exist at the Wilmington HCC.
- A third Audiology Booth has been added to the Wilmington HCC to address significant need. You do not need a referral from a primary care doctor to get an audiology appointment
- Veterans are encouraged to use Secure Messaging as a means to communicate their medical needs and concerns to the VA staff. (Currently, veterans need to be authenticated for Secure Messaging on site at the HCC. Starting in January 2017, onsite authentication will no longer be required. Volunteers at the HCC can help veterans establish a Secure Messaging account.)
- HCC only handle initial or emergency prescription needs. After that, prescriptions are filled through the mail fulfillment center in Charleston, SC.

The Acting Commander, Eric Mens, presented Mr. Roche with a Post 68 baseball cap in thanks for his presentation

Committee Reports:

JROTC: Members were asked to reference an article in the July edition of Legion News that talked about Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP) as our post is the proud sponsor of the North Brunswick High School program.

Old Business:

Veteran-to-Veteran Program – Eric Mens stated that he, Greg Miller, Mike MacDonald, and Roger Weigold attended the V2V meeting hosted by Post 543 at Brunswick Community College on July 20.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Golf Tournament – Mack Mitchell: The VVA Golf Tournament is being held on September 17, 2016, at the Olde Point Golf and Country Club, Hampstead, NC.

New Business:

Leland Founders Day, September 10, 2016 – Post 68 will man two booth spaces and will have Bill Carshaw's donated watercolors available for sale (proceeds to the Flag Fund). The Spousal support group will sell baked goods and (donated) bracelets. We need shift volunteers to man our table from 3 – 9 PM. Sign-up sheet was circulated.

2017 Membership Dues – Notices have been mailed. Please renew with Greg Miller and not online 50/50: \$104. \$52 to general fund with congrats to Lane Adrian winner this month.

[August 2016 Post 68 American Legion](#)

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Guest Speaker:

Anita Hartsell, Brunswick County Veterans Service Officer, Brunswick County Veterans Services. Ms. Hartsell gave a very informative presentation to the Post last year. Everything you wanted to know but the VA would not or could not tell you. Anita and her staff are the “go to” people. This meeting is open to all veterans and their spouses.

General Discussion:

Concerns and Sick Call: Alan Simmons reported the spouse of Post Member, John Carter, was admitted into Hospice Care. Jim Zelenski reminded members to advise the Post officers if they become aware of anyone becoming hospitalized. The Post is available to provide support to the member as warranted.

Membership Committee: K.C. White: Four new members joined the post.

Post 68 Web Site: Jim Zelenski reminded post members that our post web site is constantly being updated and to make sure to check it out for the latest news, activities and information.

www.ncpost68.org

Old Business:

Public Relations Committee: Jim Zelenski: Town of Leland Founders' Day, Saturday, September 10th, Leland Municipal Park. We still need post members to volunteer with set up and manning our booth for the event. Sign-up sheet provided.

Veteran to Veteran Program: Alan Simmons: Reminded post members this is an embryo program in partnership with Brunswick Community College (BCC) to support veterans in Brunswick County who are BCC students and who may have service-related disabilities, PTSD, or other issues. Volunteers man an office on the BCC main campus in Leland and serve as facilitators to listen to veterans, direct veterans to community resources that may be helpful, man a "Hot Line," etc. Training is provided for all volunteers. Currently, 14 Legion members from the District man the office but more volunteers are needed. The office is manned with two volunteers at a time and individual commitments usually range about 8-10 hours a month. Jim Zelenski reminded post members we had less than eight individuals sign up to date and requested they re-consider supporting the program.

Update on Mobile Shower Project: Jeremie Nelson stated nothing new to report and would follow up with additional information and status on the effort. District Nine Commander is looking to have a Veterans Stand Down in Brunswick County. More information to follow.

Membership Dues: Alan Simmons reminded members to please renew with Greg Miller and not on line.

Veterans Day Breakfast: Alan Simmons reported a breakfast would be provided to all veterans by the Compass Point Veterans group. More information to follow.

New Business:

Mission Phoenix Operation Stand Down: Jim Zelenski reported the Post is seeking volunteers to support a Stand Down Day sponsored by the Mission Phoenix on 1 October 2016, 0800-1400, at the National Guard Armory, 2221 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC. The Post has been invited to set up an information booth/table at the event and post member volunteers are welcomed to assist in handing items to needy veterans. More information to follow.

Spousal Support Group Update: Jim Zelenski provided an update on upcoming activities the group will be working on:

o Spousal Support Brunswick Forest Villages Trick or Treat 27 October; seeking donations of bags of candy from Post members. Request any donated bags of candy be brought to the next two post meetings or dropped off at Jim Zelenski's home

o Spousal Support Group – Holiday Fund Raiser - Selling Christmas Holiday Bows, either at: out of 1) Support Group's home, 2) Lowes Grocery Store (BF) and 3) at Leland Wal-Mart. o Spousal Support Group – Potential for Spring (May 2017) fundraiser yard sale in Brunswick Forest.

Next Spousal Support Group Meeting is: 14 September

Post 68 Shirts: Jim Zelenski presented a shirt style at a proposed cost of \$28.00 each, \$2.00 extra sizes 2XL and up. \$5.00 of that cost will go to the general Post 68 fund or flag fund.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: Plans are underway for a November fundraiser at Macgrooders in Leland but we still need post members to volunteer and run this event. If willing to volunteer, please contact Jim Zelenski

Holiday Party: Plans are underway for a Post 68 Holiday Party in January 2017 in lieu of December 2016. If willing to volunteer, please contact Jim Zelenski

Leland Christmas Parade and Festival: Alan Simmons reported the annual Leland Christmas Parade & Festival is scheduled for 10 December 2016, downtown Leland. More information to follow.

50/50: \$80.00 Total-- Congratulations and thanks to Alan Simmons, who donated his share of \$40.00 to the Flag Fund.

September 2016 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Guest Speaker:

Anita Hartsell, Sr Veterans Service Officer, Brunswick County Veterans Services office discussed Veterans Services and Assistance Provided in Brunswick County

General Info:

- Six new members were present at tonight's' meeting

Old Business:

- Continue to provide DD 214's or separation papers to the Adjutant for our Post records.
- 2017 Membership Dues – Notices have been mailed. Please renew with Greg Miller and not online.
- Flag Purchase and Color Guard – Greg Miller is the lead for this effort; contact Greg if interested
- After Action Report – 2016 Leland Founders Day – After booth space expenses, our participation and representation at Leland's Founders Day on September 10th netted the Post a total of \$699.20, broken down as follows: Hat Sales \$45; Poppy Sales \$143.45; 50/50 proceeds \$122 (flag fund); sale of Bill Carshaw's art \$130 (flag fund); and Spousal Support Group Baked Goods Sales \$258.75. The Commander acknowledged Post members who helped man our booths and made our participation in Founders Day a great success. Also recognized were the spouses who were at tonight's meeting and who helped on Founders Day through the sale of baked goods
- Update on Post 68 Shirts – Post 68 shirts are available in short or long sleeve for purchase or order. Contact our Supply Officer, John Marone.

New Business:

- We will be participating in the Veterans Stand Down to be held at the National Guard Armory in Wilmington on October 1st. Signup sheet circulated
- We will be participating in the Leland Trunk or Treat to be held at the Leland Park on Town Hall Drive on October 29th. Donations of candy can be brought to the membership meeting scheduled for October 19th. A volunteer sign-up sheet circulated
- Further discussion needed on Post participation in Leland's Christmas Parade scheduled for December 10, 2016.
- We will have a table set up at the Veterans' Day Breakfast, November 11th @ Leland Cultural Arts Center. We will need volunteers to man the Post recruitment table. The North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce sponsors the event. Breakfast is free for veterans and one significant other. To be placed on the attendance list, you must call (910) 383-0553 and provide your name and Service Branch.
- The Commander briefed members on the purchase of a sturdy canopy that the Post could use for events such as Founders Day (one member's canopy was inadvertently broken during take-down after the event). After conducting market research, the lowest cost, best value would be a canopy for \$491. The proposal to purchase was approved by the members

October 2016 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Introduction of New Members or Guests: Kathy McDonough recognized as new Membership Committee Chair. Recognized Tom Cerniglia, Commander, District 9. Eight guests, including 4 new members and 1 transfer-in.

Guest Speaker:

Due to Hurricane Matthew Relief Efforts, our planned Red Cross speaker was unavailable

Current Business:

Membership Report: Need additional volunteers to help Kathy scrub lists, follow-up contact with "Guests," help with attendance, etc. Difference in National versus our records is 14 members. National roster shows 80 active (2016 & 2017) members. Our records show 94 active (2016 & 2017) members, including 11 additional resulting from the recent District 9 Revitalization campaign. According to our Post records to date, 54 members have paid 2017 dues, 37 members have not yet paid 2017 dues. We have two PUFL members and one Honorary Life Member. Commander Cerniglia commented that he is aware of the problems associated with updating membership information between Post records, State, and National (some of which may be attributable to technology issues/needs). Further, he would work to try to reduce those problematic issues if he succeeded in his bid for Division Commander.

Vet to Vet program: Repeated briefings from August and September meetings regarding V2V program and the need for volunteers. Commander Cerniglia interjected several points on the program's value and also, UNCW's interest in establishing a similar program in Wilmington (in collaboration with Post 10). Also addressed: Congressman Rouzer's sponsorship of a 1-day event in March 2017 to work with the VA and veterans in reducing the backlog of local VA disability claims; continuing effort to work with UNCW graduate student on a grant to obtain a mobile unit fitted with showers and limited medical/dental capability to help address the issue of Brunswick County homeless veterans; lastly, Chadburn and Fair Bluffs Posts are in trouble from Hurricane Matthew and will need our help in providing needed support to get those Posts back on their feet.

Old Business:

- Winter Stand Down (Oct 1st) - The Commander thanked our Post members who participated in this event.
- Trunk or Treat - Oct 29th, 4-6 PM with setup beginning at 1 PM. We will be decorating a truck and handing out candy to children. Expect between 1,500 and 2,000 children. Members are requested to donate candy.
- Veterans Day Breakfast - Leland Cultural Arts Center November 11th. We will have an information/recruitment table set up (need volunteers to man). Veterans may bring a spouse or significant other.
- Spaghetti Fund Raiser Dinner - In lieu of a Post meeting on November 16th, two seatings: 5-6:30 PM and 7- 8:30 PM. Tickets are on sale now for \$12 (half goes to Macgrooders). Members need to sell at least 200 tickets
- Canopy Purchase - Heavy-duty canopy has been delivered (\$481 previously approved). We may want to purchase a wheeled carrying bag in the near future.

- Post Flags and Color Guard – Greg Miller is the Chair of the Post Color Guard. Contact Greg to join the Color Guard. After much research by Eric Mens, \$650 was allocated for the purchase of the American Legion Flag and Emblem store.
- Update on Post 68 Shirts – Post 68 shirts are available for purchase. John also displayed two varieties of Post jackets and members voted to make available one version for members to purchase. Cost of the jackets is \$40. To order and pay, contact John Marone, Supply Officer

New Business:

- Standing Committees and Position Vacancies –
 - o Membership Committee - Kathy McDonough - Chair, K.C. White, John Marone
 - o Fund Raising Committee - Greg Miller - Chair
 - o JROTC Committee - Pete Erbe - Chair, Lou Tranzillo - Co Chair
 - o Adopt a Vet - Alan Simmons - Chair
 - o North Brunswick High School Rifle Team - Pete Erbe – Chair
 - o Events Committee – Chair – Mary Skov
 - o Flag Retirement Ceremony Committee – Bobby Hunt
- We still need:
 - o Second Vice Commander
 - o Historian
 - o Membership Committee,
 - o Members Color Guard Committee, Members
 - o Flag Retirement Ceremony Committee, Members
 - o Events Committee, Member

Information and Decision on Boys and Girls State: Briefed by Rick de Moya who has former experience with the Program, this is a one-week leadership program in June for rising high school seniors. Cost is \$350 for boys and \$400 for girls. The Post, based upon factors such as grades, community service, leadership, etc., would vet applicants. More information and Departmental guidance will be available in December 2016. Posts have until May 1, 2017 to market the programs and submit applications for selected students. Rick indicated that we could send a girl to Girls State with the understanding that Posts that have an Auxiliary will get first preference at filling slots (historically, these slots have been left unfilled). Bill Kous has volunteered to help with the Program. Following a brief discussion, including participation in Girls State, the membership agreed that we should proceed with developing the Program at our Post.

Mary Skov, our Service Officer and Events Chairperson, briefly spoke about her involvement in the Concerned Veterans for America and its stated focus on meaningful veterans-related legislation.

Holiday Bows Fundraiser: The Spousal Support Group will sell holiday bows as follows:

Nov 5th, 10:00am-4:00pm - Craft Fair at the Brunswick forest Fitness & Wellness Center

Nov 19th, 10:00am-5:00pm - Lowes Grocery Store at the Villages in Brunswick Forest

Dec 3rd, 10:00am-5:00pm - Piggly Wiggly at 112 Village Road in Leland

Leland Christmas Parade scheduled for December 10th: Our decision to participate in the parade and/or Festival is dependent upon someone stepping up to lead the effort for our participation, adequate member interest in marching in the parade, and adequate member interest in manning a booth. Let the Commander know ASAP if you are willing to step up in any capacity, OTHERWISE we default to NOT participate.

50/50: Pot \$71, Steve Baker donated his share (\$35) to the Post

November 2016 Post 68 American Legion

There was no Post meeting in November.

Spaghetti Dinner:

Post members and guests met at Macgrooders for the annual spaghetti dinner fund raiser. This event brought in slightly over \$900.00. (The lower count was an accounting error which was picked up in a ticket recount.)

Other activities in November included the annual Veterans Breakfast <content?>

December 2016 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary:

Christmas Parade Event:

December involved Post 68 participating in the annual Town of Leland Christmas parade. Commander Jim Zelenski thanked all Post members who came out to participate on a great but chilly day. Our own WWII veterans – Bill Carshaw was one of the parade’s grand marshals. Bill Fleckenstein had planned on attending as another Grand Marshal but was unable to attend. (See December 2016 Newsletter for pictures).

American Legion Junior Shooting Team:

Rick de Moya has indicated that as of December 1st, 2016, Post 68 is now the proud sponsor of the NBHS JROTC Shooting Program. The timing of this announcement was perfect as two weeks later, the team won the regional Brigade Best of the Best competition. The region included teams from NC, SC, MD, DC, VA and West VA. The team will send five members to compete in the National Championships in February. Our Post will fund their registration fee of \$62.50 for the team. As a thank you and job well

done, we have asked Col. Baker to bring the team to our January meeting to meet the members of the Post and present them with Post hats which they can wear during competitions.

Post Flags:

Our parade flags have been delivered. The formal indoor Post flag has been ordered and is expected for our January 2017 meeting. Col. Baker (NBHSJROTC) has volunteered his Senior NCO to reacquaint our own color guard members with the finer points of parade command, manual of arms, etc. Additional color guard volunteers are still needed.

Dues / membership:

2017 dues are due. We are currently in 2nd place in the State for dues paid and members recruited. Current membership count is at 105.

January 2017 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

TAPS:

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of fellow legionnaire William “Bill” Fleckenstein, WWII Veteran and the father-in-law of George Patterson. A memorial service will be held in Upstate New York at a later date.

In Memoriam – Bill Fleckenstein

- * Born – March 27, 1921, in West Valley, NY
- * Died – January 26, 2017, in Leland, NC
- * Post 68 Member for the last three years
- * Served in WWII as 1st Lieutenant, Army Air Corp
- * Retired Post Master of West Valley, NY
- * Son-in-law is Post 68 member George Patterson
- * A Celebration of Bill's life will be held at a later date in West Valley, New York

Guest Speaker:

Carol Young from the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office spoke to Post members about “Protecting Against Consumer Scams”. Presentation warmly received by all. Handouts available. She was introduced by the Commander: Ms. Young is an Outreach Specialist responsible for Victims and Citizens Services, North Carolina Attorney General’s Office. She has worked for various agencies of the State of North Carolina for 32-plus years. Highlights of her state service include serving as Governor Perdue’s scheduler and serving as citizen services coordinator for the Office of the Governor and the

Attorney General's Office. From 2003-2007 and beginning again in 2013, Ms. Young's primary work focus has been on consumer protection awareness of scams and frauds through outreach opportunities with business, civic and community groups.

Current Business:

- Note: No minutes from December meeting to approve....
- Membership Report (as of 18 January 2017) – Eric Mens, Adjutant - Discrepancy still between what our Post financial and membership records show versus what State and National records show concerning active paid members due to at least a 3-week time lag. National roster shows 100 active (2016 & 2017) members - Includes 3 members who resigned or moved in 2016 Our records show 100 active (2016 & 2017) members - Includes 3 members who are not on the National Roster (one paid up for 2017, two paid up only through 2016) 17 of our members have not yet paid 2017 dues.

JROTC Award:

This month's meeting included a special recognition of the North Brunswick High School JROTC shooting team who recently won the Southeast Region Championship and is now being sponsored by members of Post 68 American Legion. Rick de Moya introduced the team with trainer First Sargent George Williams. Jim Zelenski, Post 68 Commander presented Post hats to all team members to be worn at the National match. (See photos in Appendix 1.1)

Old Business:

- Flag Fund is at "0" and all flags have been delivered
- Still need volunteers for Vice Commander and Membership, Flag Retirement and Events Committees

New Business:

- Color Guard Current Volunteers: Lane Adrian, Don Joseph, John Marone, Eric Mens, Alan Simmons. Need another 1-3 volunteers (sign-up sheet). Uniforms need to be determined – fatigues and boots or Navy Blue Trousers, White Collared Shirt, and Black Dress Shoes. Costs not yet determined. JROTC First Sergeant George Williams will train the Color Guard
- Spousal Support Group: January 2017 Meeting was cancelled. To date, the Spousal Support Group has raised and donated over \$900 to the Post General Fund
- Status of Boys State and Girls State leadership programs: Boys State - Rick de Moya is the Post Lead § Still waiting for complete 2017 information packet § Rick de Moya and Bill Kous will review applications and interview candidates § May 1st deadline for nominations § Last year cost \$350 - Post may offer to pay partial or full cost dependent upon student's financial need § Officers voted to send two students – one from JROTC and one from the general school population o Girls State - Current American Legion Bylaws do not allow Posts to send a girl to Girls State if the Post does not have an Auxiliary. § The American Legion Bylaws do not reflect

current mores. § Mary Skov has volunteered to prepare a proposal to amend the National Bylaws to permit girls to be nominated to and attend Girls State

- 2017 JROTC Recognition Awards: ROTC Officer and NCO of the Year § Nominations due 2 weeks prior to Mid-Winter Conference (February 1, 2017). JROTC Cadet of the Year § One nominee per school § Nominations due 4 weeks prior to the Fall Conference (September 19, 2017)
- Brunswick County Veterans Coalition Organizational Meeting, January 24, 2017, Post 543 hosting. Organizational Meeting – Veterans Coalition, Jan 24, 2017, St. James Community Center, 10 AM. To leverage resources, reduce duplication of services to vets. J. Zelenski, E. Mens, L. Adrian attending
- Mid-Year Conference, 16-18 February 2017, Raleigh, NC
- Planning for Flag Day, June 14, 2017, Unserviceable Flag Collection Day - April 2017? Possible Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day?

Post 68 Flag Dedication:

- Our new Post flag was dedicated at this meeting. Post Commander Jim Zelenski expressed his appreciation to Bill Carshaw for the flag. Romie Holmes photographed Bill with the flag and Post officers. (See photos in Appendix 1.1)

February 2017 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Guest Speaker:

This month's meeting had a special guest: Mr. Brian Slattery, reporter for the Brunswick Beacon newspaper. Mr. Slattery will be writing articles about service organizations in its Brunswick County circulation area (primarily the Route 17 corridor). Post 68 Officers to be interviewed: Jim Zelenski, Commander, Alan Simmons, Vice Commander. Eric Mens, Adjutant. Lane Adrian, Public Affairs Officer. Discussion to include the Post's 2014 reinstatement, member growth, strength and makeup, our past and planned efforts in serving veterans and our North Brunswick community.

Membership report: National shows 107. Post records show 106

Commander's Note:

Commander Jim Zelenski reminded Post members of the protocol for reporting illnesses and deaths of Post members/spouses. Members should notify the Post Chaplin – Brian Danielson who then notifies Post officers. Chaplain will then work with families on Post 68 involvement if requested.

Old Business:

- Officer and Committee Position Vacancies – Commander reiterating that we need members to volunteer for the Membership, Events, and Flag Retirement Committees.
- Update on new Leland Senior Resource Center – Commander: Town will demolish old Town Hall. New Memorial park on old Town Hall site. Post 68 will provide U.S. and POW flags for site. John Marone is Post 68 liaison with the Center.
- Boys and Girls State Update – Rick De Moya: Working on Boys State 2017 application (May 1 deadline). Rick de Moya, Bill Kous, and Pete Erbe will review applications and interview candidates. May 1st deadline for nominations. Last year cost \$350 - Post may offer to pay partial or full cost dependent upon student's financial need. Officers voted to send two students – one from JROTC and one from the general school population. Confirmed that there is NO PROHIBITION on nominating a candidate for Girls State. Will need additional \$350 to fund.
- JROTC NCO of the Year Award Nomination – Rick De Moya: For JROTC, we will continue to sponsor the rifle team. We will pay their registration fees at meets. We should find out soon if they are going to the National competition.
 - o JROTC NCO of the Year - Nomination submitted February 3, 2017. 1SGT George Williams (Ret), JROTC NBHS
 - o JROTC Cadet of the Year - One nominee per school. Nominations due 4 weeks prior to the Fall Conference (September 19, 2017)
- Veteran to Veteran Program (V2V) Reminder – Commander: V2V at Brunswick Community College there is not a lot going on. Very few veterans came down. UNC-Wilmington (UNCW) has 2,000 veterans. The Legion is trying to get something off the ground at UNCW. The University is favorable to this. Lane Adrian is the Post 68 Principal Contact. Let him know: If you need information on the Program, If you want to get involved, or If you need help in getting your volunteer application submitted, and when you want to sign up for office manning sessions.

New Business:

- New Meeting Date and Coffee Service: Meeting moved to Third Thursday Each Month to better accommodate our Post's needs and Macgrooders' ability to meet those needs.
- Feedback on Brunswick County Veterans Coalition: January 24, 2017 at St. James Community Center. Ten Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) attended. Post 68 - Jim Zelenski, Eric Mens, Lane Adrian. Lane Adrian will represent Post 68 going forward. Goal: Leverage VSO resources, govern competition for limited community financial resources, help prevent duplication of services to veterans. Coalition will meet bi-monthly. Gary Crowder, Commander, Post 543 will be first Chair. No formal organizational structure at this time
- Veterans Benefit Action Center, March 30 and 31, and April 1, 2017 (volunteers needed to staff event). Only program of its kind in the country. Vets get "on hands" assistance with filing or appealing VA claims and health benefits. Sponsors: Rep. Dave Rouzer and VA. Staffed by VA professionals from DC and NC, VSO and Healthcare representatives. Previous VBACs in NC have been very successful in getting legitimate disability claims submitted, adjudicated, and some payments made onsite. March 30 & 31 – 9 AM to 5 PM o March 30. (times based upon last 2 of

- SSN) WHERE: Legion Post 10 Wilmington. BRING: DD 214 and all disability/medical documentation. POST 68 MEMBERS NEEDED to direct vets to appropriate assistance tables
- Fundraiser discussion: 2017 Wilmington Downtown Sundown Concert Series * Potential Post fundraiser * Each Friday from May 26 – Sep 1 (rain or shine) * Charities compete for slots to sell alcohol purchase wristbands * Charity receives half of wristband sale proceeds (up to \$1,000) * Permitted to collect donations * Cast your vote for American Legion Post 68 AT: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017DowntownSundownCharityProgram>
 - Upcoming Events – Post 68 members needed to help out (contact the POC)
 - o Flag Collection Day, April 22 (POC - Bobby Hunt or Dan Fortini): Brunswick Forest Commons, possible Sponsors(s), flag sales, and fundraiser barbecue.
 - o May 2017 Poppy Drive (Lowes Food, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion (Mt Misery Rd).
 - o Memorial Day Weekend Graveside Flag Placement will be on Saturday, May 27, 2017 (POC – Alan Simmons) - Additional Flags ordered (estimated cost at \$400.)
 - o Flag Day is June 14, 2017. Possible Flag Retirement Ceremony, June 10 (POC - Bobby Hunt).
 - o Bill Carshaw suggested that the Post look into how to get Vietnam Vets to Washington, DC to see the memorials like they’ve done for WWII and Korean vets.
 - Display Your Pride: Post 68 baseball caps are available. One free to new members; additional caps will be available for \$15.00 each. All branches of the Armed Forces are available. Post 68 polo shirts are also available to order. Cost is \$28.00 each; \$2.00 extra for sizes 2XL and up. Cost must be paid at time order is placed (Note: \$5.00 from each sale benefits the Post 68 general fund). * Post 68 jackets will be available in the near future for \$45 each. * Contact John Marone Post 68 Supply/Logistics Officer
 - Odds and Ends: Post 68 baseball caps are not part of the official uniform of the American Legion. Only the service caps, available through the Legion Flag & Emblem Sales, are the official uniform and should be worn at all official functions, including Post meetings. Kathy McDonough will keep track of all members who have received a Post 68 baseball cap.

March 2017 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Current Business:

- Protocol: K.C. White, Sergeant at Arms, went over the proper procedures for standing, saluting, and addressing the Commander and the membership body on matters before the membership.
- Concerns and Sick Call – Chaplain needs to contact John Carter to learn his status.
- March 2017 Membership Report: We have 97 paid-up members. However, Don Joseph (our Post Historian) resigned tonight due to personal health reasons.

- Approved 2016/2017 Budget. There was a discussion on the JROTC scholarship but no decisions were made. The discussion revolved mostly on how candidates are selected and what are the criteria for selection. We have also ordered new business cards.
- Post Position Vacancies: Membership committee. Bobby Hunt is heading up the committee for flag retirements. Three members have volunteered; need a few more to help. Color guard still needs members; Vice Commander reviewed the uniform for the color guard.

Old Business:

- Lane Adrian gave a report on the upcoming Veterans Action Benefit Center (VBAC). We expect to serve 1,000 - 2,000 veterans. The Veterans Administration is sending people down as well as from Winston-Salem.
- We are competing with other charities to sell wrist bands at the Wilmington Downtown Summer Concert Series. Information is on our web site.

New Business:

- Veteran in Need: Dale Todd, our new Service Officer, gave a report on a Navy veteran who needs help (Anita Hartsell from the County Veterans Services Office reached out to us). After reviewing his financial situation and discussions with the veteran, the Post agreed to pay one of his co-pays that he owes to the VA. For short term relief, we also agreed to provide him with a gift card that could be used to purchase food. Both Dale and our Chaplain will meet with the veteran at his home. Greg Miller suggested that we see if he needs help with finances and planning and to see if the senior center can help in some way. John Cook also said that his church also might be able to help. (Eric Mens, a Post member and recently appointed Director on the Board of Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA), asked BFA to interview the veteran to determine eligibility for longer term potential assistance with rent, utility payments, food needs, and budgeting/financial planning. That process is currently ongoing).
- Flag Retirement - Bobby Hunt's report on flag burning ceremony: We will be collecting unserviceable flags April 22nd at the Brunswick Forest Commons.. We expect to also sell some burgers or hot dogs. Near the end of June, we will plan to have the flag burning ceremony. Boy Scouts may assist in the ceremony.

Upcoming Events:

- Post 68 members needed to volunteer to assist (contact the POC):
 - o Flag Collection Day, Sat. April 22nd, BF Commons - POC Bobby Hunt or Dan Fortini
 - o Poppy Drive Fundraiser, Sat. May 20th, Lowes Food, Piggly Wiggly, Food Lion
 - o Graveside Flag Placement, Sat. May 27th, meet at First Baptist Church, Leland - POC Alan Simmons

- Flag Retirement Ceremony, Sat. June 10th, The Village at Brunswick Forest - POC Bobby Hunt
- Fish Fry Fundraiser, Sat. July 29th, Leland Town Park – POC John Cook.

50/50 – Post was won by George Patterson

April 2017 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Guest speakers:

Our Guest Speaker this month was Stephanie Bowen, Executive Director, Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) spoke to us about the BFA mission, how it is funded, how BFA can assist veterans in need, and how we can assist BFA, etc.

Special Guest - Tom Cerniglia, District 9 Commander, complimented Post 68 on attaining over 100% of its membership goal and presented the Post with a certificate and flag streamer noting the achievement.

Current Business:

- Protocol: K.C. White, Sergeant at Arms, reminded the members about proper procedures for standing, saluting, and addressing the Commander and the membership body on matters before the membership.
- April 2017 Membership Report: We have 96 paid-up members. Sent 3 “Project Stay Active” letters in March.
- Treasurer’s Report for March 2017 – Accepted General Fund Balance \$ 842.43 Poppy Fund Balance 816.79 Total Checking Account Balance \$1,659.22 Previous Period Ending Balance Reported \$3,718.49 March Month-End Decrease - \$2,059.27 The current balance reflects recent payments of \$1,400 for Boys State, \$175 to secure the town facility for the Fish Fry, \$246.56 to help pay for a veteran’s outstanding VA co-pay debt, and a Food Lion \$150 Gift Card for the same the veteran to purchase food and sundry items (alcohol and tobacco products are excluded from purchase). Upcoming expenditures are expected to total \$725 which includes \$500 for a JROTC scholarship and \$225 for awards and medals to JROTC NBHS students and one Middle School student. That would leave the Post with a near future total balance of \$934.22 (\$117.43 in the General Fund and \$816.79 in the Poppy Fund). **BOTTOM LINE:** We need a dedicated Fundraising Committee Chair so that our Financial Officer, Greg Miller, can devote his time to financial and other Post responsibilities. We also need committee members who will

actively work with the Chair to organize and schedule potential fundraising events. Please consider volunteering!

Old Business:

- Boys State: Checks for selected students to attend Boys (or Girls) State MUST be issued by Post 68. We wrote a check for \$1,400 for four students (two were funded by Post 68, one funded by an “anonymous” donor, and the fourth funded by his family). At its April 12th meeting, the Officers unanimously agreed to establish a Line Item in the 2017-2018 Budget that reflects Post 68 commitment to annually FULLY fund two students (REGARDLESS of financial capability) to attend either Boys State or Girls State in the future.
- Veterans Benefits Action Center: (Dale Todd/Lane Adrian) - Held over three days – March 30 and 31, April 1st . North Carolina is the only state that holds these events. 766 veterans from six states were served. Cadre of VA health and claims professionals and representatives from State and County veteran’s services organizations. Over 300 claims filed and \$895,592 in retroactive benefits paid. Other VBACs will be held at locations throughout the year in NC. Wilmington event will be held again in 2018. Many thanks to the Post 68 volunteers who participated!
- Brunswick County Veterans Coalition (BCVC) and Veterans to Veterans (V2V) Report: Lane Adrian V2V - Post 543 provides one member to man the V2V office at Brunswick Community College one day a week. Need has not been as much as initially anticipated. BCVC – Discussions included the “Honor Flights” to Washington, DC and the “Veterans Planning Guide.” The guide is issued by the Dignity Memorial network, a national network of funeral, cremation and cemetery services providers and is a resource for veterans and their families.

New Business:

- Post Elections - Must be held at May meeting. Lou Tranzillo will lead the Elections Committee. Current Officers have agreed to serve another 1- year term. John Marone is relinquishing his position on the Executive Committee member to retain his position as Post Supply Officer. Nominations for other members to serve in Post positions should be made known to Lou
- The Spousal Support Group has offered to conduct a Flower Bulb Fundraiser to benefit the Post date TBD. Fish Fry and the Summer Concert Wristband Sales are expected to be significant Post fundraising events. Given the current state of Post finances, the Officers agreed to allow the Support Group to move forward with planning a Flower Bulb Fundraiser. Other ideas proposed included a Bingo Night (possible venue of the Leland Room at the Brunswick Forest Fitness Center or the Leland Cultural Arts Center). We could award prizes but not cash prizes. Given the amount of planning that would need to go into such an event and to obtain prizes, identify potential donors, etc., the idea was tabled.
- Veterans Day, Nov 11th: Officers have agreed to participate in the Leland Veterans Day Breakfast, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Our Commander will make contact to

arrange for us to man a recruitment table and ask that Post 68 be recognized as the only VSO serving veterans in this part of Brunswick County. In addition, the Officers will continue planning to host a "members and families" breakfast and a potential location on the Sunday of Veterans Day weekend. Tara Hurst, an organizer of the Wilmington Veteran's Day Parade, has asked if our Post would participate in the parade. The NBHS JROTC has agreed to march in the parade. Dale Todd, our Service Officer, will invite Ms. Hurst to speak to the membership at the May meeting about our potential participation.

- Post Protocol - Keep each other "in the loop" on communications with external entities and/or personnel that involve Post business or participation in events. "Situational Awareness" - Better to include all Officers in the chain of communications rather than leave someone off who may have additional knowledge or knowledge unknown to the others. For record-keeping purposes and especially, in the absence of a Post Historian, forward copies of external correspondence to the Adjutant.
- Post Building Fund - Officers agreed to: ESTABLISH a long-term (e.g., 10-year) goal to facilitate purchase of a permanent home for Post 68. ESTABLISH a separate savings account or other vehicle (e.g., Certificate of Deposit) for donations and certain fundraising proceeds to go towards funding the project. Considerations include: developing a long-range plan to achieve the goal, membership growth in future years, funding needed to purchase AND maintain a facility, financial assistance or other help that may be available (e.g., County, Town or donors), other tools may help raise funds (e.g., grants, "Go Fund Me" campaign, etc.), and other undefined issues. Adjutant and Commander will draft a "Memorandum of Intent" to memorialize the decision and present it to the membership for adoption in the near future.
- Adjutant is developing policies and procedures to help govern internal Post operations such as financial controls (e.g., cash accountability, member reimbursement, vendor payment, etc.), protocol in the event of the death of a member, etc. Currently in first draft form and will be presented to the Officers in final draft form for approval by late summer. Will be presented to the membership for final adoption. Intended to be a "living document" that serves as a modifiable guide to Post operations.

50/50 - \$106 total pot: \$53 to the General Fund (John D'abrosca won \$53 but donated \$30 donated back to the Post to pay for coffee)

POST 68 FLAG DAY EVENT – 22 April 2017 Brunswick Forest:

Unserviceable Flag and BBQ Fund Raiser:

Post 68 members hosted a Flag Day event at the Commons Area in Brunswick Forest where they collected old or damaged flags for proper disposal. Many Officers, Members and Ladies Axillary members were present in support of this highly visible and highly successful event.

In addition to flag collection, Post members sold gilled hot dogs, chips and drinks – all donated by local stores. Military hats were offered for sale along with art work by the Ladies.

In all, over 185 flags were collected which will be properly and respectfully disposed of at a ceremony later this year. In addition, the Post received \$1200 in donations. After the event, the Post will be allowed to place a flag collection box in the Brunswick Forest Fitness Center for year-round collections. (See photos in Appendix 1.1)

North Brunswick High School JROTC Change of Command and Awards Ceremony:

Members in attendance: Alan Simmons, K.C. White, Lou Tranzillo, Pete Erbe

(See photos in Appendix 1.1)

May 2017 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Special Thanks:

Members of Post 68 presented a Certificate of Appreciation and Thank you letter to Jim Wideman, Manager and Chip Spoons -assistant manager of Harris Teeter in Leland for their support of our unserviceable flag collection day and fund raiser. Harris Teeter provided all the food for our BBQ making this a very profitable event.

Memorial Day Flag Placement Event:

Thanks to all the Post members and their families who gave their time to place flags at Veterans graves in the following cemeteries: First Baptist of Leland, Zion United Methodist, Goshen Baptist and the King Family Memorial Cemetery. 132 flags were installed and thanks to Chaplain Danielson for his prayer of remembrance

Post 68 – Poppy Fund Drive 20 May 2017:

Officers, members and the Spousal and Friends Support Group were on hand to support donation booths at the annual Poppy Fund Drive this year. Post members were present at 4 locations across Leland. Legion members setup booths and tents at Lowes Food & Port City Java in Brunswick Forest along with Piggly Wiggly and Food Lion stores in Leland. The Legion took in \$1,200 from donations. There were Military Service Hats offered for sale. Public exposure at this event also resulted in 4 new members signing up as well.

Up Coming Events:

4th of July parade at Magnolia Greens. The parade will be of a short duration and a short march. If you plan to participate, the uniform of the day will be the official Post hat or baseball cap, Post golf shirt and khaki pants. We will need as many as six flag/banner bearers, not the official color guard. See Alan Simmons at next meeting to participate. Refreshments provided.

June 2017 Post 68 American Legion

Meeting Summary: (see minutes in Appendix for details)

Announcement:

During the month, the Post learned of the upcoming closing of Charlie Macgrooders where our meetings are currently held. Post Commander Jim Zelenski appointed the Executive Committee to explore new meeting locations.

- ➔ Executive committee was able to secure a new meeting location at Blossoms Restaurant meeting room at Magnolia Greens golf course. Meeting will start earlier at 6pm. Members are encouraged to support Blossoms by having dinner prior to the meeting and staying for a beverage afterwards.

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Patrick Kelley, Director of Dignity Memorial, Wilmington spoke to those in attendance concerning veterans' burial benefits. Mr. Kelley, an Army veteran (First Cavalry Division), also discussed the "Veterans Planning Guide," an informative 48-page guide that addresses burial benefits available to veterans, military funeral honors, etc. Members can obtain a copy of the Guide by calling 1-866-508-5834 or visiting: <http://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-us/veterans/planning-guide.page>

General Discussion:

Membership Committee Report: Kathy McDonough: Three new members joined the Post at the meeting. Post 68 now has a total of 107 members on the local "Active" roster.

Recognition of New Members: Judi and Michael Buongiorno (AF), Richard Fry (N), and Ivan Maine (N).
With Guests: John Jawibzik

Chaplain's Report: Brian Danielson, Chaplain, reported three sick calls - Jim Zelenski (knee surgery), Greg Miller (eye surgery), and Margo Chestnut (recent hospitalization). Brian reminded members to let the Post officers know if they are aware of anyone becoming hospitalized and that the Post is available to provide any necessary support to the member e-mailed to members.

Twenty-five members attended the meeting and we had two new members join at the meeting. Minutes were approved by Acclamation.

Financial Report: Greg Miller, Finance Officer/Treasurer: As of May 28, 2017, General Fund Ending Balance - \$2,039.87. Poppy Fund: \$1,084.72. Grand total in checking account: \$4,124.59, a net increase for the month of \$1,215.72. The Treasurer's Report was approved by Acclamation.

Briefing of the 2017-2018 Budget will be in July. Results of the Annual Financial Review to be conducted by the Executive Committee will be briefed to the membership upon completion of the review and consideration by the Officers.

Special Presentation to Post 68: Legionnaire Gordon Armiger, representing the Waterford Community, presented a check in the amount of \$350 to Post 68 to be used solely to benefit needy veterans in the Post 68 membership area. The funds will be deposited in the Poppy Fund which is strictly reserved for that purpose.

Old Business:

Alan Simmons, Vice Commander, and Eric Mens, Adjutant, briefed the items below. Due to the meeting running late, discussion was strictly limited:

- Officer and Committee Position Vacancies
 - Executive Committee – The remaining vacancy for the Executive Committee was filled at the meeting by Bill Smith. The Committee is led by Lou Tranzillo with Jim Thompson and Bill Smith serving as members. The Committee has been tasked with: finding a suitable replacement meeting facility, working with the Financial Officer to finalize the 2017-2018 Budget, and conducting the required Annual Financial Review.
 - The Fundraising Committee still needs a Chairperson and members to help raise funds that can be used to benefit needy veterans and to get the Post Building Fund off the ground. Contact Jim Zelenski, Commander (301) 535-1120 or Alan Simmons (910) 399-7057.
- Graveside Flag Placement, Sat. May 27th, 9 AM – Legionnaires and family members placed 136 flags at four local cemeteries.
- Fish Fry & White Elephant Sale, Sat. July 29th, 9 AM - 2 PM, Leland Town Park, 102 Town Hall Dr., Leland. KC White is keeping track of ticket numbers issued to members. Greg Miller will collect money from ticket sales. The Spousal Support Group will be holding a White Elephant and Baked Goods sale.
- Participation in Wilmington Downtown Concert Series (fundraiser), Friday, August 18th from 6 - 10 PM. We currently have more than the required minimum eight people to work the event (including members' spouses).

- Delegates to Department Convention in June (Dale Todd, John Marone, Lane Adrian) – Dale Todd briefly recapped the convention. Post 68 received a plaque for achievement in membership gains for 2016 – 2017. However, due to meeting time constraints, detailed discussions were deferred to the next meeting, if needed.

New Business:

- The following members were nominated for National Commander Recruitment Awards: Greg Miller and KC White (2017 Incentive Pin) and John Cook and Rick de Moya (2017 Incentive Certificate).

- Magnolia Greens Fourth of July Parade

- Ø Organizers: Community Social Committee

- Ø Meet: Cornerstone Drive & Grandiflora Drive

- Ø When: 11:00 AM setup, kickoff at 11:30 AM

- Ø Route: Cornerstone to Magnolia Greens Clubhouse – 0.9 mile

- Ø Member Participants: Currently 10-12

- Ø Uniform: Khaki shorts, Post shirt or blue golf shirt, Post 68 cap or AL service hat

- Ø At least one vehicle representing Post 68

- Ø Need Flag bearers

- Ø Spouses invited to participate

- Ø Join community for refreshments and hot dogs at the Clubhouse following the parade

- Ø Magnolia Greens will donate \$100 to Post 68

- Ø Barbecue following at Alan Simmons

- Ø Park at the Clubhouse. There will be a shuttle to Cornerstone and Grandiflora.

- Ø Need participant headcount for organizer

- Post 68 Baseball Night with the Wilmington Sharks, Legion Park, July 22nd – **Art Dietrich**

- Ø Join the Post for a fun night at the ballgame

- Ø Spouses are welcome

- Ø Game starts at 7:05

- Ø Post 68 Baseball Night with the Wilmington Sharks

- Ø Legion Park, 2149 Carolina Beach Rd, Wilmington, NC 28412

- Ø Options - \$7 or \$9 for Reserved Seats

- Ø Let Art know if you want to go so that we have a good headcount (571-276-7856)

- Search for a New Meeting Location (Macgrooders is closing its doors) – **Lou Tranzillo**

- Ø This is our last meeting at Macgrooders as Macgrooders is closing its doors at the end of June

- Ø The Executive Committee, led by Lou Tranzillo, is tasked with finding a new meeting location

- Ø Will report to the Officers on findings and make a recommendation as soon as possible

- Ø Possible locations include Blossoms Restaurant in Magnolia Greens, Brunswick Senior Center, etc.

- Ø If anyone has information they would like to share concerning meeting locations, contact Lou at (910) 383-9746

Future Business – Vice Commander:

- Presentation of 2017 – 2018 Budget
- Annual Financial Review

Upcoming Events – Adjutant:

- Wilmington Sundown Concert Series, Wristband Sales, August 18th, 6 – 10 PM
- Leland Founders Day, September 9th, 3 – 9 PM, Leland Municipal Park, 102 Town Hall Drive, Leland
- Potential October BBQ Fundraiser - TBD
- October Trunk or Treat, Leland Municipal Park, 102 Town Hall Drive, Leland
- Unity Group Christmas Parade and Festival, Leland, December 9th

50/50 – \$108 Total Pot -- Congratulations to Joe D’Amato

APPENDICIES:

APPENDIX 1 - Photographs

APPENDIX 2 – Internet web site, social and public media

APPENDIX 3 - Budget

APPENDIX 4 – Misc items

APPENDIX 5 - Newsletters

APPENDIX 6 - Minutes

APPENDIX 1 - PHOTOGRAPHS

December 2016:

Annual Town of Leland Christmas Parade:



Pic 1 Bill Carshaw with WW2 Recognition award at Christmas Parade



Pic 2 Post 68 member Bill Carshaw as one of the Parade's Grand Marshalls



Pic 3 Post 68 members who participated in the Annual Town of Leland Christmas Parade 2016

DECEMBER 2016 Continued:

JROTC Shooting Team:



Pic 4 Members of NBHS JROTC Shooting Program

JANUARY 2017:



Pic 5 Thanks to the efforts of Bill Carshaw and Post members we now have our new Post Colo

Pictured L to R: Commander Jim Zelenski, Bill Carshaw Post Life member, 1st Vice Commander Alan Simmons and Lane Adrian Public Relations Chair. Photo by Romie Holmes

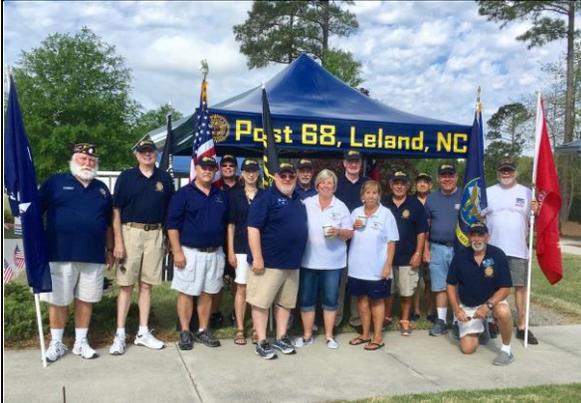


Pic 6 American Legion Junior Shooting Program Team Award:

Front row: Jennifer Buenrostro, Ashley Buenrostro (cousins). Back row: Commander Jim Zelenski, Col. (R) Steve Baker NBJROTC Senior Instructor, Katherine Kelley, Kevin Willets, Justin Asbury, 1st. Sgt (R) George Williams NBJROTC NCO
Instructor, Rick deMoya Post 68 NBJROTC liaisonril 2017:

APRIL 2017

Event: Post 68 Flag Day Turn-in event



Pic 7 Post 68 members at American Flag collection event - Brunswick Forest Commons area



Pic 8 Post 68 Serviceable Flag Day turn in event at the Brunswick Forest Commons



Pic 9 Post 68 Serviceable Flag Day turn in event at the Brunswick Forest Commons



Pic 10 Post 68 member Alan Adrian at Flag turn in event



Pic 11 Spousal Support Group member with the "Donation Dog"

Flag turnin day continued...

APRIL 2017 Continued: **EVENT: JROTC Change of Command Ceremony:**



Pic 12 Post 1st Vice Commander Alan Simmons with Our Shining Star: JROTC MAJ Rebecca Lindsey Rebecca has been accepted to Louisiana State University and will be pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in History along with joining the Navy



Pic 13 Our Military Excellence Medal Recipient: JROTC/MAJ Thomas Wallace with 1st Vice Commander Alan Simmons who has received a full, four-year college scholarship to NC State.



Pic 14 Scholastic Excellence Medal Recipient C/LTC Zachary Potter received a four-year ROTC Scholarship to Campbell University to pursue a degree in Christian Studies followed by military service in the Army Chaplains Corp. (L-R) KC White, Zachary Potter, Alan

MAY 2017

Memorial Day Flag Placement Event: (Photos by KC White)

The Post visited 4 different cemeteries in the Leland Town area. Below are photos of the flag placement team at each location:



Pic 15 Trinity Memorial Cemetery, Leland



Pic 16 King Memorial Cemetery, Leland



Pic 17 Zion Memorial Cemetery, Leland



Pic 18 Goshan Memorial Cemetery, Leland



Pic 19 Pictured (L to R) Lou Tranzillo, Alan Simmons, 1st Vice Commander, Jim Widerman, Manager and Jim Zelenski, Post Commander. Not pictured Chip Spoons, Asst. Manager

6/6/17 - Certificate of Appreciation given to Harris Teeter. Post 68 Leland present a certificate and letter of appreciation to Harris Teeter of Leland for their support of the Post's Unserviceable Flag Collection Day and BBQ fund raiser. Harris Teeter provided all the supplies for the BBQ.

May 2017 continued...

Post 68 – Poppy Fund Drive 20 May 2017



Pic 20 xxxx xxxxx manning the Poppy Day drive at Food Lion in Leland



Pic 21 Commander Jim Zelenski w/wife June, Allen Simmons, xxxx xxxx manning the table at Lowes Foods, Brunswick Forest



Pic 23 xxx xxx..... staffing a table at Piggly Wiggly in Leland



Pic 24 Greg Miller w/wife xxxx providing support for Poppy Day at Port City Java in Leland

APPENDIX 2 – Internet, Social & Public Media

Post 68 maintains a public web site presence for members and the general public at:

<http://www.ncpost68.org/index.php>

WELCOME TO
THE AMERICAN LEGION

America's Largest
Veterans Service Organization

myLEGION.ORG
Members-only section

American Legion Post 68, Leland P.O. Box 521, Leland, North Carolina

HOME
COMMUNITY NEWS
SPECIAL EVENTS
VETERANS NEWS ITEMS
POST 68 MEETING MINUTES: NEW & OLD
NEWSLETTER
POST HISTORY
VET 2 VET PROGRAM
EVENTS CALENDAR
POST OFFICERS
COMMITTEES
BOYS STATE
PHOTO GALLERY
CONTACT US
WHY JOIN
MEMBERSHIP INFO
APPLICATION
VETERAN SOLUTIONS
SCHOLARSHIPS
BENEFITS
GOVT WEB SITES
NATL. HODTRS

Welcome!



SPECIAL NOTE: Post 68 now meets at Blossoms Resturant!

Post 68 continues to meet the third *Thursday* of every month at our new location:

Blossoms Restaurant
Magnolia Greens, 1800 Tommy Jacobs Dr,
Leland, North Carolina

Note: Post 68 currently does not have brick and mortar home.

The Post maintains a public Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/American-Legion-Post-68-Leland-NC-511417442350351/>

American Legion Post 68, Leland NC

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Community Organization

Like

Brunswick Forest Fish...
Community

Like

Media outlets:

Post 68 works with local media outlets: Television, Radio and Newspapers to announce meetings and fund raising events to the general public.

Next page is an article from the Brunswick Beacon by Staff Writer Brian Slattery dated 2/23/2017 where the writer interviews the commander of the post, Jim Zelenski.

Photo in article: American legion Post 68 in Leland was founded in 1973 but reorganized in 2014 and has since attracted 108 members. Post 68 recently displayed its new colors during a monthly meeting, which is held the third Thursday of each month at Charlie Macgrooders.

American Legion Post 68

By Brian Slattery Staff Writer (Brunswick Beacon 23 February 2017)



Leland's American Legion Post 68 is one of the fastest-growing American Legions in North Carolina, which is pretty good for a post that reorganized in 2014.

Originally founded in 1973, the revived Post 68 has benefitted from a large number of new Brunswick County residents who were already American Legion members before retiring to North Carolina.

And club members are enthusiastic recruiters. "We actively recruit in the community. When we run into (new) people, we'll ask if they are veterans and tell them to come sit in at a meeting," said First Vice Cmdr. Alan Simmons, who was the first commander when the American Legion post reorganized.

"We also get veterans' information and send personalized letters asking if they are interested in transferring in," Cmdr. Jim Zelenski added.

American Legion Post 68 has 108 members, with the majority being Vietnam veterans who have retired to the area, a couple of Korean War veterans and a World War II veteran.

The Post also includes four women veterans, including membership committee chairwoman Kathy McDonough.

"We also have some Desert Storm / Gulf War veterans and try to find other Gulf vets to join, but a lot have not retired yet," Zelenski said. Members encourage veterans with an interest in learning about Post 68 to attend a meeting, which is held at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Charlie Macgrooders, 117 Village Road NE in Leland.

"Come as a guest. There's no pressure, no commitment. We invite veterans to meet others, have a cup of coffee and experience a meeting," Zelenski said.

"(Meetings) are open to all veterans and spouses," Simmons said.

"We try to provide information for veterans' needs."

"With new people, we want to let them know here's what's happening in Brunswick County." Zelenski said, adding that while it doesn't have an auxiliary, spouses and partners are also active with the Post. Post meetings include presentations on information veterans can use from Brunswick County Veterans Services director Anita Hartsell and speakers from the Wilmington Veterans Administration clinic. "We try to get information that will help with day-to-day life and

present wh to veter- ans through the VA or other agencies," Simmons said.

Since reorganizing, the Post has become active in the community by participating at Leland's Founder's Day, Trunk or Treat and the North Carolina Christmas Parade.

It also supports the Dixie Youth little league and North Brunswick High School IROTC shooting team and provides a scholarship for a IROTC student and Americanism Award at Leland Middle School as well as providing gift cards to veterans and their families in need at Christmas.

The Post plans to assist American Legion Post 10 in Wilmington with the Veteran Benefits Action Center, providing veterans and their families with on-site assistance processing Veterans Administration claims March 30 through April 1. It will also host a U.S. flag collection day April 22 to collect and properly destroy worn and unserviceable flags. A poppy drive on Armed Forces Day, May 20, will be followed by cemetery flag placement in Leland area cemeteries May 27 in tribute to those who served in the armed forces. And the Post will also provide goods to homeless veterans as

Day, Oct. 7. Post members also participate with St. James American Legion Post 543 in the Vet2Vet program, meeting with young veterans who have returned to school at Brunswick Community College. In the works is creation of an American Legion Post 68 color guard to participate in parades, ceremonies and other community events. Events, activities; sign-up information and sections on community and special events are available on Post 68's website, ncpost68.org, and on the American Legion Post 68, Leland NC Facebook page.

Brian Slattery is a staff writer for the Beacon.

Reach him at 754-6890 or bslattery@brunswickbeacon.com.

Meeting times

American Legion Post 68 meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Charlie, Macgrooders, 117 Village Road NE in Leland.

Contact

Email membership committee chairwoman Kathy McDonough at Katconnaughton@hotmail.com

Website

ncpost68.org 44 | Page

APPENDIX 3 – 2016/2017 Budget

APPENDIX 4 – Misc. Items

Post 68 Past Commander Alan Simmons publishes a monthly newsletter which is emailed to all members

Post 68 has a monthly officers meeting hosted by the Commander

APPENDIX 5 – POST NEWS LETTERS

APPENDIX 6 – POST MEETING MINUTES

INDEX:

Alan Simmons, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 21,
22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 35, 40, 47
American Legion Medal, 9
Anita Hartsell, 10, 12, 22
Art Dietrich, 7
Bill Carshaw, 10, 13, 16, 19, 21, 35
Bill Fleckenstein, 16, 17
Bill Kous, 15, 18, 20
Bill Smith, 7, 28
Bobby Hunt, 8, 15, 21, 22, 23
Boys and Girls State, 15, 20
Brian Danielson, 7, 19, 27
Brian Slattery, 19, 44
Brunswick Beacon, 19, 44
Brunswick Country Veterans Services, 12
Brunswick County Veterans Coalition, 19, 20, 24
Brunswick County Veterans Service, 10
Brunswick Family Assistance, 22, 23
Building Fund, 25, 28
Carol Young, 17
Christmas Parade, 12, 13, 16, 30, 32
Dale Todd, 7, 22, 24, 25, 29
Dan Fortini, 21, 22
Dignity Memorial, 24, 27
Dodge, 1, 7
Don Joseph, 18, 21
Downtown Concert Series, 28
Eric Mens, 7, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 28
Fish Fry, 23, 24, 28
Flag Fund, 9, 10, 12, 18
Food Lion, 21, 22, 23, 26, 41
Fred Roche, 9
George Williams, 18, 20, 35
Good Citizenship Award, 9
Gordon Armiger, 28
Graveside Flag Placement, 21, 22, 28
Greg Miller, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29
Harris Teeter, 26, 40
Jeremie Nelson, 11
Jim Thompson, 7, 28
Jim Widerman, 26, 40
Jim Zelenski, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 20, 27,
28, 35, 40, 44
Joe D'Amato, 30
John Carter, 10, 21
John Cook, 22, 23, 29
John D'abrosca, 25
John Marone, 7, 13, 15, 18, 20, 21, 24, 29
JROTC, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 34,
38
K.C. White, 7, 10, 15, 21, 23, 26
Kathy McDonough, 8, 13, 15, 21, 27
Lane Adrian, 7, 10, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 29, 35
Leland Founders Day, 10, 13, 30
Lou Tranzillo, 7, 15, 24, 26, 28, 29, 40
Lowe's Food, 21, 22, 26
Lowe's Grocery, 12, 15
Macgrooders, 12, 14, 16, 20, 27, 29, 44
Mack Mitchell, 10
Margo Chestnut, 27
Mary Skov, 15, 19
Mike MacDonald, 10
North Carolina Attorney General's Office, 17
Patrick Kelley, 27
Pete Erbe, 15, 20, 26
Piggly Wiggly, 16, 21, 22, 26
Poppy Fund, 23, 26, 28, 41
Port City Java, 26
Rick de Moya, 15, 16, 18, 20, 29
Roger Weigold, 10
Romie Holmes, 19, 35
Spaghetti, 12, 14, 16
Spousal Support, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 24, 28
Stephanie Bowen, 23
Steve Baker, 16, 35
Tara Hurst, 25
Tom Cerniglia, 13, 23
Trunk or Treat, 13, 14, 30

Tyra Hoffman, 9
V2V, 10, 14, 20, 24
VA Health Care Center, 9
Veterans Benefit Action Center, 20
Veterans Day, 11, 14, 24

Veterans Day Breakfast, 11, 14, 24
Veteran-to-Veteran, 10
Vietnam Veterans of America, 10
Waterford, 28