



Post 552

## American Legion Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: \_\_6:00\_\_\_\_pm

### Officers Present:

Commander	Kent Vanhorn	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Mike Hill	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Bill Marsh	
Adjutant	Doug Benzel	
Finance Off.	Mark Seamon	
Chaplain	Bill Bartle	
SergeantatArms	Jim Vanderploeg	Absent

Other members: Dave Schmidt, Bill Heard and Ray Higgins

Guests: Harold Gildehaus (Boys State)

The Commander suspended the regular meeting order of business to address Boys State. Harold Gildehaus was one of the boys we sponsored this year for Boys State. He gave an outstanding power point presentation on his experience at Boys State.

Reading of the Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

### Committee Reports:

Finance: The Commander presented the budget summary and Mark provided explanations. No changes were recommended.

Membership: June 30 marks the end of FY 2023. Our Post achieved 87.12% of its goal. The District average was 79.50%. July 1 marks the beginning of FY 2024. We have brought in 4 new members and 23 renewals.

Baseball: The American Baseball season has ended for us. Status of the Cobras was not available. Harold Gildehaus plays on our Cobra team.

Sick Call: Richard Russell has been sent for rehabilitation and is expected home soon.

Unfinished Business:

**Website:** Construction of the website continues. We recognize the SAL and ALA need a presence on our website. Liz Segre requested we provide a link from the SAL and ALA pages on the VFW website to our website. Currently there is no webmaster to contact for the VFW website. We received our first online membership application. It was pointed out that providing an upload capability for the DD214 with the online application would be helpful.

Doug is obtaining contact information for both a Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop in Pacific Beach. Once obtained he will see if they are willing to be sponsored by our Post.

**Fundraisers:** Bill Marsh reported he is developing a spreadsheet with our organizations and possible fundraiser activities. His first draft spreadsheet is attached ([see PDF](#)). Some of the recommendations are wine tasting, silent auction, magic show, karaoke, talent show, raffle, casino night and yard sale. Each of these ideas must be fleshed out for support and viability. Which of our organizations could work together on an activity would need to be identified and how profits are shared. A key to increasing the fundraising success of future events will be to establish a website method for people to procure tickets in advance, and pay for raffle tickets and other items via credit card using Square or Paypal. It was pointed out by Mike that the VFW is procuring another POS system called Touch. It would require installing WiFi in the hall to provide mobile capability within the building to support these activities.

New Business: The Commander changed our meeting time for August to allow for a Celebration of Life. The new time for our August 17 meeting is **5:00 pm**.

Good of the Order: Mike said there is a retired Army E-7 that is now 97 years old in the area that just signed with the VFW.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_\_7:22 pm\_\_\_