



Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: __5:00____pm

Officers Present: (check if present)

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

Other members: Dave Schmidt and Bill Heard

Guests: None

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

Committee Reports:

Finance: The Commander presented the budget summary and Mark provided comments. The Commander requested the amount per boy in Boys State be amended to \$600 from the \$525.

Membership: The Post FY 2023 membership count is 116 with a goal of 132. This is 87.88%. The District average is 79.69%. The FY 2024 membership stands at 68 with 3 members in process, resulting in 71 members. A question arose regarding the use of the DD 214 in the application process. Doug will obtain answers to this.

Commander's Report: The Commander reviewed important information provided at the District 22 meeting on August 13. The Post 552 goal for FY 2024 has been set at 120. Headquarters is considering a 1- and 3-year membership as well as PUFs. CA AB46 is a state proposal to eliminate taxes on military pensions. Status is unknown. National Headquarters is hosting a revitalization seminar in San Diego in December. Javier Collazo is our new e-board representative. District 22 needs a new webmaster. Doug was asked to see if Liz Segre would be interested. There will no longer be a printed copy of the District newspaper, but it will be posted on the District website.

Sick Call: The Chaplain reported Richard Russell is at home and moving to Chicago. He may require nursing care.

Unfinished Business:

Website: The adjutant reported that Liz continues to make adjustments to our website and is helping with the VFW website. Members are encouraged to provide photos of activities that can be posted. Examples are a picture of the Cobras and pictures of our Boys State nominations. Liz is working an upload capability for the DD 214. The 2nd Vice wants to know the ramifications of adding PayPal or Square to the website for payment of fundraising activities. Doug will research this.

Fundraisers: The 2nd Vice continues to work a matrix defining the resources, timeline, advertising, scheduling, estimated expense and potential profit for fundraising activities. He requested the Post provide a contribution to Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night (PAESAN) to be held Wednesday, September 27. The Commander donated \$100 to the Post, via the Finance Officer, as a contribution to be used for this purpose.

New Business:

Guest Speakers: Bill Heard has been working potential candidates for giving presentations to all Veterans, the VFW and the American Legion. There would be 3 or 4 presentations throughout the year. The first one should be no earlier than late September. Bill will coordinate with the Commander to determine the subject and date. Suggestions provided were Ron Harrell (Department Services Officer), people from local commands, museums, transition advice, benefits, information appealing to younger military members, and post-deployment briefings.

Meeting Time: Mark made a motion to change our meeting time from 6:00 pm to 5:00 pm. After discussion, it was voted upon and failed. The Post meeting time remains at 6:00 pm.

Good of the Order: The 1st Vice mentioned standdowns. The next one is in North County. Doug announced the Homecoming for San Diego Honor Flight is on October 1. All are invited and he will post on the bulletin board and email to our Post members.

Meeting was adjourned at ___ 6:02 pm _____

/s/Signed August 21. 2023

Adjutant