



Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: __6:00____pm

Officers 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: Bill Heard

Guests: None

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

Committee Reports:

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

Membership: The 2024 post goal has been established at 118. We have reached 79 paid members for 66.95% of the goal. The District average is 53.69% and we are rated at number 5.

Sick Call: None

Unfinished Business:

Fundraisers: Bill Marsh presented a document recommending 4 Bunko and 4 Bingo games per year. Actions for these events are also listed. [Document is attached.](#) After discussion, the Commander directed Bill to continue with his planning.

Guest Speakers: Bill Heard recommended that Ron Harrell (Veteran's Service Officer) be our first speaker maybe to discuss disability ratings. The Commander requested Bill make the arrangements with Ron. AL, VFW and active duty members should be invited. Recommendations for other speakers included Representative Scott Peters and persons to give post-deployment briefings.

New Business:

Boys and Girls State: The department has proposed a resolution to its Constitution and By-Laws to change "Boys State" to "Boys and Girls State." Bill Bartle made a motion to approve the change. It was seconded, and the membership approved the change. The Commander will submit the ballot to the Department. Mike suggested the SAL may want to pay for one participant this year.

Membership: Doug reminded members that in accordance with our By-Laws the 1st Vice has responsibility to establish a membership campaign for the Post. Doug can provide some support by having access to tools on MyLegion.org. One of those tools is to identify members living in the area that belong to Post 1000. A search revealed there are 136 of those members within a 10-mile radius and 80 of them have email addresses. He recommended we develop an email to catch their attention. Possibly they could be invited to a special function at the Post. Bill Heard volunteered to draft an email and Doug will assist. The e-mail needs to be sent by the Commander.

The DD214 is a useful tool with new membership. Doug spoke with the Department Adjutant about the use of the DD-214. People can become members directly with National and no DD-214 is required. However, the people are placed into Post 1000 and when they need to be transferred to local post it is the responsibility of that post to vet them. The DD-214 is one tool for vetting.

Good of the Order: Mike stated that Merideth has been given authority to increase drink prices by up to a dollar as she sees necessary. Currently the plan is to raise them by \$.50.

Meeting was adjourned at __7:21 pm_____

/s/Signed September 23,2023

Adjutant