



Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: __6:02____pm

Officers Present:

Commander	Kent Vanhorn	Absent
1 st Vice	Mike Hill	
2 nd Vice	Bill Marsh	Absent
Adjutant	Doug Benzel	
Finance Off.	Mark Seamon	
Chaplain	Bill Bartle	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jim Vander Ploeg	

Other members: Bill Heard and Dave Schmidt

Guests: Ray Dayawon

The 1st Vice, Mike Hill, conducted the meeting in the absence of the Commander.

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

Committee Reports:

Finance: Mark provided discussion of the September budget summary and balance sheet. No changes were recommended.

Membership: 86 members have paid for 2024. Our goal is 118 equaling 72.88%. The District average is 58.61%. We are ranked number 4. Doug mentioned that National dues are going to \$50 in 2025.

Sick Call: Bill Marsh is ill and excused from meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Revitalization: District 22 is holding a revitalization seminar via zoom on October 24. Bill Marsh and Jim Vander Ploeg have volunteered to represent us.

Membership: Doug and Bill Heard constructed an email for Post 1000 members within a 10-mile radius to join our Post, and the Commander sent it out. We received one response and that member has been transferred. Follow-up can include phone calls, but volunteers are needed. Jim offered to make house calls on these people. Bill Heard made a suggestion they be invited to the Post for an introduction, and we provide food and maybe a free beer.

Guest Speakers: Bill Heard will contact Ron Harrell to be our first speaker. Dave Schmidt made a motion to invite all interested parties (VFW, AL and SAL) to an event on January 9, 2024 at 6:45 pm, after the House Committee meeting. Doug seconded it and it was unanimously approved. Gabe can send an email invite to these people.

New Business:

Toys for Tots: Mark presented a request for the Post to contribute to the Toys for Tots program this year. Jim made a motion for us to contribute \$100 to it. After discussion it was tabled for next month's meeting.

Irreverent Warriors: Mike advertised this organization as a non-profit entity for veteran's suicidal prevention and mental health. They hold hikes in our area, and they would be a good place for us to meet potential members to join our Post.

Good of the Order:

Doug advised of the project to add concrete on the bar sidewalk and hallway to the office. The purpose is to drain rainwater from these areas to the street. Demolition will begin November 13 and the bar gate will be closed during this one week period.

Mike noted the COLA for retirees and social security recipients will be 3.2% for 2024.

Dave Schmidt noted a website to save money on internet access. It is www.AffordableConnectivity.gov. The phone is 877-384-2575. Check the website to see if you are eligible and apply.

Bill Heard said there is a dedication for a Gold Star Family Monument at Miramar Nation Cemetery at 1100 on November 10. Ceremony will be held on the Memorial Walkway and you should be early to get parking.

Ray Dayawon provided an introduction to his organization—Hope for the Warriors. Ray can be reached at 571-609-2398. Website is www.hopeforthewarriors.org.

Meeting was adjourned at ___7:10 pm_____

/s/Signed October 20, 2023

Adjutant