



## Post 552

# American Legion Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: \_\_6:02\_\_\_\_pm

### Officers Present:

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

Other members: Bill Heard, Travis Methvin, Gabe Rowin, Dave Schmidt and Sam Vanalstyne.

Guests: None

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

### Committee Reports:

Finance: Budget summary and balance sheet were presented. The Commander reviewed highlights. There were no significant changes.

Membership: FY 2024 membership is at 122. Our goal is 118. This is 103.39% of the goal. The District average is 83.38%. We are ranked number 2 in the District. Travis volunteered to help obtain video games (with funding from District 22) that may draw younger members to the Post.

Sick Call: None.

Unfinished Business:

**Fundraisers:** Bill Marsh reminded us that our first fundraiser will be Bingo on March 23. Volunteers are needed, but further discussion will occur in early March.

**Guest Speakers:** Bill Heard reported the Ron Harrell (Veterans Service Officer) presentation on January 9<sup>th</sup> was a success. Seventeen veterans attended. Bill has a list of 7 other possibilities for future events.

**Post Membership Cards:** Bill Marsh submitted a draft of the proposed post membership card for comment. A suggestion of adding a QR code to take people directly to our website was made.

New Business: **VFW5985/AL552 Agreement.** Mark found the agreement between our two posts and distributed it. The agreement was made in 1987. It calls for \$5,000 to be paid by Post 552 in the beginning and \$1.00 every year thereafter. Background of payments we have made since then, and reasons for them were discussed, as well as our value to the VFW. The Commander wants a fair agreement.

Bill Marsh made a motion that we establish a committee of three people to draft a new agreement that can be presented to the VFW. It was seconded by Mark and passed. The Commander selected Jim Vander Ploeg, Bill Marsh and himself to be the three members. The Commander will take the current .pdf copy of the 1987 agreement and convert it into Word format for reference use by the committee. The committee will update the document for future discussion and eventual negotiation with the VFW Commander/staff to establish a more equitable updated agreement.

Memorial to Departed Members: Bill Bartle reminded us of the charter draping in recognition of Buford Maples.

Good of the Order: None.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_7:06 pm\_\_\_\_\_

/s/Signed January 20, 2024

Adjutant