



## Post 552

# American Legion Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: \_\_6:03\_\_\_\_pm

### Officers Present:

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

Other members: Dave Grundies, Bill Heard, Gabe Rowin, Dave Schmidt and Jim Winn

Guests: None

Reading of the Minutes: Minutes of the March meeting were displayed on the screen for members to read and were approved as written.

### Committee Reports:

Finance: Current finance reports were displayed. The significant change this month was the addition of \$1930 from the Bingo fundraiser. No changes were recommended.

Membership: Doug reported we have 141 members with a goal of 118, giving us 119.49% of our goal. The District average is 96.79%. Our Post is number 1 out of the 26 posts in the District. He reminded us that there will be a dues increase to \$50 starting July 1. The Post Data Report was submitted on April 13.

Sick Call: None

Unfinished Business:

**Fundraisers:** The Commander praised Bill Marsh for his effort on making a successful Bingo fundraiser. The turnout was great and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Bill Bartle acknowledged the help of Travis arranging tacos from Verdes El Ranchero. Doug has provided 8 thank you/tax donation letters to businesses and people that contributed to the Bingo fundraiser.

**Guest Speakers:** Our second guest speaker was Holly Shaffner from Honor Flight San Diego on April 15. We had 15 people in attendance. Bill Heard would like us to find ways to increase attendance at these functions. We need to pick subjects that have the most wide-spread appeal to our members. Mike recommended an individual he knows that can address drunk driving. Doug recommended the VA Hospital and California Veterans Affairs. Holly announced that Bill Heard (Post 552) and Chip Boyd (VFW 5985) have both been selected for the Honor Flight trip this Fall.

**Taco Night:** The Commander thanked Jim Vander Ploeg for a great free taco dinner prior to the Guest Speaker on April 15. Discussion surrounded making this an event maybe twice a month. Jim was appointed to lead and organize this effort. Scheduling needs to be done on the calendar so as not to conflict other events. They could be coordinated with a ballgame shown in the bar. Using the sandwich-board sign outside would help draw pedestrians into the hall. Funding for taco night will be provided by the Post, so as not to draw on Jim's personal funds.

**VFW-AL Agreement:** The VFW and American Legion Post commanders have not yet met to discuss the draft agreement. The Commander said they will discuss it before the next meeting.

**Boys State:** The Commander stated that he, Bill Marsh and Bill Heard interviewed three candidates and selected two of them. They are Derius McCovy and Cayden Hanson. Their packages have been submitted. Bill Heard has drafted a news release about their selection.

**Nominations:** There were no new nominations.

**Baseball:** We will need to provide money soon for our Cobra baseball team.

New Business:

**Donations to Veterans Programs:** Doug led a discussion on veterans programs that are local that we can contribute to. He made a motion that we provide \$250 each to Honor Flight San Diego, Shelter to Soldier, and Support The Enlisted Project. The motion was seconded by Bill Bartle and passed upon vote.

Good of the Order: Bill Heard said Honor Flight San Diego will have a homecoming on Sunday, April 28 from Lindbergh. Shuttle service is provided to the airport at Pacific Highway and Sassafras St. from 11:30 to 3:30.

Doug announced the Department of California AL Convention is in Visalia from June 27 to 30.

Anyone wishing to attend must be nominated at our next meeting as a delegate. If your are interested, Doug can provide hotel information.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_7:05 pm\_\_\_\_\_

/s/Signed April 20, 2024

Adjutant