



## Post 552

# American Legion Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: \_\_6:20\_\_pm

### Officers Present:

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

Other members: Jonathan Owen and Dave Schmidt

Guests: None

In the absence of the Commander, the First Vice hosted the meeting.

Reading of the Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting have been posted on our website and were displayed on the screen. They were approved as written.

### Committee Reports:

Finance: Finance reports were shown without comment.

Membership: Doug reported we have 140 members, making 118.64% of our goal. That places us again as number one in the District. We do not expect further updates for 2024. A reminder was made of the increase in dues to \$50 starting July 1.

Sick Call: Mark Seamon is ill with a virus and unable to attend.

Unfinished Business:

**Guest Speakers:** Bill Heard was not in attendance so this topic was tabled.

**Taco Night:** Jim stated he will not be able to host a taco night until he returns later this Summer. Profitability of this effort needs to be fleshed out. It has been tabled until September.

**VFW-AL Facility Agreement:** Mike stated that he, as the VFW Commander, and Kent met for two hours to discuss the agreement. Mike will present it to the VFW, but has reservation on getting some details approved.

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

**Elections:** The following officers were elected for 2025 by unanimous consent:

Kent Vanhorn	Commander
Mike Hill	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice
Bill Marsh	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice

Doug announced the Commander's appointed positions:

Doug Benzel	Adjutant
Travis Methvin	Asst Adjutant
Mark Seamon	Finance Officer
Jim Vander Ploeg	Sergeant-at-Arms
Travis Methvin	Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Bill Bartle	Chaplain

New Business:

**Next Fundraiser:** Bill Marsh is working on the next fundraiser. He would like to arrange three fundraisers a year rather than four. The logistics and raffle prizes are easier to obtain on a less frequent basis. Wine tasting was proposed, but would need to be done in a way that doesn't conflict with plans of other organizations. Travis mentioned his plans with Donovan to have a Post-sponsored Horse Racing event on the opening day of Del Mar, July 20. This is not a fundraiser, but just a fun event.

**Next Taco Night:** Tabled until September.

**Scout Troop Sponsorship:** The Post desires to sponsor a Boy Scout troop. Jonathan Owen is the assistant scout master for Troop 4 in La Jolla and spoke about his troop. They could support us with activities like a color guard and help with fundraisers, etc. They have 60 kids. He will address sponsorship with his council and get back with us. Mike made a motion that the Post approve Troop 4 as our Boy Scout Troop. It was seconded by Jim and approved.

Memorial to Departed Post Members: Bill Bartle requested we table acknowledgement of Robert Patterson until June.

Good of the Order: Doug asked for representatives to the California Convention in June. There will be no Post Delegates this year.

Travis and Jonathan are climbing Mt Whitney in early June as two Navy Veterans representing our Post. They spoke on their plans. Doug has arranged publicity of this trek with a reporter for the Beach and Bay Press and the La Jolla Villager.

Mike handed out a summary of California legislation pending in Congress. AB 46 would provide exemption of military retired pay and survivor benefit payments from taxation. To provide support you can address Take Action-California State Commanders Veterans Council on line. SB 1124 would protect veterans by prohibiting unauthorized charges for helping with benefits claims. It also discusses AB 770 and AB 2200.

Bill Bartle noted that our other organizations like the Auxiliary have hosted Bunco which was a tremendous fundraiser success and much fun.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_\_ 6:59 pm \_\_\_\_\_

/s/Signed May 20. 2024

Adjutant