



Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2024

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	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jim Vander Ploeg	Absent
Asst Adjutant	Travis Methvin	

Other members: Stephen Burr, Brian Compton, District 22 Commander Vic Martin, Jonathan Owens and Dave Schmidt

Guests: None

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

The normal order of business was suspended for installation of our 2025 elected officers. The District Commander Vic Martin conducted the short form installation of Kent Vanhorn, Mike Hill, and Bill Marsh. This was followed by the Draping of the Charter for our recent losses of Robert Patterson and Thomas Nelson.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Finance reports were displayed. Mark noted that \$110 was received from the VFW as a distribution of the contributions made on Memorial Day. He has distributed \$400 to the ALA to sponsor the National Veterans Sports Clinic for disabled veterans, or any other veterans causes they deem appropriate. The Commander requested Mark pay for our Cobras baseball team on line before July 1, if possible. The Cobras are having a barbeque on July 1 at 5:00pm where we are all invited.

Membership: Doug reported we have 145 members for 2024. This is 122.88% of our 118 goal. We remain number 1 in the District that has an average of 99.98%. This represents an increase of 30 members since 2023 for our Post. Dues increase to \$50 for 2025 beginning July 1.

Sick Call: Bill Bartle elaborated on the history of our two departed members.

Unfinished Business:

Guest Speakers: Bill Heard was absent, so this was tabled until next month.

Fundraisers: Bill Marsh plans to have a wine tasting as our next fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2:00 to 6:00 pm. This will include a raffle with gift baskets valued at around \$100 each and a 50/50 drawing. The wine will be purchased by Bill prior to the event. Tickets will be \$25, raffle entry at \$20 and 50/50 entry at \$5. Bill needs assistance in obtaining items for the gift baskets. Wine can be bid on for purchase. He would like some of our proceeds to be given to the Wounded Warrior Project, which we will vote on at our next meeting.

VFW-American Legion Agreement: A response is awaiting from the VFW on the draft proposal. A discussion has already taken place between the two commanders. The Commander encouraged Mike Hill (VFW Commander) to provide a response before our next meeting.

Scout Troop Sponsorship: Jonathan Owens spoke to the Boy Scout Council and they determined that Troop 4 has two sponsors already, so they declined our offer. He said there are also Girl Scout troops available. Jonathan will notify Travis of a contact at the San Diego Council (Balboa Park) so that we can identify a troop to sponsor.

Mt Whitney Hiking Report: Travis described the adventure of he and Jonathan climbing Mt Whitney in early June. At 4,000 feet they got reports of thunder and lightning, but they got to 12,000 feet before having to turn back. They did reach the summit together in June 2022. Our

website addresses their achievement. A reporter from the Beach and Bay Press and the La Jolla Light newspapers is contacting them for a possible article.

Budget Approval for FY 2024-2025: The Commander will discuss a new budget with Mark and present it for approval at our July meeting.

New Business:

Female Involvement in the AL: Travis expressed that it appears the American Legion does not promote enough involvement of women in its activities. One possibility is adopting a Girl Scout Troop for sponsorship. He wants more inclusiveness of our organizations within the building. Mike Hill described efforts he has been supporting to provide such inclusiveness amongst all of our organizations.

Veteran Mental Health: Travis pointed to the VFW in Solana Beach that devotes significant effort toward mental health and would like to see more involvement by our Post. The District Commander stated that he is the chairman of the VA San Diego Healthcare System Mental Health Advocacy Council. Travis will obtain Vic's information to pursue this further. Possibly an expert can come to speak with us or hold a conference with those interested.

Good of the Order: Mike said a group of active-duty Navy people came recently to power wash much of our facility. New large VFW and AL emblems have been installed on the bar mirror. We need to do more to help our members with PTSD.

Doug said we received thank you letters from each of the three veteran organizations we contributed to after our Bingo fundraiser.

Our sponsored team, the Mission Bay Cobras, are offering free hot dogs and hamburgers for Veterans at their game on July 1 at the Mission Bay High School.

Meeting was adjourned at ____ 7:02 pm ____

/s/Signed July 2, 2024

Adjutant