



Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2025

Meeting Called to Order: __6:00____pm

Officers Present:

Commander	Kent Van Horn	
1 st Vice	Mike Hill	
2 nd Vice	Bill Marsh	Absent
Adjutant	Doug Benzel	
Finance Off.	Mark Seamon	
Chaplain	Bill Bartle	
Service Officer	Dave Schmidt	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jim Vander Ploeg	
Asst Adjutant	Travis Methvin	Absent

Other members: Stephen Burr, Brian Compton, Bill Heard, Gabe Rowin and Jim Winn

Guests: None

Reading of the Minutes: Minutes were approved as posted on our website.

Committee Reports:

Finance: \$12K from the VFW was deposited in our QYLD account. Baseball sponsorship and Boys State (3) monies have been paid. The Commander of VFW 5985 (Mike Hill) said the money for one Boys/Girls State delegate and sponsorship of one American Legion Baseball team will be provided by June 30. \$500 has been given to Honor Flight San Diego.

Membership: Doug reported we have 128 2025 members toward our goal of 144. This is 85.91%. The District average is 86.75% with two posts exceeding 100%. Fifteen tax

exemption letters have been sent to individuals and businesses that supported our Bingo fundraiser. Travis has agreed to be our Adjutant for the next term, but needs someone to help with writing minutes. Bill Heard volunteered to write our minutes. Kent will experiment with a Chat GPT program at our next meeting to see if this can be of assistance in taking minutes.

Boy Scouts: In Travis' absence Doug provided input to the current status of obtaining Troop 271 for sponsorship. Tiffany (Scout Leader) stated she is still very interested in our sponsorship. She is obtaining new paperwork for us along with a new procedure.

Sick Call: Jerry Henson is still in rehab. Bill Cauley took a fall and is in rehab at the VA hospital.

Unfinished Business:

Review of Bingo Fundraiser: Bill Marsh was absent. The fundraiser was a great success and brought in about \$3000. \$600 of that was done on Square, but did not appear in the account. Doug and Ellen Citrano are working with Square to identify where the money is located.

Guest Speakers: Bill Heard is supporting a person to speak on PTSD. Mike Hill is locating the information on a reference he has.

Next Fundraiser: No report as Bill Marsh was absent.

New Business:

Distribution of Bingo Income: Much discussion ensued about how to distribute the money and to whom. Bill Bartle made a motion to distribute up to \$1000 each (\$3,000 total) for three veterans organizations: San Diego Military Outreach Mission, Shelter to Soldier and Support the Enlisted Project (STEP). It was seconded by Jim Vander Ploeg. The motion passed. The Commander pointed out that dividends from our QYLD are reinvested into that account so our savings will keep up with inflation.

Boys State: Monies have been distributed for Boys State selectees.

Service Officer: Dave attended a Veteran Orientation at the Jennifer Moreno VA Medical Center. It is held every second Wednesday of the month and open to all veterans. [A flyer is attached.](#) A motion was made to supply business cards to Dave and it passed. Jim Vander Ploeg has donated \$100 to cover this expense.

CA AL Convention Delegate Certification: This year's convention will be held in Visalia from June 26-29. Anyone interested should contact Doug. Delegates must be approved by a Post vote at our May meeting. Names must be submitted by June 1.

Nominations: Nominations were opened for the three elected positions.

Commander: Kent withdrew his nomination, leaving Doug as the only nominee.

1st Vice: No new nominations. Bill Marsh is the only nominee.

2nd Vice: Mike Hill was nominated and accepted.

Election occurs at our May meeting.

Good of the Order: Dave said there is a community event at the PB Elementary School on May 15. Gabe said there is a Day of Service the VFW is sponsoring at the beach on May 3. Contact Gabe if you are interested. There is a VFW Post Hop this Saturday (April 20). It leaves from the VFW at 12:00 and will go to Lakeside, Lemon Grove and Don Diego VFWs. Cost is \$20.

Meeting was adjourned at ____7:15 pm____

/s/Signed April 21, 2025

Adjutant