



Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

20 November 2025

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 pm

Officers Present: (Note absences)

Commander	Doug Benzel	
1 st Vice	Bill Marsh	
2 nd Vice	Mike Hill	
Adjutant	Dave Schmidt	
Finance Officer	Kent Van Horn	
Chaplain	Bill Bartle	Absent
Service Officer	Dave Schmidt	
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jim Vander Ploeg	
Social Media	Carlos Bazua	Absent
Asst. Adjutant	Bill Heard	

Other members: Corey Blount, Brian Compton

Minutes from the September: Approved

Committee Reports:

Finance Report:

Finance Officer Kent Van Horn reported that the 16 November Bingo event netted \$574.00 for the Post. Expenditures for October included \$556 check to Bill Marsh with \$300 being for bingo prizes and \$256 for bingo related expenses, \$20 to CA statement of information, and \$174 to HQ for dues. We sold 120 shares of QYLD and those funds were added to the checking account. A check in the amount of \$995.40 was given to the VFW to pay half of

the property taxes. A check was also given to the Legion Auxiliary for Christmas functions for \$200.

Membership:

Adjutant Dave Schmidt said that as of 14 November, the Post had gained 3 new members, had 32 PUFLs, 49 members paid up, and 2 transfers for an overall total of 86, with a goal of 140 total members. The Post has reached 61.43 percent of its membership goal, compared to the district-wide average of 64.89 percent. Dave has been researching methods of sending renewal letters to all members not yet paid up for 2026.

Boy Scouts:

BSA Liaison Bill Heard reported that he has completed both required online courses required by BSA and the State. He has been fingerprinted and is awaiting completion of a background check to be fully approved to participate in Scouting activities. He also attended his first Zoom meeting with Troop 271 leaders. He and his wife attended a Troop Court of Honor during which most of the members were awarded merit badges. The Troop was unable to recruit during Covid and, as a result, the members are quite young and just getting started in Scouting. The Troop sponsors quite a number of activities, including most recently a Rocketry Camp held in Plaster City near El Centro. Upcoming activities include a backpacking and cookout contest, a broomball day at a local ice rink, and a holiday party.

Troop Leaders have requested that the Post include information about their fundraising activities on the Post website. They also would like to make a presentation to the Post during a meeting after the first of the year. Post Commander Benzal has agreed to both requests.

Boys and Girls State:

Kent reported that the delegates would be selected from January 15 to February 15.

Sick Call:

Chaplain Bill Bartle remains on the sick list. He would appreciate phone calls from any Post member. He is doing somewhat better and appreciates phone calls from friends.

Unfinished Business:

1st Vice Bill Marsh reported that the 16 November Bingo event was well attended. 17 attendees were needed for the event to break even, and perhaps 30 were present. Because

the bingo games wrapped up early, it was decided to start the next bingo event ½ hour later at 2:30 on 21 December in hopes of driving up some kitchen business.

Good of the Order:

2nd Vice Mike Hill spoke with Joe Shiloh of the Windjammer band who has proposed an “Escape the Insanity” get-together at the Post at some point during the holidays tentatively set for December 20. If the band is not available, perhaps a DJ would be playing Holiday music. Mike proposed that the event would benefit a charity.

1st Vice Marsh noted that the PB Women’s Club is moving their meetings from the Post to Christ Lutheran Church. As of now, they will leave behind their folding chairs and tables.

Adjutant Schmidt reported that he was asked by a Mission Bay High student last night about speaking to our group at the December meeting. They are soliciting donations for a new welcome sign to be erected at a site close to the I-5 south offramp near Bluff Side on Mission Bay Drive. It would have emblems from community groups, such as AL post 552 and VFW post 5982.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

/s/Signed December 5, 2025

Adjutant Dave Schmidt