



## Post 552

# American Legion Meeting Minutes

15 January 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 pm

Officers Present: (Note absences)

Commander	Doug Benzel	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Bill Marsh	
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	
Public Affairs Off.	Carlos Bazua	
Asst. Adjutant	Bill Heard	Absent

The quorum has been met.

Other members: Brian Compton, Donavon Morris

Minutes from the December: Approved

### **Committee Reports:**

Finance Report:

Finance Officer Kent Van Horn reported that Post's checking account balance for the end of the period was \$3,105.41. He noted that he wrote a check to VFW Post 5985 for our half of the property taxes in the amount of \$995.40. Deposits of \$350 for member dues collected and \$106.84 from bingo proceeds.

### Membership:

Adjutant Dave Schmidt said that as of 9 January, the post had reached 72.86 percent of its goal of 140 members, with 102 members enrolled. The District percentage is 76.17 percent. He has sent out renewal letters to 24 more former members from the 2024 roster, and emailed over 950 Post 1000 members requesting they transfer to Post 552 using the request letter that Commander Benzel composed. So far, he has personally processed 3 Post 1000 transfers.

### Boy Scout Troop 271:

BSA liaison Bill Heard was absent. We are expecting to have four scout representatives at the February meeting and they will present us with the troop flag. We will take pictures and send them to the local newspaper for publicity reflecting the Post 552 and Troop 271 sponsorship.

2nd Vice Mike Hill again suggested a possible competition next year between Troop 271 and Troop 506 sponsored by the VFW Post involving the VFW's Voice of Democracy Scholarship project.

### Boys/Girls State:

Kent Van Horn stated that Mission Bay High has 3 nominees and Point Loma High has 10 nominees for our 3 delegates we will send this year. He requested that Point Loma High prescreen and only send us 4 nominees. We will select 3 delegates and one alternate from the 7 nominees that we interview. Interviews are scheduled for February 7 at noon at the VFW Hall. The delegate packages are due to State Dept. by March 1. He asked for volunteers to conduct interviews with Boys State. Brian Compton, Skylar Goffman and Dave Schmidt volunteered to assist Kent with the interviews. The total cost for sponsoring three delegates will be \$2,580 and the Post has budgeted \$2,630 for the project. The VFW has contributed \$860.

### 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 we will not have bingo in January due to NFL playoffs. He expects to resume bingo in February.

Commander Benzel reported that the VFW/AL Agreement Fulfillment was completed over one year ago. The VFW as per the agreement provided Post 552 with a check for \$12,000 and a check for one Boys/Girls State participant. Our Post has provided money for one-half of the property tax. The only remaining requirement is for the VFW to provide money for the AL Baseball sponsorship at the appropriate time. Post 552 no longer pays for half of the liquor license.

**New Business: None**

**Good of the American Legion:**

Brian Compton reported that San Diego Harley Davidson will provide fund raisers for military and veteran organizations. We can sell \$10 carwash vouchers and keep all the proceeds.

Brian Compton brought to the attention of the VFW and AL concerns about how smoke from the new deck tends to come in to the canteen through the open door. Mike Hill will take for action.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

/s/Signed January 26, 2026

Adjutant Dave Schmidt