



Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

16 APRIL 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 pm

Officers Present: (Note absences)

Commander	Doug Benzel
1 st Vice	Bill Marsh (Excused)
2 nd Vice	Mike Hill
Adjutant	Dave Schmidt
Finance Officer	Kent Van Horn
Chaplain	Bill Bartle
Service Officer	Dave Schmidt
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jim Vander Ploeg
Public Affairs Off.	Carlos Bazua
Asst. Adjutant	Bill Heard

Guests: None

Other members: Corey Blount

Minutes from the March meeting: Approved

Committee Reports:

Finance Officer Kent Van Horn reported that the Post had paid \$400 to Support the Enlisted Project and \$400 for Honor Flight San Diego. A \$400 contribution also was made to Shelter to Soldiers. He said income from Post Bingo and raffles amounted to \$576.59 for the period. Commander Benzel said he had purchased medals for members of the Junior ROTC at Mission Bay High School.

Membership:

Adjutant Dave Schmidt said the Post's membership percentage stands at 86.43 percent, and that one membership application had been received recently. The District membership was posted as 87.99 percent, which is below its goal of 95 percent. The District hopes to reach a further goal of 100 percent by May 13th.

Boys and Girls State:

Kent Van Horn said al the Post's financial obligations for Boys and Girls State have been paid.

Boy Scout Troop 217:

Troop 271 Liaison Officer Bill Heard reported that although there was no Troop leadership meeting in April, he will attend a Coastal Sage District meeting on May 3 by Zoom.

After a discussion about obtaining a Troop 271/Post 552 flag for display in the building, it was decided that the Post would ask Troop leaders to purchase the flag. The Post will reimburse the Troop for the cost of a 3X5 flag.

The Troop has scheduled a Pancake Breakfast from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday, 9 May, at the Torrey Pines Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North. Tickets are priced at \$20 for early birds and \$25 at the door. In addition to pancakes, the breakfast will include an extensive menu. The Troop asked that the Post and the VFW help promote the breakfast online.

Sons of the American Legion Update:

Mike Hill noted that the SAL had a recent meeting and has started officer nominations.

Sick Call: None

Unfinished Business:

In the absence of 1st Vice Bill Marsh, Jim Vander Ploeg said he will run the bingo event and would take care of arranging for gift cards to be awarded as prizes during bingo on Sunday, April 19.

New Business:

Commander Benzel called for additional nominations for Post officers, but none were offered.

Commander Benzel said awards for military and scholarship would be awarded to two members of the U.S. Coast Guard Junior ROTC at Mission Bay High School on 8 May from 5 to 8 P.M. The unit has a total of 85 members.

Good of the American Legion:

Post members are encouraged to attend the Honor Flight arrival event at San Diego International Airport in the Terminal 2 Alaska Airlines baggage area. The arrival is set for 1:15 pm on Sunday, 3 May. Free parking is available in the Terminal 2 parking building. On exiting after the event, tell the attendant that you attended the Honor Flight welcome and there will be no charge. Members can check the Honor Flight website—www.Honorflightsandiego.org—for more information.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

/s/Signed April 28, 2026

Adjutant Dave Schmidt