Post 552

American Legion Meeting Minutes

27 August 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 6:02 pm

Officers Present: (Note absences)

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

Other members: Corey Blount, Robert Rodriquez

Finance Report:

Finance Officer Kent Van Horn reported the balances. He said the Post is awaiting $600 from the VFW for its American Legion Baseball contribution. Raffles thus far this year have raised $782, while Bingo has brought in $2,134.94. Together, the two total $2,916.94 year-to-date.

Membership:

Adjutant Dave Schmidt reported that as of 21 August the Post had enrolled no new members; there were 30 PUFLs; 42 members were paid up for the year; two members had

transitioned from Post 1000. The membership goal for the year is 130 members. Membership currently stands at almost 57 percent. He mailed out 48 membership cards.

Boy Scout Troop 271:

Troop 271 Liaison Officer Bill Heard reported that the Troop will sponsor a car wash on Saturday, 19 September, from 10 am to 2 pm at Hawthorne Elementary School in Clairmont. They hope to raise $2,000. Scouts will sell tickets for $20 at Vons and Sprouts the week prior to the car wash. Signs will be posted and it will be advertised on social media. They also will sell beef jerky and shave ice in order to raise money to send Scouts to Philmont next summer. The cost is $2,100 per scout to cover transportation, the camp and food. Scoutmaster Guido Klap said he will hold a meeting soon to plan for the annual rocketry camp in November. The Troop has scheduled a picnic on 11 September.

One of the Eagle scout candidates has proposed constructing a musical instrument storage rack for his high school band. The leaders asked whether any members of our Post are woodworking craftsmen who could mentor Scout projects, and they asked the Post for any Eagle scout project ideas.

2nd Vice Mike Hill made a motion, seconded by Bill Heard, for the Post to provide $500 to Troop 271's Philmont fund. The motion was tabled to the next meeting.

Sons of the American Legion Update:

2nd Vice Mike Hill reported that the SAL has created a new email list. He noted there had been an earlier motion donating $500 to the SAL to provide roll-up shades for the building. Also, $500 for the October Fest event. The SAL will coordinate with the Post for the annual Christmas party that the Legion Auxilliary conducts.

Unfinished Business:

Carlos Bazua will host Bingo on September 20 at 4 p.m. Regarding the signage for the entrance to Pacific Beach, there is no set timetable, although they hope to have it up by the end of 2026. There will be a fish fry at the Post on 4 September from 5-7 p.m. Advance tickets are $20 each, $25 at the door. Post 552 now has logo polo and shirts for sale at $20 each.

Good of the order:

The Post will host an event for Navy chief petty officer candidates on 5 September. Retired Navy Chief Bill Bartle, Post chaplain, will be honored. The CPO candidates will provide 4-5 work parties to do improvement projects around the building

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

/s/Signed 16 September 2026

Adjutant

Dave Schmidt