THE Trumpeteer
EARL C. HILL BLOOMINGTON POST 550
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA

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Official publication of Earl C. Hill Bloomington Post 550 of The American Legion, Auxiliary Unit 550, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 550 and American Legion Riders Chapter 550, P.O. Box 201813, Bloomington, MN 55420. Phone: 952-884-9621. Distributed to members of the Post and Auxiliary who held membership cards for the current year.

Find us:

- Post 550 meeting are 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month. All members are welcomed to attend. There is a free meal at the start, open to the entire community.
- Post 550 meets at 311 W. 84th St., Bloomington (in the VFW Post 1296 banquet hall).
- Gambling meetings are in the Legion office at 5:30 p.m. that day.
- The Post 550 phone is 952-884-9621. Our email is echalp550@gmail.com.

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Questions on VA benefits?

Call Minnesota American Legion Department Service Officer Ray Kane at 651-377-0547 or call a Hennepin County Veterans Service Officer at 612-348-3300.

They are here to help you.

We have e-pulltabs!

Sports Page Bar & Grill

Pull tab hours:
Mon.-Sat. 11-11
Sunday 9-11

9104 Lyndale Ave. S.

Post 550 Officers

Commander ..... Luis Campero
1st Vice ..... Ron Nenovich
2nd Vice ..... Clarence Bunkholt
Adjutant ..... Warren
..... Christopherson
Finance Officer ..... Jerry Narragon
Chaplain ..... Jim Mead
Sgt-at-Arms ..... Dan Welch
Membership ..... Paul Hassing
SAL ..... Jim Mead
Other positions:
Gambling Mgr. ..... Tim Engstrom
Honor Guard ..... Dan Welch
Athletics ..... Ron Nenovich

Unit 550 Officers

President ..... Jody Hassing
1st Vice ..... Bonnie Proctor
2nd Vice ..... Joan Boerner
Secretary ..... Bonnie Proctor
Treasurer ..... Gabriele Servin
Sgt-at-Arms ..... Trish Bunkholt
Chaplain ..... Cathy Moretton
Membership ..... Bonnie Proctor
Exec. Board ..... Elizabeth Hassing
..... Rose Kitt
Past Presidents ..... Bonnie Proctor
Hon. Jr. President Liliana Campero

There's a new DSO

The American Legion Department of Minnesota has a new service officer. His name is Ray Kane. He lives in Cottage Grove and is a member of Hastings Post 47. He is a gambling manager for the St. Paul Park & New Ports Lions International Club.

Ray Kane

He can be reached at dso@mnlegion.org or at 651-377-0547.

He is an Army Reserve/National Guard veteran. He is an organ recipient, too.

Do you have an honor guard request?

Contact Dan Welch at 952-607-8786.

Scholarship, anyone?

The American Legion has scholarships for baseball, nursing and other fields. Visit the following websites to learn more:

mnlegion.org legion.org
mnala.org alaforveterans.org

Bingo Help Wanted

If you can help with bingo at the Mpls. Veterans Home on the third Wednesday of the month or Wealshire on the 3rd Thursday, call Jim Mead at 612-876-0952.

ADDRESS UPDATE: Mail to Post 550 Membership Director, PO Box 201813, Bloomington, MN 55420
Name: _____ Circle one: Post Unit Squadron
Summer Address effective date: _____ Winter Address effective date: _____
Street: _____ Street: _____
City: _____ State/Zip: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____
Discontinue Mailing (i.e. deceased) _____

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Vol. 66 Issue 1 311 W. 84th St., P.O. Box 201813, Bloomington, MN 55420 • 952-884-9621 • echalp550@gmail.com Jan. Feb. Mar. 2023

Members of American Legion Post 550 and of Bloomington Remembers Veterans journeyed to Hutchinson on Nov. 15 to hear Army Special Forces veteran Mark Nutsch, center, speak at the annual Saluting Community Heroes fundraiser banquet. Nutsch was portrayed by "Thor" actor Chris Hemsworth in the movie "12 Strong," which is available for viewing on Netflix. Nutsch led a 12-man Special Forces detachment in America's first victory against the Taliban in Afghanistan. They rode horses in a U.S. battle for the first time since 1942. A statue at Ground Zero is dedicated to those "horse soldiers." Bloomington Remembers Veterans is leading the effort to build a veterans memorial at the Bloomington Civic Plaza.

Gambling is getting a makeover

Tim Engstrom

The American Legion Post 550 gambling operation is going through some changes. I thought I would provide a useful update.

We have a new accountant. He is Dan Fleischhacker. He is a CPA and a tax accountant. He is an Army veteran and a member of Savage Post 643. He has been super helpful and provides sound advice. He also does gambling accounting for VFW Post 5555 in Richfield.

We are switching our charitable gambling operation to CG Made Easy. This will digitize much of our paper-based operation and, hopefully, increase the amount of dollars we can give to charities. Data will help us made better decisions when pulling games.

CG Made Easy will include a point-of-sale system. You can't buy anything these days without a POS entry, and this change brings our operation up to speed with what we are seeing at many other booths in the Twin Cities. The company CG Made Easy is based in Minnesota.

Reflecting on 2022, here are some of the charities we donated to: Bloomington Veterans Honor Guard, Bloomington Kennedy Activities Foundation, Bloomington Legion Baseball, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, many college scholarships, American Legion Legacy Scholarships, local high school sports, senior class parties, flags for the schools, Boys State, Girls State, Common Bond Communities, Big Marine Vets Camp, Muskies Inc., Minnesota Association of Sports Officials, Eagle's Healing Nest, Saluting Community Heroes, Helping Paws, Believet Canine Providers and the Hastings Veterans Home, among others.

Tim Engstrom
Post 550 Gambling Manager

Make sure to attend Jan. 28 raffle

Jody Hassing

Greetings! Well, we have come to the end of 2022 and are heading into the new year. I hope everyone had a great time with family and friends over the holidays. I know I love my time with my children and grandchildren. I am not sure what I would do if we were unable to get together.

In 2023, we need to do better at showing others who we are and what we do. You can do that by sharing what you do for our veterans — on social media, with your local newspaper, and wear the American Legion Auxiliary branding when you are out in the community.

I look forward to reading about how you support the veterans in your community. If you want to share and do not have social media, you can send the information to me (jodyhassing@gmail.com) or to the Bloomington Legion, and I will share the information for you.

The Auxiliary once again voted not to meet in January, February or March. We look forward to seeing everyone in April. Please make plans to join us at our monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and our meeting is at 7 p.m.

Riders, with me included, will be working the meat raffle on Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. at the Bloomington Veterans Center. Stop in and say hi. The meat raffle in January is to benefit the Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund, which is operated via Minnesota American Legion Foundation Fund 85.

Remember to track all the hours you spend helping our veterans, their families and the community. Happy New Year and God Bless!

Jody Hassing
Unit 550 President

General Membership Oct. 2022

• Meeting called to order Oct. 10 by 1st Vice Commander Ron Nenovich
• Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was in place on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
• Guest Julia Eszlinger Jensen came to thank Finance Officer Jerry Narragon for his assistance earlier this day in obtaining flags for a special memorial service for her husband. Julia was a member of the Richfield Legion Post 435 but decided during tonight's meeting to join the Bloomington Post 550.
Also, new tonight to the American Legion Post 550 is An Dang, who worked with the U.S. Army during Vietnam War.
• Roll call of officers: Two were excused, Commander and 2nd Vice Commander.
• Chaplain's report, Jack W Hanson, WWII, Army Veteran has died.
• Financial Officer Narragon gave the Financial Report, Welch moved, Warren Seconded, and the report was approved.
• Membership Director, Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is at 232 or 62 percent of the goal. Tim Engstrom added the Legion would like to purchase Post 550 Pins for paid members of the post. The cost is $362. Mead moved, Welsh seconded. Approved.
• Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report. Donations were approved the Legion-VFW honor guard (new uniforms), Big Marine Lake Campground (repairs), gun safety training, Jefferson and Kennedy hockey, youth hockey, Bloomington Travel Baseball, Bloomington Athletic Hall of Fame (banquet), city (Veterans Appreciation Day), Veterans Resiliency Project, Saluting Community Heroes. Also decided was to pay off the no-interest loan for the shuttle bus. Welsch moved, Zesch seconded, and the report was approved.
• Gun Safety committee thanked the American Legion Post 550 for its continued support.
• Jim Mead reported for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) membership is at 18.
• Paul Hassing provided a recap of the Minnesota Legion Riders presentation at the National Convention in Milwaukee. It was the largest contribution from any one state: $155,000 for 2022. Other states including Maryland are a very close second. The Minnesota Legion Riders aim to stay on top in 2023. A change to a one-weekend Legacy Run is being planned for next year.
• Printed copies of the September minutes distributed. Servin moved, Engstrom seconded, and the September minutes were approved.
• An additional Up to $1,000 was approved for Veterans Appreciation Day, Nov. 9, expenditures.
• Agreement was reached to pursue gambling possibilities at the new Richfield American Legion in the future when it opens a restaurant.
• Veterans Appreciation Dinner will be Oct. 23 at the Bloomington Event Center.
• Rick Skinn discussed DAV organization Life Member Options.
• Nov. 15 is the Celebration Dinner Saluting Community Heroes in Hutchinson, MN. A group of up to 10 Post 550 Members will be attending. The Legion shuttle bus departs at 3:30 p.m.
• Prayer offered. POW flag recovered. Meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

General Membership Nov. 2022

• Meeting called to order Nov. 14 by Commander Luis Campero
• Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
• Guest Mary Touve from Humana provided Information about veterans' healthcare coverage.
• Roll call of officers: Two were excused, Vice Commander and 2nd Vice Commander.
• Printed copies of the October minutes distributed. Mead moved, Welch seconded. Approved.
• Chaplain reported past or present members Demetrio Potente, Harry L. Burke Jr., Milan Broughton, and Ronald B. Minsaas have recently died. Prayers were offered for the deceased and the speedy recovery of Vice Commander Ron Nenovich and 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt.
• Financial Officer Jerry Narragon, gave the Financial Report. Welch moved, Engstrom seconded, and the report was approved. Mead suggested moving all or some of the funds to bonds.
• Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is at 240 or 66% of the goal. We reached the Nov. 9 65% target but the Dec. 14 target jumps to 75%.
The discussion began regarding recruiting new members for the post. Including website upgrades, social media, and business cards for members to hand out to veterans.
This discussion is to continue next month.
• Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report. Mead moved, Beste seconded, and the report was approved. Funds were approved to Common Bond, MAOSO and MACV. Scholarships awarded to Conner Ruch, Cordelia Ruch, and Imani Rogers.
• Gun Safety committee again thanked the American Legion Post 550 for its continued support with a note read by Commander Luis Campero.
• Jim Mead reported for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) membership is at 30.
• Honor Guard member Blaine Beste provided for our preview a complete set of the new uniform the American Legion Members of the Bloomington Honor Guard will be wearing next spring.
• The membership dinner is Tuesday, Nov. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Bloomington Event Center, 1114 American Blvd.
• The Unit 435 Omelet Breakfast at Wold-Chamberlain American Legion Post 99 in Minneapolis is from 8 a.m. to noon Dec. 11.
• The VFW/American Legion Christmas Party for Children is 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, at Bloomington Veterans Center.
• Prayer offered. POW flag recovered. Meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

General Membership Dec. 2022

• Meeting called to order Dec. 12 by Commander Luis Campero.
• Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
• Member Wilson Edwards representing the Minnesota Association of Youth Sports Officials invited members and their families to attend an after-Christmas party. The party will be 5-11:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at VFW Post 1296. He said RSVP by Dec. 25 to Wilson at Shlledwrdss@aol.com or Linda at Lscheller@lt.life $11/Person Buffet Dinner/Door prizes Enter to win
• Roll call of officers: Three excused, Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander and Sergeant-at-Arms.
• Printed copies of the November minutes distributed. Mead moved, Zesch seconded, and the minutes were approved.
• Chaplain reported the death of Phillip O. Gnerer and David O. Johnson. A close friend of Chaplain Mead, and New Brighton Post 513 member recently died. Prayers were offered for the deceased and for the speedy recovery of Vice Commander Ron Nenovich, and 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt.
• Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the Financial Report, Zesch moved, Mead seconded, and the report was approved.
• Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is at 276 or 75% of the goal. We reached the Dec. 14 target of 75%. Discussion continued from last month's meeting regarding recruiting new members for the American Legion. A website will be a good start for recruiting new members and providing information about Post 550 and the American Legion in general. A motion was made by Keith Zesch and seconded by Debra Johnson to approve funding up to $1,000 for the startup. The motion was approved. Tim Engstrom will head this project and will be assisted by Keith Zesch and Mike Mullin.
• Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report. Debbie Lawell was no longer the accountant. Dan Fleischhacker is the new accountant. Funds to be distributed: Kennedy High School's Bloomington Activity Foundation $10,000; Wishes 2 More $500; School Scholarships to Britta Evenson and Charlie Abenth $2,000 each; the 40/8 for two college scholarships totaling $1400; Kennedy Football Booster Club $3,000; and Fund 85 $2,500. Evenson moved, Mullin seconded, and the report was approved.
• Gun Safety committee is planning the Firearms Safety Course for April 2023.
• Legion Riders will have just one weekend for the Legacy Run in 2023. It will be a Northern Route.
• Jim Mead reported for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) membership is at 34.
• The VFW and American Legion Christmas Party for Children is 11 a.m. is Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Bloomington Event Center.
• Paul Hassing still is a candidate for department commander. He was endorsed by Post 550 last spring.
• Bloomington Post 550 was honored by the city for its support of baseball and will be on BEC TV.
• Prayer offered. POW flag recovered. Meeting adjourned

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

Auxiliary Oct. 2022

• Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
• Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
• Motion made, second and carried to approve September minutes.
• Thank you read from Creekside Quilters.
• Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
• Membership renewals: 23, Auxiliary dues now available for renewal online. Check with Department Office and bank to see if we can obtain a debit card to pay these renewals.
• Meat raffle scheduled for Oct. 29.
• Joan Boerner and Bonnie Proctor delivered quilts (from Creekside), sweatshirts and toiletries (from Joan) to Mpls. VA Medical Center.
• Fall Conference in St. Cloud Oct. 27-29.
• Pearl Harbor Rally Dec. 5.
• Department Convention will be in Redwood Falls July 13-15, 2023. Post 550 member Paul Hassing is running for department commander!
• Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Veterans Day on the Hill

What: Post 550 will have its shuttle bus to transport local veterans and their supporters to the Capitol in St. Paul and back for Veterans Day on the Hill at the end of March
Who: Veterans and their supporters
When: Depart at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 30, arrive at St. Paul Armory at 10 a.m. for coffee. Free catered meal at 11 a.m., march to Capitol at 12:40 p.m., rally 1-2 p.m.
Where: Bus leaves from Bloomington Veterans Center, 311 W. 84th St., goes to Capitol complex in St. Paul, returns.
What else: DAV Legislative Director Trent Dilks will brief veterans on the legislative efforts during the meal. The main efforts are asking lawmakers to pass a veterans omnibus bill and to fix the post-9/11 service bonus to include all current resident veterans, not just ones who joined in Minnesota. It also needs to include Operation Inherent Resolve.

Auxiliary Nov. 2022

• Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
• Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
• Motion made, second and carried to approve October minutes.
• Handout distributed announcing Post/Unit 435 (Richfield) will be holding an omelet breakfast at Wold-Chamberlain Post 99 on Dec. 11.
• Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
• Membership renewals: 69. Motion by Cathy Moretton/second Gabriele Servin to obtain a debit card to process membership renewals. Passed.
• Condolences to the families of Patricia Kostelnik and Earlene Thompson.
• Membership dinner will be held Nov. 22.
• Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 17.
• Motion by Bonnie Proctor/second Joan Boerner, to donate $100 to Food for Heroes. Passed.
• Meat raffle scheduled for Nov. 26 will be run by Legion Riders. Motion by Bonnie/second Joan for proceeds to Legacy Foundation Fund 84. Passed.
• President Jody gave updates on Fall Conference — very informative. Theresa Berg was color bearer for 10th District. Wizard of Oz sketch was entertaining.
• Jody also attended Mission Training in Bloomington, programs reviewed. New Facebook page will be created for Unit 550. National president's goals reviewed: Hero Youth Awards and Good Deed Awards. 1,000 male spouses have joined Auxiliary. February 2023 magazine will include new logo.
• Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Auxiliary Dec. 2022

• Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
• Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
• Motion made, seconded and carried to approve November minutes.
• Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
• Membership renewals: 82. Motion by Bonnie Proctor/second Joan Boerner to not hold Auxiliary meetings in January, February and March due to snowbirds and possible weather issues. Passed.
• Membership dinner held Nov. 22 was delicious. Donations of $50 and 47 pounds of canned goods and paper products went to VEAP.
• Next meat raffle set for Jan. 28 will be run by Legion Riders. Motion made/second for proceeds to Veterans Assistance Fund 85. Passed.
• Pearl Harbor Rally in Spicer had 158 in attendance.
• 10th District Mid-Winter Conference will be in Anoka Jan. 14.
• Sweetheart Rally at Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172 Feb. 4.
• Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

American Legion Calendar

Jan. 1: Tom & Jerry's, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Posts 550/1296
Jan. 14: 10th District Mid-Winter Conference, Anoka Post 102
Jan. 19: 80 percent membership target
Feb. 4: Sweetheart Rally, Osseo Post 172
Feb. 15: 85 percent membership target
Feb. 25: Department Oratorical Contest, Anoka Post 102
Feb. 26-March 1: Washington Conference
March 15: 90 percent membership target
March 15: American Legion Birthday!
March 25: ALA DEC Meeting, Dept HQ
March 30: Veterans Day on the Hill, St. Paul Armory
April 15: DEC/Appreciation Rally, New Prague Post 45
April 16-21: National Commander's Tour of Minnesota
April 19: 95 percent membership target
April 20-23: Minnesota Legion College, Camp Ripley
April 22: Dept. President's Testimonial Dinner, Spicer Post 545
May 13: Dept. Commander's Testimonial, New Prague Post 45
May 17: 100 percent membership target
May 29: Memorial Day Parade, Bloomington
June 11-17: Minnesota Boys State, St. John's Univ.
June 11-17: Minnesota Girls State, Bethel Univ.
July 12: DEC, Jackpot Junction Casino, Redwood Falls
July 13-15: Department Convention, Jackpot Junction Casino, Redwood Falls
July 26: Legacy Run Kickoff Party, location TBD
July 27-30: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Sr. State Tournament, Rochester
July 27-30: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Jr. State Tournament, Burnsville
July 28-30: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Sr. State Tournament, Roseau
July 28-30: Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball State Tournament, New York Mills
Aug. 4-6: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament, Granite Falls
Go online to **vfw1296mn.us** for VFW Post 1296 music schedule.

Financial report for Sept-Nov. 2022

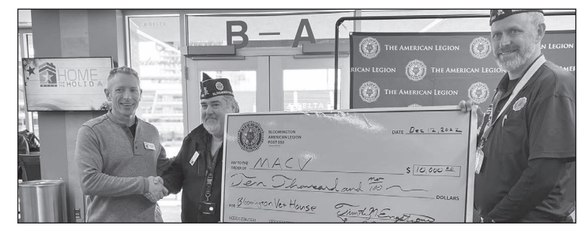
Revenue
ATM transaction fees.....$2,159
Total revenue.....$2,159

Expenses
Rent for Legion office.....$500
ATM support.....$375
Fall Conference.....$106
Total expenses.....$981
Edward Jones investments 12 month change -16.4%

— Finance Officer Jerry Narragon

In Memoriam

Burke, Harry L.	93	9/6/22	Marines
Gnerer, Phillip O.	81	11/30/22	Army



Bloomington American Legion Post 550 was featured on WCCO-TV Dec. 12 for donating $10,000 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans for its Bloomington Vet House. MACV assists veterans with housing, employment and law.