

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



Vol. 65 Issue 2

311 W. 84th St., P.O. Box 201813, Bloomington, MN 55420 • 952-884-9621 • echalp550@gmail.com

April May June 2022



Department Commander Tom Fernlund, right, visited Earl C. Hill Post 550 at the Jan. 10 meeting. Post 550 Commander Luis Campero presented a \$1,000 check to his Commander's Project. Fernlund heard a report about the Bloomington veterans memorial. Tenth District Commander Bill Gordon also visited, and the post sent him a \$1,000 donation for his project, benefiting the Magnus Veterans Foundation in Dayton.



Post 550 Baseball also donated a \$1,000 check to the Commander's Project. With Fernlund are SAL members Mark Scott, center, and Mike Steffen. Fernlund's project benefits the recreation areas of the five Minnesota Veterans Homes and a new trailer and dishwasher for the Legionville youth camp. He reached his \$60,000 goal in mid-March.

Veterans voices make a difference



Luis Campero

My fellow Legionnaires, we are moving forward into the last leg of the fiscal year and upcoming Veterans Day on The Hill. It will be April 20.

We have rented a bus for all veterans in Bloomington to ride to the event.

Please let your fellow veterans know so we can make this a successful event to let legislators know veterans voices will not be silenced.

I am looking forward to seeing you.

We will nominate officers at the next meeting if you would like to run for office. Please let us know.

As our world is changing, our thoughts and prayers go out to the suffering people in the Ukraine and those here who have family members there.

Spring is approaching and many upcoming events with it. Have a great day.

Luis Campero
Post 550 Commander

Your dues make a difference

For 11 years, the American Legion Department of Minnesota has pushed the VA for a Vet Center in St. Cloud, and on March 28, the VA announced it would open a Vet Center Outstation in St. Cloud.

St. Cloud has the highest veteran suicide rate in Greater Minnesota. Vet Centers are places for veterans and families to get readjustment counseling without any paperwork hassles or a medical record. Minnesota has among the fewest in the country when comparing by population.

It had three. One in Duluth, St. Paul and Anoka.

Auxiliary Unit 550 resumes action



Jody Hassing

Happy spring! I hope this finds you all healthy, both emotionally and physically.

I am really looking forward to warmer weather. I have missed our monthly meetings and am looking forward to getting together with Unit 550 beginning again in April. Please join us the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Keep in mind we share a free meal with the Legion, guests and any members of the public at 6:30 p.m.

At the district and department levels, we have held several in-person events, the Sweetheart Rally in Pine City and the Appreciation Rally in Forest Lake.

The District Legion Family also held a couple of membership gatherings, though, unfortunately, I was unable to attend. It was great to see all my Legion Family; life is beginning to feel normal again. District Convention will be June 4 at Milaca, and Department Convention will be July 14-16 in Willmar. Please let me know if you are interested in attending either event.

I will attend the National Auxiliary Training event in Omaha the first weekend of April. Theresa Berg, another Bloomington Unit 550 member, will attend this event for the first time. I am looking forward to the collaboration with other units in the Northwest Division and will bring all I have learned to the unit meeting in April. These events are held annually. Please let us know if you would be interested in attending a future event.

Remember to track all the hours you spend helping our veterans, their families, and the community.

Thank you and God bless.

Jody Hassing
Unit 550 President

General Membership Jan. 2022

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero.
- Roll call of officers: 1 absent, Bud Kopitski filling in at sgt-at-arms.
- Guests: Dept. Cmdr. Tom Fernlund, his wife Veronica, District 10 Cmdr. Bill Gordon, District 10 Adjutant Paul Orson, Dept. Media & Communications Committee member Kristy Janigo and several members of Bloomington Remembers Veterans committee members
- Approval of minutes tabled to next meeting.
- Post 550 Commander Luis Campero thanked guests, introduced Fernlund, presented \$1,000 donation to his fundraising project. Post 550 Baseball's Mark Scott also presented \$1,000 to his fundraising project.
- Fernlund presented on his project and recent Department of Minnesota happenings. He thanked Bloomington Post 550 for hosting the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. I Junior State Tournament and for Post 550's donations to the Legionville youth camp.
- Gordon presented on his project and recent District 10 happenings.
- Post 550 Adjutant Tim Engstrom introduced Bloomington Remembers Veterans.
- Bloomington Remembers Veterans presented on an effort to fundraise and build a veterans memorial at the Bloomington Civic Plaza.
- Janigo reported on M&C Committee ongoings and asked people to dance afterward for a social media posting.
- Officer reports were tabled to make time for two presentations.
- Finance Report: Tabled.
- Gambling: Report received and approved.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

General Membership Feb. 2022

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by 2nd Vice Commander Ron Nenovich
- Roll call of officers: 3 absent: commander, sergeant-at-arms, finance officer
- Guests: Judy
- Minutes from December 2021 and January 2022 meetings were approved.
- 1st Vice: No report
- 2nd Vice: Question raised on calendar needing to appear in the Trum-peteer. Adjutant replied it will go forward. Rick Warren brought up a joint picnic with VFW Post 1296 on Aug. 13. No action taken, but everyone seemed in agreement.
- Adjutant: Thank you letters read. He mentioned the need to fill out Consolidated Post Report, send boys to Boys State, the awareness of department scholarships and a Post 550 bowling team.
- Chaplain: Post 550 lost Alton J. Flugum, 78
- Athletics Officer: Bloomington Post 550 hosts the Div. I Junior State Tournament this summer and more members of the post should attend the games, as well as the All-Star game the following week. Adjutant mentioned Burnsville is hosting the Div. I State Tournament across the river, and Rochester is on track to host it in 2023.
- Gambling: Sales have been low, likely a result of COVID concerns and a rising cost of living. The Gambling Committee proposed payments for a 40&8 Voiture 1281 (west metro) scholarship, Bloomington Mites Hockey, an ROTC scholarship, commit to sending boys to Boys State upon receiving applications. Report approved.
- Boy Scouts: No report.
- Gun Safety: Program has opened to registration. It will be April 27 & 29. Age range is 11-18.
- SAL Squadron 550: 42 paid members.
- Post 550 membership: There are 346 paid members, but it is likely higher than that, said Dept. Membership Director Paul Hassing, because National has been slow to process membership, and it is affecting finances of posts and programs across the country.
- ALR Chapter 550: There is a 10th District Membership Rally at noon March 5 at Hopkins Post 320, and on March 26-27 the Riders will have a booth at the St. Paul Rivercentre. There is a ride at Bunker Hill Regional Park for the Magnus Foundation. There is the American Legion Foundation Fund 85 Ride (veterans assistance fund) on July 30. The Legacy Run is Aug. 24-28, which continues on to the Milwaukee National Convention.
- Unfinished Business: Rick Warren described the results of a recent gambling audit. The audit is freely available to any member who wishes to see it.
- New Business: Warren said the VFW has membership applications by the door, and he felt The American Legion should, too. Engstrom said he would take care of it.
- For the Good of the Legion: Jim Mead said two reps from the Czech Embassy would be by to honor WWII veterans at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 22 at the Bloomington Veterans Center. He wanted a rep from Post 550 to be present. WCCO was coming. Don Alman noted the Appreciation Rally is in Forest Lake on March 12, and he would be going. Mead said the Honor Guard is providing assistance at Fort Snelling.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

General Membership Jan. 2022

- Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero.
- Roll call of officers: all present, with Bud Kopitski filling in at sgt-at-arms.
- Guests: Garylee Davenport, candidate for Department of Minnesota commander 2022-23. He spoke about his service in the active Army and in the National Guard. He is a 20-year member of Spicer Post 545. He is a past department sergeant-at-arms and the current assistant director for the Minnesota American Legion Riders.
- 2nd Vice: Memorial Day Parade will be held May 30. He will check to see if VFW wants to do it jointly.
- Adjutant: Post needs to endorse Paul Hassing for department commander in 2023-24. Adjutant Tim Engstrom moved; Rick Warren seconded. Motion carried. Engstrom will send notice of the endorsement to the District 10 adjutant.
- Finance: Financial report approved. (See financial report below.)
- Chaplain: No one passed away to his knowledge in the past month. A celebration of Sgt.-at-Arms Rick Walker's life was held at the post on March 13. The Honor Guard went to Fort Snelling on March 14 for his burial. Mead spoke some kind words about Walker.
- Athletics: An excellent hockey game took place March 12. The Junior Legion Baseball State Tournament is July 28-31, hosted by Post 550 at Red Haddock Field. He encouraged Legion/SAL/ALA members to attend. They get in for free.
- Membership: Position is vacant with the passing of Walker. Jim Mead filled in. He said there were 347 paid members, with a goal of 400. Engstrom noted National HQ is processing membership at a slow rate, and so the real number could be higher than reported.
- Gambling Manager: Post 550 started electronic pulltabs at The Sports Page today, March 14. The Gambling Committee supported donations to Post 550 Baseball, 492nd Engineer Readiness Group (Army Reserve) Family Support, Kennedy Baseball Boosters, VFW (for Walker memorial banquet), Majestic Hills Ranch (so disabled veterans can enjoy horses), Kennedy Senior Class. Report approved.
- Gun Safety: On track for class in April.
- SAL: 43 paid members, now over 100 percent.
- ALR: Riders are coming to Veterans Day on the Hill on April 20 in St. Paul. The Riders also hope to participate in the Bloomington Memorial Day Parade. A motion was made and approved to rent a bus or van to take Post 550 members to Veterans Day on the Hill.
- Member Clarence Bunkhold said he would get information on the summer picnic for the next meeting.
- Minutes from the February meeting were approved.
- Warren and Ron Nenovich reported Engstrom would be interested in being gambling manager if someone runs for adjutant, so he doesn't do both. Nenovich moved, Warren seconded, to hire Engstrom as gambling manager as of April 1, provided he passes the exam and fills out necessary paperwork. Motion carried.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

Financial report for Dec-Feb. 2021

Revenue	
ATM transaction fees.....	\$2,151
Donation from Philip Broat family.....	\$100
Total revenue.....	\$2,251

Expenses	
Rent for Legion office.....	\$450
ATM support.....	\$375
Total expenses.....	\$825
Edward Jones investments 12 month change	+1.26%

— Finance Officer Jerry Narragon

Auxiliary Jan.-March 2022

No meetings held in January, February or March due to snowbirds and weather considerations.

February motion via text made by Bonnie Proctor/Liz Hassing to donate meat raffle proceeds to Magnus Veterans Foundation, a facility for veterans located in Dayton. This is a 10th District project. Passed.

March motion via text made by Bonnie Proctor/Joan Boerner to keep dues for 2023 at \$35 for Seniors and \$10 for Juniors. Passed.

— Bonnie Proctor, Secretary

In Memoriam

Richard D. Walker	73	12/29/21	Army
Alton J. Flugum	78	12/20/21	Army
Jennifer Woolley	71	March 2021	Auxiliary



Memorial Day Parade

What: Parade down Lyndale Avenue

Who: Veterans and their friends, family, supporters

When: Assemble 8-9 a.m., depart at 9 a.m., end at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 30

Where: Assemble at Ziegler CAT on W. 94th St. Parade goes east on 94th, then south on Lyndale to Bloomington Cemetery. Memorial Day service at the cemetery begin at 10 a.m.

What else: Our Bloomington Honor Guard will be with us and work the Bloomington Cemetery service, then drive over to Dawn Valley Cemetery along Bush Lake Road for that Memorial Day service, which begins around 11 a.m.

Speaker: Post 550 Commander Luis Campero will speak at both cemeteries.

AMERICAN LEGION

Do you or someone you know want to be a Post 550 officer?

What: Nominations for Post 550 officers will be taken at the April meeting.

When: 7 p.m. Monday, April 11

Where: Post 550 regular meeting, 311 W. 84th St.

How much: FREE meal at 6:30 p.m.

What else: Election will take place at the May meeting.

We especially need someone to be the Membership Director, which is presently vacant. Unlike most posts, there isn't much paperwork involved, as the Auxiliary's Bonnie Proctor handles processing. The Post 550 Membership Director would focus on reaching out to veterans across the city. We do have some ideas for incentives, such as maybe a new polo shirt for everyone who joins or renews next year. You would help us spread the word all over Bloomington. Help us grow Post 550 so we continue our tradition of serving our community, state and nation.

Get your Legion cap to City Hall!

Bloomington Remembers Veterans, the group trying to get a veteran memorial for our city, goes before the Bloomington City Council at 6 p.m. Monday, April 11. The presentation will be near the beginning of the meeting, so you won't need to stay long. It would be great for city leaders to see many Legion and VFW caps in the audience.

American Legion Calendar

April 8-9: Department Junior Conference, Willmar

April 11-14: National Commander's Tour of Minnesota

April 11: 8:45 a.m. KMSF Fox9 (tune in to watch!)
visiting Air National Guard during day
5 p.m. Arcade-Phalen Post 577

April 12: 8 a.m. Red Wing Post 54
noon Dodge Center Post 384
5 p.m. Owatonna Post 77

April 13: 8 a.m. Austin Post 91
noon Blue Earth Post 89
5 p.m. Fairmont Post 36

April 14: 8 a.m. Brewster Post 464
visiting Luverne Veterans Home during day
5 p.m. Pipestone Post 6

April 20: Veterans Day on the Hill, State Capitol, St. Paul

April 21-24: Minnesota American Legion College, Camp Ripley

April 23: President's Testimonial, Osseo Post 172

May 30: Bloomington Memorial Day Parade, arrive at Ziegler CAT parking lot at 8:30 a.m., walk at 9 a.m. to cemetery

June 4: 10th District Convention, Milaca Post 178

June 12-18: Minnesota Boys State, St. John's University

June 12-18: Minnesota Girls State, Bethel University

June 18: Commander's Testimonial, Moose Lodge, Waite Park

June 24-26: SAL Detachment Convention, E. Grand Forks P-157

July 13-16: Department Convention, Willmar

July 28-31: Div. I Sr. Baseball State Tournament, Alimagnet Park, Burnsville

July 28-31: Div. I Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Red Haddock Field, Bloomington

July 29-31: Div. II Sr. Baseball State Tournament, Luverne

July 30: Fund 85 Run, St. Peter Post 37

Aug. 3-7: Div. I Sr. Baseball Regional Tournament, Rapid City, S.D.

Aug. 5-6: Div. II Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Luverne

Aug. 5-7: Department Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville

Aug. 11-16: Baseball World Series, Shelby, N.C.

Aug. 20-23: Minnesota Legacy Run

Aug. 21-25: National Legacy Run, ending in Milwaukee

Aug. 26-Sept. 1: National Convention, Milwaukee

Sept. 8-11: Legionville Camporee, Legionville

Sept. 10: Harvest Rally, Legionville

Go online to vfw1296mn.us for VFW Post 1296 music schedule.



Veterans Day on the Hill

What: Post 550 will have a bus to transport local veterans and their supporters to the Capitol in St. Paul and back

Who: Veterans and their supporters

When: Depart at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 20, arrive at St. Paul Armory at 10:30 a.m. Free catered meal at Armory at 11 a.m., march to Capitol at 12:45 p.m., rally 1-2 p.m.

Where: Bus leaves from Bloomington Veterans Center, goes to Capitol complex in St. Paul, returns after.

What else: DAV Legislative Director Trent Dilks will brief veterans on the legislative efforts during the meal.



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The Trumpeteer
 THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA



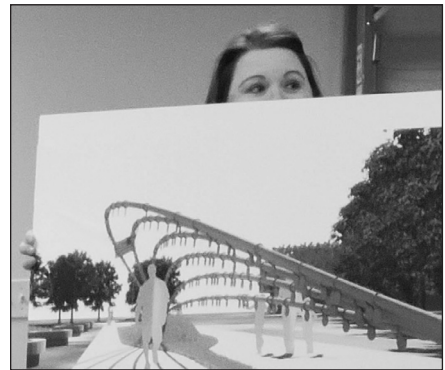
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Find us:

- Post 550 meeting are 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month. All members are welcomed to attend.
- Post 550's location is 311 W. 84th St., Bloomington (at the VFW Post 1296 building).
- Gambling meetings are in the Legion office, while post meetings are in the banquet hall.
- The Post 550 phone is 952-884-9621. Our email is echalp550@gmail.com.

Questions on VA benefits?

Call Minnesota American Legion Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller at 612-598-3849 or call a Hennepin County Veterans Service Officer at 612-348-3300. They are here to help you.



A member of Bloomington Remembers Veterans holds an image of the proposed Bloomington Veterans Memorial at the Jan. 10 meeting.

We have e-pullitabs!

Sports Page Bar & Grill

Pull tab hours:
 Mon.-Sat. 11-11
 Sunday 9-11
 9104 Lyndale Ave. S.

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.

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Post 550 Officers

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

Unit 550 Officers

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

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) _____