

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



Vol. 65 Issue 1

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

Jan. Feb. Mar. 2022



Luis Campero

We have a great team

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Here we are again. It is once again a time to be merry and reflect upon the year. It has been a year full of ups and downs. We have lost some friends along the way. We have also had some great things like being part of the Legacy Run and helping to keep Legionville open.

As the American Legion Family, we will continue to strive to help veterans and their families stay afloat through these difficult times and keep the politicians on their toes to stay the course and keep our benefits to take care of our nation's veterans.

We have a great group of men and women here at Bloomington Post 550, and I am so proud to represent you as your commander. Thank you for your confidence in me and your support through out the year. May you all be blessed and have a great 2022.

Luis Campero
Post 550 Commander

General Membership Oct. 12, 2021

- Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero.
- Guests: Mary Touve of Humana and three ballplayers
- Roll call of officers: all present.
- 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt: Remind members of the membership dinner on Nov. 9, where there will be roast beef and chicken.
- Adjutant Tim Engstrom: Bunkholt has report on effort to have meals at meetings. He looked at the Knights of Columbus Hall but our night is taken. He spoke with the VFW chef and he would do a buffet and is working out a price to bring back next month as an action item. Engstrom reported on bringing a 2021 Officer Manual back from National HQ, and he said the Trumpeteer was out.
- Finance Officer Jerry Narragon: Finance report read and approved.
- Chaplain Jim Mead: Moment of silence for three veterans who died. Also noted member Paul Hassing, the department membership director, is recovering from surgery.
- Athletic Officer Ron Nenovic: Meetings are happening at VFW Post 1296 every month to discuss tournaments.
- Membership Director & Sgt.-at-Arms Richard Walker: Post 550 has 254 members in this membership year, but more are expected to be processed as MyLegion.org's kinks are worked out.
- Gambling Manager Rick Warren: Gambling operation at Sports Page Bar & Grill broke into again. Thieves had a sledgehammer but didn't get the safe. During the finance meeting, Post 550 proposed making \$13,500 in donations — to Kennedy football, Kennedy pantry, scholarship, Jefferson hockey, Kennedy hockey, Kennedy/Jefferson girls hockey, booster clubs, Veterans on the Lake, Veterans on Big Marine Lake, Minnesota Military Family Foundation. Motion to approve report and donations approved.
- A discussion was had on changing bylaws to pay lawful expenditures. Motion to regularly pay lawful expenditures approved.
- Warren described the City of Bloomington's effort to honor veterans with a veterans memorial at the Civic Plaza.
- Warren said Post 550 was fined \$100.
- Gun safety: April classes are being planned, minimum age is 12.
- SAL: There are 25 paid members.
- Riders: Don Alman said the Minnesota Legacy Run ended in Hopkins and was fun despite 35 minutes of rain.
- New business: Richard Skinn and Mike Mellin said there is a need for the honor guard to get new uniforms. Mellin said they will return with options.
- Engstrom said Department of Minnesota Commander Tom Fernlund is coming to our post meeting in January to hear about the new Bloomington Veterans Memorial.
- Engstrom said he is looking at van rental options for the Saluting Community Heroes gathering on Nov. 18 in Hutchinson. The van would depart at 3:30 p.m., he said.

- Motion to approve August meeting minutes carries.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

General Membership Nov. 8, 2021

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero
- Roll call of officers: All present.
- No guests present.
- October minutes approved as amended to include the name of Mary Touve of Humana as a guest.
- 1st Vice: Thank-you notes came from a baseball player, Oak Grove Middle School, Hastings Veterans Home (countertops in the kitchen we paid for).
- Adjutant: Post members are going to Saluting Community Heroes fundraiser on Nov. 18 in Hutchinson in a van. A motion was made for \$146.06 to rent the van. Approved.
- Finance: ATM profit was \$413. Total funds sit at about \$337,000. Estimate is 20 percent more than a year ago.
- Chaplain: Moment of silence for members who died. (See memoriam on next page of newsletter.)
- Athletic: Post 550 will host the state DI Jr. tournament in 2022, along with an all-star game. Need to see more of own veterans at the ballpark at state DI Jr tournament July 28-31. There are almost daily games for our teams in June and July to attend. Baseball is a proud part of Post 550.
- Membership: Present total is 260. Membership dinner is set for 5-7 p.m. Nov. 10 at Knights of Columbus Hall in Bloomington.
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Auxiliary has cupcakes in celebration of Auxiliary's birthday.
- Gambling: Donations in November totalled \$13,500. Report approved.
- Boy Scouts: Troop 328 gave its possessions to other troops in the council and will have a Court of Honor with the last three Eagle Scouts.
- Gun Safety: Date of April 27 for classes, will use conference room for classes. Date of April 29 to go to Post 435's gun club and firing range. To sign up, call Kurt at 612-812-0854.
- SAL: 34 paid members
- Riders: Bikes being put away, Riders hosting Pearl Harbor Rally on Dec. 4 at Montgomery Post 79. Riders will plan a new ride to raise funds for Veteran Assistance Fund.
- Adjutant Tim Engstrom asked about efforts to find a caterer. Clarence Bunkholt would investigate.
- First Vice Cmdr. Ron Nenovich reported on Post 550 giving out more than 1,000 pieces of candy for Halloween at city event at Normandale Lake.
- Joint Post 550/1296 Honor Guard Captain Dan Welsh said new uniforms would cost \$777 apiece, and there are 14 members, and he asked for \$16,000 so the unit has funds available for new members. A motion was made for \$8,000, noting uniforms can be approved as needed. New members can call Welsh at 952-607-8706. A discussion was had. Motion carried with 1 opposed.
- Chaplain Jim Mead said the Honor Guard would host Congressman Dean Phillips at noon on Veterans Day by the flagpole.
- A discussion was had on the January meeting, where Department of Minnesota Commander Tom Fernlund would visit. Engstrom explained he would hear a presentation on the Bloomington Veterans Memorial being built.
- Department Membership Director Paul Hassing noted National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez was coming to Minnesota and would be at the Pearl Harbor Rally Dec. 4 in Montgomery.
- Mead said Post 550 expected to hear about the status of playing bingo again.
- Campero said he and Engstrom went to a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon ceremony at City Hall earlier that evening and met the commander of the Armory, along with Meghan from the Family Readiness Foundation. He felt getting to know them would be good for growing membership.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

General Membership Dec. 13, 2021

- Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero
- Roll call of officers: 1 absent.
- No guests present. November minutes approved.
- New members present: Larry Frost, Charles Woods, Dave Winter.

Continued on next page

Continued from Front Page

- 1st Vice: Post 550 donation of \$5,000 to Hastings Veterans Home helped provide tables for a kitchen.
- Finance: Report approved.
- Sgt.-at-Arms/Membership fill-in Leon Kopitski: 301 members presently, though more are awaiting processing.
- Chaplain: Moment of silence for deceased members.
- Athletics: There will be no Spaghetti Dinner Auction.
- Commander: Donation of \$11,250, in the form of \$100 gift cards to E-6 and below enlisted soldiers at the Bloomington Armory, went over well. The donation benefited 125 soldiers. Motion to approve expenditure carries.
- Gambling: November resulted in \$7,935.85. October had \$22,538. Report approved. Clarence Bunkholt motioned to donate \$1,000 to the Department Commander's Project, Ron Nenovich seconded. Motion carried.
- Gun Safety: Date of April 27 for classes, will use conference room for classes. Date of April 29 to go to Post 435's gun club and firing range. To sign up, call Kurt at 612-812-0854.
- SAL: Jim Mead attended the Pearl Harbor Rally at Montgomery Post 79. He said SAL has 18 new members and 43 paid members.
- Rick Warren said Post 550 needs a new flag before the January meeting. Discussion ensued about supply shortages.
- Bunkholt said he met with the new VFW food vendor to talk about providing food for the Post 550 meetings. Motioned, seconded and approved to have meals a half hour before the membership meetings.
- New members introduced themselves. Rick Warren moved to donate \$300 to the Creekside Community Center wood shop. Seconded and carried.
- Tim Engstrom and Don Alman agreed to arrive early to set up the meetings for the next six months.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

Financial report for Sept-Nov. 2021

Revenue

ATM transaction fees.....	\$2,114
Flag sales.....	\$0
Total revenue.....	\$2,114

Expenses

Rent for Legion office.....	\$450
ATM support.....	\$375
Total expenses.....	\$825
Edward Jones investments 12 month change	+11.8%

— Finance Officer Jerry Narragon

Auxiliary October 2021

- 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 September minutes.
- Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
- Membership renewals for 2022 are coming in, 59 to date.
- Meat raffle Sat. Oct. 30, 2 p.m. Motion by Bonnie Proctor, second by Joan Boerner, to donate proceeds to Women's Programs at VA Medical Center. Passed.
- Membership dinner at KC Hall, 5-7 p.m. Nov. 9.
- Trish Bunkholt requested a donation for her great-niece Kylee, who has extensive medical needs. Jody advised there is a new emergency fund available to aid members. Tabled until next month so family can investigate this fund.
- Best wishes to Liz Hassing and Paul Hassing, both recovering from surgeries.
- Joan Boerner donated gently used king-size sheets to Creekside Quilters.
- President Jody gave us an update on National Convention. Legacy Run turned in \$174,000, taking first place. Runner-up was North Carolina donating \$93,000. Way to go Riders!
- Fall conference coming up in Mahanomen.
- Pearl Harbor Rally Dec. 4 at Montgomery Post 79.
- Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Auxiliary November 2021

- 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 October minutes.
- Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
- Membership renewals for 2022: 77 to date.
- Condolences to Donna Martinson, Jessie Pfeifer and their families on the passing of Past Post 550 Commander Hank Bach. He will be missed.
- Scholarships are available — check out the following websites for details: www.legion.org; www.legion-aux.org; www.mnala.org
- Next Meat raffle Sat. Nov. 20: Joan Boerner and Gabi Servin volunteered.
- Trish Bunkholt request regarding her great-niece Kylee tabled until

December.

- Fall Conference attended by Jody Hassing and Theresa Berg. Very worthwhile.
- There will be a Girls State next year.
- Mission Training in Omaha in April.
- January Mid-Winter Conference will be in Anoka.
- Auxiliary's birthday — cupcakes served after the meeting.
- Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Auxiliary December 2021

- 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 for 2022: 96 to date.
- Next Meat raffle Sat. Dec. 18: Ken and Rhonda Rein volunteered. Motion made by Joan Boerner, seconded by Bonnie Proctor, to donate proceeds to Helping Paws. Passed.
- Motion by Bonnie, second Joan, to not hold Unit 550 meetings in January, February and March 2022. Passed.
- Motion by Joan, second Cathy Moreton, to donate \$200 for great niece of Trish Bunkholt for special needs glasses. Passed.
- President Jody and Theresa Berg will attend Mission Training in Omaha on April 2. Motion by Bonnie, second Gabi Servin, to pay their registration fees of \$55 each. Passed.
- Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor, Secretary

In Memoriam

Henry J. Bach, past commander, transferred to Mercedes, Texas

James G. Christianson

Gene E. Larson

Donald L. Russell

Michael L. Ryan

Joseph A. Waldoch (SAL)

Richard D. Walker, sergeant-at-arms and mem. director

Also of note:

William V. Stump, past 10th District commander, current 10th District judge advocate ("Stumpy" appeared on the front page of fall 2021 issue of The Trumpeteer swearing in the Post and Unit 550 officers in July 2021.)



Third District U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips presented two flags that have flown over the U.S. Capitol to the American Legion Post 550/VFW Post 1296 Honor Guard on Veterans Day 2021. The presentation took place immediately after a ceremony by the Bloomington Veterans Center's flagpole. From left are Post 550 member Mike Mellin, Phillips and Post 550 Chaplain Jim Mead. Mellin and Mead are on the honor guard. The American Legion is nonpartisan, but it works with lawmakers to pass laws on behalf of veterans.

A local, grass-roots effort is underway to bring a veterans memorial to the city of Bloomington

By Rachel M. Anderson
Contributing Writer

BLOOMINGTON — There are several dates each year on which Americans pay tribute to the men and women who have served in the military. However, we tend to dwell only on the sacrifice of the service members during times of conflict.

What about the sacrifice of those members in peace time? And the sacrifice family members make in supporting the service member? The veterans in Bloomington believe it is important to understand all these issues.

“Bloomington has always answered the call from its state and national government. The village of Bloomington, then only 1,000 people, contributed 60 volunteers to serve in the Civil War and Dakota Conflict. We have 62 veterans from the Civil War and even a Mexican War veteran buried here.

“Bloomington continued the tradition of patriotism in the subsequent conflicts of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Despite this noble tradition we don’t currently have a veterans memorial of our own. We intend to correct that now!” said longtime Bloomington resident and Vietnam Veteran Mike Dardis, a member of Minnesota American Legion at-large Post 1982.

He serves as vice president of Bloomington Remembers Veterans Inc., and is also a member of the organization’s Board of Directors. Founded in 2018, the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization is working to provide the citizens of Bloomington, Minnesota with a meaningful, lasting tribute that honors both service members who have served this country in peace and war and their families.

Working in partnership with the City of Bloomington, the nonprofit has already selected a site — the East Lawn of the Civic Plaza. A memorial design that will be built by the Leo A. Daly architecture firm has been commissioned. (This is the company that also designed the World War II memorial in Washington D.C. and other local memorials such as the Fireman’s Memorial in St. Paul).

The nonprofit has also begun privately fundraising needed to build The Bloomington Veterans Memorial. One hundred percent of the funding for the memorial’s construction is coming from private donations. No tax money will go toward the memorial.

The \$750,000 project is conceived as a series of experiences embedded on a path that will serve to honor, remember and share the stories of Bloomington’s veterans and their families. The winning design concept showcases the journey veterans and their families travel as well as the sacrifices made during the course of their service.

The design features two symbolic walking paths: one for the veteran and the other for



The proposed memorial was designed by Minneapolis-based Leo A. Daly Architects.

Want to go?

Minnesota American Legion Commander Tom Fernlund is coming to the Bloomington Post 550 meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10 to hear about Bloomington’s construction of a veterans memorial. Everyone is welcome. A free meal will be served.



Tom Fernlund

the family.

The paths meet at a flagpole flying the American and Prisoner-of-War (POW) flags. The flagpole, and the plaza surrounding it, will be the centerpiece serving as a backdrop for community activities and gatherings, and the visible connection to the stories of Bloomington veterans.

The design also features lighted circular plaques engraved with the symbols representing each of the six military branches — Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force — and six armatures from which individual recognition will be provided through symbolic dog tags that can be hung from each arm.

Further along is a place for quiet reflection and healing featuring seating and a vertical light source to reflect the spirit of the service members and their families. “The memorial will not only pay tribute to the service members and their families, but be a place to aid in the healing of those who have born the full brunt of the burden of service,” said Fran Stachour, secretary, Bloomington Remembers Veterans Inc., and a member of the Board of Directors.

In addition to having the support of Bloom-

ington Mayor Tim Busse and the entire City Council, the Bloomington Veterans Memorial also has the support of Minnesota Congressman Dean Phillips.

“Creating a dedicated space to honor our veterans in a public gathering area such as this will serve as a wonderful and lasting testament to the great reverence our community has for the service of our American heroes, and also the sacrifices that they and their families have made for the freedoms that all of us enjoy today,” he said.

Congressman Phillips is the son of a veteran. His father died in 1969 while serving in Vietnam.

Terry Collins, president of Bloomington Remembers Veterans Inc., and a member of the Board of Directors, said the organization’s goal is to have at least half of the \$750,000 required for the memorial raised by the end of the first quarter in 2022. So far, only a small percentage of the funding has been secured.

What the organization is calling “The Fall of Fundraising” kicked off recently. “Our goal over the next quarter is to get appointments with key people who can help raise those big chunks of money we need. We are going to be asking for help from people who have ties to Bloomington, have business arrangements here. We’re looking at educational and cultural sources as well,” he said.

Bloomington Remembers Veterans Inc. is staffed by an all-volunteer committee of dedicated community members, the majority of whom are veterans from several different branches of the armed forces. The organization will be overseeing the memorial’s construction, then plans to turn the site over to the City of Bloomington to maintain it.

To learn more, visit BloomingtonVeteransMemorial.org, or contact Mike Dardis at 952-888-3479 or via email at m1dardis@hotmail.com.

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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.

Gambling is fun!



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..... Tim Engstrom
- Finance Officer..... Jerry Narragon
- Chaplain..... Jim Mead
- Sgt-at-Arms..... vacant
- SAL..... Jim Mead
- Other positions:
- Gambling Mgr..... Rick Warren
- 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..... Nancy Stolarczyk
- Rose Kitt
- Membership..... Bonnie Proctor
- Exec. Board..... Elizabeth Hassing
- Rose Kitt
- Past Presidents..... Jessie Pfeifer
- Bonnie Proctor
- Hon. Jr. President Liliana Campero



Several members of Earl C. Hill Post and Unit 550 traveled together in a van to Hutchinson for the annual Saluting Community Heroes fundraiser. The speaker was commentator and retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North. Post 550 plans to attend again next year. The planned speaker is Mark Nutsch, who was portrayed in the 2018 movie "12 Strong."

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: _____

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