

EARL C. HILL BLOOMINGTON POST 550

THE Trumpeteer

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA



Vol. 66 Issue 3

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

July Aug. Sept. 2023



Bloomington Post and Unit 550 welcomes its newly sworn officers at its June meeting. From left are Post 550 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt, Post 550 1st Vice Commander Blaine Beste, Unit 550 Sergeant-at-Arms Trish Bunkholt, Post 550 Chaplain Jim Mead, Unit 550 President Jody Hassing, Post 550 Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Mellin, Post 550 Commander Dan Welch, Unit 550 2nd Vice President Joan Boerner, Post 550 Adjutant Warren Christopherson, Unit 550 Treasurer Gabrielle Servin, Unit 550 1st Vice President & Secretary Bonnie Proctor and Post 550 Finance Officer Jerry Narragon.



Past 10th District Commander Paul Hassing, who is the leading candidate for department commander, thanks Luis Campero for his four years of service as Post 550 commander.



Hassing swears in new Post 550 Commander Dan Welch, who is a Marine veteran of the Vietnam era and captain of the honor guard. He has been a Legionnaire for nine years.



In June, Post 550 Assistant Gambling Manager Rick Warren presents the fifth of five \$5,000 checks to Bloomington Remembers Veterans, an effort to construct a veterans memorial at Bloomington Civic Plaza. In the front is President Mike Dardis.

Post 550 April 2023 Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Commander Luis Campero.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW/MIA flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Guest: Ms. Taylor Kristoffe-Jones, Med, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Outreach Coordinator. Explained that the mission of the organization is to establish and sustain community and corporate support networks for Minnesota's military veterans, service members, and families of all military branches. Contact her at 952-484-4631 for more information.
- Roll call of officers: Finance officer excused.
- Printed copies of the March minutes distributed. Mead moved, Frost seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reported that the Memorial Day Parade is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. on May 29.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported 70-year member Lawrence Bergloff, US Army, Korea, and 34-year member Greg Roth, US Army, Vietnam, recently died. A prayer was offered for the deceased.
- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon will provide the finance report during the May meeting.
- Athletics Officer Ron Nenovich provided an update on the coming baseball season.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is at 316 or 86.5 percent of the 365 goal.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report for March. The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$23,000 the following to be paid in April:
 - Legion Baseball \$8,000
 - Bloomington Remembers Veterans \$5,000
 - Children's H.C. Foundation Autism Care Initiative \$1,000
 - Northwestern Health Sciences University Veterans Club \$ 2,500
 - Muskies, Inc. \$500
 - ETS \$1,000
 - Bloomington Gun Safety \$500
 - Bloomington Jefferson Youth Baseball \$1,000
 - MAUSO \$1,000
 - Majestic Hills Ranch \$500
 - Prospect Series \$1000
 - Closet of Hope \$1,000
- Motion was made by Mead and seconded by Nenovich to approve donations. Motion carried.
- Gun Safety committee has scheduled the 2023 Spring Firearms Safety Course at the VFW 1296 on April 25 and 27 with the Field Day on April 29 the Post 435 range in Elko.
- The Fall Firearms Safety Course dates are Aug. 15 and 17. Field Day is Aug. 19.
- Gun Safety Questions Contact: Ken Lundgren 612-812-0854.
- Sons of the American Legion reports 43 paid members.
- New Business: Nominations for Officers for FY 2023-2024
 - Commander, Dan Welch
 - 1st Vice Commander, Blaine Beste
 - 2nd Vice Commander, Clarence Bunkholt
 - Adjutant, Warren Christopherson
 - Finance, Jerry Narragon
 - Chaplain, Jim Mead
 - Sgt.-at-Arms, Mike Mellin
- Prayer offered.
- POW/MIA flag recovered.
- Colors retired.
- Meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

Post 550 May 2023 Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Commander Luis Campero.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW/MIA flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Guests: Oak Grove Middle School Dean of Students John Pochill explained the Ninja Anywhere Project and thanked Post 550 for its donation on behalf of all Oak Grove Middle School students.
- Jesse Winden from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon a comprehensive program that connects military service members and their families with community support and resources. He came to explain the program and thank Post 550 for the current and ongoing donations to help military members in the community.
- Roll call of officers: Chaplain excused.
- Printed copies of the April minutes distributed. Bunkholt moved, Servin seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reported that the Memorial Day Parade is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. on May 29. The Membership Dinner will be at the Bloomington Entertainment Center on Oct. 24. Welch moved to approve the date, Johnson seconded and the motion carried. He reminded us that this year's picnic will be at Moir Park on Aug. 12. Setup begins at 9 a.m.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported member Myron Engel recently died. A

moment of silence was offered for the deceased.

- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the Financial Report. Mellin moved, Welch seconded, and the report was approved.
- Sergeant-at-Arms Dan Welch reported that the Honor Guard will honor veterans at two funerals this week on Saturday and next Tuesday. They will also march in the Memorial Day Parade.
- Athletics Officer Ron Nenovich provided an update on the coming baseball tournaments.
- June 9-11 Junior Legion, June 16-18 Senior Legion, July 7-10 Gopher Classic.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is at 321 or 87.9 percent of the 365 goal.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom will provide the Gambling Report at the June 12 meeting.
- The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$11,500 the following to be paid in May:
 - Bloomington Remembers Veterans \$5,000
 - Wounded Warriors Guide Service \$500
 - Pause 4 Paws \$500
 - Oak Grove Middle School \$2,000
 - ST Thomas Academy (Wall that Heals) \$500
 - Minnesota American Legion Foundation Oratorical Contest \$500
 - Minnesota American Legion Foundation Eagle Scout Program \$500
 - Children's Food for Thought \$2,000
- Motion was made by Hance and seconded by Mellin to approve donations. Motion carried.
- Gun Safety Committee reported that 15 students completed the 2023 Spring Firearms Safety Course at the VFW Post 1296 on April 25 and 27 with the Field Day on April 29 at the Post 435 range in Elko.

The Fall Firearms Safety Course date is scheduled for Aug. 19 in Elko. Gun Safety Questions Contact: Ken Lundgren 612-812-0854.

- Legion Riders Chapter 550's Paul Hassing announced the return of Don Alman to the Bloomington Legion Riders. Legacy Run kickoff is July 26 at North Branch and Fund 85 is Aug. 19.
- New Business: Election of Officers for FY 2023 – 2024
 - Commander, Dan Welch
 - 1st Vice Commander, Blaine Beste
 - 2nd Vice Commander, Clarence Bunkholt
 - Adjutant, Warren Christopherson
 - Finance, Jerry Narragon
 - Chaplain, Jim Mead
 - Sgt.-at-Arms, Mike Mellin

These new officers will be sworn in at the June 12 meeting.

- Flag Retirement is at 12:30 p.m. June 24. \$500 was requested by the Honor Guard for Refreshments to be split with the VFW. Mellin moved, Welch, seconded, and the motion carried.
- Our very own Paul Hassing is the only candidate for the Department of Minnesota commander beginning in July 2023. Paul will be elected at the 104th Convention of the American Legion Department of Minnesota in Redwood Falls July 13-15, 2023.
- The Bloomington Post 550 Color Guard will be in attendance to present the colors at the ceremony on Saturday. Based upon the size of our Post we are allowed up to five delegates for the convention. We currently have just two signed up. If you would like to attend and are able to be at the convention all three days contact Warren Christopherson at 952-873-9952 to add your name to the list.
- Prayer offered.
- POW/MIA flag recovered.
- Colors retired.
- Meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

Post 550 June 2023 Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Commander Luis Campero.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW/MIA flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Guests: None
- Roll call of officers: 1st Vice Commander excused.
- Printed copies of the May minutes distributed. Engstrom moved, Mead seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reported that the Memorial Day Parade was a success with a large turnout of spectators to watch the parade. This is a reminder that the Membership Dinner will be at the Bloomington Entertainment Center on Oct. 24 and this year's picnic will be at Moir Park on Aug. 12. Setup for the picnic begins at 9 a.m.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported Army veteran Daniel J Ruppert, a 50-year member of The American Legion, passed away on May 31. Charles A. Hengel, a 41-year member, passed away on May 6. A moment of silence was offered for the deceased.
- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the Financial Report. Mead moved, Bunkholt seconded, and the report was approved.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 remains at 321 or 87.9 percent of the 365 goal.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report for April

and May. He described a robbery that occurred June 9. An assailant pushed over Assistant Gambling Manager Rick Warren and took a bank bag he was carrying. It had \$5,569 in it. Police are working to solve the case. The Post 550 gambling operation is taking security measures and switching the roles of who does which tasks. The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$28,000 for the following to be paid in June: The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$28,000 for the following to be paid in June:

- Summer Fete Bloomington \$10,000
- Fund 52 \$2,000
- Scholarship \$2,000
- Scholarship \$2,000
- Scholarship \$2,000
- URP \$1,000
- ST Bonaventure/St Vincent Food Shelf \$1,000
- Wings of the North \$2,000
- Fort Snelling's Carillon Repair \$5,500
- Gold Star Weekend \$500

Motion was made by Welch and seconded by Bunkholt to approve donations. Motion carried.

• The Gun Safety Committee has received positive feedback for their gun safety training manual used nationally and internationally to teach gun safety. The Fall Firearms Safety Course date is scheduled for Aug. 19 in Elko.

• Legion Riders' Don Alman attended the 10th District ALR Meeting. The kickoff for the Legacy Run is July 26 at North Branch and the Run will be from July 27-30. The Fund 85 Run for MVA is Aug. 19 in Forest Lake. The ALR will also participate in the Raspberry Grand Parade in Hopkins on July 16.

• New Business:

- Motion was presented to contribute \$25,000 to the Legacy Run in July by Keith Zesch, Mike Mellin seconded, and the motion carried.

- Discussion will continue next month regarding the date for a special acknowledgment dinner for veterans attending college in Bloomington at Normandale Community College and Northwestern Health Sciences University.

- Department Commander Luis Campero thanked those in attendance for the honor of serving as the commander of Bloomington Post 550.

- The elected post and unit officers for FY 2023-24 were sworn in.

• If you would like to attend and can be at the Department of Minnesota all three days, contact Adjutant Warren Christopherson at 952-873-9952 to add your name to the list.

- Prayer offered.
- POW/MIA flag recovered.
- Colors retired.
- Meeting adjourned.

• On June 24, Post 550 Executive Committee approved a \$1,000 donation to the Gold Star Ride Foundation, which gathered at VFW Post 1296 parking lot that day.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

Unit 550 April 2023 Minutes

• 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 January, February and March minutes.

• Treasurer's report approved, filed for audit.

• Membership renewals: 95.

• Motion via text approved to donate March meat raffle proceeds to Forgotten Heroes Ranges and Retreats.

• Girls State set for June 11-17. We are sponsoring 3 girls thanks to Post 550 charitable gambling.

• Department Convention in Redwood Falls July 13-15, and 10th District Convention in St. Michael June 3.

• Annual reports due April 15.

• Poppy Letter will be mailed in May.

• Post Picnic set for Aug. 12.

• Memorial Day Parade and Services May 29.

• Appreciation Rally in New Prague this weekend.

• Department Commander testimonial May 13.

• Motion made by Joan Boerner, seconded by Gabi Servin to donate April meat raffle proceeds to Armed Forces Service Center. Passed.

• Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Unit 550 May 2023 Minutes

• 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 April minutes.

• Treasurer's report approved, filed for audit.

• Guests were welcomed: Theresa Polhill and her daughters Olive and Hazel.

• Membership renewals at 97 (85%).

• National President Vickie Koutz will be in Minnesota in May. Motion by Bonnie P., seconded Joan

• B. to pay \$15 each for lunch for Bonnie, Joan and Gabriele S. to attend the luncheon. Passed.

• Memorial Day parade and services were reviewed.
• Post picnic will be held Aug. 12 at Moir Park.
• Motion made and seconded to give Girls State attendee \$60 for shirt shack purchases. Passed.

• Discussion held to continue doing Saturday meat raffles once a month starting next Oct.

• Legion Family Night at the Twins game on May 26.

• Legacy Run kickoff on July 26 in North Branch. Ending party on July 30 in Spicer.

• Vote by acclamation (motion by Joan, seconded Gabi) to continue all officers in the same positions:

President: Jody Hassing

First Vice: Bonnie Proctor

Second Vice: Joan Boerner

Secretary: Bonnie Proctor

Treasurer: Gabriele Servin

Sgt at Arms: Trish Bunkholt

Executive Board: Elizabeth Leckenby and Rose Kitt

• Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Unit 550 June 2023 Minutes

• 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 May minutes.

• Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.

• Membership renewals at 99.

• Condolences to family of Past President Jean Wegner who passed away on March 10.

• Greetings from Past President Donna Martinson who is doing well in Texas.

• Contributions to the Poppy Fund to date are \$1,855. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the mailing: Joan Boerner, Joan McIntire, Carolyn and Jim Mead, Jerry Narragon, Bonnie Proctor, Janice Rau, Gabriele and Craig Servin.

• The post picnic will be held Aug. 12 at Moir Park.

• Girls State is being held this week.

• Legacy Run kickoff on July 26 in North Branch. Ending party on July 30 in Spicer. Website is:

• MNLegacyRun.org or you can find them on Facebook: Minnesota Legacy Run.

• Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

• Installation of Officers was held after the meeting.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor



Membership Dinner!

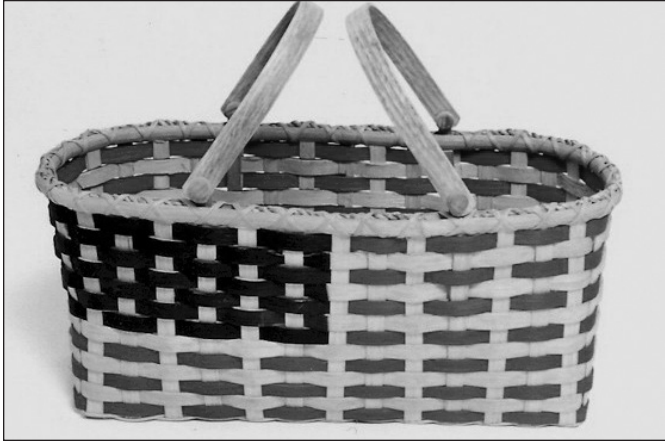
What: Meal for members of Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, guests

When: 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24

Where: Knights of Columbus Hall (Bloomington Event Center), 1114 American Blvd W., Bloomington

How much: FREE for Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members and \$5 for guests

What else: Donations for local food shelf, VEAP, will be collected. Bring a nonperishable food item. In addition to food, VEAP also collects baby products, personal hygiene items and paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, etc). Thank you.



Veterans Picnic

What: Picnic sponsored by American Legion Post 550
Who: This event is open to the public. We especially want any and all veterans, their families and friends.
When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12
Where: Moir Park, 104th St. and Morgan Ave., Bloomington

American Legion Calendar

July 4: Forest Lake Post 225 Fourth of July Parade
July 12: DEC, Jackpot Junction Casino, Redwood Falls
July 13-15: Dept. Convention, Jackpot Junction, Redwood Falls
July 26: Legacy Run Kickoff Party, North Branch Post 85
July 27-30: Baseball Div. I Sr. State Tournament, Rochester
July 27-30: Baseball Div. I Jr. State Tournament, Burnsville
July 28-30: Baseball Div. II Sr. State Tournament, Roseau
July 28-30: Fastpitch Softball State Tournament, New York Mills
Aug. 4-6: Minnesota American Legion Baseball Div. II Jr. State Tournament, Granite Falls
Aug. 10-15: American Legion Baseball World Series
Aug. 12: American Legion Post 550 & VFW Post 1926 Picnic, Moir Park
Aug. 19: Fund 85 Run, Forest Lake Post 225
Aug. 25-31: 104th National Convention, Charlotte, N.C.
Oct. 12-15: Minnesota Legion College, Camp Ripley
Oct. 24: Membership Dinner, Bloomington Event Center
Oct. 26-28: Department Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud
Nov. 11: Veterans Day

For VFW Post 1296's music schedule go online to vfw1296mn.us.



The Bloomington Honor Guard, made up of Legion and VFW members, led the Bloomington Memorial Day Parade on May 29. Everyone was surprised at the large crowds that lined Lyndale Avenue for the parade.



Bloomington Post 550 Commander (at the time) Luis Campero hands a \$2,000 check to Oak Grove Middle School Dean of Students John Pochill in May for the Ninja Anywhere Project to visit the school.

Financial report for March-May 2023

Revenue	
ATM transaction fees.....	\$2,447
Total revenue.....	\$2,447
Expenses	
Rent for Legion office.....	\$650
ATM support.....	\$375
ATM bonding.....	\$150
Total expenses.....	\$1,175
Edward Jones investments 12 month change	-1.56%
— Finance Officer Jerry Narragon	

In Memoriam

Name	Age	Died	Cont. Years	Branch
Bergloff, Lawrence S.	93	3/23/23	70	Army
Roth, Gregory G.	71	4/5/23	34	Army
Engel, Myron H.	89	3/29/23	33	Marines
Ruppert, Daniel A.	79	5/31/23	51	Army
Hengel, Charles A.	83	5/6/23	41	Army



Bloomington Post 550 Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom hands a \$1,000 check to the Closet of Hope, an effort to provide free clothes to people in need. The Closet of Hope operates out of the Bloomington Covenant Church.



Raylin Dutrieuille, right, presents a \$1,000 check April 17 from Bloomington American Legion Post 550 to Children's Minnesota Foundation for its autism intervention program. Raylin's father, Raymond, is a Post 550 member.



Bloomington Post 550 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt hands a \$1,000 check to the Gold Star Riders Foundation, which departed on a fund-raising ride from the Bloomington Veterans Center parking lot on June 24.



Bloomington Post 550 Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom presents a \$5,500 check to Dick Middleton of Chanhassen Post 580. The check is made out to Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund with "Carillon Fund" in the memo. Middleton is seeking to raise \$90,000 to bring music, chimes, bells and other sounds back to the carillon at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. With Post 550's donation on June 19, the total was at \$43,765.



Bloomington Post 550 Gambling Manager hands a \$10,000 check to the Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department to pay for fireworks during Summer Fete in Bloomington. The best thing about fireworks is everyone gets to enjoy the display.

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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 5:45 p.m. that day.
- 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 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-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.



The Bloomington Post 550 shuttle bus went to St. Paul on March 30 for Veterans Day on the Hill. We transported about 15 veterans to the Capitol for the large gathering.

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Post 550 Officers

- Commander Dan Welch
- 1st Vice..... Blaine Beste
- 2nd Vice..... Clarence Bunkholt
- Adjutant..... Warren
- Christopherson
- Finance Officer..... Jerry Narragon
- Chaplain..... Jim Mead
- Sgt-at-Arms..... Mike Mellin
- 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

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) _____