

# THE EARL C. HILL BLOOMINGTON POST 550 Trumpeteer

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA



Vol. 64 Issue 4

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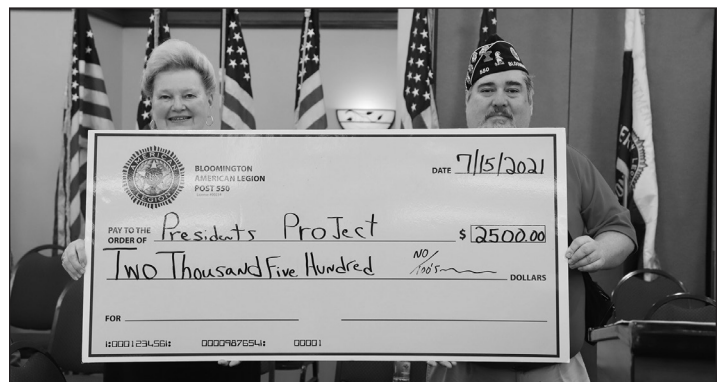
Oct. Nov. Dec. 2021



Tenth District Judge Advocate Bill Stump of St. Louis Park Post 282 swears in Post 550 and Unit 550 officers on June 14.



Post 550 Commander Luis Campero, right, gives departing Commander Mark Dvorak a \$2,500 check for his project at the Department of Minnesota Convention in Redwood Falls.



Post 550 Commander Luis Campero, right, hands departing President Mary Hendrickson a \$2,500 check for her project at the Department of Minnesota Convention in Redwood Falls.



**Tim Engstrom**

## Trumpeteer sees changes

I am filling in for Commander Luis Campero this issue. I am the new adjutant. My name is Tim Engstrom, and I am the new editor for the Trumpeteer, too.

I reside in Bloomington, down near the Masonic Home, and I have a wife, Lisa, who is a member of the Auxiliary, and two sons, ages 14 and 9, who both are members of the Sons of The American Legion. We have a 2-year-old yellow Labrador.

For my day job, I work for the Department of Minnesota. I am the communications director, which means I edit The Minnesota Legionnaire.

You probably have noticed a few changes with your Post 550 Trumpeteer. Cindy Busse, who had been doing it for us, moved to Arizona, and post and unit members were wondering who could step in and whether anyone knew anyone. We all had a few names to suggest, but those leads didn't work out, so, finally, I said OK.

This first one likely arrived late in your mailbox, because I suddenly had to find time in my schedule and I had to make it all 100 percent from scratch. I know. I know. Dumb excuses.

Hey, on the upside, my oldest son, Forrest, took the swearing-in photo.

It is my hope to publish more photographs of post, unit, squadron and chapter activities. Please send them to me at my work email, tengstrom@mnlegion.org with the subject "Trumpeteer."

Thanks for reading. Go Army. Beat Navy.

**Tim Engstrom**  
Post 550 Adjutant



**Jody Hassing**

## Convention was excellent

Hello, fellow Auxiliary members! Welcome to fall and the beginning of a new Auxiliary year.

The Department Convention was in July, and 10th District member Patti Coleman was elected as the Department President! I also attended 102nd National Convention in Phoenix. (Boy, was it hot!) Lots of great information and a celebration of 100 years of "Service Not Self."

We held the Legacy Run this year under the theme of "Bringing the Family Back Together" and, boy, did we ever. It was great to see so many Legion Family members at the various different posts we got the chance to visit. We turned in \$174,000 at the National Convention on behalf of all the members of the American Legion Department of Minnesota.

There are awards for units who make 100 percent by Veterans Day. Let's do this Bloomington! Get your dues paid early this year and have Bloomington Unit 550 announced at the National Convention in Milwaukee next year.

The next department event is the Fall Conference in Mahanomen on Oct. 21 -23. This is the time to learn about our programs and meet other members of the Legion Family. I know it is a long way, but if you want to join us, please let me know.

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 July 2021

- Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero
- Guests: Deb Bunkholt of Bloomington Public Schools, who discussed establishing a scholarship in the name of departing superintendent, Les Fujitake.
- Roll call of officers: all present.
- Adjutant: New adjutant receive a key to the office and had turned in the Officer Report to the Dept. of Minnesota.
- Finance Report read and approved.
- Chaplain: Moment of silence for two members who died.
- Athletic: Post 550 participated in the largest American Legion tournament in the country, the Gopher Classic and finished in the top eight out of 96 teams.
- Membership: 10 new members, including Francis Stackman of the Bloomington Historical Society, who was in attendance.
- Gambling: Safe was stolen from Sports Page in October. Hennepin County is charging two people with the crime and will see \$15,000 in restitution, according to a letter he received. Report accepted and approved.
- Motion made to increase Post 550 scholarships to \$2,000. Approved.
- Motion made to donate \$3,000 to the Minnesota Color Guard. Approved.
- Legislative: Legislative approved and governor signed the Veterans Restorative Justice Act. MDVA only state agency to increase its budget. Measure to impact charitable gambling were stopped. An effort to increase grant for veteran service organizations did not pass. Minnesota is getting 3 new state veterans homes and 1 new state veterans cemetery.
- Campero presented Chaplain Jim Mead with the Ray Kriefall Memorial 10th District Chaplain Award.
- Warren Christopherson moved to increase pay for gambling manager to \$2,500 a month, with assistants going to \$500 a month, effective July 1. Motion approved.
- Ten members signed on the attend the Saluting Community Heroes banquet in Hutchinson on Nov. 18, where ret. Lt. Col. Oliver North is the guest speaker.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.,

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

## General Membership Aug. 2021

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by 1st Vice Commander Ron Nenovich.
- Roll call of officers: 1 absent.
- Guests: Oak Grove Middle teacher Brian Wesley says school is making a new logo, requests donation.
- Recognition given to member Paul Hassing, who was wearing a white hat. He is the new membership director for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.
- 2nd Vice: Picnic coming, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 21 at VFW.
- Finance Report read and approved.
- Chaplain: Moment of silence for a member who died.
- Athletic: Legion DI Jr. All-Star game was in mid-June. Post 550 is reason Red Haddox Field is a great place to accommodate baseball tournaments.
- Membership: 196 renewed and new members
- Gambling: Sales are typically down in June and July, less to give to charitable causes. Report read and approved.
- Boy Scouts: Troop 328 is closing. Some trying to save it.
- Gun Safety: Interest is strong, need more instructors.
- SAL: 14 members paid, off goose egg.
- July minutes approved.
- Good of Legion: Trumpeteer editor Cindy Busse moved to Arizona. Motion to give her \$200 thank you. Approved.
- Hassing spoke about membership, helping young veterans come into the Legion. Get them involved and engaged but not too busy all at once. Start a new member fund, give them shirts and other ways to brand the post in the community.
- Riders: Don Alman thanked Bloomington Post 550 for its \$25,000 donation. This goes to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. (See big photo in September issue of The Minnesota Legionnaire.)
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned.,

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

## Auxiliary July 2021

- Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
- Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
- Motion made/2nd/carried to approve April, May and June minutes as published in Trumpeteer.
- No Treasurer's Report (Treasurer on vacation).
- Bonnie reported poppy fund receipts to date are \$2,895.
- Sandra Foss, 29-year member, passed away. Our condolences to her family.
- Motion by Bonnie/2nd Joan to pay \$400 for partial expenses of Legacy Run to Jody Hassing. Passed.
- Motion by Joan/2nd Bonnie to pay \$25 registration fee for Jody to attend

National Convention. Passed.

- Jody leaving for State Convention Wednesday morning.
- Legion Riders will be in the Raspberry Festival parade in Hopkins on July 18.
- Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

## Auxiliary August 2021

- Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
- Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
- Motion made/2nd/carried to approve July minutes.
- Thank you letter read from Mpls. Veterans Home for our recent donation.
- Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
- Motion made by Bonnie/2nd Joan to pay registration fees for all juniors attending Fun Days and Conventions. Passed.
- President Jody gave us an update on Department convention that was held in July. Patti Coleman was elected Department President. Paul Hassing elected Dept. Membership Director and Ted Berg was elected MN Legion Riders Director. Jody is also District Treasurer and Dept Finance 3rd Member.
- Jody reported on Legacy Run – first weekend just finished. Second weekend coming up, with final turn in at Hopkins Legion on Aug. 15.
- National Convention will be held in Phoenix on Aug 27-Sept. 2.
- Camporee and Harvest Rally to be held at Legionville Sept. 9-12.
- Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.
- A motion was later made via text by Bonnie/2nd by Joan, to give Cindy Busse, who prepared the Trumpeteer for years, a \$100 retirement gift. Passed.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

## Auxiliary September 2021

- Meeting was called to order by First Vice Bonnie Proctor.
- Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
- Motion made, 2nd and carried to approve August minutes.
- Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
- Feasibility of having Children's Christmas Party this year discussed.
- Upcoming Membership dinner also discussed.
- Legion Auxiliary will be working Saturday meat raffles once/month starting in October.
- Motion made by Joan Boerner/2nd Cathy Moreton to donate \$500 to Department President's project, Eagles Healing Nest. Passed. Eagles Nest is "A Place to Heal with Honor" from the invisible wounds of war. The Nest not only offers refuge and healing to veterans but also their families and children.
- Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

## Financial report for June-Aug. 2021

Revenue	
ATM transaction fees.....	\$2,174
Flag sales.....	\$80
Total revenue.....	\$2,246

Expenses	
Rent for Legion office.....	\$450
ATM support.....	\$375
Total expenses.....	\$880
Edward Jones investments 12 month change	+12.3%

— Finance Officer Jerry Narragon



## In Memoriam

Joan Coy  
Burnham T. Elton  
John Kissel  
Conrad G. Nelson  
Howard Shouts



## Be there or be square!

**What:** Membership Dinner

**When:** 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9

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

**How much:** FREE for Legion 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, tp, Kleenex, etc) Thank you.



## Time for Tom & Jerry cocktails

**What:** Fun on New Year's Day

**When:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1

**Where:** VFW Post 1296

**What else:** This is a joint event of Legion Post 550 and VFW Post 1296. Enjoy yourselves!

## GOOD JOB, BOWLING TEAM!



Bloomington Post 550 won the Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament in Dayton in the spring. The team was Scott Kick, Kevin Kick, Dan Schultz and Gary Guggenberger. From left at the Department Convention in July are then-10th District Commander Tom Allen, Bowling Secretary Cari Lamb, Bowling Chairman Bob Mace and Post 550 Adjutant Tim Engstrom.

## Calendar

**Oct. 4-7:** Fall Meetings at Legion HQ, Indianapolis

**Oct. 11:** Post 550 gambling meeting, 6 p.m., 311 W. 84th St.

**Oct. 11:** Post and Unit 550 meetings, 7 p.m., 311 W. 84th St.

**Oct. 15-16:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee Fall Meeting, Clearwater Post 323

**Oct. 21-23:** Fall Conference, Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomon

**Nov. 8:** Post 550 gambling meeting, 6 p.m., 311 W. 84th St.

**Nov. 8:** Post and Unit 550 meetings, 7 p.m., 311 W. 84th St.

**Nov. 9:** Membership Dinner, 5-7 p.m., 1114 American Blvd. W.

**Dec. 4:** Pearl Harbor Rally, Montgomery Post 79

**Dec. 13:** Post 550 gambling meeting, 6 p.m., 311 W. 84th St.

**Dec. 13:** Post and Unit 550 meetings, 7 p.m., 311 W. 84th St.

**Jan. 1:** Legion Post 550 and VFW Post 1296 New Year's Day Celebration: Tom & Jerrys, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 311 W. 84th St.

**Jan. 8:** 10th District Mid-Winter Conference, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Anoka Post 102

**Jan. 10:** Dept. Cmdr. Tom Fernlund at Post 550, 7 p.m.

**Feb. 5:** Sweetheart Rally, Pine Island Post 184

**Feb. 22-March 2:** Washington Conference, Washington Hilton

**March 9:** American Legion Birthday

**March 12:** Appreciation Rally, Forest Lake Post 225

**March 18-19:** SAL Spring Conf., East Grand Forks Post 157

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

**June 4:** 10th District Convention, Milaca Post 178

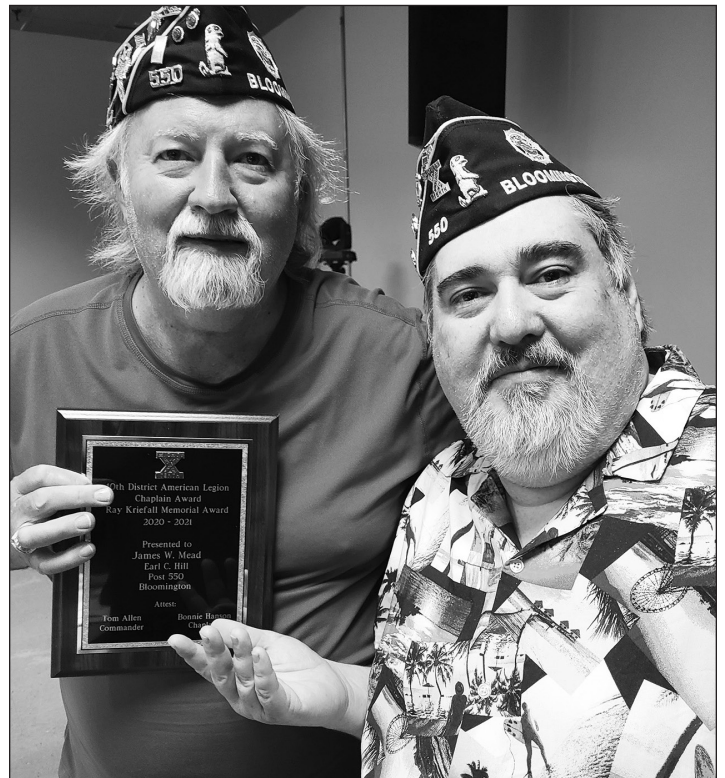
**June 24-26:** SAL Detachment Convention, Legionville

**July 13-16:** Department Convention, Willmar

### Children's Christmas Party cancelled

Our annual Children's Christmas Party will NOT be held again this year due to COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions. We wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season.

## CONGRATS, JIM!



At the July 12 meeting, Bloomington Post 550 Commander Luis Campero, right, presented Post 550 Chaplain Jim Mead with the Ray Kriefall Memorial Award, which is given once a year to honor the work of a post chaplain in the 10th District.

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**The Trumpeteer**  
 THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA



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 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.

**Breaking news!**

Minnesota American Legion Commander Tom Fernlund is coming to the Bloomington Post 550 meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 10 to hear about Bloomington's construction of a veterans memorial.

The memorial is planned for the Bloomington Civic Plaza. Post 550 member Rick Warren is on the Board of Directors for the memorial. The website is: [bloomingtonveteransmemorial.org](http://bloomingtonveteransmemorial.org)



**Tom Fernlund**

**Gambling is fun!**



*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](http://mnlegion.org) [legion.org](http://legion.org)  
[mnala.org](http://mnala.org) [alaforveterans.org](http://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
- Sgt-at-Arms..... Rick Walker
- SAL..... Jim Mead
- Other positions:
- Gambling Mgr..... Rick Warren
- 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..... Nancy Stolarczyk
- ..... Rose Kitt
- Membership..... Bonnie Proctor
- Exec. Board..... Joan Boerner
- ..... Rose Kitt
- Past Presidents..... Jessie Pfeifer
- ..... 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) \_\_\_\_\_