

EARL C. HILL BLOOMINGTON POST 550

THE Trumpeteer

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA



Vol. 65 Issue 4

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Oct. Nov. Dec. 2022



At West Duluth Post 71, Bloomington Post 550 Commander Luis Campero, second from left, speaks at the final stop of the Minnesota Legacy Run, a fundraising ride for the American Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund. It provides full-ride scholarships to the children of wounded or killed post-9/11 deployed veterans. Post 550 annually makes the largest donation in the state, in the amount of \$25,000. From left are Post 550's Ted Berg, who is the state director of American Legion Riders, Theresa Berg of Unit 550, Post 550 Membership Director Paul Hassing, Campero and Unit 550 President Jody Hassing, who is the secretary for the Minnesota American Legion Riders.



Soar with the Eagles!

What: Membership Dinner

When: 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22

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.

National Convention was great!



Jody Hassing

Hello, fellow Auxiliary members!

Fall is in the air, and it is the beginning of a new Auxiliary year. The Department Convention was held in July and 7th District member Mary Kuperus was elected as the department president.

I also attended 101st ALA National Convention in Milwaukee. Lots of great information and lots of fun with members from around the nation.

We held the Legacy Run, which was a repeat of the very first Minnesota Legacy Run, including riding all the way to Milwaukee for the National convention. It was great to see so many Legion Family members at the different posts, units, squadrons and chapters

we got the chance to visit.

The Minnesota Legacy Riders turned in \$155,000 at the National Convention on behalf of the members of the American Legion Department of Minnesota. This includes a \$25,000 donation from Bloomington Post 550.

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 the Bloomington unit announced at National Convention next year!

Next department event is Fall Conference held in St. Cloud on Oct. 28-29. This is the time to learn about our programs and meet other members of the Legion Family. I know it's a long way, but if you want to join us, please let me or Bonnie Proctor 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 2022

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero
- Colors presented, prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- No guests.
- Roll call of officers: All present
- Printed copies of the June minutes were distributed, approved.
- 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reminded us about the Aug. 13 picnic at Moir Park. Door prizes and a raffle are planned.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported the passing of Gene Clemens, Honor Guard member, and 85-year-old Army veteran. The passing of George Wise Jr, an Air Force veteran was also reported.
- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the financial report, Engstrom moved, Mead seconded, approved.
- Athletics Officer Ron Nenovich reported on N.D. Baseball Tournament for Bloomington Legion Team and reported the new Post 550 bus worked great for the outing and the team enjoyed the trip. Also, the Final Gopher Classic Baseball Game will be tomorrow in Minnetonka.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported one new member for a current total of 362 members 24 short of our goal of 386.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom reported, Warren moved, Nenovich seconded, approved. Slow time of year for gambling but added Green Mill for pulltabs and e-tabs to go along with the Sports Page for sales. A donation was made to the Legacy Fund and will be presented at West Duluth.
- Gun Safety class of 25 will be at the Bloomington Armory Tuesday, Aug. 8, and Thursday, Aug. 11,, from 5:30 pm to 8 p.m. both nights. The Field Day is Saturday, Aug. 13, at VFW 435 Range in Elko. Info: Bloomington Firearms Safety Training (Facebook) or Kirk Whiting 612- 201-2248
- Jim Mead reported for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) membership is 45.
- American Legion Riders' Don Alman discussed the upcoming ride events including the Aug. 19 Minnesota Legacy Run kickoff in Anoka.
- Department Convention is in Wilmar July 14-16. Bloomington could send up to 8 delegates.
- Paul Hassing, Luis Campero and Ted Berg have chosen to represent and will vote for Department of Minnesota Commander as they see fit to best represent the American Legion in Minnesota and Post 550 in Bloomington. Mead moved, Stachour seconded. Carries.
- Tim Engstrom reported that Michael Rascher, one of 10 boys sponsored by Post 550 to participate at Boys State was presented with the Director's Award.
- Clarence Bunkholt requested funds for up to \$2,500 for the Aug. 13 picnic. Mead moved, Warren seconded. Carries.
- Prayer was offered and the meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

General Membership Aug. 2022

- Meeting called to order by Commander Luis Campero
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Tenth District Commander Bill Gordon of St. Michael Post567 provided a brief introduction and requested input regarding ways to continue improving the American Legion in District 10 and Minnesota.
- Roll call of officers: All present.
- Printed copies of the July Minutes distributed. Mead moved, Nenovich seconded, approved.
- 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reminded us about the Aug. 13 Picnic at Moir Park. Door prizes and a raffle are planned. The Membership Dinner scheduled for Nov. 15 and may be rescheduled due to the Saluting Community Heroes Dinner scheduled for the same evening in Hutchinson.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported the passing of Richard Fawver, a 96-year-old Army veteran.
- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the financial report, Warren moved, Mead seconded, approved.
- Athletics Officer, Ron Nenovich, reported the D1 Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament held in Bloomington was a huge success and was won by New Prague. St Michael was the winner of the D1 Sr. Legion Baseball Tournament held in Burnsville.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is starting strong.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom reported, Mead moved, Nenovich seconded, approved. Sports Page will continue to be a pulltab site for Post 550. However, the Green Mill will no longer be a Post 550 pulltab site, Warren moved, Mead seconded, carries.
- Gun Safety class of 25 will be at the Bloomington Armory Tuesday, Aug. 23 and Thursday, Aug. 25 from 5:30 pm to 8 p.m. both nights. The Field Day is Saturday, Aug. 27, at American Legion Post 435 Range in Elko. Info: Bloomington Firearms Safety Training (Facebook) or Kirk Whiting 612- 201-2248
- Mead reported for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) membership is 45
- American Legion Riders' Paul Hassing discussed the upcoming ride events including the Aug. 19 kickoff in Anoka for the Minnesota Legacy Run.
- National Convention will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin starting Aug. 26 and ending Sept. 1. Post 550 will have members in attendance.

- Rick Warren emphasized the importance of the American Legion contributing to the Veterans Memorial in Bloomington.
- Tenth District Commander Bill Gordon requested a donation for his initiative Haven for Heroes in Anoka.
- Prayer was offered.
- POW Flag was recovered
- The meeting was adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

General Membership Sept. 2022

- Meeting called to order by Commander Luis Campero at 7:07 p.m.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Guest Carleen Kerttula from the Bloomington Kennedy Activities Foundation came to provide information about the foundation and the role it plays in assisting Kennedy High School students, athletic teams, and various student activities with financial assistance. She thanked American Legion Post 550 for past assistance and hoped we would provide additional assistance in the future.
- Roll call of officers: one absent, 2nd vice commander.
- Printed copies of the August minutes distributed. Narragon moved, Nenovich seconded, approved.
- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the financial report, Warren moved, Welch seconded, approved.
- Commander Luis Campero reported that membership for 2023 is at 213 or 58 percent of the goal.
- Rick Warren provided the Gambling Report, Skinn moved, Mead seconded, approved.
- Gun Safety class completed for the fall of 2022. The next class will be in April of 2023.
- Jim Mead reported for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) cards just received. A membership report will be provided in October.
- Post 550 Commander Luis Campero reported that the Minnesota Legion Riders presented the largest contribution from any one state: \$155,000 for 2022
- A committee to be headed by Ron Nenovich will be looking into options regarding the VFW's rent increase to the American Legion for the office.
- The Bloomington Veterans Memorial Fundraising "Brewery Bash" will be held Sunday, Sept. 18, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Nine Mile Brewing Company, 9555 James Ave S.
- Prayer was offered.
- POW flag was recovered.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:57.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

Auxiliary July 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 June minutes.
- Thank-you letters read from Eagle's Nest and Girls State attendees Savanna Kelly and Darian Whittet.
- Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
- Poppy Fund update: \$2,800
- Motion by Bonnie Proctor, second Joan Boerner to donate \$300 to Fund 85, a new Minnesota Veterans Assistance Fund for emergency needs up to \$5,000 lifetime max. Passed.
- Motion by Bonnie/second Cathy Moretto to donate \$500 to Legacy Run. Passed.
- Meat raffle schedule distributed; we have one Saturday per month starting Oct. 29, 2022.
- Post Picnic set for Aug. 13 at Moir Park.
- Jody reported that the clothing for Minneapolis Veterans Home was delivered and greatly appreciated.
- Jody gave highlights of Department Convention she attended along with Theresa Berg.
- Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Auxiliary Aug. 2022

- Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing. After the usual opening, we introduced ourselves to our guest/new member, Sandra Olson, and learned a little about her.
- Membership and financial reports will be updated at September meeting.
- Jody reported on the Department Convention. New Department President Mary Kuperus is from Spicer. She and her husband are the new chase vehicle drivers for the Legacy Run.
- New commander for the Minnesota American Legion is Jennifer Havlick from the 8th District.
- No other committee reports.

— President and Acting Secretary Jody Hassing

Saluting Community Heroes

What: Mark Nutsch is the speaker. He led a 12-man team of Special Forces on a covert mission in Afghanistan. He was featured in the movie "12 Strong" and a statue at Ground Zero in New York commemorates his soldiers' victory against the Taliban.

When: 5:30 p.m. Nov. 15 Hutchinson Community Center

How to go: It's free for Bloomington Post 550 members and spouses. We have our own table and access to the VIP social hour. We will take our Post 550 shuttle bus and depart at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 15.

Call first: Contact Post 550 Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom if you wish to attend. His cellphone is 952-679-0134. Last year, everyone went home with special gifts and had a great time with veterans from all around the state.



Mark Nutsch



Children's Christmas Party

What: Visit with Santa Claus and lunch

When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17

Where: Bloomington Veterans Center

What else: Bring your children to the post to meet with Santa Claus and play with other kids.



Time for Tom & Jerry

What: Tom & Jerry cocktails on New Year's Day

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

Where: Bloomington Veterans Center

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

Updates

In August, Post 550 wrote a letter to the Bloomington City Council asking them to drop a consideration of a 10 percent city tax on gambling revenue. They dropped the notion, acknowledging it would curtail charitable

efforts and volunteerism within Bloomington. They are considering opening MOA to gambling, not merely the fourth floor.

Presently, Post 550 is facing a rent increase for our office, and we will work out a fair compromise with VFW Post 1296.

Finally, we are looking at

membership pins for our Legion caps. Please let us know your thoughts on the design at the next Post 550 meeting. We selected an eagle for consideration because we donate a lot to Kennedy Eagles, and it is the national symbol. We are working with the Legion's Emblem Sales.



American Legion Calendar

Oct. 4-6: Veterans Outdoor Deer Hunt, Camp Ripley

Oct. 13: 55 percent membership target

Oct. 27-29: Department Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

Oct. 29: Chili for Charity, 3-6 p.m. Oct. 29, Osseo Post 172

Nov. 9: 65 percent membership target

Nov. 11: Minnesota Veterans Day Program, Veterans Memorial Community Center, Inver Grove Heights

Nov. 15: Saluting Community Heroes, 5:30 p.m., Hutchinson Community Center, speaker is Mark Nutsch of "Horse Soldiers."

Nov. 22: Post 550 Membership Dinner, 5-7 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall (Bloomington Event Center)

Dec. 3: Pearl Harbor Rally, Spicer Post 545

Dec. 11-16: National American Legion College, Indy

Dec. 14: 75 percent membership target

Dec. 17: Children's Christmas Party, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Posts 550/1296

Jan. 1: Tom & Jerry's, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Posts 550/1296

Jan. 19: 80 percent membership target

Feb. 4: Sweetheart Rally, Osseo Post 172

Feb. 15: 85 percent membership target

Feb. 26-March 1: Washington Conference

March 15: 90 percent membership target

March 25: ALA DEC Meeting, Dept HQ

April 15: DEC/Appreciation Rally, New Prague Post 45

Auxiliary Sept. 2022

• Meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Bonnie Proctor.

• Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.

We welcomed guest Sheri Rhodes. Get-well wishes to Clarence Bunkholt and Don Alman.

• August minutes will appear in next "Trumpeteer."

• Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.

• President Jody Hassing joined us via call-in. She gave us updates on National Convention: National Auxiliary dues will go up \$6. Minnesota Legacy Run turned in \$155,000.

• Camporee will be at Legionville Sept. 8-11. Minnesota Legion Riders Romp will be Sept 16-18 also at Legionville.

• Fall Conference is set for Oct. 27-29 in St. Cloud.

• Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

Financial report for July-Sept. 2022

Revenue

ATM transaction fees.....\$1,850
Total revenue.....\$1,850

Expenses

Rent for Legion office.....\$450
ATM support.....\$375
Total expenses.....\$825
Edward Jones investments 12 month change -16.1%

— Finance Officer Jerry Narragon

In Memoriam

Clemens, Eugene V.	88	6/14/22	Army
Fawver, Richard H.	96	10/9/21	Navy
Hanson, Jack W.	95	8/7/22	Army AF
Kemmer, Kelvin E.	90	7/30/22	Army
Olson, Melvin C.	90	7/10/22	Marines
Wise, George Jr.	88	6/27/22	Air Force

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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.

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.

Bloomington Post 550 made the rotating big board at the National Convention in Milwaukee. This was for \$2,000 given to the National Commander's Project last April. By far, Post 550 donations are



local, but it is good to serve veterans nationally, too.

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..... 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

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) _____