

American Legion Post 550 Minutes for April 2022

- Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m. April 11 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.
- 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