

Bloomington Post 550

Monday, August 14, 2023, Minutes

- Meeting called to order Aug. 14 by 1st Vice Commander Blaine Beste.
 - Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
 - A new member was introduced; Dennis Larson served in the Minnesota National Guard.
 - Guests: David VonRuden, vice president of the Kennedy Swimming & Diving Booster Club came to request funding assistance for a new scoreboard. Kennedy Boys & Girls teams are excellent students, competitive swimmers and divers and considerate teammates. The scoreboard funds will need to come from the Bloomington School District and other sources.
 - Roll call of officers: Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, and Sergeant-at Arms excused.
 - Printed copies of the July Minutes distributed. Mead moved, Kraft seconded, and the minutes were approved.
 - 1st Vice Commander Blaine Beste read the names on several thank you cards received for the support provided by Post 550.
 - 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reported on the Aug. 12 Veterans Picnic at Moir Park. A special thank you to Bonnie Proctor and Jerry Narragon, who came to set up for the picnic.
 - Chaplain Jim Mead offered a prayer for four members who recently passed: John Brunzell, 30-year member; Gilman Dedrick III, 36-year member; H.L. Kaltenhauser, 55-year member; and Frederick VonHagen, 45-year member.
 - Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the financial report; Mead moved, Bunkholt seconded, and the report was approved.
 - Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership renewals for 2024 is at 128 of the 325 goal. Post 550 set a self-goal of 400 for 2024.
 - Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report for June and July. The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$3,500 for the following to be paid in August:
 - Creekside Needleworkers: \$1,000
 - Majestic Hills Ranch: \$500
 - Scholarship to Zack Zesch: \$2,000
 - A pledge was offered to provide \$2,500 in each of the next four months for the Kennedy Swim & Dive Team's new scoreboard, totaling \$10,000 — to be approved monthly when funds are available, starting in September.
 - Gambling will donate the balance owed to Kennedy Softball Boosters for doing meat raffles in April and to BKAF for the July Bingo Night.
- A motion was made by Campero and seconded by Warren to approve donations. Motion carried.
- The Fall Firearms Safety Course date is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 20 in Elko. There are 27 students are enrolled. Topics to be covered include Trap, .22, High Power, Black Powder, Range, and Tree Stand. Gun Safety Questions Contact? Ken Lundgren 612-812-0854.
 - Legion Riders Fund 85 Run is scheduled for 9 a.m. Aug. 19 at Forest Lake Post 225.

- Jim Mead reported Sons of the American Legion received 5 new paid members for 2024 and is expected to climb to 70.
 - Tim Engstrom informed us that the website is in process. The URL is purchased.
 - This is a reminder that the Membership Dinner will be at the Bloomington Entertainment Center on Oct. 24.
 - A motion to provide funding to Boy Scout Troup 374 was tabled until September for further discussion.
 - Discussion regarding the date and place for a special acknowledgment dinner for veterans attending college in Bloomington at Normandale Community College and Northwestern Health Sciences University will continue next month. Keith Zesch and Tim Engstrom to research.
 - New Business:
 - Fran Stachour, Post 550 member and Bloomington Historical Society volunteer, thanked the post for the many items turned in from Post 550. She would like some senior Legion members/ volunteers to return to the Historical Society on Wednesday and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. or Thursday from 1 to 8 p.m. to help with the identification of the many pictures we provided.
 - Chaplain Jim Mead noted that we need to purchase more Bibles. Kraft Motioned \$1,500 for the purchase of Bibles as necessary and amended the motion to be not more than \$2,000. Johnson Seconded, and the Motion carried.
- Information regarding the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion are available inside the entrance of VFW Post 1296. Next month Information brochures will be distributed at the Legion Meeting.
- Prayer was offered.
 - POW flag was recovered.
 - Colors retired.
 - The meeting was adjourned.
- Adjutant Warren Christopherson.