

## Bloomington Post 550

### Monday, January 9, 2022, Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Past Post Commander Paul Hassing.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge & Preamble recited. Thank you to Bud Kopitski for standing in for the sergeant-at-arms.
- Guests: Dan Libbey and Frances Bressman-Egan from Bloomington Sister City Organization (Izumi, Japan) with a mission to promote international understanding through the exchange of people, information, and ideas. This year is the organization's 30<sup>th</sup> year and a delegation from Japan will visit Bloomington in August. Contact Dan Libbey for more information at 612-409-3104. Home sponsors may be requested for August's Guests from Japan.
- Ray Kane, department service officer, provided information regarding the Minnesota American Legion Foundation and Fund 85, assisting veterans in need. Email [dso@mnlegion.org](mailto:dso@mnlegion.org). Phone 651-377-0547.
- Roll call of officers: Five were excused, commander, 1st vice Commander, 2nd vice commander, chaplain, and sergeant-at-arms.
- Printed copies of the November Minutes distributed. Engstrom moved. Zesch seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the Financial Report. Warren moved. Engstrom seconded, and the report was approved.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is at 296 or 80 percent of the goal. We reached the Jan. 14 target of 80 percent.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report. He reported the American Legion Post 550 Shuttle Bus wrap (protects the bus, cheaper than paint and provides advertisement for the Legion) would cost \$10,656.40. The state it cannot be paid with gambling funds. Gambling funds to be distributed: Bloomington Sister City Organization Inc. \$5,000. Zesch moved, Narragon seconded, and the report was approved.
- Gun Safety Committee plans to have the 2023 Spring Firearms Safety Course at the VFW Post 1296 banquet hall on April 25 and 27 with the Field Day on April 29 at American Legion Post 435 gun range in Elko.  
The Fall Firearms Safety Course dates are Aug. 15 and 17 and Field Day is on Aug. 19.
- Legion Riders Legacy Run for 2023 will be the last weekend in July, Wednesday through Sunday. It will be a northern route. The Fund 85 Run is on Aug. 19 in Forest Lake.
- Paul Hassing is a candidate for the department commander beginning in 2023. Bloomington Post 550 last had a department commander in 1979, said Past Adjutant Rick Warren. A motion was made by Zesch and second by Warren to provide up to \$5,000.00 for his campaign. The motion was approved.
- Tim Engstrom provided a legislative report regarding Bloomington Veterans Memorial. Bloomington Remembers Veterans, in conjunction with the city, has filed bills in the House and Senate requesting \$350,000 of the \$750,000 total. The city of Bloomington will provide the space for the memorial and the ongoing maintenance and upkeep once completed. \$200,000.00 has been raised by the volunteer committee and a 2023 groundbreaking is possible but 2024 is more likely.

- Prayer was offered. Thank you to Troy Dukart for his thoughtful prayers this evening.
  - POW flag was recovered.
  - The meeting was adjourned.
- Adjutant Warren Christopherson