

Bloomington Post 550

Monday, June 12, 2023, Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Commander Luis Campero.
 - Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW/MIA flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
 - Guests: None
 - Roll call of officers: 1st Vice Commander excused.
 - Printed copies of the May minutes distributed. Engstrom moved, Mead seconded, and the minutes were approved.
 - 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reported that the Memorial Day Parade was a success with a large turnout of spectators to watch the parade. This is a reminder that the Membership Dinner will be at the Bloomington Entertainment Center on Oct. 24 and this year's picnic will be at Moir Park on Aug. 12. Setup for the picnic begins at 9 a.m.
 - Chaplain Jim Mead reported Army veteran Daniel J Ruppert, a 50-year member of The American Legion, passed away on May 31. Charles A. Hengel, a 41-year member, passed away on May 6. A moment of silence was offered for the deceased.
 - Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the Financial Report. Mead moved, Bunkholt seconded, and the report was approved.
 - Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 remains at 321 or 87.9 percent of the 365 goal.
 - Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report for April and May. The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$28,000 for the following to be paid in June:
 - Summer Fete Bloomington \$10,000
 - Fund 52 \$2,000
 - Scholarship \$2,000
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 - URP \$1,000
 - ST Bonaventure/St Vincent Food Shelf \$1,000
 - Wings of the North \$2,000
 - Fort Snelling's Carillon Repair \$5,500
 - Gold Star Weekend \$500
- Motion was made by Welch and seconded by Bunkholt to approve donations. Motion carried.
- The Gun Safety Committee has received positive feedback for their gun safety training manual used nationally and internationally to teach gun safety. The Fall Firearms Safety Course date is scheduled for Aug. 19 in Elko.
 - Legion Riders' Don Alman attended the 10th District ALR Meeting. The kickoff for the Legacy Run is July 26 at North Branch and the Run will be from July 27-30. The Fund 85 Run for MVAF is Aug. 19 in Forest Lake. The ALR will also participate in the Raspberry Grand Parade in Hopkins on July 16.
 - New Business:

- Motion was presented to contribute \$25,000 to the Legacy Run in July by Keith Zesch, Mike Mellin seconded, and the motion carried.

- Discussion will continue next month regarding the date for a special acknowledgment dinner for veterans attending college in Bloomington at Normandale Community College and Northwestern Health Sciences University.

- Department Commander Luis Campero thanked those in attendance for the honor of serving as the commander of Bloomington Post 550.

- The elected post and unit officers for FY 2023-24 were sworn in.

- If you would like to attend and can be at the Department of Minnesota all three days, contact Adjutant Warren Christopherson at 952-873-9952 to add your name to the list.

- Prayer offered.

- POW/MIA flag recovered.

- Colors retired.

- Meeting adjourned.

- On June 24, Post 550 Executive Committee approved a \$1,000 donation to the Gold Star Ride Foundation, which gathered at VFW Post 1296 parking lot that day.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson