

Bloomington Post 550

Monday, May 8, 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: Oak Grove Middle School Dean of Students John Pochill explained the Ninja Anywhere Project and thanked Post 550 for its donation on behalf of all Oak Grove Middle School students. Jesse Winden from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon a comprehensive program that connects military service members and their families with community support and resources. He came to explain the program and thank Post 550 for the current and ongoing donations to help military members in the community.
- Roll call of officers: Chaplain excused.
- Printed copies of the April minutes distributed. Bunkholt moved, Servin seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkholt reported that the Memorial Day Parade is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. on May 29. The Membership Dinner will be at the Bloomington Entertainment Center on Oct. 24. Welch moved to approve the date, Johnson seconded and the motion carried. He reminded us that this year's picnic will be at Moir Park on Aug. 12. Setup begins at 9 a.m.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported member Myron Engel recently died. A moment of silence was offered for the deceased.
- Financial Officer Jerry Narragon gave the Financial Report. Mellin moved, Welch seconded, and the report was approved.
- Sergeant-at-Arms Dan Welch reported that the Honor Guard will honor veterans at two funerals this week on Saturday and next Tuesday. They will also march in the Memorial Day Parade.
- Athletics Officer Ron Nenovich provided an update on the coming baseball tournaments. June 9-11 Junior Legion, June 16-18 Senior Legion, July 7-10 Gopher Classic.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that membership for 2023 is at 321 or 87.9 percent of the 365 goal.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom will provide the Gambling Report at the June 12 meeting.
- The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$11,500 the following to be paid in May:
 - Bloomington Remembers Veterans \$5,000
 - Wounded Warriors Guide Service \$500
 - Pause 4 Paws \$500
 - Oak Grove Middle School \$2,000
 - ST Thomas Academy (Wall that Heals) \$500
 - Minnesota American Legion Foundation Oratorical Contest \$500
 - Minnesota American Legion Foundation Eagle Scout Program \$500
 - Children's Food for Thought \$2,000
- Motion was made by Hance and seconded by Mellin to approve donations. Motion carried.

- Gun Safety Committee reported that 15 students completed the 2023 Spring Firearms Safety Course at the VFW Post 1296 on April 25 and 27 with the Field Day on April 29 at the Post 435 range in Elko.

The Fall Firearms Safety Course date is scheduled for Aug. 19 in Elko. Gun Safety Questions Contact: Ken Lundgren 612-812-0854.

- Legion Riders Chapter 550's Paul Hassing announced the return of Don Alman to the Bloomington Legion Riders. Legacy Run kickoff is July 26 at North Branch and Fund 85 is Aug. 19.

- New Business: Election of Officers for FY 2023 – 2024

- Commander, Dan Welch
- 1st Vice Commander, Blaine Beste
- 2nd Vice Commander, Clarence Bunkholt
- Adjutant, Warren Christopherson
- Finance, Jerry Narragon
- Chaplain, Jim Mead
- Sgt.-at-Arms, Mike Mellin

These new officers will be sworn in at the June 12 meeting.

- Flag Retirement is at 12:30 p.m. June 24. \$500 was requested by the Honor Guard for Refreshments to be split with the VFW. Mellin moved, Welch, seconded, and the motion carried.

- Our very own Paul Hassing is the only candidate for the Department of Minnesota commander beginning in July 2023. Paul will be elected at the 104th Convention of the American Legion Department of Minnesota in Redwood Falls July 13-15, 2023.

The Bloomington Post 550 Color Guard will be in attendance to present the colors at the ceremony on Saturday. Based upon the size of our Post we are allowed up to five delegates for the convention. We currently have just two signed up. If you would like to attend and are able to be at the convention all three days contact Warren Christopherson at 952-873-9952 to add your name to the list.

- Prayer offered.
- POW/MIA flag recovered.
- Colors retired.
- Meeting adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson