

# Bloomington Post 550

## Monday, October 9, 2023, Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Post Commander Dan Welch.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Guests: 4th District Commander Teresa Ash and Past Department Commander Mike Ash came to thank Post 550 for the use of the bus as the 4th District provided an informational tour about The American Legion in Ramsey County in September. They are looking for a media coordinator. Anyone interested may contact Teresa at [mrsash1@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsash1@yahoo.com).
- Roll call of officers: 2nd Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Athletics Officer Excused.
- Printed copies of the September Minutes distributed. Engstrom moved, Mead seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- Commander: Dan Welch commented on the excellent work being done by the post's officers and Volunteers from the membership.
- Adjutant: Warren Christopherson requested assistance in contacting members from 2021 and 2022 who have dropped off the current membership roll. Bonnie Proctor provided lists of these former members. Seven of our current members volunteered to make calls to invite past members to the membership dinner on the 24th and to ask them to renew their membership.
- Chaplain: Jim Mead offered a prayer for Roger Henningsgaard, US Army veteran of the Korean War and 44-year member of Post 550, and for SAL Member Jim McMillin who recently passed away. He added a prayer for current members who are experiencing health issues.
- The Financial Officer will provide an update next month, but Engstrom motioned for authorization to add a second ATM Machine at Shantytown Grill, our second pulltab site, and for an additional \$200 per month for the finance officer to maintain it. Mead seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.
- Membership for 2024 is at 201 of the 325 goal. Post 550 set a self-goal of 400 for 2024.
- Gambling Manager: Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report for September. He noted that Shantytown Grill, 8512 Pillsbury St., will provide Post 550 with space for another gambling booth for Post 550 starting Oct. 17.

The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$17,000 for the following to be paid in October:

- Minneapolis Veterans Home Bingo: \$1,000
- KHS Swimming Team Scoreboard: \$2,500
- VFW 1296 Auxiliary, Youth Art: \$500
- Jefferson Girls Hockey Program: \$500
- Minn. American Legion Foundation Fund 82: \$3,000 (Fund 82 always is the Department Commander's Project. Paul Hassing is the commander, and his project is Fund 85, which the Minn. Veterans Assistance Fund. Hassing is a Post 550 member.)
- Minn. American Legion Foundation Fund 56, Eagle Scout Scholarships: \$500
- Bloomington Historical Society: \$1,000
- Jefferson Boys Hockey: \$1,000
- Veteran housing assistance: \$2,000

- Kennedy High School football boosters: \$5,000

A motion was made by Beste and seconded by Mellin to approve donations. Motion carried.

- Gun Safety: The next course is planned for April 2024. Gun Safety Questions Contact: Ken Lundgren 612-812-0854

- Legion Riders: Jody Hassing of the Minnesota Legion Riders came to thank us for being Minnesota's largest contributor to the National Legacy Fund 2023. For the 13th year in a row Post 550 was the largest contributor to the Legacy Fund in Minnesota. The National Legacy Fund has collected the goal of \$25 million and will continue as an endowment fund. The Minnesota Legion Riders will contribute to Fund 85 the Department Commander, Paul Hassing's Project for 2024.

- Sons of the American Legion reported 29 paid members so far for 2024.

- Tim Engstrom informed us that the website is still in Process and provided examples of the progress being made.

- This is a reminder that the Membership Dinner will be at the Bloomington Entertainment Center on Oct. 24.

- Nov. 8 is the Veterans Appreciation Dinner

- Unfinished Business:

- Rick Warren urged members to sign up for the Bloomington Remembers Veterans Memorial Dog Tags. The \$350 cost will help build the memorial and your dog tag will be on the Bloomington Veterans Memorial for future generations. Your military service story will be available for anyone to view by simply scanning the QR Code on your Dog Tag.

Contact: [BloomingtonVeteransMemorial.org/dogtags](https://BloomingtonVeteransMemorial.org/dogtags) or call 952-563-4622 for more information

- Prayer was offered.

- POW Flag was Recovered

- Colors Retired

- The meeting was adjourned

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson