

Bloomington Post 550

Monday, September 11, 2023, Revised 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: None
- Roll call of officers: 2nd Vice Commander Excused.
- Printed copies of the August Minutes distributed. Engstrom moved, Mead seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- Adjutant: Warren Christopherson provided information about the upcoming American Legion College at Camp Ripley in mid-October.
- Chaplain: Jim Mead offered a prayer for a close family member who recently passed away. He also prayed for the memory of all those who perished during the 9/11/01 attack on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, and for all those on Flight 93 headed to Washington, D.C. that crashed in Pennsylvania including Bloomington hero Tom Burnett, who helped lead the passenger revolt against hijackers.
- Financial Officer: Jerry Narragon gave the Financial Report. Mead moved, Zesch seconded, and the report was approved.
- Membership for 2024 is at 192 of the 325 goal. Post 550 set a self-goal of 400 for 2024.
- Gambling Manager: Tim Engstrom provided the Gambling Report for August. He noted that the -Shantytown Grill may become another booth-operated pulltab site for Post 550.
 - A motion was made by Tim Engstrom to add member and Assistant Gambling Manager Tom Skundberg to be a signer on the Game Fund and to remove David Costello and Ron Nenovich. The motion was seconded by Mead. Motion carried.
 - The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended approval of \$21,000 for the following to be paid in September:
 - Bloomington Legion Baseball: \$100
 - Helping a veteran in Crisis, in south Minneapolis: \$2,600
 - KHS Swimming Team Scoreboard: \$2,500 a month for four months, for a total of \$10,000
 - Minnesota Veterans Color Guard: \$2,000
 - Pomeroy Community Betterment: \$1,000
 - Boy Scout Troup 374: \$3,000
 - Fall Classic, My Credit Union Foundation: \$2,500
 - Kennedy Theater: \$1,000
 - 23rd Veteran: \$1,500
 - Veterans Campground at Big Marine Lake: \$1,000
 - Bloomington Baseball Scholarships: \$2,000
 - Jefferson Band: \$300
 - Bloomington Girls Hockey: \$1,000
 - Jefferson Volleyball: \$500
- A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Craig Servin to approve donations. Motion carried.

- The Fall Firearms Safety Course was completed on Aug. 20, and 27 students completed the course. The next course is scheduled for April 2024. Gun Safety Questions Contact: Ken Lundgren 612-812-0854
 - Legion Riders: Minnesota Legion Riders collected and donated \$162,000 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 meet to determine where their future fundraising efforts will be directed. Fund 85 is Department Commander Paul Hassing's Project for 2024. Fund 85 is the Minn. Veterans Assistance Fund.
 - Sons of the American Legion reported 21 paid members for 2024 and is expected to climb to 70.
 - Tim Engstrom informed us that the website is still in process.
 - This is a reminder that the Membership Dinner will be at the Bloomington Entertainment Center on Oct. 24.
 - New Business:
 - Member Fran Stachour and volunteer with the Bloomington Historical Society thanked the post for the many items turned in from Post 550. She asked again for senior post members or volunteers to come to the Historical Society on Wednesdays or Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. to help with the identification of the many pictures we provided.
 - 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 or call 952-563-4622 for more information
 - Larry Frost is working with an organization that is pushing back on the recent e-pull tab law change. If you are interested in finding out more contact Larry at 612-839-5132.
 - Prayer was offered.
 - POW flag was recovered.
 - Colors retired.
 - The meeting was adjourned.
- Adjutant Warren Christopherson