



## Post 552

# American Legion Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: \_\_6:00\_\_\_\_pm

### Officers Present:

Commander	Kent Vanhorn
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Mike Hill
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Bill Marsh
Adjutant	Doug Benzel
Finance Off.	Mark Seamon
Chaplain	Bill Bartle
Sergeant-At-Arms	Jim Vander Ploeg    Absent
Asst Adjutant	Travis Methvin

Other members: Brian Compton, Sydney Encinias, Bill Heard, Donovan Morris, Jonathan Owens, Gabe Rowin, and Dave Schmidt.

Guests: Tiffany Franco-Rees, Cayden Hanson, Darius McCovy, and Kathy McCovy

Normal Business was suspended for the Boy's State presentation. Darius and Cayden presented excellent versions of what they gained from attendance at Boys State, their future desires (as a result) and thanked the Post for allowing them to go. They fielded numerous questions from the audience.

### Committee Reports:

Finance: Mark pointed out the changes in the balance since the last meeting. No other comments received.

Membership: Doug reported the Post has a new membership goal of 149 for this year. We are currently at 51.01% of the goal and the District average is 41.35%.

Commanders Report: The Commander reported that we received a plaque from the District for obtaining over 100% of our goal for 2024. A pin was also provided for that achievement. The District is looking for a new e-board member if anyone is interested in filling it. The District website is being revitalized and will contain calendars and other data to help members.

Sick Call: Bill Bartle said that one of our members, Guy Kelly, is recovering from a twisted back and he/Mike plan to visit him.

Unfinished Business:

**Scout Troop 271:** Tiffany represented this scout troop and explained there are 35 boys that enjoy backpacking, and they are looking for a sponsor that must be completed by the end of September. She is a committee member that makes recommendations to a holding group of several troops looking for sponsors. Comments were made on how the Post can support their needs. Travis made a motion that our Post sponsor Troop 271. Mike seconded it and it was approved. We will await their decision. The Commander appointed Travis as the official point of contact for the Post to Troop 271.

**Guest Speakers:** Bill Heard had nothing to report. He is reluctant to press for more speakers until we can get more participants to attend. Mike recommended the topic of PTSD and how do we handle it and assist. Gabe recommended having a joint VFW/AL meeting where more people would attend, and making it mandatory training for the bar staff. Social media became a topic for a better reach to younger people. Mike discussed the MarComm (Marketing Communications) Committee be formed and wanted a representative from the Post. Sydney volunteered to be that person.

**Next Fundraiser:** Bill Marsh handed the wine tasting flyer out for our next fundraiser in October. He would like to see a link on our website allowing payments to be made online for our events. Doug will pursue this with our webmaster, Liz.

**Future Investments:** The Commander pointed out that we need to make decisions on where to park our money within the next two months. He will contact the committee (Mark and Mike) within the next two weeks to discuss and report at our next meeting.

**VFW/AL Agreement:** The Commander placed this on hold.

New Business: None.

Good of the Order: Doug reminded that San Diego Honor Flight will return on September 29. Chip Boyd (VFW) and Bill Heard (AL) will be on that flight. We would like to have good participation from both organizations to greet them at the airport. Gigi of the ALA is coordinating this and Doug will work with her to provide logistics information to those wanting to participate. There may be a reception at the VFW for them following their return. The ALA organizes a mail call and is looking for help on Monday, August 19, 6:00 pm at the VFW.

The ALA is sponsoring a Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, August 24, 1-4 pm.

Bill heard donated \$200 to the Post in honor of those that have served in our Armed Forces.

Meeting was adjourned at \_\_7:20 pm\_\_\_\_\_

/s/Signed August 19, 2024

Adjutant