

EARL C. HILL BLOOMINGTON POST 550

THE Trumpeteer

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA



Vol. 65 Issue 3

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July Aug. Sept. 2022



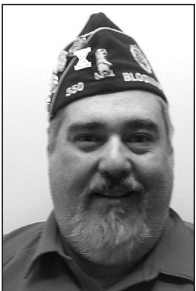
Officers at Bloomington Post 550 and Unit 550 take the oath of office during the June 13 meeting. Swearing them in is Post 550 member Paul Hassing, who is the membership director for the Department of Minnesota. Officers for Legion and Auxiliary are listed on the back page of the Trumpeteer.



The biggest news was American Legion Post 550 purchased a Ford E450 shuttle bus in May from a dealer in Zumbrota. It had only 37,000 miles on it. It will be used for baseball, honor guard and veteran programming. Above are Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom and 1st Vice Commander Ron Nenovich.



American Legion Post 550 donated \$3,000 to Minnesota Girls State to send 10 unpaid-for girls to the weeklong civics camp. The post also funded six unpaid-for boys for Boys State, plus sent several local girls and boys to the programs. Shown above are Auxiliary Dept. Secretary Marsha Bible and Engstrom.



Luis
Campero

Post 550 members are strongest when they are united

My fellow Legionnaires, I would like to express my gratitude for being elected your commander this year. I know that we are entering a new time with a new gambling manager, a new sergeant-at-arms, a new membership director and a new adjutant.

I feel that we will move forward with our goals and objectives to help veterans and achieve great things for The American Legion this year. We will put the pandemic behind us and move forward, constantly meeting the challenges placed before us as we always have.

I look forward to what we can achieve together as there is no one person who can take credit for what we do we do as a post and 550 is the best at what we do. We are good as individuals but great as a post. I know that 550 will make Minnesota proud.

Thank you and God bless.

Luis Campero
Post 550 Commander

General Membership May 2022

- Meeting called to order 7:07 p.m. by Commander Luis Campero.
- Roll call of officers: Absent are 2nd vice commander and sergeant-at-arms.
- Guest James McCloden of MACV, spoke about the nonprofit's mission to house homeless veterans, assist vets with legal questions and help vets find employment. He said the pandemic has resulted in MACV having more tools than before. He talked about homelessness is not always on the corner holding a sign but often is couch-surfing with buddies. It can be urban or rural.
- Campero described his experience at Minnesota Legion College, and a discussion was had regarding the placement of the colors.
- Guest Tim Burley of Saluting Community Heroes and commander of Hutchinson American Legion Post 96 spoke about the high-profile speakers SCH brings and the funds raised. The next event in November will feature Mark Nutsch, an Army Ranger and Special Forces officer whose experience in Afghanistan was portrayed in the film "12 Strong."
- Post 550 member Jim Finley gave a report on the Veterans Resilience Project, which worked with the Minnesota American Legion's VA&R Committee to come into existence. It uses EMDR therapy to treat PTSD. EMDR is eye movement desensitization and reprocessing. It received a state allocation of \$400,000 for two years. The organization has hired a new leader.
- The honor guard passed out information regarding the purchase of uniforms.
- Adjutant Tim Engstrom presented about an opportunity to purchase a shuttle bus. He presented several options and he presented the rules as set by the state Gambling Control Board. It would be for transporting baseball players to games, honor guard members to funerals and veterans to veteran programming. A motion was approved to authorize Engstrom and 1st Vice Commander Ron Nenovich to purchase a shuttle bus for Post 550. (Note: A Ford E450 shuttle bus with 37,000 miles was purchased May 27 at Summit Auto in Zumbrota on May 27 for approx. \$50,000.)
- Engstrom reported that Post 550 had helped two veterans in the past month dealing with poverty. One had lost a rental unit to fire, and the other had a death in the family.
- Engstrom reported on the passage May 6 at the Capitol of the Veterans Omnibus Bill.
- Engstrom gave a report on the gambling committee. A motion to approve donations to send kids to Girls State and Boys State, as well as flags for schools and Jefferson and Kennedy senior parties was approved.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported the death of Wayne A. Aleckson, 92, on Dec. 24, 2021.
- Elections for Post 550 officers were held. The results were: Commander Luis Campero, Chaplain Jim Mead, SAL Commander Jim Mead, 1st Vice Commander Ron Nenovich, 2nd Vice Commander Clarence Bunkhold, Adjutant Warren Christopherson, Finance Officer Jerry Narragon, Sgt.-at-Arms Dan Welch, Athletic Officer Ron Nenovich. Department Membership Director Paul Hassing will perform the swearing-in ceremony at the June meeting.
- A motion was approved to pay expenses related to the Memorial Day ceremonies.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

General Membership June 2022

- Meeting called to order 7:11 p.m. by 1st Vice Commander Ron Nenovich.
- Roll call of officers: All present except commander, who came later on.
- Guest is Todd Bardason, vice president of marketing for MyCreditUnion, who reported on the financial institutions support for veterans and how it plans to host a cornhole tournament for veterans organizations at the Medina Entertainment Center on Sept. 26. He advised Post 550 to form a team.
- Minutes from May meeting approved.
- Chaplain Jim Mead reported the passing of Richard A. Westin.
- Financial officer Jerry Narragon gave financial report, approved.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing said there are 361 members, and Post 550 had a goal of 386.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom report approved, and members approved allowing repairs on shuttle bus when two of the three gambling managers and commander are in agreement.
- Reports for SAL, Riders, Gun Safety received.
- Prayer offered and meeting adjourned. Officers installed after meeting.

— Adjutant Tim Engstrom

Financial report for Mar.-May 2022

Revenue

ATM transaction fees.....	\$2,215
Total revenue.....	\$2,215

Expenses

Rent for Legion office.....	\$450
ATM support.....	\$375
Minnesota Legion College.....	\$200
ATM bonding.....	\$150
Total expenses.....	\$1,175
Edward Jones investments 12 month change -8.8%	

— Finance Officer Jerry Narragon

Auxiliary April 2022

- Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
 - Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
 - Thank you letters read from Helping Paws, Magnus House, Soldiers Wish and VA Medical Center.
 - Motion made, 2nd and carried to approve minutes.
 - Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
 - Membership renewals for 2022: 110 to date.
 - Department Convention July 14-15, Jody Hassing and Theresa Berg will be attending. Tenth District convention is June 4.
 - Poppy Day May 20, mailing to all members will be mailed in May.
 - Next meat raffle scheduled for April 30.
 - Annual reports due April 15.
 - Nominations reviewed, election at May meeting.
 - Jody gave an update on Mission Training that she attended along with Theresa.
 - Legacy Run will be one week (not two weekends as in the past). Kick off in Anoka on August 19, run starts in Anoka on 20th. Ride will end in Duluth on 23rd, then a smaller group will continue on to National Convention in Milwaukee.
 - Post Picnic will be at Moir Park.
 - Jody attended Appreciation Dinner in Forest Lake on March 12.
 - Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.
- Following motions were made via text and approved:
- \$800 to Mpls Veterans Home Activity Fund for a petting zoo.
 - Proceeds from April 21 meat raffle to Eagles Healing Nest.
- Bonnie Proctor, Secretary

Auxiliary May 2022

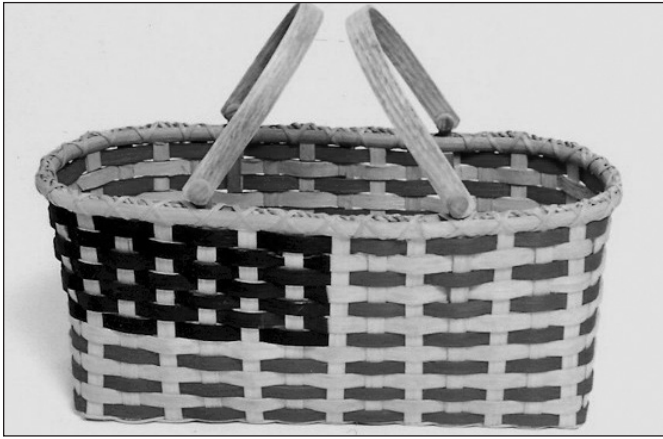
- Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
 - Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
 - Get well wishes to Clarence Bunkhold as he recovers from surgery.
 - Motion made, 2nd and carried to approve April minutes.
 - Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
 - Membership renewals for 2022: 112
 - Motion by Bonnie/2nd Joan Boerner, to provide \$60 each for the three girls going to Girls State for Shirt Shack items. Passed.
 - Motion by Joan Boerner/2nd Gabriele Servin to buy \$500 worth of socks, t-shirts, sweatpants for Mpls. Veterans Home. President Jody will order on Amazon and have shipped direct to the Home. Passed.
 - Motion by Bonnie/2nd Joan to donate proceeds of May 21 meat raffle to Creekside Quilters, who recently donated 7 large bags of quilts for the VA Medical Center. Passed
 - Upcoming Memorial Day parade and services discussed.
 - Legion Riders will be holding a run on July 30, leaving St. Peter Legion. Run will benefit the MN Veterans Assistance Fund.
 - Motion by Bonnie/2nd Joan to re-elect existing officers by acclamation. Passed
 - Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.
- Bonnie Proctor, Secretary

Auxiliary June 2022

- Meeting was called to order by President Jody Hassing.
 - Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
 - Motion made, 2nd and carried to approve May minutes.
 - Thank you read from Mpls. Veterans Home for \$800 donation for Petting Zoo. Photo of the activity was enclosed, looks like Veterans and their families had a great time.
 - Treasurer's Report approved, filed for audit.
 - Membership renewals for 2022: 113
 - Update on Poppy Fund - \$2,481 received to date!
 - Celebration of Life for Hank Bach was held last Saturday, great turnout for a long-time Legion member.
 - Jody reported on District Convention - President-elect is Lorinda Kies.
 - Jody ordered the \$500 worth of clothing that was approved last month - will be shipped directly to Mpls. Veterans Home.
 - Girls State is going on this week.
 - Quilts made by Creekside Quilters were delivered to the VA Medical Center, along with a heart pillow.
 - Colors saluted, prayer offered. Meeting adjourned.
 - Installation of Officers was held after the meeting.
- Bonnie Proctor, Secretary

In Memoriam

Wayne A. Aleckson	92	12/24/21	Army
Westin, Richard A.	83	5/1/22	Army



Veterans Picnic

What: Picnic sponsored by American Legion Post 550 and VFW Post 1296

Who: All veterans, their families and friends

When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, May 30

Where: Moir Park, 104th St. and Morgan Ave., Bloomington

American Legion Calendar

July 13-16: Department Convention, Willmar

July 28-31: Div. I Sr. Baseball State Tournament, Alimagnet Park, Burnsville

July 28-31: Div. I Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Red Haddox Field, Bloomington

July 29-31: Div. II Sr. Baseball State Tournament, Luverne

July 30: Fund 85 Run, St. Peter Post 37

Aug. 3-7: Div. I Sr. Baseball Regional Tournament, Rapid City, S.D.

Aug. 5-6: Div. II Jr. Baseball State Tournament, Luverne

Aug. 5-7: Department Junior Fun Weekend, Legionville

Aug. 11-16: Baseball World Series, Shelby, N.C.

Aug. 20-23: Minnesota Legacy Run

Aug. 21-25: National Legacy Run, ending in Milwaukee

Aug. 26-Sept. 1: National Convention, Milwaukee

Sept. 8-11: Legionville Camporee, Legionville

Sept. 10: Harvest Rally, Legionville

Oct. 8-9: SAL Fall Meetings, Legion HQ, Indianapolis

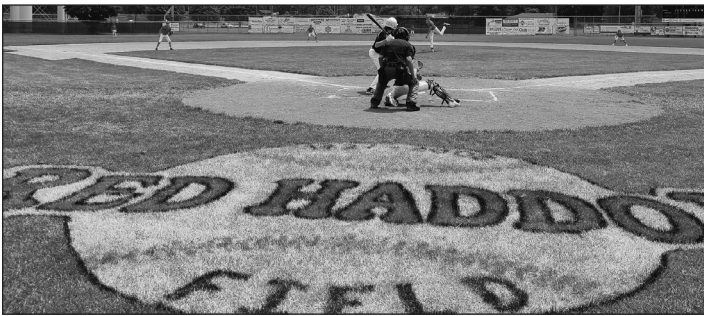
Oct. 10-13: TAL Fall Meetings, Legion HQ, Indianapolis

Oct. 27-29: Department Fall Conference, River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

Dec. 10: Pearl Harbor Rally, location TBD

Dec. 11-16: National American Legion College, Indy

Go online to vfw1296mn.us for VFW Post 1296 music schedule.



Admission to American Legion Baseball games is free for veterans. American Legion Post 550 and VFW Post 1296 members are encouraged to attend games. Red Haddox Field will host the Div. I Jr. State Tournament July 28-31.

Post 550 Baseball July Games

Team	H/A	Time & date	Opponent	Location
Blue Sr	Home	8p Tue. 7/5	Waconia	Haddox
Blue Jr	Home	5:30p Wed. 7/6	Apple Valley	Haddox
Gold Sr	Home	8p Wed. 7/6	Chanhassen	Haddox
Gold Sr	Home	8p Tue. 7/12	Prior Lake	Scott #1
Blue Jr	Home	8p Wed. 7/13	Gold Jr	Haddox
Blue Sr	Away	8p Wed. 7/13	Gold	Haddox
Gold Jr	Home	5:30p Wed. 7/13	Blue Jr	Haddox
Gold Jr	Home	5:30p Wed. 7/13	Blue Jr	Haddox
Gold Sr	Home	8p Wed. 7/13	Blue Sr	Haddox
Blue Jr	Home	5:30p Thu. 7/14	Eagan	Haddox
Gold Sr	Home	8p Fri. 7/15	Eastview	Haddox

Post 550 Baseball Postseason

Teams	Substate and Location	Dates
Blue Sr.	SS4: Memorial Park, New Prague	Substate
Gold Sr.	SS3: Legion Field/Eastview HS, Apple V.	tournaments
Blue Jr.	SSA: Big Willow Park, Minnetonka	weekend of
Gold Jr.	SSB: Carlson Field, St. Louis Park	July 22-24
State tournaments		Dates
Div. I Sr.	Alimagnet Park, Burnsville	July 28-31
Div. I. Jr.	Red Haddox Field, Bloomington	July 28-31



Post 550 Commander Luis Campero visited Minnesota Boys State on Friday, June 17, on the campus of St. John's University in Collegeville. He posed with boys either from Bloomington or sponsored by Post 550. Front row from left are Emmett Wolf, Torii Overas, Campero, Eric Chen, Benjamin Gustafson. In the back are Adam Daad, Owen Loken, Aiden Busse, Michael Rascher, Grady Shilson and Leon Luo.

Boys Staters sponsored by Post 550

Name	School	Office at Boys State
Aiden Busse	Jefferson	
Torii Overas	Jefferson	
Owen Loken	Jefferson	
Michael Rascher	Orono	Lt. Governor
Rylan Hunt	Orono	Assoc. Justice
Adam Daad	Wayzata	
Leon Luo	Wayzata	Secretary of State
Eric Chen	Wayzata	
Grady Shilson	Kennedy	
Benjamin Gustafson	Kennedy	

Note: Emmett Wolf was sponsored by Hopkins Post 320 but he resides in Bloomington, and he was elected associate justice.

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

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Official publication of Earl C. Hill Bloomington Post 550 of The American Legion, Auxiliary Unit 550, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 550 and American Legion Riders Chapter 550, P.O. Box 201813, Bloomington, MN 55420. Phone: 952-884-9621. Distributed to members of the Post and Auxiliary who held membership cards for the current year.

Find us:

- Post 550 meeting are 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month. All members are welcomed to attend.
- Post 550's location is 311 W. 84th St., Bloomington (at the VFW Post 1296 building).
- Gambling meetings are in the Legion office, while post meetings are in the banquet hall.
- The Post 550 phone is 952-884-9621. Our email is echalp550@gmail.com.

Questions on VA benefits?

Call Minnesota American Legion Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller at 612-598-3849 or call a Hennepin County Veterans Service Officer at 612-348-3300. They are here to help you.

We have e-pullitabs!



Sports Page Bar & Grill

Pull tab hours:
Mon.-Sat. 11-11
Sunday 9-11

9104 Lyndale Ave. S.

Post 550 Officers

Commander Luis Campero
1st Vice..... Ron Nenovich
2nd Vice..... Clarence Bunkholt
Adjutant..... Warren
..... Christopherson
Finance Officer..... Jerry Narragon
Chaplain..... Jim Mead
Sgt-at-Arms..... Dan Welch
Membership..... Paul Hassing
SAL..... Jim Mead
Other positions:
Gambling Mgr..... Tim Engstrom
Honor Guard..... Dan Welch
Athletics..... Ron Nenovich

Unit 550 Officers

President..... Jody Hassing
1st Vice..... Nancy Stolarczyk
2nd Vice..... Joan Boerner
Secretary..... Bonnie Proctor
Treasurer..... Gabriele Servin
Sgt-at-Arms..... Trish Bunkholt
Chaplain..... Cathy Moretton
Membership..... Bonnie Proctor
Exec. Board Elizabeth Hassing
..... Rose Kitt
Past Presidents..... Bonnie Proctor
Hon. Jr. President Liliana Campero



Rain ruined the Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies at cemeteries, but a joint Legion-VFW ceremony did take place inside the veterans center.

Do you have an honor guard request?

Contact Dan Welch at 952-607-8786.

Scholarship, anyone?

The American Legion has scholarships for baseball, nursing and other fields. Visit the following websites to learn more:

mnlegion.org legion.org
mnala.org alaforveterans.org

Bingo Help Wanted

If you can help with bingo at the Mpls. Veterans Home on the third Wednesday of the month or Wealshire on the 3rd Thursday, call Jim Mead at 612-876-0952.

ADDRESS UPDATE: Mail to Post 550 Membership Director, PO Box 201813, Bloomington, MN 55420

Name: _____

Circle one: Post Unit Squadron

Summer Address effective date: _____

Winter Address effective date: _____

Street: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Discontinue Mailing (i.e. deceased) _____