

# THE Trumpeteer

EARL C. HILL BLOOMINGTON POST 550  
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF MINNESOTA



bloomingtonlegion.org

Vol. 68 Issue 1

311 W. 84th St., P.O. Box 201813, Bloomington, MN 55420 • 952-884-9621 • echalp550@gmail.com

Jan. Feb. Nov. 2025



The Bloomington Honor Guard fired volleys during the Veterans Day Ceremony at the post home of American Legion Post 550 and VFW Post 1296. If you are interested in joining the honor guard, call Honor Guard Captain Dan Welch at 952-607-8786.



Bloomington Post 550 member Sevieng Suparat presents a Post 550 donation for \$1,000 to the Kennedy High School show choir. The choir sang holiday songs at the American Legion and VFW Children's Christmas Party on Dec. 14.



Sgt. 1st Class Steve Cox of the Bloomington Armory (and new member of Post 550) gives a Veterans Day speech at the post. His 7-year-old daughter sang the national anthem. Turnout for Veterans Day this year was lighter than in previous years.



Tom McKenna of Every Third Saturday in south Minneapolis receives a check for \$1,500, presented by Post 550 Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom. Every Third Saturday is 10th District Commander Kristy Janigo's Project. Often called ETS, it helps veterans in the areas that governments and social services can't.



La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux Voiture 1281 met at the Bloomington Veterans Center on Nov. 26. Commonly called the 40&8, it is an honor society for The American Legion, much like the Military Order of the Cootie is for the VFW.



Post 550 Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom presents the first of two \$5,000 donations to the Bloomington Kennedy Activities Foundation. BKAF runs the bingo on Monday nights at the Sports Page Bar & Grill. The organization also supports many Kennedy High School extracurricular activities.

# AMERICAN LEGION

## BLOOMINGTON POST 550

### Post 550 October 2024 Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Commander Dan Welch on Oct. 14.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW/MIA flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Guests: Bloomington Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee  
Jesse Winden: Chair  
Annette Kuyper: Secretary  
Capt. Andrew Moss: Logistics & Training Officer, Bloomington National Guard Armory  
Shawn Eineke: Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist

The Yellow Ribbon Committee came to thank Post 550 for our prior support and to explain that their mission is to coordinate and synchronize support efforts for Active Service Members, Veterans, and their families in the City of Bloomington and surrounding metro communities.

They also provide ongoing Normandale Student Veterans Support. Brochures were provided by the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon committee for everyone in attendance.

They are requesting funds to continue their support. Discussions will continue how best to assist their efforts and how they might encourage local Veterans in the National Guard and at Normandale College to join the American Legion.

Lee Tallakson, St. Louis Park's Past Commander provided insight into the role of Legionville Camp.

- Jon Haworth, American Legion 4th District Commander
- Roll call of officers: 2nd Vice Commander excused.
- Printed copies of the September minutes distributed. Mead moved, Skundberg seconded, and the minutes were approved.

• Commander Dan Welch reminded us that the membership dinner will be at 5 p.m. Oct. 22 at the Bloomington Event Center (Knights of Columbus Hall) on American Boulevard. The dinner is free for members with current membership. Members will also have the opportunity to renew at the dinner. Keith Zesch was appointed Gambling Committee Chairman by Commander Dan Welch.

- Chaplain Jim Mead prayed for members currently going through difficult medical conditions.
- Finance Officer Blaine Beste provided the financial report. Engstrom made a motion to approve, seconded by Campero. Motion carried.
- Athletics Officer Mark Scott provided a brief recap of the Bloomington Sports Hall of Fame Banquet held on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024. He explained that exceptionally deserving individuals received awards at this banquet. Bloomington Jefferson and Bloomington Kennedy High Schools each presented a School Service Award. The Bloomington Adult Sports Association (BASA) presented awards to five recipients. American Legion Post 550 awarded the 1999 Bloomington Blue Legion Baseball team the Baseball Service Award. Twenty-five years ago this team advanced to the American Legion World Series, the only Legion Baseball team from Bloomington to advance to the American Legion World Series.
- Membership: Paul Hassing reported that our total for FY 2025 is 187 renewed members. This year's goal is 310.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the gambling report for September. The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended the approval of \$17,500 for the following to be paid in October:

- \$2,000 Minnesota Honor Guard
- \$4,000 Veterans Appreciation Day
- \$1,000 Valley View Elementary School
- \$1,000 Valley View Middle School
- \$500 Eagle Group
- \$1,000 Veterans Camp
- \$8,000 four scholarships

A motion was made by Mead and seconded by Skinn to approve the report. Motion carried.

- Sons of the American Legion: Jim Mead reported 28 members. Jim Mead reminded everyone that dual membership is only \$8/year and dual membership pins valued at \$5 each are provided to those who join.
- Tim Engstrom reminded us about the Veterans Appreciation Celebration on Friday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center.
- Fran Stachour placed Veterans Memorial forms near the entrance of the VFW. The memorial will break ground in the Spring of 2025. Fill out the form to order your "dog tag" for the memorial.
- American Legion 4th District Commander Jon Haworth told us about a new Legion Car Club called Legion Cruisers. Similar to the Legion Riders program, only with classic/modified car enthusiasts. Cars must be over 20 years old. Contact Jon at 4thdistrictamericanlegion@gmail.com for more information.

- The Christmas Party for Children will be 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 14.
- The Fall Conference is Oct. 24-26 in St. Cloud.
- Mark Scott announced the return of the Meat Raffle on Saturday, October 19th at noon.
- Paul Hassing added to the Legionville discussion to say that the camp is a safety camp for youth the best support Legion posts can provide Legionville is to send campers in the summertime. Ages 9-13.
- Prayer was offered.
- POW flag was recovered.
- Colors retired.
- The meeting was adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

### Post 550 December 2024 Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Commander Dan Welch on Dec. 9.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW/MIA flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Roll call of officers: All present
- Printed copies of the October minutes (no meeting in November) distributed. Mead moved, Mellin seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- Commander Dan Welch explained that the Executive Committee canceled the meeting in November due to Veterans Day activities. He also reminded us that the Children's Christmas Party is this Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Kennedy Choir will perform at noon.
- Second Vice Commander Chris Schmid summarized Veterans Day activities, including the honor guard ceremony, guest speaker, and food featuring donated turkeys.
- Adjutant Warren Christopherson asked if anyone is interested in the American Legion Family Bowling Association Tournament March 29 to April 27, 2025. He has additional information for those who are interested.
- Chaplain Jim Mead prayed for a close friend, The American Legion, the nation and our post members.
- Finance Officer Blaine Beste provided the financial report. Engstrom made a motion to approve, which Mead seconded. Motion carried.
- Membership Director Paul Hassing reported that we now have 222 members signed up for this year. Our goal is 310, so 222 is 71.61% of our goal.
- Gambling Manager Tim Engstrom provided the gambling report for October and November. The Post 550 Gambling Committee recommended the approval of \$20,000 for the following to be paid in December:

- \$500 Minnesota Boys State
- \$500 Brain Sciences Center
- \$1,000 Commanders Project
- \$750 American Legion ROTC Fund 63
- \$500 Eagle Scout of the Year
- \$3,000 Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee
- \$1,000 Veterans Defense Project Fund 82
- \$5,000 Bloomington Kennedy Athletic Foundation
- \$1,500 10th District
- \$1,500 Kennedy Softball
- \$1,000 Kennedy Baseball
- \$1,000 Kennedy Choir
- \$500 Hillcrest School
- \$500 Cantini
- \$500 Sons of Civil War
- \$250 Open Arms
- \$1,000 VEAP

Also recommended is another \$5,000 to be paid to Bloomington Kennedy Athletic Foundation in January 2025.

Mead made a motion to approve the report, and Skundberg seconded it. Motion carried.

- Gun Safety reports that Friday, April 4, 2025, is the date of the spring class.
- Sons of the American Legion: Jim Mead reported 44 renewed members. Jim Mead reminded everyone that dual membership is only \$8 a year, and dual membership pins valued at \$5 each are included for those who join.
- Tim Engstrom passed out a brochure on the American Legion's Legislative Priorities for 2025.

The topics include bringing back the Veterans Affairs committees for both chambers; protect veterans from consumer fraud and claim sharks; reducing state taxes on charitable gambling; other gambling priorities like expanding lawful purpose expenditures for post homes and increasing the amount posts can spend on meals recognizing veterans; modernize the Disabled Veterans Homestead Market Value Exclusion; modernize the Surviving Spouse Homestead Market Value Exclusion; provide 100 percent property tax relief for post homes; offer free vehicle registration for Gold Star spouses and children; produce a license plate for Jewish War Veterans; address food insecurity resources for all Minnesota veterans; add two more Vet Centers (federal issue); make hearing loss and tinnitus presumptive (federal issue).

- Commander Dan Welch discussed providing funding of \$200 for Past Department Commander Paul Hassing and his wife Jody to attend the Joint Service Military Ball at the Doubletree by Hilton in Bloomington. The event is on March 1st. Mead motioned, and Mellin seconded. The motion carried.
- Larry Johnson told us about a monthly magazine called the Minnesota Women's Veterans Press. The magazine provides stories about women who served on active duty and ways the many ways they serve veterans now.

Information about benefits and services for veterans can be found in this magazine. Copies were provided for members to review.

- Keith Zesch invited members to attend a film called "Leave No Trace" at Redemption Lutheran Church, 927 E. Old Shakopee Rd, on Jan. 5 at 6 p.m. The plot follows a military father with post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Prayer was offered.
- POW flag was recovered.
- Colors retired.
- The meeting was adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson

## Unit 550 October 2024 Minutes

- Meeting called to order by President Jody Hassing. Motion by Joan Boerner, seconded by Gabriele Servin, to dispense with opening due to meeting location. Passed.
- Bonnie Proctor reported longtime member Jeanne Wagner passed away. Our condolences to her family.
- Treasurer's report reviewed and filed for audit.
- Membership renewals: 48 quilts made by Creekside Quilters were donated to VA Medical Center. Meat raffles start Oct. 26. Jim and Carolyn Mead volunteered to work it. Motion by Bonnie, seconded by Joan, to donate proceeds to American Legion Auxiliary Department President's Project. Passed.
- Nov. 30 meat raffle volunteers: Jody and Joan. Early Bird dinner Oct. 22. City of Bloomington and Post 550 hosting a veterans appreciation lunch at Masonic Home Heritage Center on Nov. 8. Children's Christmas Party set for Dec. 14.
- Jody reported a Girls State attendee from Anoka won a \$10,000 scholarship from Samsung. Congratulations!
- Paul Hassing attended the SAL Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt, bagged a 6-pointer. Jody gave update on recent Camporee and upcoming events. Meeting adjourned.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

## Unit 550 November 2024 Minutes

- No meeting due to Veterans Day events.
- Motion via text made by Bonnie Proctor, seconded by Christine Olsen, to donate proceeds from November meat raffle to Cornerstone Advocacy Center in Bloomington. Passed.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor

## Unit 550 December 2024 Minutes

- Meeting called to order by President Jody Hassing. Colors saluted. Prayer offered. Pledge and Preamble recited. Roll call taken.
- Treasurer's report reviewed and filed for audit.
- Membership renewals: 60 Auxiliary members.
- Marcellus McKee donated handmade children's hats, mittens and scarves to be distributed locally. Many thanks for the beautiful work. Motion by Joan Boerner, seconded by Gabriele Servin, to not hold meetings in January, February and March 2025. Passed.
- Tom & Jerry's will be served New Year's Day at the post bar.
- Membership dinner held Oct. 22 was enjoyed by 72 members/guests. Collected 147 pounds of food and paper products for VEAP.
- Motion made by Bonnie Proctor, seconded by Christine Olsen, to pay dues for a member in care facility. Passed.
- Motion by Bonnie, seconded by Joan, to reimburse President Jody registration fee for her attendance at Mission Training in Denver (\$70) and for set of activity cards for unit (\$35). Passed.
- Jody gave a report on Mission Training and Fall Conference and upcoming events — 10th District Mid-Winter in Anoka Jan. 11 and Sweetheart Rally in Royalton Feb. 8.

— Secretary Bonnie Proctor



Post 550 Chaplain Jim Mead and Commander Dan Welch have dedicated supporter Barb Brewer surrounded.



## American Legion Family Calendar

- Jan. 8:** Minnesota American Legion Legislative Social, 4:30-8:30 p.m., Mancini's Char House, St. Paul
- Jan. 11:** 10th District Mid-Winter Conf., Anoka Post 102
- Jan. 15:** 80 percent membership target date
- Feb. 2:** Four Chaplains Sunday
- Feb. 8:** Sweetheart Rally, Royalton Post 137
- Feb. 22:** Minnesota State Oratorical Contest, Osseo Post 172 & Anoka Post 102
- Feb. 22-26:** Washington Conference, Hilton Hotel, D.C.
- Feb. 22:** ALA Dept. Leadership Workshop, Cold Spring Unit 455
- March 8:** TAL & ALA Department Executive Committees, Chanhassen Post 580
- March 8:** Appreciation Rally, Chanhassen Post 580
- March 9-15:** Buddy Check Week
- March 14-15:** SAL Detachment Spring Conference, hosted by Rochester Post 446
- March 15:** American Legion Birthday
- March 24-28:** National Commander's Tour of Minnesota
- March 29:** ALA Dept. Leadership Workshop, New Ulm Unit 132
- April 5:** Department Commander's Testimonial, Northern Lights Casino & Hotel
- April 11-12:** ALA Jr Department Conf., Anoka Unit 102
- April 24-27:** Minnesota Legion College, Camp Ripley



Bloomington Post 550 member and Past Department of Minnesota Commander Paul Hassing was a hunter at the John Zgoda Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt at Legionville in early October. With 7 minutes left, he scored a six-point buck.



## In Memoriam

| Name                  | Age | Died    | Cont. Years | Branch    |
|-----------------------|-----|---------|-------------|-----------|
| Brolsma, John A.      | 90  | 7/3/24  | 62          | Army      |
| Clancy, Thomas J.     | 79  | unknown | 4           | Army      |
| Forsmark, Lewis W.    | 95  | 2/21/24 | 13          | Army      |
| Hance, Dave J.        | 68  | 8/2/24  | 11          | Marines   |
| Lee, Donald H.        | 84  | 5/11/24 | 22          | Army      |
| Pomeroy, Roger H.     | 95  | unknown | 49          | Navy      |
| Wangerin, Ervin A.    | 89  | 4/14/24 | 33          | no record |
| Washington, Robert H. | 79  | 5/24/24 | 44          | Army      |

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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 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month. All members are welcomed to attend. There is a free meal at the start, open to the entire community.
- Post 550 meets at 311 W. 84th St., Bloomington (in the VFW Post 1296 banquet hall).
- Gambling meetings are in the Legion office at 5:45 p.m. that day.
- Our baseball program's website is [post550baseball.org](http://post550baseball.org).

## Movie night!

Redemption Lutheran Church at 927 E. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, plans to show "Leave No Trace" at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5. The film is about a military veteran father struggling with PTSD and living in an urban forest with his daughter when they are found.

## We have e-pullitabs!



## Sports Page Bar & Grill

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

9104 Lyndale Ave. S.

## Do you have an honor guard request?

Contact Dan Welch at 952-607-8786.



**Did you know Santa Claus is a member of the Legion? He served in the Cold War. Ha! Thanks to all of you for being members of Post 550 and supporting our mission.**

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## Post 550 Officers

Commander ..... Dan Welch  
1st Vice Cmdr ..... Tom Skundberg  
2nd Vice Cmdr ..... Chris Schmid  
Adjutant ..... Warren  
..... Christopherson  
Finance Officer ..... Blaine Beste  
Chaplain ..... Jim Mead  
Sgt-at-Arms ..... Mike Mellin  
Membership ..... Paul Hassing  
SAL ..... Jim Mead  
Other positions:  
Gambling Mgr ..... Tim Engstrom  
Honor Guard ..... Dan Welch  
Athletics Officer ... Mark Scott

## Unit 550 Officers

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

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) \_\_\_\_\_