

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on August 12, 2026.

Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, MA
on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900.

Officer Roll Call:

Commander - Dick Hynes	Present
1 st Vice Commander - John Milot	Excused
2 nd Vice Commander - John Hefelee	Present
Adjutant - Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Tim App	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Excused
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

14 members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes at 1900.

- Colors posted by SGT at Arms Tim App.
- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis.
- POW/MIA flag and chair placed at all meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of POW's and MIA's still unaccounted for.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.
- Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all.
- Officer Roll Call.

Reading the minutes of the previous meeting:

- Minutes of the previous meeting had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read them beforehand. Members who were present at the meeting were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes, subject to audit. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted, subject to audit.

Reading of Communications and Bills (Dick Hynes):

- Monica McIntyre sent the Post a thank-you note to tell members that she enjoyed being at Girl's State. She learned a lot about civic duty and is looking forward to going to a military Academy.
- Ashton Leveque sent a note to thank the Post for the \$500.00 scholarship that the Post gave him. He hopes to make the US Army a career.
- The Odd Fellows sent a note announcing the 8th Annual Corn Hole tournament that will be held on September 13th in Tyngsboro. A motion was made and seconded to donate \$100.00 to this cause. After a discussion was held, a vote to accept the motion was approved.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- A copy of the financial report for the previous month had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read it beforehand. Members who were present at the meeting were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report. A vote was taken, and the financial report was accepted.

1st Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes for John Milot):

- The Post's membership goal for 2026 was 81 members. The year ended with 83 members, or 102.4%. The Post had a retention rate of 90%. There were 11 Posts in the District who reached 100% or higher (out of 28 Posts). We ended up in 6th place out of 28 Posts. Our Post's target for 2027 is 83 members.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefeale):

- The Post's website is now under a new host. We had been using Weebly but now we are using Articulation. Dave asked about two invoices that were received on this. John said that the \$120.00 invoice was the website and the \$20.00 invoice was for the domain name.
- Dick acknowledged John Hefeale's "behind the scenes" efforts that the Post members are not aware of but are very important and are greatly appreciated by him and the Post members.
- John said that the town's two funeral homes are now communicating with him directly when a Veteran passes away so that the flags can be flown downtown.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank said that he is having a lot of trouble with the delivery of items purchased through Flag & Emblem. He has called them many times. There is no

record of one of his orders. He was told that they have moved to a new computer system and this has caused a lot of problems.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- An event was held at Benchmark last week and Bingo was held at Cedarwoods Gardens too.
- Bob said that he is working with a new company for "Operation Care Package". He will be sending out a package to a Marine who is currently on active duty.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

Unfinished business:

- Ron Seyfert added labels on the Post's pamphlets so that they have the Post's contact information on the back of them.
- There will be a double Fallen Heroes ceremony on the common on Saturday. There will be three more before the next Post meeting.
- The Franklin Fathers Edward Grant Kickball Tournament was a success. There was a good crowd, and the Post did a brief ceremony that talked about Eddie Grant's history. A salute was made and Taps was played. The Post will receive a check that will represent half of the money that was raised in a 50/50 raffle.
- Monica (who went to Girl's State) and Roman (who went to Boy's State) will be invited to come to the October meeting.
- The pool party that was held at Ed Foti's house was a huge success. There was lots of food, and a good time was had by all.
- A dinner was held on July 27th for the Korean War Veterans at Franklin TV. There were six Veterans present, with some spouses attending too. Dick and Bob did the cooking while John, Tim, Shannon and Jan took care of serving and hosting. Beef tenderloin was the main course. The VFW Post usually handles this event but their Convention was on that day so we took care of it.
- Tyler and Brett, the Legion baseball guys will be coming to the October meeting to give us a comprehensive report on the baseball tournaments that the Post sponsored. Both the Junior and Senior teams were State Champions. This year, we sponsored these two teams as well as a girls softball team. Dick made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 for two plaques that will be given to the two coaches. The motion was seconded, voted on and approved. A suggestion was made to have a road sign made for the State Champions and the DPW will be consulted. Dick said that Steve Sherlock did a great job in keeping the standings current in Franklin Matters. Tyler sent Dick a note to thank him for the Post's sponsorship. The Color Guard was at the first game of the Junior Tournament. There were seven flags that were flown. Dick said that they did a great job.

New business:

- The Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, September 26th. He would like "Be The One" as the booth's theme. He would like to get a banner made for our booth. Dave suggested a place on East Central Street.

- A suggestion was made to have the Post sponsor a blood drive. Dick pointed out that the Legion likes to see Posts do this sort of thing. He is hesitant to do one as the VFW and the Elks do their own drives and he doesn't want to interfere with theirs. If we do one, someone will have to come forward and take charge of running it.

For the good of the Legion:

- Dick mentioned that he is stepping down as the District Adjutant and has selected his replacement, whose name is Don Johnson. Dick was in the middle of training him when he received word that Don had passed away. Dick will stay on as Department Adjutant for three more months and then he'll step down.
- Eric Eidswick suggested that the Post do something for the crew of the USS Abraham Lincoln as they have been deployed for an extended period of time. It has been reported that some crew members were jumping overboard to take their own lives.
- Frank suggested that we put up banners around town with the picture of Veterans on them. Some towns already do this. Shannon had told him that it would be very expensive to do this.
- Eric said that the road signs for the Fallen Heroes have been fixed so that the diameter of the holes on them can accommodate the flags that are installed in them. A sign for Eddie Grant will be made as there currently is none. The new flags will be made of weather-resistant material.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by SGT At Arms Tim App.
- Colors retired by SGT at Arms Tim App.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Hynes.