American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75
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# Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on December 10, 2025.

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

**Officer Roll Call:**

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| Commander – Dick Hynes | Present |
| 1st Vice Commander – John Milot | Present |
| 2nd Vice Commander - John Hefele | Present |
| Adjutant – Joe Landry | Present |
| Finance - Dave Labonte | Present |
| SGT at Arms – Tim App | Present |
| Chaplain - Bob Markunis | Present |
| Historian - Steve Szilniczky | Present |
| 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:**

- None.

**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.
- Dave reported that the final check of $43,000.00 from the Bob Catalano Estate has been received and deposited into the checking account. Dave suggested that we take a portion of that money and invest it instead of keeping it in the checking account. He noted that the Fed will be reducing interest rates soon and that we should take advantage of a CD now. He suggested a CD from DCO that has a rate of 3.68% or Dean Bank which has a rate of 3.50%. John Hefele suggested that we investigate Fidelity for a CD. Dave said that his wife has a nephew who works at Fidelity and they have a Money Market fund that gets around 5%. He will contact him to get more information. A motion was made and seconded for Dave to put $25,000.00 into a CD from DCU unless Fidelity or USAA has a better rate. A vote was taken and the motion was accepted.
- 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.

**Post Commander report (Dick Hynes):**

- None.

**1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):**

- The goal for membership is currently at 75%. The Post's percentage is 83.95%, which puts us 7th out of 28 Posts in District 6.
- Dick mentioned that a comparison report was received that showed the number of Legion members that are enrolled in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on December 4, 2024 (18,170) and on December 4, 2025 (17,422). This is a loss of 748 members, putting Massachusetts in 48th place. He said that Scott Connors is doing what he can do to step this up.

**2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):**

- None.

**Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):**

- Steve thanked Frank for submitting pictures of the luncheon that was held at the VFW.
- Steve said that people should submit any pictures or articles to him so that he can file them.

- Dick said that Pat Doyle had given him some of his father's Legion pins when he was in the American Legion and that he has given them to the Post.
- Steve remarked that there was a nice Coast Guard uniform on display at the Franklin Historical Museum that that he "knew" who the person was that owned it.

**Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):**

- Frank said that he has two jackets in stock, one being extra large and one being large.
- Frank said that Shannon will be getting some Massachusetts patches for the jackets.
- Dick said that Elena would be willing to sew patches on the jackets for $10.00.

**Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):**

- Bob reported that outreaches had been suspended for December due to the holidays, the exception being Cedarwood Gardens.
- Bob contacted Melissa at Texas Roadhouse about the Post doing a fundraiser there. He will meet with her next week about possibly doing one in March.

**Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):**

- None.

**Unfinished business:**

- Last Saturday night, a dinner was held with the VFW at the VFW Hall. Both posts had a nice evening of good food and comradery. Chaplain Bob prepared the main course. This has become an annual event. It also goes a long way in cementing the relationship between the two Organizations.
- The next Fallen Hero Ceremony on the common will be held on December 28th for Army Pvt. Charles Mason. This will be our last ceremony for 2025. We will continue to provide this service again for 2026, and the first ceremony will be on January 26 for William Martello. A new Bugler schedule is being developed for the year. Some changes to the histories of the fallen heroes have been made as we have received more information on them. Toys for Veteran's Children Program is proceeding currently.
- John Hefele sent out a sign-up sheet where you can see what items are still needed, sign up to provide it and return it to either CDR Carruthers or the VSO office by December 18. There are still several items that are open.
- The VFW will once again offer Christmas Dinner for any veteran who might be alone for the Holiday. This will be the second year that they are doing this. Thanksgiving dinner was also provided this year. If you wish to help, please contact CDR Carruthers.
- On Nov 29 the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Team was held, with Dave Labonte, Matt McGrath, Eric Eidswick and Dick Hynes attending. John Milot was unavailable. Many subjects were covered from the agenda, including best usage of the Catalano Gift as well as potential fund raisers for the

Post, Membership, and other subjects. A second meeting will be held soon so that a presentation can be made to the Post for approval.

- The 2026 Memorial Day Parade was discussed at the November Veteran's Council meeting. We are still waiting to hear about our applications for a Navy Band, and Air Force fly over. No response yet. Frank is still working on the National Guard.
- The Post really needs to focus on forming a Color Guard as the leading unit for the parade this year. We will need a minimum of 3 flag bearers and two riflemen. If we can get additional folks, it would be wonderful to be carrying the 6 Branch Flags as well and really do it up right!!
- There seems to be consensus that we should plan another Post social dinner in a couple of months at the Rome Restaurant. Last year's dinner was too expensive for the Post to pay for this. A suggestion was made to charge each person $20.00. Another suggestion was for everyone to buy their own drinks.

**New business:**

- Matt McGrath will investigate getting a future date for a pizza event at the VA Brockton Hospital.
- There are two upcoming events which the Post should participate in. One is the Department Commanders Banquet on February 21, 2026, at Plainridge Park Casino for CDR Scott Conner. Tickets are $50. Sales cut off is January 24. The Post should plan on 4 attendees with the Post paying for two. A motion was made and seconded to place an ad in their advertisement booklet for $60.00. A motion was made and seconded to pay for Commander Hynes and his guest to attend this event. Both motions were voted on and accepted, and Dave will send a check for these events.
- There will be an Appreciation Day for SR Vice CDR Robert Jerdan to be held at Post 382 Squantum on March 7. Bob is the past Commander from our District 6 and he will be the Department Commander next year. It has been a long time since a Dept. CDR has gone to this event from District 6 so we should be supporting him. Donations for this event are $35 each.

**For the good of the Legion:**

- Congratulations to member Natalee Webb-Rubin for the great article that she wrote on the front page of our monthly newspaper. Great job, Natalee!
- The Post lost a member a few days ago. Alan Kober was 88 years old and served in the Army as an MP. John Hefele had visited him in his assisted Living facility many times. There are no final arrangements planned at this time. Services will be held in the future, and we may be called to participate.
- SAL Discussion was also discussed at the Stat Plan Meeting. There needs to be more discussion on the value of having this unit and how viable it might be.

**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.