American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75
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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on November 12, 2025.

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
1st Vice Commander – John Milot	Present
2nd Vice Commander - John Hefele	Excused
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

16 members and 1 guest 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.

Opening the meeting:

- Dick Hynes introduced Frank Zolli, who is the Commander of the Norfolk Post 335 of the American Legion. Dick said that he and John Milot attended a dinner at Lake Pearl to celebrate the Norfolk Post's 80th year. There were 111 people in attendance Frank thanked Dick and John for attending and for their help in his getting started as Post Commander.
- Dick said that some students that went to Boys State and Girls State would be attending the meeting to share their experience there. At the time of their arrival, he would entertain a motion to suspend the meeting so that they could speak.

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. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted.

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 said that he had to pay the income tax within a week or so on the Poker Tournament income and that we would not be able to schedule more of them until this was done. John Milot reminded him to renew the permit, which is $50.00. Dave will go to Town Hall to take care of this.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report, subject to audit. A vote was taken, and the financial report was accepted, subject to audit.

Post Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- Jim McNeill asked Dick if he could get cards with the Legion Preamble on them.
- When the high school students arrived, Dick entertained a motion to suspend the meeting. The motion was made and accepted and the students gave a brief talk about their experiences. They were Cole McEnery, Ratika Gumba and Ella Hutchinson. All three students were very enthusiastic about their experiences, and they highly recommended this program for others. They even brought three packages of cupcakes for the members to enjoy. Patrick O'Toole, who also went to Boy's State was not in attendance. Dick said that the students were excellent choices.

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- The November target for membership is 65% and the Post is currently at 82.5%, which is fourth out of 28 Posts in the District. We would need 81 members at the end of the year for 100%.

- Dick asked Joe to provide him with a list of those members who have not renewed their membership.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank spoke about Texas Roadhouse in Walpole being a possible fundraising opportunity. One idea would be to have lunch there as a fundraiser. He said that one Post made $600.00 by doing something similar. Dick said that we should look for a place to have a winter social event there. Dave said that a percentage of sales usually goes to the sponsored organization. Dave also said that a company that sells jackets could have sweatshirts made with the Post 75 patch on them. The first patch would be $25.00 as a set-up charge and $6.99 thereafter.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- The outreach events are ongoing. They will be suspended in December for the holidays and will resume in January.
- An event was held at Cornerstone in Milford for the first time. There are 18 Veterans there. Jenn Hozempa, who plays the bugle at some of the Fallen Heroes events works there. Bob told her that Post 75 will be willing to help them as needed.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

Unfinished business:

- Regarding the upcoming Memorial Day parade, Dick said that the first meeting on this was held at the recent Veteran's Council meeting. Ernie Corruthers said that the parade should not have been as slow as it was and this will be rectified next year. Dick said that we will do our best to have a Military Color Guard at the beginning of the parade. Frank is still working on getting the National Guard's participation. Jim is still pushing for the Navy Band to attend. Dick said that we should get better participation in next year's parade since our Post has added many new members.
- Dick asked Frank Zolli about the Norfolk Parade. Frank said that his parade starts at 8:00 am and finishes by 9:00 am.
- Dick said that there are only three more Fallen Hero ceremonies that will be held this year. They will continue to be held next year, because he said that it is important that we do this. He also mentioned that there are some people who regularly attend these events and that we should find a way to acknowledge this. Evarist suggested that we give them a "challenge coin". Dick thought this was a good idea.
- Frank said that there was an excellent article in the "Greet Franklin" publication about the Fallen Heroes ceremonies. Dick said that this would be the last issue of that publication, due to a lack of advertisers.

- Dick said that there will be a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee at his house on November 29th at 2:00. Wine will be available.
- Dick thanked all those who attended the Veteran's Day event at the Franklin Elks on Veteran's Day. He congratulated Ron Seyfert for his superb speech and how he represented the Post in such an excellent way. Dick also said that Shannon did an outstanding job in setting this event up.
- Dick and Frank went to the Franklin Historical Museum to see the uniform display there. He encouraged all to see this display. He said that Steve Szilniczky's uniform is on display there, along with Eddie Grant's uniform. John Milot brought the "American Legion Post 75" sign to the museum for display. This sign once hung on the East Street building when the Post was there.
- Dick said that we are still waiting for the Catalano Estate money to arrive. This was not contested so it should be just a matter of time before we get the money.
- Dick said that there is a member of the Post who wishes to remain anonymous that needs furniture due to a fire. Frank suggested Bob's Furniture might have some kind of program for this. The member would like a bed, bureau, couch and nightstands. It was suggested that a place in Walpole does this kind of thing. It is "New Life", and it is on Route 27.

New business:

- Dick said that he will reach out to Matt McGrath to see if he has a date for a pizza event at the Brockton VA Hospital.
- Dick reminded everyone that the US Air Force Band will be holding a concert at the King Philip High School in Wrentham on Wednesday, November 19th. It was suggested that those who are going should be in uniform and sit together.
- Dick reminded all Officers that they need to submit a copy of their DD-214 to the Adjutant if they have not already done so. The deadline for this is Wednesday, November 19th. John Milot reminded them that they should block out their Social Security number if it is on the form.
- Dick said that Shannon had sent out a notice about a Norfolk County Retired Senior program that supports Veterans who are need of such items as toothpaste, body wash, reading glasses, sweatshirts, etc. The drop-off location is in the Norfolk Senior Center.
- Dave is still looking for people to participate in a trivia tournament that will be held at the Bellingham Sports Club on Sunday, November 16th at 2:00 pm.
- Dick said that Ernie will be participating in a Color Guard at the New England Patriots game on Thursday, November 12th.
- Dick said that Tim App participated in a ten-mile road race recently and the story was covered in a magazine by Natalee Webb-Rubino.
- Frank said that volunteers are still needed for the "Habitat for Humanity" project at the former South Franklin church. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers who would do such things as painting, installing sheetrock, etc. The first one is January 15th.
- The Post has participated in "Wreaths Across America" each year and we will continue to do this again this year. We will participate in the removal of the wreaths. Dave will purchase 10 wreaths at $17.00 each.

For the good of the Legion:

- None.

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.