

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

Franklin, MA 02038-0042

Telephone: 508-517-9909 Website: <http://www.mapost75.com>



Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on October 8, 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
1 st Vice Commander - John Milot	Present
2 nd Vice Commander - John Hefelee	Present
Adjutant - Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Tim App	Excused
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

16 members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes at 1900.

- Colors posted by Acting SGT at Arms Jim McNeill.
- 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.
- Before the meeting began, Tyler Pasquorosa, the coach of the Post 75 Junior baseball team gave a short talk about his team. He said that the team won the State Championship but lost the regional championship. He said that the youths are taught respect and fair play. Tyler said that it costs each

player around \$4,500.00 to participate in this program. This cost doesn't include hotel costs.

- Evarist Odinikaeze also spoke to the members. He joined the Post this evening. He had stopped by our booth at the recent Harvest Festival. Evarist was in the Coast Guard for eight years.

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: (Dick Hynes)

- Dick reported that the American Legion is partnering with the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. A talk about this will be given to make families aware of this.
- The Memorial Day Foundation requested a donation from the Post. It was decided that the Post will not make a donation.

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.
- Dick mentioned that the estate of Bob Catalano will be giving the Post \$43,000.00.
- 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):

- Dick explained Post 462 to the members. This is the "holding Post" that has members who are not assigned to a particular Post. At this time, 3 members are from Franklin, 4 are from Medway and 1 is from Bellingham. John Milot will work on contacting them to see if they would like to join our Post.

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- The present goal for membership is 55% (45 members). Our Post is at 71% (58 members). This puts the Post in 6th place out of 28 Posts in the District. Post 75 needs 81 members to reach 100% for the year.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefeale):

- John spoke about the ceremony that the Post participated in on Saturday, October 4th. This was for a Coast Guard member who had died a few years ago and never got a Military burial because of Covid. The Coast Guard Veteran's sister spoke to John Hefeale at the recent Coffee Social and mentioned this to him. We decided to perform a ceremony for the Veteran with a Color Guard and Rifle Team. Steve Szilniczky was in his Coast Guard uniform, and he presented a burial flag to the Veteran's sister. The sister made a \$50.00 donation to the Post to show her gratitude. Dick said that he got in touch with the Milford Post Commander to report that we would be in Milford and if

anyone in that Post wanted to participate, they could do so. Nobody came from that Post.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- No report.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank said that he has six winter jackets in stock. They will cost \$40.00 each.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bob reported that the outreach programs at the Enclave, Magnolia Heights and Cedarwood Gardens are ongoing.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- Shannon reported that there will be a Veteran's Day luncheon at the Elks Lodge on Pond Street on November 11th at 11:00. The featured speaker will be Ron Seyffert.

Unfinished business:

- The next Veteran's Council meeting will be on October 16th at 7:00 at the Senior Center. The Memorial Day parade will be discussed. We hope to get a few bands to participate this year. Jim Lane is working on getting the Navy Band. Dick will apply to the US Air Force to see if we can get a fly-over. Last year, there were five bands in the parade. Last year, the high school and the charter school band were in the parade, but they will not be participating this year. Dave said that the Fire Department Color Guard led last year's parade and told Post 75 members to put their flag back in the truck. He wanted to know what the protocol is for carrying the flag in a parade. Dick said that a military Color Guard should lead the parade. Dave also said that the pace of the parade was very slow, and this made it difficult to march in the parade. Frank is waiting to hear from the Coast Guard band. The Norfolk parade was discussed. Their parade is 3 miles long (1-1/2 miles to the cemetery and 1-1/2 miles back to the starting point). Post 75 members who participate in that parade are too tired to participate in Franklin's parade. The decision was made to not do Norfolk's parade next year.
- Dick described the "Fallen Heroes" ceremonies to new members. He thanked all those who participated in the ceremony for Eddie Grant. The Color Guard was there.
- The SWOT team will be meeting in November.
- Frank talked about the "Greet Franklin" magazine that comes out once a month and that we should get the Fallen Heroes ceremonies mentioned in it.
- Dick said that two students who participated in Girls State and Boys State stopped by our booth at the Harvest Festival. They will be coming to our November meeting (along with the other two that participated) to share their experience with us.
- Tim App ran in a road race and they gave him number 1. He won in his age group. Dick had asked him if he wanted the Post to donate to this but Tim refused it because he didn't want his participation to be a fundraiser.

New business:

- Dick asked Matt if he was going to be going to the Brockton VA hospital for a pizza event. Matt said that he will try to set one up in November.
- The Air Force Band will be performing at King Philip High School on November 19th. Tickets are free.
- The Harvard School of Dental Medicine will be giving Veterans and their spouses free dental exams on Saturday, October 25th from 9:00 to 12:00. It was noted that parking is very hard to find in that area of Boston.
- Bob said that the Enclave would like us to hold a Veteran's Day service on November 10th at a time to be determined. He said that Shaw's Supermarket gave him little flags and some larger ones. We gave them out at the Harvest Festival to children. John Hefelee will put together a certificate to be given to Shaws as a token of our appreciation. Joe had the children recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" before they could get their flag. They enthusiastically said the Pledge with no problem at all.
- John Hefelee will be giving out certificates to the Veterans at the Enclave. The Enclave was the only facility to ask for them.
- People are needed to sell Poppys at the Memorial Day parade next May. Eric Eidswick volunteered to take charge of handling this.
- There was a discussion about the flags that are flown downtown on the day of a Veteran's funeral and if it would be alright to leave them up overnight if there are two funerals in a row. This will be happening next Monday and Tuesday, although the Tuesday funeral might be private and if this is the case, then we wouldn't put the flags out for that Veteran. John Milot will ask the funeral home about this. If the flags are to be flown on both days, then they will stay up overnight.
- John Hefelee is looking for someone to take over the responsibility of keeping the rifles for the Rifle Team. He will continue for now but would like to be relieved of this in the near future.
- John Milot mentioned the "Thank the Yanks" donation drive that is being held in Milford. This is to support homeless Veterans. Donations of \$10.00 gift cards from such stores as Walmart, Target, CVS, etc. are requested. Non-perishable items only are requested. Donations can be taken to Costello Realty at the Liquor World Plaza and at 12 King Street.
- Dick said that the Department is requiring all Officers in the Post to provide the Adjutant with a copy of their DD 214. Those who have not done so need to do this by the November meeting.
- Members were asked for ideas for a winter gathering. One suggestion was to go to the bowling alley in Milford.
- Dave said that the Wrentham Legion Post will be having a dedication ceremony for their new pavilion on Saturday, November 8th.
- Dave said that the Odd Fellows will be having a Trivia Tournament at the Bellingham Sports Club. An e-mail will be sent out with more details.

For the good of the Legion:

- None.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.

- POW/MIA flag retired by Acting SGT At Arms Jim McNeill.
- Colors retired by Acting SGT at Arms Jim McNeill.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Hynes.