American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75
43 Main Street, P.O. Box 383
Franklin, MA 02038-0383
Telephone: 508-517-9909 Website: http://www.mapost75.com

Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on October 14, 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
1st Vice Commander – John Milot	Excused
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	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

12 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 chair is displayed 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):

- Dick announced that there would be no guests this evening.

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):

- Dave reported that a $500.00 scholarship check that was given to Roman Caccavelli has not been cashed yet. Dick will contact him.
- Wayne Ross, the Veteran who participates in the National Veterans Wheelchair games has asked us to support him again. He has previously won 6 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals and two bronze medals. A motion was made and seconded to give him $100.00. A vote was taken, and the Post will give him $100.00 to support him.
- A letter was received from the Odd Fellows to thank the Post for their support in the 8th annual Arthritis Foundation Benefit Cornhole tournament that was held on September 13th. The Post's contribution of $100.00 will help them to purchase raffle prizes and to defray expenses.

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.
- Two checks were drawn from the bank account for Flag and Emblem and Frank said that these payments were for two orders that he had made. One was $62.64 and the other one was $40.33. One order has come in but the other one has not.
- The General Fund has $21,600.00 in it and a CD for $25,000.00 from the Catalano money.
- 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 in John Milot's absence):

- The membership target for the American Legion is 55%. The Post is currently at 48.8%, and we were the only one out of six that didn't reach the target. Our target is to have 46 members. We are at 41.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- Steve is going though boxes of items and is organizing them.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank is working on getting a better response from the Flag and Emblem people who have not been filling orders in a timely manner.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- The outreach events are ongoing. Bob will be talking to Cedarwood Gardens and Enclave about Veteran Day ceremonies and will update us.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- Shannon is busy with administrative work and claims. She reminded everyone to sign up for the Veteran's luncheon that will be held at the Franklin Elks on November 10th this year and not on Veterans Day. There are still 15 spots available.
- Eric Eidswick continues to work on the map for the street sign plaques for Franklin's Fallen Heroes.
- Frank Coughlin and Ron Seyfert are participating in the Pilot program for the Cultural District Committee by giving a tour of the Veteran's Walkway on the common.

Unfinished business (Dick Hynes):

- Dick asked everyone to consider helping with putting the flags up in the downtown area when a Veteran's Funeral is held.
- Dick said that the two coaches for the Legion Baseball tournament could not be at the meeting, but he hopes that they will attend the November meeting. Jim Garganus will contact them.
- The two students who attended Boys and Girls State this year could not be at the meeting. Dick will see if they can make it to the November meeting.
- Eric Eidswick said that the flags that are flown on the Fallen Hero plaques are getting tattered and torn. He is working with the DPW to get an interactive map developed where the Fallen Hero's information will come up when the icon is clicked for the hero. He said that there are four Heroes who do not have plaques around town. One of them is Eddie Grant. He will see about getting his plaque installed at the corner of Martin Avenue and School Street, where his house is located.

New business:

- Tim App was able to purchase a "POW/MIA" chair that will be displayed at all meetings. This chair will take the place of the POW/MIA flag.
- Matt McGrath will be consulted on setting up a visit to the Brockton VA hospital.
- Pat Doyle will be conducting the POW/MIA ceremony for us at the Elks Luncheon on November 10th. The Post will provide Colors.
- On October 24th, the Department will hold a "Legion College" at the Oxford Post 58 from 9:00 to 3:00. This event will explain how to properly run a Post.

For the good of the Legion:

- A letter was received from the National Judge Advocate to remind all members of the four rules of an American Legion program, as they have not been followed.

- **Leadership:** All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization.
- **Rules:** All by-laws, amendments and standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for approval prior to use.
- **Reports:** Program will provide to the parent organization a monthly activity report, quarterly reports, etc.
- **Controls:** The parent organization will provide the program with the employer ID number and tax-exempt status with the necessary financial controls over the usage.
- The National Commander Jay Bowen is pushing membership. If a member recruits two new members, he will send the member a "membership excellence incentive pin".
- There are four things that each member should know:
    - The Legion Cap **cannot be worn** to a political event when promoting political views in the media.
    - A Legion Post **may be used** for a political event **as long as** the Legion emblems, flags and anything related to the Legion are removed.
    - Members **cannot** get the American Legion to support a candidate at the local or state level running for Congress or any other political office.
    - A Post **is allowed** to hold a "Get Out The Vote" drive or a registration drive as long as it doesn't support a specific party.
- Dick shared some interesting impact numbers for the year 2025-2026:
    - $440,000.00 in scholarship money was distributed to 178 qualified students.
    - 1,656 Veterans were placed in jobs by the American Legion.
    - $2,193,068,031.00 was the amount of VA benefits that were procured for Veterans using American Legion representation. 37%of appeals were in favor of the Veteran through our Service Officers. 33% were remanded for further review.
    - 43,000 rounds of ceremony ammunition was distributed.
    - There are 90 members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame who were alums of the American Legion baseball league.
- Bob Markunis asked members to consider participating in the following events:
    - November 9th at Cornerstone in Milford at 3:30pm. Jen (the woman who is one of the buglers) is affiliated with Cornerstone and it would be nice to support her).
    - November 11th at Benchmark at 11:00am.
    - November 12th at Cedarwood Gardens at 2:00pm.
    - November 13th at Enclave at 2:00pm.

Closing the meeting:

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