

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on August 13, 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	Excused
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

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

Introduction of guests: (Dick Hynes)

- Natalee Webb-Rubino was introduced to the members. She will be transferring to our post from Stoneham's Post. She passed out a poem that she had composed for the Memorial Day breakfast. She was the first female aircraft mechanic of the Air Force, and she also served in Okinawa, Japan. She was also the first female Veteran's Service Officer in Melrose.
- Eric Eidswick was introduced to the members. He is the father of Lorelai Eidswick, who went to Girl's State and became a staff member. He is a USN Veteran who packed parachutes and served in USS America when it was decommissioned. Eric is a new member of the Post.
- Art Buliung was introduced to the members. He served in the US Army from 1966 to 1969. Art is a new member of the Post.

Reading of Communications and Bills: (Dick Hynes)

- Two pictures were passed around. They showed the four who attended Girls and Boys State and the two who received scholarship awards.
- This year, the Post sponsored four candidates to Boys and Girls State. The Post paid the fee for three of them and the Department paid the fee for the fourth one.
- Next year, we expect to have more candidates for Boys and Girls State as we now have a connection with the guidance office at Franklin High School.
- Dick read a "thank you" letter from Ella Hutchinson, who went to Girls State.
- Dick read a "thank you" letter from Patrick McIntyre, who went to Boys State. He said that he had a good time. He was the softball Captain, nominated Lt. Governor, appointed Traffic Commissioner for his town and wants to go to the US Naval Academy.
- Dick read a "thank you" letter from Ratika Gumba, who went to Girls State. She had a great time. She won the caucus for the county attorney general and was appointed the Treasurer for the City of Friendship. She participated in the Girls State Choir and had a solo at the inauguration. She also enjoyed the mock trials.
- Dick read a "thank you" letter from Mason Yered, who received a \$500.00 scholarship from the Post. This money became part of his first semester payment.
- Dick read a "thank you" letter from Cole McEnery, who went to Boys State. He had a very good time and wants to go back as a counsellor.
- Dick read a "thank you" letter from Patrick O'Toole, who received a \$500.00 scholarship from the Post. He is the son of Tim O'Toole, who plays the bugle at our "Fallen Heroes" ceremonies on the common. He said that he comes from

a long line of Veterans and will be taking Political Science at the University of Delaware.

- Dick read a letter from Willow Ogle, who was at Girls State last year. She said that she will be on staff next year.
- Dick read a "thank you" letter from Wayne Ross, who went to the 44th National Veteran's Wheelchair Games" in Minnesota. He competed in Air Rifle, bowling, swimming races and adaptive fitness. He hopes to participate in next year's event in Detroit, Michigan.
- The Odd Fellows will be holding a cornhole tournament on Sunday, August 17th in Bellingham at the Sportsman Club.
- Dick said that a woman from Norwood approached the Post's booth at the Strawberry Stroll festival and said that the Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Norwood sponsors meals for Veterans on the last Friday of each month.

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 deposited the latest check from the estate of the late Bob Catalano, which represented our share of the interest that the estate has generated.
- 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):

- Tim App was appointed Sgt at Arms, replacing Dawn Anderson who stepped down from the position.

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- Post membership is at 53.9% with the Department's goal being 50%. This puts our Post in 7th place in the District out of 27 Posts.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefeale):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- The three outreach programs continue to be held, including Bingo at Magnolia Heights and Cedar Gardens. He is gearing up for Operation Care Package. Chris Corbett left for active service and will receive one.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

Unfinished business:

- A graveside ceremony with the Post Rifle Squad and Color Guard will be held in Milford on Saturday, October 4th for a Veteran who died and did not receive a Military funeral. His widow was not aware that he could have had one. John Hefelee will send out information on the time and place that this ceremony will take place.
- A graveside ceremony will be held on February 12th at the grave of Bob Catalano to show our appreciation to him for his very generous contribution from his estate. This is the date that he died and the Post will make this an annual event.
- The pool party that was held at Ed Foti's house was a huge success. There were over 30 people in attendance. Joe sent Ed his 2026 membership card along with a letter to thank him for having the party at his house.
- The first planning meeting for next year's Memorial Day parade will be held in October at the Veteran's Council meeting. There will be an effort to get more bands to participate. This year, there were only two. Jim Lane is trying to get the US Navy Band to participate.
- There will be a double "Fallen Heroes" ceremony on the common on Friday, August 15th. The two heroes are Jules Perrett and Robert Pirelli, who died in Iraq. Dick asked the members to make an effort to participate in this event as there would be members of the Pirelli family present.
- Dick will see about the Post getting a notice in the "Franklin Greet" publication.

New business:

- A meeting of the "SWOT" team will take place at Dick Hynes house to discuss the Post's "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats". This team meets every three years.
- Dick mentioned that Ernie Corruthers has transferred to Post 75 from the Post that he had previously been affiliated with.
- Dick mentioned that there are no JROTC programs in the schools of Norfolk County. He said that there is a Marine Corps program in the Assabet Valley school.
- Dick wants the Post to get involved with the Department's "Oratorical Contest". The VFW currently participates in this. Criteria for this will be distributed to high schools.
- Dick mentioned that the CPR (Consolidated Post Report) has been filed. This important report tells the Department what the Post has done over the past year, and it helps to show Congress what we do.
- It was mentioned that the families of departed Veterans are not made aware that the flags flying downtown on the day of their loved one's funeral are for the Veteran. John Milot will let the funeral homes know this when they call him to tell him that a Veteran has died.
- Dick said that the Post needs to decide on keeping the Post's "Sons of the American Legion" squadron. There are only four members in it and there is \$120.00 in their account. It had been set up by Alan Earls, but he never did anything with it after that.

- Tim App said that he will be running in the Army's 10-mile race, and he will be representing the Post. He wants to come up with a tee-shirt for this race.
- John Milot wants to get a blood drive going. He will talk to the director of Franklin TV to see if this event could be held in their parking lot. John Hefelee will spread the word.

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.