

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 September 9, 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	Excused
SGT at Arms - Tim App	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

15 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.

Dick introduced Joe Lesica, a US Navy Veteran who became a member of Post 75 this evening. He served on two Destroyers in Newport, RI and in Vietnam. Dick also introduced Randy LaRosa, who plays Taps at the Fallen Heroes Ceremonies. He also became a member of Post 75 this evening. And Dick welcomed Ernie Corruthers who was at his first meeting as a member of Post 75. Ernie is the Post Commander for the VFW, and he recently transferred to Post 75 from another Post.

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 (with changes if any). A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted (with changes if any).

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- Dick reported that Bob Catalano's estate gave us a final donation from his estate, which was \$43,000.00. The Post had previously received \$5,979.00 from his estate, which represented the portion of interest that we were to receive. Dick said that when the SWAT team meets, they will discuss the best way to invest this money. Eric Eidswick said that he has SWAT experience and is willing to help.
- Dick said that the Post will hold annual Color Guard and Rifle Salute ceremonies at Bob Catalano's grave on the day that he died, in appreciation for his generous donations to the Post.
- Dick received a letter from Adam Gunn, who is the Director of Veteran's Services for the town of Abington, MA. They are holding a fund-raising drive to purchase a handicap-accessible wheelchair van for the town's Veteran's use. Their goal is \$80,000.00. Dick said that he will contact Adam to see if the fundraising drive is still on. A motion was made and seconded to make a \$100.00 donation to their drive. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved. Dick will contact Adam to see if the drive is still on and if it is, we will make the donation. If they have reached their goal, then we won't make the donation.
- Dick said that Post 75 was thanked by the town's Veteran's Service Officer (Shannon Nesbitt) at the Veteran's Council meeting for the Post's purchase of school supplies and back-packs for Veteran's family members.
- Dick said that Chris Corbett, a member of the VFW Post left for Djibouti with his Unit. Dick asked him to report back about Operation Care Package and what they need. Chris said that they will accept anything that can be legally sent in the mail. They should not send perishable items, as it takes about a month to get there.

Finance Officer report (Dick Hynes, in Dave Labonte's absence):

- 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.
- 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 introduced Joe Lesica, a US Navy Veteran who became a member of the Post this evening. He served on two Destroyers in Newport, RI and in Vietnam.
- Dick introduced Randy LaRosa, who plays Taps at the Fallen Heroes Ceremonies. He also became a member of the Post this evening.
- Dick welcomed Ernie Corruthers to his first meeting as a member of Post 75. Ernie is the Post Commander for the VFW, and he recently transferred to Post 75 from another Post.

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- The current goal for membership is 50% with the Post being at 60%. This puts Post 75 at 7th out of 28 Posts in the District. Our target is 81 members.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the membership report. A vote was taken, and the membership report was accepted.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefeale):

- None

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- Steve said that he has a tripod that he will bring to the upcoming Harvest Festival. He will put together a posterboard with pictures on it.
- He is working on digitizing pictures. Eric Eidswick said that he has a scanner that can do sixty pictures a minute and would be willing to help.
- Steve is hoping to get his Coast Guard cap back from the Museum so that he can wear it at an upcoming event. He had donated it along with his uniform. Randy LaRosa, who is on the Historical Commission, said that he will get it for him from the Museum.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- The three outreach events are ongoing.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- Shannon said that there will be a Survivor Benefit Workshop at the Senior Center on Monday, to educate people on Veteran's benefits. Twenty-eight people have already signed up. She said that there is no need to RSVP. People can just show up.
- The upcoming Veteran's Council meeting will include a discussion on the upcoming Veteran's Day ceremonies.

Unfinished business:

- Dick told Steve that his annual report was well-done.
- At next month's Veteran's Council Meeting, the upcoming Memorial Day parade will be discussed. Jim Lane is reaching out to the US Navy Band in Newport, RI. Frank has reached out to the Guard. Shannon said that she is getting in touch with sound companies so that they can augment Franklin TV on the town

common's ceremonies. Many people had complained that they couldn't hear what was being said.

- Dick said that the Fallen Hero ceremony for Sunday, October 5th would be for Eddie Grant. He asked for the Color Guard to be present for this event. He also said that Shane Cubino's ceremony would be held the next day. Shane was one of two Iraq War heroes.
- The SWAT team will meet in late September.
- Bob spoke about the upcoming graveside ceremony that the Post will hold at a Milford Coast Guard Veteran's grave on Saturday, October 4th. Those who will be going will meet at Franklin TV at 0800. The ceremony starts at 1000. A collation will be held at the clubhouse at Central Park Terrace following the ceremony. Ernie will let us borrow a Coast Guard flag for this event.
- Four Franklin Veterans will be leaving for Washington, DC on Sunday as part of the "Honor Flight" program. They are John Hefeale, Joe Lesica, David Cox and Terry Gilboy. Those will be going will meet at the Stop & Shop plaza at 0500.

New business:

- Frank said that the former church building on Washington Street is being converted into a home by Habitat for Humanity and that they are looking for volunteers. If a group wants to participate, Thursday is the day for this. Those who wish to volunteer should go to their website and register there.
- Dick reported that the Harvest Festival will be held on September 27th from 1200 to 1700. He asked everyone if they could give some time at the booth to greet people. Chaplain Bob said that he has small flags that can be given out to children. And a possible raffle was discussed where a US Flag would be raffled off.
- Frank connected with the people who publish the "Greet Franklin" magazine to let them know about the Fallen Heroes ceremonies on the common.
- Dick said that we might send 2 boys to Boys State and 2 girls to Girls State next year and one to the State Police program. We didn't send one to this program this year.
- Dick said that we should find students to participate in the Oratorical Contest. Ernie has done a great job with this program in the VFW.
- Dick said that there are 4 or 5 members in the Sons of the Legion and a decision needs to be made about continuing this group or finding a way to make it work. This will be discussed in the upcoming SWAT discussion.
- Dick said that the pool party at Ed Foti's house was a great time and we should have a winter social event too. Shannon said that a Christmas party with the VFW would be a nice thing to do.
- Steve will see about getting our Color Guard to participate in the Special Olympics that will be held at Gillette Stadium in November. We could also hand out medals to winning participants.
- Eric said that there will be a Safety Festival at Fletcher Field on September 20th. Jeff Roy will be hosting this event.

For the good of the Legion:

- None.

Closing the meeting:

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- 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.