

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 383

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on September 9, 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
1 st Vice Commander - John Milot	Excused
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

14 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, subject to audit. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted, subject to audit.

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 paid the liability insurance premium (\$350.00). He received a check from Janet Bederian (\$250.00) for an unknown reason.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report (with changes if any). A vote was taken, and the financial report was accepted (with changes if any).

Post Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- Dick said that Joe Manning (District Vice-Commander) came to meeting with the membership cards for the Sons of the Legion. He was wondering if there was something wrong since the membership was so low.

1st Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes in John Milot's absence):

- The target for membership is at 50%. The Post is currently at 34% with 29 members paid where 42 should have been paid. The Post is 21st out of 28 in the District.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefeale):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bingo to be held at Cedarwood Gardens. He is getting a package prepared to send to a unit that is going overseas.
- Bob is going to get together with Melissa at Texas Roadhouse for another fundraiser.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

Unfinished business:

- There will be four Fallen Hero Ceremonies on the Common this month. They will be for Levi Pieri, Lawrence Garron Jr, Alfred Mucciarone and Frank Smith.
- John Milot has one volunteer for the rifle team to be at Battleship Cove on Saturday. He would like to have more people sign up.
- Dick asked everyone to consider helping to put the flags up on the day of a Veteran's funeral. Frank Coughlin is always there to help and there are others who help on a regular basis. The funeral homes are notifying John Hefele directly when they are needed. The funeral home is telling the families that the flags are being flown for their loved ones.
- Ron Seyffert has created labels that have the Post's information on the pamphlets that will be given out at the upcoming Harvest Festival. Pamphlets with Natalee Webb-Rubino's poem "Freedom" will also be given out too. Dick thanked them for doing this.
- The two students who went to Boy's and Girl's State this year will be at the October meeting to share their experience with the members.
- Dick said that the Post's Junior and Senior baseball teams each won the State Championship. At last month's meeting, it was voted to spend \$200.00 for two plaques for the Head Coaches. They have not been purchased yet but will be soon. Both Brett and Tyler will be invited to the October meeting.
- There will be a meeting tomorrow morning in Shannon's office with a group of people from the DPW to discuss the street memorials for Veterans. Eric Eidswick is working with the DPW in creating an interactive street map that shows each marker with a link to that Veteran's information. This is not in place yet but is being worked on.
- The poles in the flags cannot be made of wood or plastic as there is a problem with them being removed. A machinist is being used to make new poles.

New business:

- The Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, September 26th. The theme will be "Be The One". A banner from Emblem and Badge would not have arrived in time for this event. Dick asked the members to participate in helping to set up and take down the booth. Bob will see about getting little flags to be given out.
- A blood drive was considered for the Post but we would need to have a number of people to staff this. The matter was tabled for future consideration.
- Matt McGrath will get a date for the next visit to the VA Hospital in Brockton.

For the good of the Legion:

- The National Convention ended last Saturday. The new National Commander is Jay Bowen from Colorado. "Be The One" will be his main mission.
- Dick spoke about TCAVA (Take Care of American Veteran's Act) which includes the Richard Star Act. He encouraged everyone to write to their Congressman to let him/her know that they support the bill.

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.