

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on May 14, 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	Excused
1 st Vice Commander - John Milot	Present
2 nd Vice Commander - John Hefelee	Present
Adjutant - Joe Landry	Excused
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Dawn Anderson	Excused
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Excused
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

8 members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by 1st Vice Commander Milot at 1900.

- Colors posted by Acting SGT at Arms Toby Whalen.
- 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. Copies of the minutes for April were unavailable due to the Adjutant's absence and will be distributed at the next meeting.

Reading of Communications and Bills (John Milot in Dick Hynes' absence):

- A letter was received from Wayne Ross, who is a disabled Veteran in Post 144 in Scituate. He is a quadriplegic who received a \$50.00 donation from Post 75 last year and is hoping to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games again this year and asked if we would be willing to support him again. After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to contribute \$50.00 per his request. The motion was voted on and approved by the members to donate \$50.00 to Wayne and the Finance Officer will forward a check to him.
- A letter of thanks was received from Matthew P. Edwards from the VA Hospital in Brockton. He thanked us for the pizza and soda that we provided to the patients in Building 4 at the bingo social that was held there. The cost of the pizza was \$136.00.

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 our general fund went from \$7,800 to \$13,000 because of the donation that we received from the estate of Bob Catalano. The money from the estate represented interest and another donation will be forthcoming that will be from the principal.
- 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):

- None

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- None

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefe):

- Flag Day ceremonies will be held at Benchmark on Saturday, June 14 at 11:00 am. The Color Guard will participate. Joe will deliver a short speech and will encourage everyone to sing "God Bless America". Another ceremony might take place at either Magnolia Height or the Enclave.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bob said that the outreach efforts are ongoing. In June, the summer schedule will begin.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None

Unfinished business:

- The Buddy Check efforts are ongoing. John Hefeale is waiting for a couple of packets to be turned in. There is a man in Florida who Dawn thought needed help, as he didn't want to get off the phone. John will contact a Legion Post near his home to see if they will be able to help him.

New business:

- The "Rolling Thunder for Freedom" motorcycle ride will be on Sunday, May 25th. This will honor MIA's, POW's and Veterans. It will begin at 9:00 am with the ride beginning at 12:00 pm. There is a \$20.00 fee.
- Jim Gurganus suggested that the Post have a "breakfast social" for Post members only on a regular basis. After a discussion was held, it was decided to have two per month. One will be on the first Tuesday of the month and the other one will be on the third Tuesday of the month. They will begin on June 3rd at 10:00 in the Senior Center cafeteria. There is no RSVP needed. Members simply need to show up. John Hefeale will send out an e-mail the day before so that members will be aware of the breakfast social.
- Dick Hynes and John Hefeale visited Al Kober, who is wheelchair-bound and now lives in Medway at "The Willows". He suggested that a coffee social could be held there, and the Willows would be willing to provide the coffee and pastries. He said that there are several Veterans who live there. John and Dick will go back to work out the final arrangements.
- Bob said that the director of Central Park Terrace asked if we could have coffee socials there. Bob said that Starbucks would be willing to provide the coffee and pastries. The first one will be held on June 12th at 10:00 am.
- John Hefeale said that the Scouts will be cleaning up the Veteran's grave markers again this year as part of an Eagle Scout project. Many of the plaques have been covered by grass.
- Ernie Corruthers said that he might have a barbeque at the VFW Post on Pond Street after the Memorial Day parade and that maybe we could offer our assistance. John Hefeale's daughter-in-law's father has donated six gallons of home-made ice cream which is in the VFW's freezer.

For the good of the Legion:

- Frank said that the flags will be placed at Veteran's graves at St. Mary's Cemetery and Union Street Cemetery on Saturday May 24th by the Scouts. Ernie Corruthers will take care of the City Mills Cemetery. Scouts were reminded to place the flag and then say the Veteran's name outloud.
- There are not enough people for the Rifle Squads for Memorial Day. One volunteer dropped out. Practice will be held on Saturday, May 17th at Fletcher Field in the parking lot on the Wachusett Street side.

Closing the meeting:

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- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by Acting SGT At Arms Toby Whalen.
- Colors retired by Acting SGT at Arms Toby Whalen.
- The meeting was adjourned by 1st Vice Commander Milot.