

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 14 August 2024.

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
Senior Vice Commander – John Milot	Present
Junior Vice Commander - John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Dawn Anderson	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

10 Members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Senior Vice Commander Milot at 1900.

- Colors posted by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- 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.

Roll call of all Officers.

- See attendance chart on sheet 1.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting:

- A copy of the June meeting minutes was posted on the Post’s website so that members could read them before today’s meeting. Members who had not read them beforehand were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as posted. After a discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion was accepted.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- A note was received from John Pelose, the Massachusetts Chair who offered his congratulations for the Post receiving the “ESGR Seven Seals Award”. He thanked us for our strong support of the men and women serving in the Guard and Reserves.
- Wayne Ross sent a thank you note to the Post for the donation that we gave him to support his participation in the National Veteran’s Wheelchair Games in New Orleans. He was able to participate in numerous events and he included a picture of himself with the medals that he won. He is planning to attend next year’s event in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- Copies of the June and July financial reports were passed out to all members who were present.
- A motion was made and seconded to take \$500 from the “General Fund” and move it to the “rainy day fund” and to take \$500 from the “General Fund” and move it to the “relief fund”. After a discussion, a vote was taken to accept the motion. The motion was accepted, and the money will be moved.
- The total amount of money that the three poker tournaments that the Post assisted in was \$2,245. The Finance Officer will submit paperwork to the IRS and will pay the tax that is needed.
- Matt McGrath asked about the liability insurance for the Post members when helping with the tournament. The Finance Officer will discuss this with Commander Hynes in the next week. The Finance Officer also said that we would not be covered with a rider on the VFW Post’s insurance as we are not there to help run the tournament and we don’t serve alcohol. It was their opinion that we wouldn’t have to worry about liability. Matt said that the Post should still have liability insurance anyway in case of a catastrophic event.
- The Finance Officer said that he and Commander Hynes went to Berry Insurance to ask about liability insurance.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept both financial reports. After a discussion, a vote was taken to accept the reports. The motion was accepted, and the June and July reports will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

Post Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- None.

Senior Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- Senior Vice read a note from Commander Hynes who expressed his regrets for not being at the meeting, due to family commitments.
- Currently, the membership is at 44% with a goal of 50%. We currently have 41 members and 10 PUFL members. We need five more members to reach our goal of 50%. Our Post is 8th in the district.
- Senior Vice reported that Districts 2 and 3 will be melding into one district. They don’t have a District Commander.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

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- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- The Quartermaster said that he has a certificate for 50% off the price of the 3-season jackets. He has a few jackets in stock, and he asked if he should buy some more. Senior Vice said that we should wait until the ones in stock are sold and then we can buy more.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- The Chaplain reported that the Post’s outreach activities for the month of July were suspended.
- Upcoming activities include Bingo at Cedarwood Gardens, a movie at Magnolia Heights and the Enclave. Coffee socials at these places are waiting to be restarted.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- See “New Business” and “For the good of the Legion”.

Unfinished business:

- Two “fallen heroes” would be honored on August 15th.
- Diane Travers, the Fundraising Coordinator for “Homes for Heroes” thanked the Post for our Color Guard’s participation at the fundraising event that was held at the Franklin Country Club on August 5th.
- Matt McGrath said that he would contact the VA Hospital in Brockton to see if we can set up a Bingo and Pizza event on September 5th. This event would be from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Prizes are awarded by the staff. Similar events have been very popular with the patients there.

New business:

- The Finance Officer asked the Post if they would make a \$50 donation for the upcoming Odd Fellows Cornhole Tournament that will take place in September. A motion was made and seconded to make the donation. After a discussion, a vote was taken to accept the motion. The motion was accepted, and the donation will be made.
- The Service Officer talked about the “Veterans Assistance Expo” that will take place on Wednesday, September 5th at Gillette Stadium, 1 Patriot Place in Foxboro from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. This expo will provide one-on-one assistance with VA health care, disability and other benefits that Veterans have earned. She will be in attendance in the VSO booth. She said that Junior Vice has notified members by e-mail of this expo.
- Christopher Cobb has moved to West Springfield and wants to be transferred to that Post.
- The “Massachusetts Medal of Liberty” medal ceremony will be held on Saturday, September 21st at 10:00 am at 50 Maple Street, Milford. This medal will be awarded to Anthony Mucciarone, who was killed in action in World War II. The Post can send five people to this event. Shannon, Dick and John Milot will attend. The Service Officer would like to get a citation from the Post for Anthony. Senior Vice will contact Junior Vice to take care of this.
- An invitation has been received from the Department for the Department Commander’s banquet that will be held on Saturday, November 16th at 4:15 pm at Nonantum Post 440, 295 California Street in Newton. The Department Commander is Nelson Blake. A motion was made and seconded to put a \$60.00 advertisement in the ad booklet for this event. After a discussion, a vote was taken to accept the motion. The motion was accepted, and the Post will place an ad in their booklet.
- The Adjutant submitted a request for reimbursement for supplies that he purchased, such as postage, envelopes, labels and ink cartridges for his printer. The total came to \$286.00. The request was approved, and the Finance Officer will forward him a check.

For the good of the Legion:

- The Service Officer asked if the Post would like to do a fundraiser for the Veteran's Home. Their gift fund has gotten low due to emergency housing costs which they will have to scale back on. Junior Vice said that doing this might be difficult and he suggested that the Post make a donation. The Finance Officer suggested that we hold a dinner at the VFW with their members and our members. Junior Vice will consult with the VFW Post Commander on this. The Quartermaster suggested that we hold a pickleball tournament. After a discussion, it was decided to table this until the next meeting.
- Commander Hynes left a note to say that Eagle Scouts will be cleaning the Veteran's plaques at St. Mary's Cemetery on September 14th. Senior Vice said that he will meet with them to go over the step that will need to be taken. He will ask the Chaplain to join them.
- Matt McGrath asked if he should contact the Rome Restaurant to see if he can schedule a luncheon there for the Post. The one that was planned last February was cancelled due to the weather.
- The Finance Officer asked if anyone wanted to be his partner in the upcoming cornhole tournament in September. Nobody responded to his request.
- The 50/50 raffle was won by Matt McGrath, who donated the money back to the Post.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by SGT At Arms Dawn Anderson.
- Colors retired by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- The meeting was adjourned by Senior-Vice Commander Milot.