

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on February xxx 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	Present
2 nd Vice Commander - John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant - Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Tim App	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Excused
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Excused

16 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.

Opening the Meeting: (Dick Hynes)

- Dick Hynes announced that Dick Paster (Department Chairman of the American Legion Baseball League), Tyler Pasquarosa (Coach of Franklin's American Legion Senior Baseball League) and Brett Edmunds (Coach of Franklin's American Legion Junior Baseball League) would be coming to the meeting to discuss a proposal for Post 75 to host the Junior American League Baseball tournament in Franklin. The meeting would be suspended when they arrive so that members can hear their proposal.
- Dick Hynes shared a sample Senior League contract that he had received from Dick Paster so that we could get an idea of what Post 75 would be responsible for if we agreed to hold the tournament. Dick Hynes said that the costs would be too much for Post 75 to handle, but he felt that we should give them an opportunity to explain this tournament to the Post membership first before making a final decision. Some of the items that were listed in the sample contract included a \$500.00 fee to hold the tournament as well as the cost of umpires, police details, hotel rooms, baseballs and tee-shirts.
- Dick introduced Trish Brooks, an Air Force Veteran who lives in Wrentham and who will transfer from the Attleboro Post to our Post. Her daughter graduated from West Point.

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: (Dick Hynes)

- A letter of thanks was received from Diane Daddario for holding the Fallen Heroes Ceremonies on the Common. She was related to the Daddario Fallen Hero who had just been honored recently.
- Shannon Nisbett sent Dick a couple of thank-you letters from parents whose children received Christmas gifts through our "Toys to Vets" program.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- Copies of the financial report for December and January 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 of each report for their evaluation.
- The December report showed the Catalano Estate money (\$43,451.00) had been deposited into the General Fund and \$6,000.00 was in the restricted fund.
- The January report showed \$25,000.00 had been put into a Certificate of Deposit at Dean Bank from the Catalano money.
- Dave said that he paid the income tax for the Poker Tournament income that was received last year.

- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept both financial reports. A vote was taken, and the financial reports were accepted.

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- The goal for Post 75's membership is 80%. At this time, we are at 55 member or 91.36%. This puts our Post 6th out of 28 Posts.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- John was excused but he sent a message to Dick, telling him that he was not happy with the way he (John) ran the Buddy Program last year and he will have a new format for this year. He will try to do two per year.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bob said that two of the outreach programs are still inactive and meetings are being held to restore them.
- There was a fundraising event at Texas Roadhouse in Walpole in January and only \$6.00 was raised (along with a small gift from the manager). Bob said that a 50/50 raffle was held and \$30.00 was raised. In addition, there were donations made that totaled \$140.00.
- There will be a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse on Thursday, February 26th from 3:00 to 11:00. A copy of the pamphlet (or a picture of one) must be presented to the waiter for the Post to get a 10% discount on the final bill (which is then donated to the Post).

At this point in the meeting, a motion was made and seconded to suspend the meeting so that the guests could give a presentation on the Junior League Tournament. A vote was taken and the motion was approved and the guests gave their presentation.

Dick Paster went over the items that were on the sample contract that he had given Dick Hynes. In his remarks, he said that his priority is to have the Post to be in control of the team. He also wants to make sure that the Post is "on board" if the town is to host the tournament. He said that he will appoint Paul Dumar from Foxboro to be the local Chairman in charge of the tournament.

(Post 75 responses are in bold)

1. Bidder may determine sources of income and will provide plans for generating income but will retain all proceeds if acceptable to the Committee. **(OK)**
2. Bidder will provide written evidence for permission to use baseball fields and facilities, including a practice field, scoreboard and lighting system and all costs associated with these items. **(Recreation Director Ryan Jette has approved use of the field. Any costs to be covered by Tyler and Brett's fundraising).**
3. Bidder will be responsible for reserving and providing at its expense a total of 10 double bedrooms at a hotel (2 rooms per day). **(Room costs and usage will be the obligation of the Baseball program and NOT Post 75).**
4. Bidder will use its best efforts to locate sufficient lodging for a minimum of three teams (18 players and 2 coaches). **(Same response as item 3).**
5. Bidder to provide free passes for the members of the Department Baseball Committee and invited guests. **(Tyler and Brett will provide these passes).**

6. Bidder will provide a score board operator, public address announcer and the official scorer for all Tournament games who will provide pitch count information to the tournament Director. **(Tyler and Brett to provide these people)**.
7. Bidder will provide sufficient ground crew personnel to maintain the field in a first class playing condition. **(Tyler and Brett will be responsible for staffing all field positions)**.
8. Bidder will provide a restricted viewing area for collegiate coaches together with a minimum of 25 copies of rosters of each team. **(Tyler and Brett to provide these)**.
9. Bidder will provide sanitary facilities at the field and ensure that they are cleaned and maintained daily throughout the tournament. **(Port-A-Johns will be provided by FYBO)**.
10. Bidder will provide a Color Guard at opening ceremony. **(Post 75 will provide their Color Guard)**.
11. The Department will provide up to 10 dozen baseballs. Bidder will provide ball chasers to retrieve foul balls and home runs. **(Tyler and Brett to handle this)**.
12. Bidder will pay each umpire working each game (2 umpires per game). **(This will be paid from Playoff Revenues)**.
13. Bidder will provide a qualified medical/trainer with arrangements for ambulatory services if necessary. **(These arrangements will be handled by Tyler and Brett)**.
14. Bidder will provide an on-site coordinator at all times during the Tournament who will report directly to the Tournament Director. **(If the revised contract is accepted, Post 75 will provide a liaison between the Post and the Tournament Director. A Post 75 member has been appointed and is excited to fill this position)**.
15. Bidder will provide sufficient police presence at the Tournament to preserve public safety. **(This WILL NOT be a responsibility of Post 75)**.
16. Bidder will have T-shirts identifying the 8 teams in the Tournament. **(Tyler and Brett will take care of this)**.
17. Bidder will have a fully stocked and staffed concession stand open for the sale of hamburgers, hot dogs and cold drinks. **(Tyler and Brett will provide this, most likely set up and manned by Town volunteers)**.
18. Bidder will pay \$500.00 to the Committee as consideration for it being awarded host of the 2026 Tournament. **(Post 75 will make a monetary donation to the Tournament. The amount is yet to be determined)**.
19. Bidder agrees to be responsible to the Committee for any and all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, occasioned by its default of any provision of this agreement. **(This is NOT acceptable to Post 75)**.
20. Bidder agrees that no alcoholic beverages will be provided for sale nor will consumption of such beverages be allowed. **(OK)**.
21. Bidder may write in additional consideration for its bid.

It was agreed by all that there would be no financial obligation to Post 75 and all costs would be taken care of by Tyler and Brett. The only responsibility for Post 75 will be to provide a Color Guard at the opening ceremony. The Post will make a donation to the Tournament, with the amount to be determined.

Dick Hynes said that if the above changes are made to satisfy the concerns of Post members, and if the changes are acceptable to the Department and Tournament Leaders (Tyler and Brett), then American Legion Post 75 will agree to sponsor the

2026 Junior Division Playoffs to be held in Franklin, MA from August 1st to August 5, 2026 and will support this event to the best of our ability.

Dick impressed upon the members at the meeting that Tyler has a lot of experience in putting tournaments together and will do an excellent job for this one.

After the guests had finished giving their presentation and had left the building, a motion was made and seconded to resume the meeting. A vote was taken and the motion was approved and the meeting resumed.

When the guests had left the building, a motion was made and seconded for Dick Hynes to re-write the contract so that it is favorable to Post 75. A copy will be shared with the Post Officers for their approval. If it is approved by them, then it will be submitted to the Department for their approval. The motion was approved and Dick will submit the contract to the Post Officers for their approval.

The next Fallen Heroes ceremony on the common will be on February 18th for Alan Willard.

A ceremony for Bob Catalano will be held on Thursday, February 12th at 9:00 am at Bob's gravesite. He asked the Post members to make every attempt to be there. Bob's nephew Paul Molla would be there to represent Bob's family. This will become an annual event.

The Memorial Day parade will be discussed at the next Veteran's Council meeting on Thursday, February 19th.

Matt McGrath has set a date for the next Bingo and Pizza event at the Brockton VA Hospital. That date is March 12th.

Matt McGrath will see about getting another Post social event put together, like the one that was previously done at the Rome Restaurant. Dick asked if the members would be willing to pay \$10.00 each and buy their own drinks as the previous one cost the Post \$1,800.00. A motion was made and seconded for the members to do this. The motion was voted on and approved.

Two tickets have been purchased for the upcoming Department Commander's dinner. They are \$60.00 each and a full page ad was taken out for \$60.00.

The National Commander's Testimonial will be held at the Best Western Hotel in Marlboro on March 21st. The social hour begins at 2:00 and a buffet lunch begins at 3:00. Tickets for this event are \$45.00 each. A motion was made and seconded for the Post to buy two tickets. The motion was voted on and approved.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- He will be finalizing the Annual report soon.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

New business:

- Two scholarships for graduating Franklin High School students will be given out. It is too late to take advantage of the Department scholarships, but we will take advantage of it next year. We need new Post members to serve on the scholarship committee.
- Forms are out for Boys State and Girls State. Dick contacted mark Terratomas at Franklin High School, who is the AP Politics Teacher at FHS. The Post will send two candidates to Boys State and Girls State this year.
- Ed Foti wants to host another pool party at his house this year. He will get back to us with a date.
- Lisa McPhee, the Department Adjutant is willing to come to Franklin and hold her office hours here if we ask her to.
- Bob said that March 22 is "Four Chaplain Sunday", which honors four chaplains that gave up their seats in lifeboats so that four people could go home. He would like the Color Guard to participate in this event. John Hefele will provide information on this event.
- There will be a corned beef supper at the VFW Post on March 14th. The cost will be \$17.50.

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.