



American Legion Post 75  
P.O. Box 42  
Franklin, MA 02038  
Website: <http://www.mapost75.com>

John Milot  
Post Commander

## Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on 14 June 2023.

Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, MA  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 1900.

### Officer Roll Call:

Commander - John Milot	Present
1st Vice Commander - Dick Hynes	Present
2nd Vice Commander - John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant – Joe Landry (acting)	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Matt McGrath	Excused
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Excused
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nesbitt	Excused
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Excused

**8 Members were in attendance.**

**Meeting was called to order by Commander Milot at 1900.**

- Opening prayer offered by Dick Hynes, Colors posted by Dawn Anderson, acting as Sgt. At Arms, Pledge of Allegiance recited by all, Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all, and a moment of silence was requested by Commander Milot to honor the dearly departed.

### **Introduction of guests and new members:**

- Two guests were introduced and subsequently enrolled in the American Legion. They are Camille Napier Bernstein (US Army) and Pat Doyle (US Marine Corps). Camille's enrollment fee of \$28.00 will be paid by the Post. Pat provided a check for \$40.00, which will be donated to the Post's General Fund. The acting Adjutant will submit a check to the Department for their enrollment.

### **Reading of Minutes for the previous month's meeting:**

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the May meeting. The motion was accepted, and the minutes are posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

### **Reading of Communications and Bills:**

- Two students will each receive a \$500.00 scholarship. They are Colin Mannochio and Shaw Downing.
- A donation of \$50.00 will be made to the Flying Yankees Centennial Celebration.

### **Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):**

- Copies of the financial report were passed out to all members.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was accepted, and the financial report was posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):**

- Dick explained the New England Poker Tournament fundraising event to everyone. The tournament looks for charitable organizations to provide volunteers to collect money and provide receipts at their tournaments that are held in Walpole, MA. The Post receives a percentage of the money that is taken in, which results in approximately \$3,000.00 income per year to the Post. The only downside is that the volunteers must stay until everyone has left, which is usually after midnight.
- Dick gave Joe Landry the 2024 membership cards for the Post. Joe will issue them to members as they pay their annual dues.
- Commander Milot talked about the funeral for Bruce Watkins. A military funeral was held, and the rifle team participated along with members of the Post acting as pallbearers. Tim O'Toole played Taps on the bugle.
- Dick reported that the Post's membership is at 93.6% and we would need 5 more members to hit 100%. This percentage is determined by the number of members at the close of business for the previous year. A few members have died, while others have not re-enrolled. He reported that the Medway Post had closed, and some members had transferred to Post 75. Their names won't count for our membership numbers until the following year.
- Dick and John attended the State Convention. It was announced that the Department has decided to raise the annual dues by \$5.00 to \$33.00 per year. The Post collects \$40.00 when new members apply, and the Post keeps \$12.00 for the General Fund. The members who were present discussed the amount that would be collected by the Post in the future, but no final decision was reached, as there were many members who were not present. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- At the previous month's meeting, James Falvey, a Korean War Veteran who gets around in a wheelchair, was brought to the meeting, and enjoyed being there. Dave said that he would be unable to do this until he recovers from upcoming surgery. He wanted to bring this to everyone's attention in case someone else wanted to bring James to the next meeting.

### **Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):**

- Steve reported that the Strawberry Stroll festival gave the Post good publicity. He said that it would have been more helpful if there were pictures of the members at the booth and more information on what we do. Dick said that he has a tripod that can be used for this purpose.
- Dick gave Steve a Legion Plaque and banner with the Legion Preamble printed on it that had been used in the old Legion Hall on East Street and he felt that it should be held by the Post Historian.

**Unfinished business:**

- None.

**New business:**

- Dick Hynes shared a Commemorative Book that he got at the Department Convention, which had many advertisements and pictures of people running for office. There were roughly 150 people at the Convention. He met the new State Adjutant Lisa McPhee at the Convention, who offered to assist himself and Joe Landry in using their computers for Legion business. Dick and Joe will make an appointment to see her office at the State House at some point in the next few weeks.
- The Veteran's Day parade that will be held in Boston was promoted. They hoped for good participation with a deadline of 1 August if we are going to send a delegation.
- Dick said that a young man from Plainville will be going to Boy's State and Lorelai Eidswick from Franklin will be going to Girl's State at Stonehill College in Bridgewater, MA for a week-long program that teaches citizenship, government formation, etc. Dick mentioned that a young man who had previously been chosen is now in his second year at West Point. He also said that this year's candidate has applied to West Point. The cost to the Post is \$350.00 for each candidate.
- Commander Milot said that the Elks will be having a Flag Day ceremony on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> and they are looking for people to bring flags into the community room.
- Steve suggested that the Post send a delegation to the Special Olympics at Gillette Stadium in mid-November to give out medals to the winners. He will look into this.

**For the good of the Legion:**

- Dave Labonte said that Joe Manning is recovering from open heart surgery and would like to play cribbage with anyone who would like to play with him. He doesn't have a cribbage board and if anyone knows where one can be purchased that was made in the USA and not China, then please contact Dave.

**Closing the meeting:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Hynes led the members in prayer and Colors were retired by Dawn Anderson, who was acting as Sgt. At Arms. The meeting was adjourned by Commander Milot.