

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

Franklin, MA 02038-0042

Telephone: 508-517-9909 Website: <http://www.mapost75.com>



Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on June 12, 2024.

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

Officer Roll Call:

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

16 Members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Milot at 1900.

- Colors posted by Dawn Anderson, Acting as SGT at Arms.
- 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.

Meeting temporarily suspended:

- A motion was made and seconded to suspend the meeting so that guests could be given the opportunity to speak. The motion was approved, and the meeting was suspended.
- The first speaker was Kimberly Leone who brought her daughter Sarah to the meeting. Sarah received a \$500.00 scholarship from the Post, and she wanted to give her thanks in person. It was noted that she is the first person to ever come to a meeting to offer thanks in person. She will be attending Sacred Heart University in the fall. Kimberly brought cookies and coffee to the meeting, which was enjoyed by everyone after the meeting ended.
- The second speaker was John Pelose of Post 86 in Braintree, MA. He came to the meeting to present the “Seven Seals Award” to Post 75. Post 75 was nominated for this award by Eric Forrest, who was on active duty this past year in Poland. Eric spoke about how his unit received excellent support from the Post while he was on active duty, and he expressed his gratitude.
- After the guests had finished speaking, a motion was made and seconded to resume the meeting. The motion was approved, and the meeting resumed.

Election of Post Officers:

- The election of Post Officers took place, with all nominees being elected by acclamation. They are as follows: Dick Hynes (Commander), John Milot (Senior Vice-Commander), John Hefele (Junior Vice-Commander), Dave Labonte (Finance Officer), Bob Markunis (Chaplain), SGT At Arms (Dawn Anderson), Service Officer (Shannon Nisbett), Historian (Steve Szilniczky), Quartermaster (Frank Coughlin). In addition, Judy Hynes and Pat Doyle were appointed to the Executive Committee. The Post Adjutant cast his vote for the slate and the newly elected Officers assumed their roles.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting:

- A copy of the May meeting minutes had been posted on the Post’s website so that members could read them before the meeting. Members who had not read them beforehand were given a hard copy for their evaluation. During the discussion, there were a few errors in the minutes that needed to be fixed.
 - Jim McNeill’s name was shown incorrectly.
 - The baseball schedule had not been posted on the Post’s website.
 - The Eagle Scout has been identified and is helping with the flags at the cemetery.
- Once the discussion was finished, a motion was made and seconded to accept the updated minutes. The motion was accepted, and the minutes were accepted. The Adjutant will submit a corrected copy to the webmaster for posting on the website.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- None.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- A copy of the May financial report was passed out to all members who were present.
- Dave noted that a few checks had not been cashed yet.
- Dave submitted a receipt for reimbursement for ink cartridges for his printer. The request was approved.
- A donation of \$50.00 was received from the Medway Barber Shop.
- A donation of \$10.00 was received from Claire Perry, a widow of a Veteran who asked Post members to help her fold her late Veteran husband’s flag, which she had unfolded.

- A donation of \$500.00 was received from John Saletnik in memory of his late cousin Francis Sviech.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was accepted, and the May financial report will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

Post Commander report (John Milot):

- None.

Senior Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- Membership for the Post is at 117%, which is first in the district. Our Post is in second place in the division, and we received a plaque for this achievement.
- Dick reported that he and Joe had gone to the Poker Tournament at the VFW in Walpole on Thursday, June 13th, and they discovered that the tournament starts at 7:00 pm on Thursday nights, unlike Saturdays when it begins at 4:00 pm. He also found out that we are not required to stay until the close of the tournament to collect our money. Instead, we can leave around 9:00 pm when we are told that we can leave. They will hold our money until the following tournament.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank reported that there will be a flag retirement ceremony at the VFW Post on Saturday, June 15th at 10:30 am.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bob reported that the following events are ongoing: Enclave, Benchmark, Magnolia Heights. A coffee social in the memory unit went well and got a good response from those in the unit.
- A Flag Day ceremony would be held at various locations on June 14th.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

Unfinished business:

- Dick said that he is finalizing a newsletter for the Post. He will get together with Joe to work out the final details. A copy will be sent via e-mail to those who have e-mail addresses and hard copies will be sent to the rest of the members via snail mail.
- Dick said that the Post by-laws need to be updated and he will provide them by the next meeting.
- Two young ladies will be going to Girls State at Bridgewater University. They are Leah Viola and Willow Ogle. In addition, a young man will be going to the State Trooper program. He is Aquila Rossi. All three candidates were told that they need to come back and speak to us about their experience in the fall.
- Dick said that there was a big push at the Convention for the “Womens Veteran Network” by the State and the American Legion. Currently, there are roughly 25,000 female Veterans in Massachusetts with only 2,500 being Legion members.
- Dick said that there are eight “Fallen Heroes” ceremonies that are scheduled for the month of June.

New business:

- Dick said that Bob Catalano has bequeathed 1% of his estate to Post 75 and Matt McGrath will handle this while the estate is in probate.
- The Color Guard has been requested for the “Homes for our Troops” ceremony at the Franklin Country Club on August 5th at 11:00 am.

- Ed Foti has made his home and swimming pool available to the Post for a summer outing, sometime in August. The Post will provide hamburgers and hot dogs.
- John Hefele reported that his wife can no longer sew patches on uniforms as her arthritis is preventing her from doing this.
- Bob said that there will be a “pinning” ceremony for Eric Forrest who is advancing in rank at the New England Chapel on East Central Street on June 23rd. Eric is being assigned to a unit in Chicopee, MA. This service will begin at 10:00 and the ceremony will follow the service.

For the good of the Legion:

- Dave brought cornhole boards to the meeting so that people could play cornhole before the meeting began. He said that the Odd Fellows are having a cornhole tournament at the Bellingham Sportsmen Club on August 18th and was hoping to put a few teams together for this.
- The raffle was won by Dawn Anderson, who asked that her winnings be donated to the Post 75 Quartermaster fund. The total was \$72.00.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by Dawn Anderson, Acting as SGT At Arms).
- Colors retired by Dawn Anderson, Acting as SGT At Arms).
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Milot.