

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on 12 March 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	Present
First Vice Commander – John Milot	Present
Second Vice Commander - John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Dawn Anderson	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Excused
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

13 members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes 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.
- Officer Roll Call.

Introduction of guests:

- CDR Hynes introduced two guests to the members. One was Tim App and the other one was Lori Scholl. Both guests are members of the American Legion and said that they wanted to transfer from their respective Posts to our Post. Tim had previously been with the Millis Post and Lori was with the Norfolk Post. Lori had been the Norfolk Post Commander at one time.

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.
- During the discussion, it was pointed out that the minutes which were posted online showed Tobi Whelan’s pronoun incorrectly. Instead of “he”, it should have been “she”. The Adjutant regrets the error and has fixed the copy that had been posted online.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with changes. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- None.

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.
- The Finance Officer stated that the credits outweighed the debits by \$900.00.
- 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.

First Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- Membership target is 90% with the Post being at 81% with 75 members. Our 90% goal would be met at 83 members. Our Post is 22nd out of 29 Posts.
- First Vice contacted members who still haven’t paid their 2025 dues.

Second Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- The Historian said that the draft report for 2024 was not satisfactory and needed to be done over. He will provide it to CDR Hynes as soon as it is ready.
- He is digitizing the photos that he’s been given and he hopes to present them as a slideshow. He said that they could be added to the website as well as being shown at the Strawberry Festival and Harvestfest.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- The Chaplain said that the outreach events are ongoing, with Bingo at Cedarwood Gardens, a coffee social at the Enclave and movie night at Magnolia Heights.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

Old business: (CDR Hynes)

- Packets for the “buddy check” program were given out to those who signed up for this program.
- Second Vice explained the “Be The One” program that helps to prevent suicide by Veterans. Columbia University has a short video that explains this program.
- He expressed his disappointment that the Legion magazine didn’t have an article that he sent in regarding the “Fallen Heroes” ceremonies that are held on the Common.
- He said that it will take about four weeks to get a special plaque made for Kiera and Jeff from Starbucks to recognize their six years of providing the coffee and pastries at the monthly coffee socials at the Senior Center. He will see about getting one done locally.
- Second Vice explained the coffee socials to the guests.
- He spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day parade. He said that two Color Guards and two Rifle Squad teams will be needed. One for Franklin and one for Norfolk. The Color Guard and Rifle Squads would perform this role before the parade begins so that the parade participants don’t tie up the streets.
- He explained the proposed parade routes. One option is to start at Oak Street school, proceed down Main Street and take a right onto Emmons Street, proceed down West Central Street to Union Street and the parade would finish at the Common. Another suggestion was made by LT Erickson of the Franklin Police where the parade would begin at Fletcher Field and proceed down Cottage Street to Union Street. CDR Hynes didn’t care for this option and he favors the Oak Street option.
- He said that there will only be two bands instead of five due to budget cuts.
- Second Vice said that he will be in charge of the Poppy sales and asked for volunteers to do this. CDR Hynes said that the VFW Post sells them at Stop & Shop and Shaws and he didn’t want to step on their toes by having us sell them there.
- He explained Boys State and Girls State to the guests as well as the State Trooper program. He said that it is getting hard to communicate with the Guidance Counsellor’s Office. Lorelai Eidwick, a past Girls State participant said that she will make a connection for us. He also said that Lorelai’s father had expressed an interest in joining the Post.
- He mentioned the annual corned beef supper was going to be held on Saturday at the VFW Post on Pond Street. This is an annual event that is put on by the Sullivan family.
- He wants to get in touch with the woman who handles the scholarships that we provide to make her aware of the Department scholarships that are given out each year. The Department gives 10 \$1,000.00 scholarships and 10 \$500.00 scholarships.
- He said that the Department Convention will be held in Marlboro again this year in June and he encouraged everyone to attend. This will be from June 6-8.
- He said that there are four tickets that have been purchased for the upcoming National Commander’s Luncheon.
- Lori Scholl said that she went to the recent Veteran’s Benefit event that was held at Gillette Stadium. She explained the many programs that are available to Veterans.
- He said that Lisa McPhee, the Department Adjutant sent out a letter that said that their office will be moving, “sort of”. She said that the office will be setting up once or twice a month at selected Posts in the district. Those Posts who wish to host them should contact the office. There must be an Internet connection available.
- First Vice asked the Finance Officer if he paid the “Downtown Partnership” the fee that is for the booth at the Strawberry Festival and the Harvest Festival. He said that the check did go out but it is not cashed yet.
- First Vice noted that the website should show CDR Hynes as the Commander of the Post. Second Vice will fix it. He also said that if any Officers want to have their picture on the site, they should provide one and he’ll put it there.

New business:

- Second Vice asked if anyone would like to volunteer as a back-up bugler for the Fallen Heroes ceremonies. He would like to have a few people who would be willing to do this.
- Second Vice said that he would like to be relieved of caring for the six rifles that are on loan from the US Army. He will continue to do this until the end of the year and then he wants to step down from doing this. A gun cabinet is needed.

For the good of the Legion:

- The Finance Officer has a POW/MIA plaque that he has had for some time and he will give it to the Historian.
- Second Vice asked if anyone would be willing to assist with the weekly visits to Dave Safehart's house so that his wife can go to her singing group on Tuesday nights. All that is required is for someone to be there while she's away. Dave is wheelchair bound and just watches television.

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 Commander Hynes.