

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on 11 March 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 Hefeale	Present
Adjutant - Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Tim App	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Excused
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

17 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 CDR Hynes.
- 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.

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:

- Two "thank you" notes were received from children who received Christmas gifts from the Post.

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.
- Dave said that he accidentally deposited \$2,000.00 into the Odd Fellows account that he controls instead of depositing it into the Post 75 account. The bank reimbursed him with a check for \$2,030.00. Dave then wrote a check from the Odd Fellows account back to the bank where the Post 75 account is so that they would get the \$30.00 back.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report (with changes if any). A vote was taken, and the financial report was accepted (with changes if any).

1st Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- The Department goal for membership is 80% and the Post membership is at 91%, which puts us 8th out of 28 Posts.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- John said that packets for Buddy Checks will be given out at the next meeting. He hopes that this will be done twice a year.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- Steve is working on the annual report for 2025. Eric Eidswick offered to help him with scanning documents and pictures.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank said that two ladies jackets will be received soon. They will cost roughly \$48.00 instead of \$52.00. Patches will be sewn on for \$10.00. Frank will provide patches.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Dick thanked the ladies who were at the fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse for giving out slips to people as they entered the building. Trish suggested that we have people take a picture of the flyer when they enter the restaurant so that they can show it to the waiter.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- All town Departments will publish budget narratives because of the budget shortfall in the town. This is their chance to show what they do for the town.
- Finance meetings will be held in April and budget hearings will be held in May with the Town Council. Nobody is threatening to cut any departments right now but it is a tough environment in the town and they want to be prepared.
- If anyone needs help in enrolling in VA Healthcare, they should contact Shannon. Dick was enrolled in this because of Shannon's persistence.

Unfinished business:

- There will be four Fallen Hero ceremonies this month. Post 75 coins were presented to those people who regularly attend these events.
- There are ten Post 75 coins left and more will be needed. The cost is \$600.00 for 100 coins.
- Dick thanked Paul Molla for his participation in the ceremony at the cemetery for Bob Catalano.
- Dick said that he and Joe went to the Department Commander's luncheon that was held at Plainville Raceway.
- Dick and John Milot went to the Department Senior Vice-Commander's luncheon that was held at Post 380 in Squantom.
- There will be a strategic planning committee meeting scheduled soon, hopefully before the next meeting.
- There will be a Memorial Day parade planning meeting on March 19th. Jim Lane was unable to get the Navy Band to march in the parade. He is contacting others. Dick said that Frank has done a good job on the National Guard. Frank said that the 215th Army Band that was in last year's parade will attend this year. And there will be military vehicles too.
- Eric Eidswick will head up the sale of poppies. Venmo will now be available for those who wish to purchase poppies or make donations.
- Dick said that he would like for the flags of all service branches to be flown in the parade. He said that the VFW has them. He also said that we will have a military color guard in the parade.
- Dick said that there will be two \$500.00 scholarships given out to qualifying FHS graduating students. He would like to see us give \$1,000.00 scholarships next year. One of the scholarships will be made in memory of Bob Catalano.
- The Post will visit the Veterans at the Brockton VA hospital on March 12th. Five members will be going.
- Two tickets have been purchased for the National Commander's Testimonial that will be held in Marlboro.
- Heather McVay, the Director of Guidance at Franklin High School has notified the Post that there are two candidates for Boys and Girls State this year (one boy and one girl). This year, both of them will be held in the same week.
- Dick signed the contract for the Post's sponsorship of the Baseball Tournament that will be held at Franklin High School from August 1st through the 5th. Jim Gurganus will be the liaison between the Post and the Baseball committee. The Committee asked if it was ok for them to use the Post's tax

exempt number for donations and Dick said that it was ok. We will provide our Color Guard at the opening ceremony.

New business:

- There are currently 21 members who have not renewed their membership. Ten members are for 2025, seven in 2024 and four in 2023. Dick will work on getting them to renew.
- Ed Foti wants to have another pool party this year at his house. A date will be selected later.
- Dick received a letter from Major Bowser, a Post member regarding the upcoming commissioning of the USS Massachusetts SSN-798 in Boston on March 28th. Twelve students in Massachusetts were the winners of an essay contest and will be invited to the commissioning. There will be a sign at each of the twelve berthing compartments that will commemorate each winner by their name, town and school. John Milot has secured a 12 passenger van that will be used to transport the Post Officers to the event.
- John Milot got a call from a guy in Florida who found a Legion baseball ring that had the town of Walpole on one side and Holland 12 on the other. The ring will be sent to John and he will see if he can find the owner.
- Lisa McPhee, the Department Adjutant notified the Post that there is an insurance policy that is free of charge and is available to Post members who wish to take advantage of it. It is similar to an accidental death policy and has a limited coverage of \$5,000.00.
- Shannon said that the date for the pinning ceremony that was to be held at Gillette Stadium has been moved to April 7th.

Closing the meeting:

- CDR Hynes 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.