

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on May 8, 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	Excused
Junior Vice Commander - John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Matt McGrath	Excused
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

11 Members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Milot at 1900.

- The American Flag was posted by Jim McNeill, Acting as SGT at Arms.
- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis.
- POW/MIA chair and flag 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.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting:

- A copy of the April 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. After a discussion, there were no changes to the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as posted. The motion was accepted.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- A request for our Color Guard was made by the Town of Norfolk to march in their Memorial Day parade.
- A notice was received from the Department to inform all Posts that, effective immediately, the POW flag must be properly retired at the end of each meeting and not just taken down and put away. This should happen before the American Flag is retired.
- After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the reading of the Communications and Bills. The motion was accepted.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- A copy of the April financial report was passed out to all members who were present.
- Dave Labonte said that Tyler Pasquarosa provided a schedule for the baseball team’s games.
- Dave noted that the two checks for the scholarships had not been cashed yet. CDR Milot said that they had not been awarded yet so that’s why they had not been cashed.
- After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was accepted, and the April financial report will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

Post Commander report (John Milot):

- CDR Milot introduced Ron Seyffert to the members. He is a current member who came to the meeting for the first time. He expressed an interest in getting involved with the Post’s activities.
- Volunteers for the Color Guard to be present at the first baseball game of the season were requested by CDR Milot.
- CDR Milot said that short sleeve uniform shirts are worn during the summer months beginning in May.

Senior Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- None

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank said that two new flagpole bases have been ordered and will be coming soon.
- Frank will order black ascots for the Color Guard.
- Frank said that there will be a concert at the Parmenter School on May 22nd at 9:00 and all Veterans are invited to attend.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

2			
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- Chaplain Bob reported that there is a new outreach opportunity at Benchmark. He is coordinating having guest speakers for those who are in the memory unit.

Service Officer (Shannon Nisbett):

- Shannon asked if anyone has coordinated having the flags placed at Veteran's graves at the cemeteries. Frank said that he takes care of this, and he will contact the Scouts for their assistance. Shannon said that she had reached out to Elena Menize, who is the Exalted Ruler of the Elks for volunteers, but she had not heard back from Elena.

Unfinished business:

- Volunteers are still needed to sell poppies at the Memorial Day celebration. Judy Hynes is handling this.

New business:

- Nominations for Post officers closed. Dick Hynes was nominated for Post Commander, John Milot was nominated for Senior Vice Commander, John Hefele was nominated for Junior Vice Commander, Bob Markunis was nominated for Chaplain, Steve Szilniczky was nominated for Historian, Shannon Nisbett was nominated for Service Officer and Frank Coughlin was nominated for Quartermaster. Pat Doyle was nominated for SGT At Arms but he declined for personal reasons. Dawn Anderson was nominated for SGT At Arms. All positions were unopposed and will be voted on at the June meeting.

For the good of the Legion:

- John Hefele said that he has found an Eagle Scout to help clean up the Veteran grave markers at the cemeteries.
- Dave Labonte would like to put together a team of Post members who would participate in a cornhole tournament that the Odd Fellows are going to be holding in August to support the Arthritis Foundation as well as a trivia night that will be held in November. He also suggested that he could bring his cornhole boards to the meeting and we could play cornhole before the meeting.
- Post members are needed for the Poker nights that are going to be held at the Walpole VFW on June 6th, 13th and 20th. Participants need to be there by 6:30 pm and must stay there until the end of the evening, which can be very late.
- A 50/50 raffle was held, and Ron Seyffert won the raffle. The total was \$72.00 and Ron donated his winnings back to the Post.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- The POW/MIA flag was retired by Jim McNeill, acting as SGT at Arms.
- The American Flag was retired by Jim McNeill, acting as SGT at Arms.
- The meeting adjourned by Commander Milot.