



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of Meeting on **8 April 2019**. Meetings held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA.
Mailing Address: American Legion Post 75, P.O. Box 42, Franklin, MA 02038.
Website: <http://www.mapost75.com/>

Officer roll call:

Commander - John Milot	Present
1 st Vice – Dick Hynes	Present
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer John Hefelee	Present
Adjutant – Kim Leone	Present
Finance - Kent Belcher	Absent
SGT at Arms – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Absent
Historian - Matt McGrath	Present

- **16** members in attendance.
- Minutes from February 2019 meeting read and accepted. March meeting cancelled due to weather.

NOTES

- 1. Post 75 – If you need a ride to one of our monthly meetings, PLEASE contact the Post Commander John Milot 508-520-8771.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Bob Markunis continues to book visits at Magnolia Heights, Atria and the Franklin Rehabilitation Center on Chestnut Street. Magnolia Heights visits are every 3rd Wednesday at 2:00 and Franklin Rehab visits are every third Saturday of the month at 2:00. Atria visits are luncheon events at 11:30 on the first Saturday of the month each month. Bob is working on setting up visits at Benchmark Senior Living on Grove Street. They are looking for volunteers to visit with veterans. They asked if anyone has any crafts or hobbies that they can share with the residents? Benchmark does not have service plaques. A motion was made to provide these – cost is \$110.00 for all 5. This was voted on and unanimously approved.
- John Hefelee is on the committee for the Veterans Walkway on the town common. Bricks will be for sale until they are sold out. Over 1500 bricks sold so far. The bricks will display the honorees name and branch of service. The honoree can be someone living or deceased and they do not need to be from Franklin. The names will be laser engraved with the information. The price is \$100 per brick. Applications can be found online on the post website or the VFW website. 250 new bricks will be dedicated on Memorial Day.

NEW BUSINESS

- Raffle – Still need donations for the raffle. It was agreed that we should try to get a laptop for a prize. Also some Red Sox memorabilia has been donated to the raffle by the Boston Red Sox. The town permit for the raffle has been completed. Dick and Judy Hynes are donating the raffle tickets. The raffle timing will be after the road race. Other raffle items: a wine basket, a shower radio, a gift certificate to the Home Depot.



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2. A district update was given – our Post made 100% again. Volunteers are needed for an event in Fall River in September – looking for rifle squad members. The Department Convention will be June 7 to 9 in Plymouth.
3. Fred White – Department Commander was in attendance. He provided a few words about the overall status of the Legion in Mass. and the status of the Flag Protection Amendment.
4. The Wall that Heals will be in Bellingham MA in August (August 22nd through 25th). Jim Hastings from the Bellingham Committee was a guest speaker at the meeting. This is not the same thing as the Moving Wall. This is a huge effort that will require 150 volunteers. The Wall arrives on August 20th from Wayland at around 4:00. It will be assembled on August 21st. The opening ceremony will be on August 22nd and will include local dignitaries and singer Ayla Brown. Bands will be performing each night. August 23rd will be dedicated to Gold Star families. The cost to bring this to Bellingham is \$10,000 so the Committee is looking for sponsors. If you want to volunteer sign up at www.twthbellingham.org. They are looking for posts to assist with wreath laying ceremonies. They also need tents for the Veterans Outreach Center. There will be ceremonies each night at 5:00. This will be located in the outfield of the Bellingham Baseball field. They encourage youth groups to visit and they can accommodate up to 100 kids at a time.
5. The Road Race Committee is working on the 2019 Road Race at the Remington School in Franklin. The date will be Saturday, June 22. Kim reserved the location and ordered the medals. Spitler Race Systems has been booked. Dave Labonte obtained the insurance. It was agreed to maintain the same registration fee as last year. Garelick Farms order has been placed and local newspapers have been contacted. The Committee still needs raffle items and sponsorships.
6. May meeting will include a speaker from the Senior Center who will provide information on dementia. This is a similar presentation to the one provided at the Senior Center.
7. The first Veterans Coffee Social was held at the Senior Center. This was a big success. Starbucks provided the coffee and pastries. This will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00.
8. The Franklin Senior Center is putting together a trip to Baltimore for the Red Sox game for July 19 to July 21. Trip includes a tour of the U.S. Naval Academy.
9. All of the Senior Centers are looking for volunteers for their Flag Day Ceremonies on Friday, June 14th.
10. Scholarships update – We should be ready to vote on the scholarships at the next meeting.
11. Post elections coming up at next meeting. Incumbents were nominated. Also, Steve S. expressed interest in the Historian position. Juan D. was nominated for Sgt. At Arms.
12. There is a new American Legion Basic Training Course – see www.mylegion.org/training. Upon completion you get a pin and certificate of completion.



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13. We will be looking to sponsor participants to Boys State this year - \$350 early registration or \$375 for regular registration.
14. Memorial Day Ceremonies are coming up..John H. has purchased the poppies. Volunteers will be needed for this day. More to come at the next meeting on this.
15. Reminder to members that Post 75 has a display at the Franklin Historical Museum which is open most Saturday mornings.
16. Members please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the Post website.
17. If you know of any potential members, please direct them to the post website for membership information and an application and also let Dick Hynes know so that he may give them a follow up call.

COMMITTEES

1. Post Strategic Plan. Dave Labonte and Matt McGrath
 - a. Dave & Matt are meeting to discuss this effort. All invited to assist. Contact Dave or Matt for details.
2. Raffle committee - John Milot, Matt McGrath
3. Road Race Committee – Doug Wahl, Frank Coughlin, Jim Gurganis, Dave Labonte, Kim Leone, Judy Hynes, Juan DelValle
4. Franklin High School Scholarship committee. – Kent, Ray, Steve
5. Public Relations committee -John Hefeale, Steve S. and Jim G.
6. Assisting/Visiting Veterans in Local hospitals. Matt McGrath leads this committee.
7. The American Legion Boys State program. Committee members: John Milot and Doug Wahl.
8. Franklin Funeral Homes committee –John M, Matt McGrath, Jim McNeil, John Hefeale, George Ferguson, Bob Markunis, Kent Belcher, Dave Labonte, Jim Gurganis and Doug Wahl.
9. Uniform Etiquette Committee – John Milot, Steve S. and Bob Markunis