



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of Meeting on **6 January 2020**. 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	Absent
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Kim Leone	Absent
Finance - Kent Belcher	Present
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present

- **12** members in attendance.
- Minutes from December 2019 meeting read and accepted.

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

1. Bob Markunis continues to book visits at Magnolia Heights, Benchmark Senior Living, Enclave and the Cedarwood Gardens on Chestnut Street. Magnolia Heights visits are the 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 and Cedarwood visits are every third Saturday of the month at 2:00. Enclave visits are luncheon events at 11:30 on the first Saturday of the month each month. Benchmark Senior Living (on Grove Street) sessions are scheduled the last Thursday of every month at 1:30. Benchmark is currently looking for folks to play cribbage on Saturday mornings. If interested contact Bob Markunis.
2. John Hefele 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Raffle – Raffle was held – Congratulations to all winners! Dave Labonte was the winner of the prize for most tickets sold! Raffle profit was \$673.74.
2. The Strategic Committee reported on the Strategic Plan and have identified 6 areas of focus for the post: 1) Maintain 100% Renewal, 2) Increasing our operating budget, 3) Adding a Post Quartermaster, 4) Re-evaluate and locate a permanent facility, 5) improve communications with membership, and 6) be more visible and active in local events. SWOT group also working on a combined social event with Wrentham post. Handed out Master SWOT Analysis during meeting.



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3. Wreaths Across America event was very successful. On January 11th there is a need for volunteers to pick up the wreaths in Bourne. This is at 12:00.
4. Next year the post will be 100 years old – Suggest we think about a good way to celebrate and make the post more visible – Perhaps attend the Harvest Festival? It was agreed that we should renew our membership in the Downtown Partnership and perhaps get an American Legion pop-up tent to use for these events? Dick Hynes will work on getting this. And should we have a joint event with the Wrentham post? Other suggestions include a parade, a BBQ and a booth at the 4th of July celebration. The 100 year celebration committee will be meeting on January 12 at 0800 at Maks to discuss options.
5. Brockton VA – Next visit may be on 23 or 30 of January.
6. Discussion about including Bellingham H.S. in the scholarship program. This is TBD.
7. St. Mary's donated blankets to Dale for local veterans. Post will give these to Cedarwood Garden vets.
8. Road Race – The committee needs to meet to discuss whether we continue with the Road Race this year. It was determined that the last road race made \$970 towards scholarship fund.
9. Post will recognize Declan Lynch – Troop 29 at next meeting.
10. Veterans Coffee Socials are held at the Senior Center. These are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00. Starbucks provides the coffee and pastry.
11. Veteran Council meetings are held at the Senior Center – third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.
12. John Hefeles wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
13. Quartermaster Dave Labonte is able to assist members in purchasing uniform items.
14. Poker tournaments - This was approved and the committee is proceeding with the paperwork. Permit has been obtained. Next item is to schedule dates for the tournaments.
15. There is a new American Legion Basic Training Course – see www.mylegion.org/training. Upon completion you get a pin and certificate of completion.
16. The Post Historian – Steve S. is assembling archives. If anyone has any material or pictures, please pass this on to Steve.
17. Members please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the Post website.
18. 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 and Dick Hynes.
2. Raffle committee - John Milot, Matt McGrath



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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 Hefele, 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 Hefele, Bob Markunis, Kent Belcher, Dave Labonte, Jim Gurganis and Doug Wahl.
9. Uniform Etiquette Committee – John Milot, Steve S. and Bob Markunis
10. 100 year anniversary committee – Steve S. John M, Dave Labonte, Dick Hynes, Kim