

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

Franklin, MA 02038-0042

Telephone: 508-517-9909 Website: <http://www.mapost75.com>



Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on 13 November 2024.

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
Senior Vice Commander – John Milot	Present
Junior Vice Commander - John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Excused
SGT at Arms – Dawn Anderson	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

12 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:

- See attendance chart on sheet 1.

Introduction of guest to members:

- CDR Hynes introduced Jailene De La Rosa, a USMC Veteran who lives in Milford. She introduced herself and spoke about what she does for a living and what she did in the Marine Corps. She subsequently joined the American Legion Post 75.

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 (with changes if any). A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted (with changes if any).

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- CDR Hynes received a note from Connor Gilmore of Medway, who participated in Boy’s State a few years ago. Connor said that he would like to speak to the members of the Post about his experience at West Point, where he is in his third year and will graduate in 2026 as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. He said that he would be available between November 23 and 26. He also said that he might be available early next year.
- CDR Hynes received a letter from the Department Adjutant in Boston that was sent out to all Posts to make a “simple request’ to go through the Chain of Command when there are issues regarding luncheons, parties and banquets. The District Commander for Post 75 is Senior Vice Commander John Milot.
- CDR Hynes received a letter from the “Memorial Day Foundation”, asking if we would like to participate in their “overseas wreath” program. This is a program that places a wreath on the grave of a Veteran who is buried overseas. This program will be held on December 14th. CDR Hynes said that we already participate in “Wreaths Across America’ and that he felt that this was enough. All the members agreed with him.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- The Finance Officer was absent, so the financial report was tabled until the next meeting.

Post Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- CDR Hynes told the members that he was proud of the way the members of the Post participated in the Veteran’s Day activities. He noted that the day started with the “Fallen Heroes” ceremony for Daniel McCahill. He also said that Pat Doyle did a “stellar” job in giving his speech. He also said that Shannon Nisbett did an outstanding job in putting the day’s activities together. The members gave her a round of applause.

Senior Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- Membership for the Post is at 60%. The goal is 65%. We need 5 more members to reach our goal. Our yearly goal is 92 members. Currently, we are at 55.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Chaplain Bob reported that the outreach programs are back on schedule. Bingo will be held at Cedarwood Gardens on the 16th of November at 1:45 pm, a coffee social will be held at Enclave on the 22nd of November and a movie will be shown at Magnolia Heights on the 25th of November at 2:00 pm.
- Chaplain Bob said that he and Sgt At Arms Dawn Anderson attended a luncheon on the 12th of November with Jeff Roy. Six Veterans were honored with five of them in the hall. Bob and Dawn visited the sixth one. Coffee and pastry were supplied by Starbucks.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- Shannon reported that two "Veteran's Call" programs will be taped at Franklin TV. The Veteran's Council will meet on November 21st. There will not be a meeting in December.
- She reported that the monthly coffee social will be held on the first Wednesday of December. There will not be a music program by the Silvertones, as the Veteran's would prefer to use this time to socialize.
- Jailene said that representatives from "Clearpath" will be at the December coffee social and that pastry will be provided by the Franklin Federated Church.

Unfinished business:

- The Post social event at the Rome Restaurant will be on Wednesday, December 4th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This is being handled by Dave Labonte and Matt McGrath.
- The VFW Post is having a dinner on December 7th and the time will be announced later. All town Veterans, their spouses and those people who regularly attend the Fallen Heroes Ceremonies will be invited.
- The VFW Post will sponsor a Thanksgiving dinner and a Christmas dinner for those who do not have a place to go on those holidays. Senior Vice Milot got a \$300.00 donation from the Elks and Chaplain Bob's church will donate a turkey and ham.
- CDR Hynes said that the "Sons of the Legion" Post is an issue. Those people who are the children of a Veteran are eligible to join. CDR Hynes said that it has been difficult getting the Post off the ground. Currently, the Post has four members and no Officers.
- The VFW Post and Post 75 are helping the Veteran's Service Officer with gifts for those families who can't afford them. The VFW Post CDR has created a sign-up sheet online for those who wish to choose a gift to donate. Gift cards can be combined into one card for a family. CDR Hynes will ask Junior Vice CDR to send out information on this.
- CDR Hynes contacted the Senior Center to see about placing an ad in their newsletter. He discovered that a small ad would cost \$800.00 per year while a large ad would cost \$3,000.00 per year. He said that we won't be placing an ad. Shannon said that she will speak to Chastity at the Senior Center about this.
- CDR Hynes said that the By-Laws of the Post need to be revised. He passed out the suggested changes to the members and the changes will be voted on at the next meeting. The proposed changes are as follows:
 - **Article II, Section 4 NOMINATIONS FOR POST OFFICERS:**
 - This section currently states "**The names of the nominees shall be published in the Post Newsletter or on the Post website or mailed to those members who are not online following the April and May meetings.**" Currently, the names of the nominees are not being mailed to members who are not online. It was suggested that this verbiage

be removed from the by-laws if this is not being done. **NOTE: The Adjutant said that a mailing list can be generated easily so future nominations can be sent to those members who are not online, so this verbiage can remain in the bylaws as written.**

- **Article II, Section 4 NOMINATIONS FOR POST OFFICERS:**
 - The following verbiage needs to be added: **“Elected Positions for Post 75 shall be Post Commander, Senior Vice-Commander and Junior Vice-Commander. The following positions shall be appointed by the Post Commander: Adjutant, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Historian, SGT At Arms and Quartermaster”.**
- **Article III, Section 1 POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**
 - This section currently states: **“The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Commander at least once per month and as often as said Commander may deem necessary.”** The verbiage should be changed from “once per month” to “once per quarter” and to replace the word “and” with the word “or”.
- **Article IV, Section 2 DUTIES OF THE SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER:**
 - The following verbiage needs to be added: **“The Senior Vice-Commander shall assume all duties of maintaining and recruiting new membership for the Post and shall be responsible for the Post’s achieving a 100% goal each year”.**
- **Article VI, Section 3 DUTIES OF THE JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER:**
 - The following verbiage needs to be added: **“The Junior Vice-Commander shall have responsibility for overall communication to all member of the Post and to the Community at large”.**
- **Article VI, Section 1 POST MEETINGS:**
 - This section currently states: **“The regular meetings of the Post shall be held on the first Monday of each month”.** The verbiage needs to change from the “first Monday” of each month to the “second Wednesday” of each month.
- **Article VIII, Section 1 STANDING COMMITTEES:**
 - Currently, the Post has four standing committees (Membership, visiting, public relations and Boys/Girls/State Police) and an Ad Hoc Committee. CDR Hynes suggested that we keep the membership committee, the visiting committee and the Boys/Girls/State Police Committees as is. Regarding the public relations committee, he said that Junior Vice-Commander Hefele is doing a very good job of communicating with the Post members via e-mail, Facebook and Instagram. CDR Hynes also suggested that we should form a “Scholarship” and a “Be The One” Committee. The “Be The One” committee would include buddy calls and visits to members’ homes. Shannon and Frank volunteered to be part of this committee. Also, a “Strategic Planning” committee is currently an ad hoc committee with Dave Labonte, Matt McGrath and CDR Hynes on it.
- CDR Hynes said that there have been 42 “Fallen Heroes Ceremonies” held on the common this year, with three more to be done. A question was raised at the Veteran’s Council about whether they should continue next year or not. CDR Hynes spoke to a few people who are regulars at these ceremonies, and they thought that they should continue, so that convinced him that they should continue.

New business:

- Senior Vice-Commander Milot said that an award is given to one Post each month that is judged to have performed an outstanding community service project for the betterment of the community or the people therein. He said that we’ve done at least two or three. Proper documentation needs to be provided with the signature of the Post Commander and the Adjutant as well as other Officers of the Post. John will submit an application for one.
- CDR Hynes said that the father of Lorelai Eidswick, a previous Girls State participant, is interested in joining the Post. Also, Tom Falcone’s father was a Veteran so he could join the “Sons of the Legion”. And David Richie, who is a liaison on the Franklin Police force and a Veteran should also be contacted to see if he is interested in joining the Post.

- John Milot reminded everyone that the Post will pay for the first year's dues of anyone who wishes to join the Post. And he also said that if a Post 75 member wants to join the "Sons of the Legion", they will only pay the amount that is paid to the state, which is \$12.00.
- Applications for Boys State and Girls State are now open.
- CDR Hynes asked if Bob Catalano could be considered for the Medal of Liberty award. Shannon will look into this.

For the good of the Legion:

- None.

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.