



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **13 April, 2022**. Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. The mailing address is: 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 Commander – Dick Hynes	Present
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer-John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Bruce Watkins	Present
Finance – Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Excused
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **9** members in attendance.

NOTES:

1. It was noted that in the March meeting notes, that there was an error made in the New Business section regarding the upcoming post elections. It should be that nominations for post officers can be made up until the end of May with the elections being held at the June meeting.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. After the discussion about the post's upcoming elections, the minutes from the March 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The current bank balance is \$7206.38 with an available balance of \$4757.14. The finance officer received 2 letters from Dean Bank informing him that they have given our account provisional credits for the fraudulent purchases used on our debit/credit card. They stated this was being done while the investigation continues. They will keep us informed of the situation. The finance report was than accepted.
3. The 1st vice commander stated that we currently have 76 members paid for 2022 which is 110% of the goal required by the state. The state's average is 100.6%. He also discussed the possibility of a new member.
4. The chaplain is still working on setting up a visiting schedule with the assisted living facilities in Franklin. He is trying to set up a date for the distribution of the quilts of valor at Enclave.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

GENERAL OLD BUSINESS AND REMINDERS:

1. Bricks for the walkway on the Common can continue to be purchased for \$100 each to honor any veteran. The honoree can be someone living or deceased and they do not need to be from Franklin. Applications can be found on the town's website. The next set of bricks will be dedicated over the Memorial Day weekend.
2. About 155 Veterans' markers have been cleaned at St. Mary's cemetery thus far. The post hopes to continue the cleaning this coming spring.
3. The veteran's coffee socials continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Franklin Senior Center beginning at 10a.m. All veterans are welcomed.
4. Chaplain Bob has been in constant contact with the assisted living facilities in town to see when we can start up our visits again. It appears as if it will be soon for those who have been fully vaccinated. We would still be required to wear masks inside the facilities. It is a possibility that we will be able to go to Benchmark soon. He will try and get a schedule for the visits.
5. There is talk of forming an American Legion Auxiliary for women in Franklin.
6. A Franklin squadron of the Sons of the Legion has begun to get going with paperwork, etc. being done in coordination with our post and state. Alan Earls has been spearheading this endeavor and has been named the Commander Adjutant. If any member knows of anyone who may be qualified to join the squadron, they can contact Alan.
7. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
8. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the post's website.
9. If you know of any potential members, please direct them to the post's website for membership information and an application and also let Dick Hynes know so that he may give them a follow up call.
10. There is an American Legion Basic Training course. Upon successful completion you will receive a pin and a certificate of completion. See www.mylegion.org/training .
11. A podcast, Tango Alpha Lima, tells folks what's going on.



American Legion Post 75

NEW BUSINESS

1. John H. talked to a scout who wants to help with the cleanup of the veterans' plaques at the Old Mill cemetery on Green St.
2. John H. discussed how he and the VSO have called widows and other veterans to check up on them.
3. The 1st vice talked of a price reduction on the jackets.
4. The 1st vice also discussed of certain reports which the post will have to do.
5. The 1st vice said there are 45 streets in Franklin dedicated to veterans. Many of them are in pretty bad shape. Our VSO, Shannon, talked to the VSO from Natick about what they do with their street dedications. Shannon is going to check into the cost of changing ours in Franklin to look better and be easier to maintain.
6. The putting out of flags at the cemeteries for Memorial Day was discussed.
7. The Memorial Day breakfast is the morning of May 27 at the Senior Center and is being catered by the students at Tri-County.
8. Memorial Day parade- Franklin News is writing an article about the upcoming Memorial Day parade which is being organized by the Franklin VFW and our post. Joe Haligan is donating the funds needed to cover the police detail for the parade. Every unit marching needs to have insurance, including our post. Dick called the state Legion insurance department and they said something about asking the VFW to see if they can get a rider on their policy. The insurance issue is being looked into as it is required.

COMMITTEES

1. Post Strategic Plan. Dave Labonte and Matt McGrath and Dick Hynes.
2. Raffle committee - John Milot, Matt McGrath, Dick Hynes and Dave Labonte
3. Franklin High School Scholarship committee. – Kent, Ray, Steve
4. Public Relations committee -John Hefele, Steve S.
5. Assisting/Visiting Veterans in Local hospitals. Matt McGrath leads this committee.
6. The American Legion Boys State program. Committee members: John Milot and Doug Wahl.
7. Franklin Funeral Homes committee –John M, Matt McGrath, Jim McNeil, John Hefele, Bob Markunis, Kent Belcher, Dave Labonte, and Doug Wahl.
8. Uniform Etiquette Committee – John Milot, Steve S. and Bob Markunis.
9. Poker tournament committee – Dave Labonte