



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **12 April, 2023**. Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900 hrs. 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 – Matt McGrath	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **14** members were in attendance

NOTES:

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

1. The minutes from the March 2023 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance officer's report was given. The current balance is \$5,379.64 with an available balance of \$1,875.86. The finance officer said he will renew the subscriptions of the military magazines. A question was asked when our insurance is due. Matt will check with other companies on the premiums. A \$1,500 donation was made to the Quartermaster fund in memory of Karen Milot. The report was accepted and is posted on our website.
3. The 1st Vice Commander stated that membership is down. We are at 90% renewal for 2023 membership which is below the 95% target set by the state. The state is at 83.45%.
4. Chaplain Bob told us of past and future visits to the assisted living facilities: Bingo at Cedarwood the 3rd Saturday of every month; movie at Magnolia Heights on the last Thursday of every month; lunch at Enclave at noon the 1st Tuesday of every month. We are still trying to get into Benchmark.
5. The Quartermaster said we have a couple of jackets and looking to get some summer jackets. regular.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. We are looking for buglers to play our bugle at appropriate events.
2. The 1st Vice Commander discussed the Commanders' Dinner. The National Commander talked about:
 - Education and other benefits not being given to recruits
 - Coast Guard not being paid during shutdowns
 - We should be advocates for the vets
3. Looking for volunteers for the rifle team.
4. Poker Tournaments – next date is April 22. There are two tournaments on that date and we are looking for volunteers to work them.
5. Looking for new members for the Sons of the American Legion.
6. There is a basic training course on line.
7. Commander asked Matt about going to Brockton. They are looking for large t-shirts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Nominations for officers. John H. has nominated the continued slate. We need a nominee for service officer. It was mentioned that Shannon would be a good candidate for this position.
2. There is a meeting at the East Central Street Starbucks on April 18 for those of you who could care to get together for coffee and conversation.
3. Chaplain Bob is restarting Project Care Package. He will get a list of items needed to send to our local units being deployed to Poland in May.
4. Flags are being put up in downtown Franklin on the days of a veteran's funeral. We are taking this over from Mark Ellis and have done this twice.
5. The Plainville post is putting on an information event at Plainridge Casino on April 19. They are trying to get new members.
6. All posts should have emergency plans. We will discuss this further on how to proceed

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 on Memorial Day in 2023.



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2. The veterans' coffee socials continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10a.m. at the Franklin Senior Center. All veterans are welcomed.
3. The Sons of the Legion is looking for new members.
4. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
5. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the post's website.
6. 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.
7. 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 .
8. A podcast, Tango Alpha Lima, tells folks what's going on.

COMMITTEES

1. Post Strategic Plan - Dave Labonte, 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 S.
4. Public Relations committee -John Hefe, 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 Milot, Matt McGrath, Jim McNeil, John Hefe, 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