



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **10 August, 2022**. 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	Excused
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

- **11** members plus 1 guest were in attendance.

NOTES:

1. Henry Young, the Senior Vice President South, was introduced as a guest at our meeting.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The minutes from the July 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The current bank balance is \$5395.67 with an available balance of \$3687.49. The report was approved and is on the post's website.
3. The 1st Vice Commander noted that we currently have 31 members (38%) who have renewed their membership for 2023. The state is currently at a 35% renewal rate. It was briefly discussed how to possibly get members to renew early although it was pointed out that renewals actually didn't need to be made until later in the calendar year.
4. Chaplain Bob gave the schedule for visits to Franklin's assisted living facilities. Enclave would be on the 15th; Bingo at Cedarwoods on the 20th; and a Veterans' men's group on the 29th at Magnolia Heights.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. John H. said we are still involved in cleaning the veterans' plaques at St. Mary's Cemetery with the help from the scouts.
2. There again was a discussion of combining the VFW's color guard with our color guard. Our guest, Henry Young, said our color guard should try and go to different venues such as The Boston Garden and Fenway Park. He also stated that if we want the VFW color guard with ours, that we need to make sure that the Legion rules are followed.
3. John H. has written an article about the post's involvement with the Quilts of Valor July event at Enclave. The article will be in the September issue of E Legionnaire and the August 19 issue of Vet News.
4. Matt M. talked about having a testimonial for member Bob Catalano. He has talked to Rep. Jeff Roy about doing it at the Senior Center. It was noted that there possibly will be something for Bob at the October meeting of the Veterans' Coffee Social.

GENERAL OLD BUSINESSS 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 Veteran's Day.
2. See in unfinished business an update on the cleaning of the markers in the town's cemeteries.
3. The veteran's 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.
4. There is talk of forming an American Legion Auxiliary for women in Franklin.
5. A Franklin squadron of the Sons of the Legion has been formed. 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.
6. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
7. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the post's website.
8. 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.
9. 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 .



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11, A podcast, Tango Alpha Lima, tells folks what's going on.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dick H. said he received a message from Shannon Nisbett, Franklin's Veteran Service Officer, that stated there was poor veteran turnout at the recent Elks dinner dance. This event was to get donations to repair the monuments in the Common. We veterans need to support these events both physically and financially whenever possible.
2. Henry Young discussed ways to increase membership in the Sons of Legion and the Women's Auxiliary. Doing this will also increase interest in the local American Legion post.

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 M, 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