

# American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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## Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on 9 August 2023.

Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, MA  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 1900.

### Officer Roll Call:

Commander - John Milot	Present
1st Vice Commander - Dick Hynes	Present
2nd Vice Commander - John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Matt McGrath	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nesbitt	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

16 Members were in attendance.

### Meeting was called to order by Commander Milot at 1910.

- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob, Colors posted by Matt McGrath, Pledge of Allegiance recited by all, Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all, and a moment of silence was requested by Commander Milot to honor the dearly departed.

### Introduction of guests and new members:

- Denise Knott was introduced to the members. She learned about Post 75 at the Veteran's Coffee Social at the Senior Center the week before and decided to join Post 75.
- Lorelai Eidswick, a Senior at Franklin High School was introduced to the members. She was this year's candidate for Girls' State at Stonehill College and she enthusiastically shared her experience with the members.

### Reading of Minutes for the previous month's meeting:

- A copy of the minutes for the June meeting was posted on the Post's website but paper copies were not available for distribution at this meeting. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

### Reading of Communications and Bills:

- Dick Hynes shared a letter that he received from Post 125 North Adams, MA. They invited us to attend the District One Commander's Banquet to be held on August 19, 2023. The outgoing District One Commander, Sylvia Lefebvre was relieved by the new District One Commander, Mitchell Keil.

- Dave Labonte made a request for a \$50.00 donation to the William F. Ray Lodge No. 71 of the Odd Fellows in support of their upcoming Cornhole Tournament on August 20, 2023. A motion was made and seconded to accept the request. The motion was accepted, and the donation will be made.

**Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):**

- Copies of the July financial report were passed out to all members.
- Dave received a total of nine checks that were donations in memory of Bruce Watkins. The total amount came to \$2,870.00, \$2,000.00 of which came from Eileen Watkins and family. After a discussion on how to use this money, it was decided to put it in the general fund. Eileen Watkins will be consulted to see if she has any suggestions on how this money should be used.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was accepted, and the financial report was posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):**

- Dick showed the members a display case that contained Bruce Watkins' flag and medals. The case will be given to the family at some time in the near future.
- Dick reported that last year's goal for the total number of members in the Post was 80. Currently, we have 75 members. The target for this time of year is 50%. The Post is at 56%, with 42 out of 75 being paid up for 2024..

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander report (John Hefe):**

- No report given.

**Chaplain's report (Bob Markunis):**

- Bingo will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August at Cedarwood Gardens..
- Movie day will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August at Magnolia Heights.
- A \$500.00 donation was made to support "Operation Care Package". The United Methodist Church is helping with items to support this effort.
- Chaplain Bob explained the three things that describe "Operation Care Package". One is that it re-introduces God in the military. Two is that it supports families. Three is that it promotes the American Legion.
- Eric Forrest, who is a member of Post 75, is currently deployed in Poland and will be receiving a "care package".

**Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):**

- No report given.

**Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):**

- Steve was wondering if there was any approval on getting him a file cabinet for the Post's items in his possession.
- He spoke about the Special Olympics which will be held at Gillette Stadium in November. They will be looking for people to award medals to the winners of flag football games and he felt that this would be good exposure for the Post.

**Unfinished business:**

- Dick said that the Post 75 baseball team were State Champions with a record of 25-0. They won their first Regional game but lost the next two, which ended their season.
- Commander Milot reported that the Franklin Observer highlighted the Color Guard in an article about the "Homes for our Troops" event which was held at the Franklin Country Club on August 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 110 golfers who signed up for this event. The Boy Scouts had been asked to provide a Color Guard, but they didn't give a quick enough response and as a result, we were asked. We'll be doing it for the next two years.
- Dick and a few others went to the State Convention in Marlboro recently. The new Department Commander is Sandra Davis, whose theme will be "Make It Personal".
- The new Commander's favorite charity is the "Child Welfare Foundation", and if the Post donates \$1.00 for each member, or \$75.00 to the foundation, the Post will receive a banner to put on our flag. A motion was made and seconded to increase this amount to \$100.00. A motion was made to accept the request. The motion was accepted and a check for \$100.00 will be given to the Foundation.
- The new Department Adjutant is Lisa McPhee, who took over from Milton Lashus.

- There was a discussion about raising dues, but this is something that must be voted on before it becomes official.
- Dick mentioned that both the Oregon and Colorado Departments have been suspended from the American Legion and those two Departments will be totally reorganized by National. He didn't know why this action was taken. He did mention that the Red and White caps that were being worn are now null and void.
- The National Commander's program is "Be The One" and this program is to help prevent veteran suicide. Dick suggested that we do some kind of event to support this program.
- It was pointed out that the Massachusetts Army National Guard does not have a machine-gun range at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. Currently, the Guard must go to New Jersey for this training. It was suggested that the members write to their Congressman to have them support this effort. It was suggested that the Post members send individual letters instead of one from the Post.
- Pizza will be brought to the patients at the Brockton VA Hospital on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**New business:**

- Chaplain Bob said that a donation of \$500.00 was received from the New England Chapel to support "Operation Care Package". He said that checks for this purpose should be made out to "American Legion Post 75" and the memo space on the check should specify "Operation Care Package".
- Joe asked if the American Legion logo could be used on a new letterhead that he had designed and was told that it was alright to use it. He also said that letters will be sent to Eileen Watkins and Brian Robie for their respective donations to the Post for income tax purposes.
- Dave mentioned that he went to a Cornhole Tournament that was sponsored by the VA. He suggested that it might be a good idea for members of the Post play cornhole before our monthly meetings.

**For the good of the Legion:**

- No report given.

**Closing the meeting:**

- A 50/50 raffle was held, and Shannon Nesbitt won the raffle. She donated her share back to the Post.
- Chaplain Bob led the members in prayer and Colors were retired by Matt McGrath.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Milot.