



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the meeting held on **08 December, 2021**. Meetings are 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	Excused
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer-John Hefele	Excused
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

➤ **8** members in attendance.

NOTES:

1. There were not enough members present to form a quorum. Therefore, financial issues could not be voted on.
2. Shannon Nisbett, the town's new Veterans' Services Officer for the, was a guest at the meeting. She is an Army veteran who served in medical services at Ft. Simmons. Shannon gave the members a brief rundown on things she does in her new position and how she can help and facilitate answers to problems and issues that any Franklin veteran may have, especially dealing with the town or the VA. She is also going to continue with the restoration of the monuments on the Common. Shannon also gave a shoutout to Debra Martin, the administrator in the town's Veterans' office, for all that she does and her helping Shannon with the transition into her new position.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Minutes from the November 2021 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The bank balance as of 12/01/2021 is \$6156.33. The finance officer gave out the post's balance sheet report which will also be on the post's website. It was accepted.
3. There were no reports from either the 1st Vice Commander or the 2nd Vice as they both had excused absences.



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4. Chaplain Bob stated that bingo is being restored at Cedarwood Gardens. Benchmark is setting up a schedule for our visits.
5. The Quartermaster reported that the post has 1 hat, 3 pairs of pants and 2 XLG jackets. If anyone needs any of these items, please contact Quartermaster Frank Coughlin.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The Wreaths Across America event is being held on December 18 starting at noon. Those interested in attending and would like to go with other members, please meet at the TV station at 10am.
2. We are still looking for rifle squad volunteers. It was suggested that we may want to hook up with members from the VFW as well as the Wrentham legion post.
3. The Officers voted to buy 10 wreaths, \$150, for Wreaths Across America.

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.
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.



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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.
12. John H. and Bob M. continue to sit with an older veteran once a week to help his care taker. They are looking for additional members to help out.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chaplain Bob said that we will be giving quilts of valor to veterans in the Franklin assisted living facilities. Currently, the schedule is to go to Benchmark on Dec. 20 at 2:00pm with 7 veterans receiving quilts. There are 13 veterans at Enclave to receive quilts on a date yet to be determined.

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