

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

Franklin, MA 02038-0042

Telephone: 508-517-9909 Website: <http://www.mapost75.com>



Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on February 14, 2024.

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

Officer Roll Call:

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

13 Members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Milot at 1900.

- Colors posted by Jim McNeill, acting as SGT at Arms.
- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis.
- POW/MIA chair placed at all meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of POW's and MIA's still unaccounted for.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.
- Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all.

Roll call of all Officers.

- See attendance chart on sheet 1.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting:

- A copy of the January meeting minutes was given to all members present. Officer's Roll Call section of the minutes will be changed from "1st Vice Commander" to "Senior Vice Commander" and "2nd Vice Commander" will be changed to "Junior Vice Commander". A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion was accepted, and the minutes will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- CDR Milot noted that the website domain has been renewed.
- Finance Officer:
 - Reported that some checks that were sent out have not come into the bank yet.
 - Asked to be reimbursed for \$50.00 to cover his payment for the IRS 990 Simple Form.
 - Paid \$175.00 to the Downtown Partnership for the annual payment.
 - Paid for four tickets to the District 6 National Commander's Banquet.
 - Donated \$1000.00 towards the town monuments in memory of Bruce Watkins.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- Post 75 took in more money this month than was sent out.
- A motion was made and seconded to cash Bob Catalano's \$40.00 dues check and donate the money to "Random Smiles", a non-profit that his nephew Paul Molla is affiliated with. The motion was accepted, and the money will be donated. (This check was sent to the Post by Bob even though the Post had already covered his 2024 dues).
- A copy of the January financial report was passed out to all members who were present.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was accepted, and the January financial report will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

Senior Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- Membership for Post 75 is at 112%, which exceeds the expected goal of 85% for this time of year. Post 75 is currently first in the District and fifth in the State. Plainville is at 109% and Wrentham is at 103%.
- Several members from our area who are currently affiliated with Post 462 will be contacted to see if they would like to transfer to Post 75. (Post 462 is a "holding post" for members who are not affiliated with a particular Post). Five are from Bellingham, one is from Franklin and three are from Medway. The Franklin member (Richard Souza) told CDR Milot that he wants to be transferred to Post 75, so the Adjutant will take care of the paperwork necessary to do this.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- No report.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- The Historian thanked CDR Milot for securing a file cabinet. CDR Milot will need help moving the cabinet to Franklin TV.
- Historian thanked the members for offering to pay for a new set of uniform trousers and that he was willing to pay a part of the cost.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Two jackets (one large and one extra-large) are on hand. Joe Cummings will buy one of them. Junior Vice told him that his wife is willing to sew patches on his jacket when needed.
- CDR Milot authorized the purchase of 12 black ascots for use at funerals.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Chaplain reported that the Posts fundraising efforts are ongoing.
- Bingo is all set at Cedarwood Garden.
- Bingo will be held at Benchmark later this week. Miscellaneous things were transferred from Operation Care Package to facilities to help them.

Unfinished business:

- The dinner party that was scheduled at the Rome Restaurant was postponed and will be discussed at the March meeting.
- It was discussed that some members have had gold stripes added to blue pants that are less expensive than the ones from Military Best. Also, Junior Vice pointed out that he purchases “aviator’s shirts” at one-third the cost of the official ones.
- Senior Vice has been unsuccessful in contacting Brenna Ferrick at Tri-County School regarding the State Trooper program. He and CDR Milot will go there on the 22nd of February after the Fallen Heroes ceremony on the common to speak to her.
- Lorelai Eidswick, who went to Girl’s State last year, is turning out to be a good recruiter for Girl’s State. She went to her Guidance Counsellor and the head of Social Studies to make them aware of this program. She will be on the staff at this year’s Girl’s State. There is no candidate for Boy’s State currently.
- The increase in dues for 2025 was discussed. The amount of money that goes to National will increase from \$18.50 to \$23.50 and the amount that goes to the Department will increase from \$9.50 to \$11.50, making the new total \$35.00. Currently, the Post charges \$40.00 for dues, with \$28.00 going to the Department and \$12.00 going to the Post. After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to increase the dues for Post 75 to \$50.00, with \$35.00 going to the Department and \$15.00 going to the Post. The motion was approved and the dues for 2025 will be increased to \$50.00 beginning in July of 2024. The Adjutant will make this known to the Department per the Post Activity report. CDR Milot said that if a member needs help with their dues, then he will discuss that with the member with a phone call. Members will know that this option is available to them by mail.
- The first “Fallen Heroes” ceremony was held on the common for William O. Martello on January 26th and it went well despite heavy rain. Family members were in attendance thanks to Rose Turco, who knew the family. Taps was played by Tim O’Toole. Senior Vice passed out schedules of future ceremonies to the members who were present.

