

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.

- Franklin High School has reinstated community service as a part of graduating from high school beginning with Class of 2028. Students are required to perform 20 hours of service. Senior Vice suggested that we could use them for such things as taking down flags and other tasks.
- Senior Vice reported that the Department Convention will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlboro again this year from June 7th to the 9th.

New business:

- CDR Milot reported that the Memorial Day flags have arrived and are in his shed. He said that the people who install them in the City Mills Cemetery can pick theirs up anytime.
- Senior Vice reported that Post members installed the flags downtown thirty-one times last year to honor deceased Veterans on the day of their funerals.
- Regarding Bob Catalano's wake and funeral:
 - It was not known if the Knights of Columbus were going to post a casket watch or not. Since Bob was a Fourth Degree Knight, it was likely that they would post one. If they don't post one, then we will post one.
 - A Color Guard will be needed to lead the hearse into the cemetery from the main gate up to Bob's gravesite. Participants will report to the cemetery at 10:30 for practice. Senior Vice will find Bob's gravesite ahead of time. The VFW flag will be flown along with the US Navy flag as Bob was a US Navy Veteran.
 - A Rifle Team will be needed to render honors. They will be posted near the gravesite. The Finance Officer will get the rifles at Junior Vice's house.
 - Randy LaRosa will play Taps.
 - The Franklin Police will be notified that rifles will be fired at the cemetery.
 - A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50.00 to "Random Smiles" and \$50.00 to the Knights of Columbus in memory of Bob Catalano. The motion was accepted, and both donations will be made.
- The Quartermaster said that he told some family members that the flags that were being flown downtown were in honor of their departed Veteran. They greatly appreciated knowing that and they said that it was a "sweet touch". He also suggested that the Post should find a way for family members to know this ahead of time. CDR Milot will discuss this with Shannon Nesbitt.
- Senior Vice reported that the street memorial signs for Veterans who were killed in action are not able to have flags mounted on them. This is because the wooden shafts get swollen when wet and they get stuck in the mounting hole. This makes it necessary to drill them out. Shannon Nesbitt spoke to Tony Brunetta of the DPW about this. It was suggested that shafts should be made out of plastic instead of wood and this should solve the problem. Tony said that he would be able to put flags in before Memorial Day.

For the good of the Legion:

- An amplifier was purchased for Chaplain Bob by Senior Vice for public speaking use. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse him \$110.00 for this purchase. The motion was approved, and the Finance Officer will reimburse Senior Vice.
- Senior Vice reported that a District Meeting will be held at the Wrentham Legion Post 225 on February 28th at 7:00. He said that they put on a good feed and he highly recommended going.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer. Colors were retired by Jim McNeill, acting as SGT at Arms.
- The meeting adjourned by Commander Milot at 8:16 p.m.