



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the zoom meeting held on **09 February, 2022**. Meetings are normally 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	Present
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer-John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Bruce Watkins	Present
Finance – Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **12** members in attendance.

NOTES:

1. The meeting was held as a Zoom meeting due to possible Covid issues. How/where future meetings will be held will be determined each month on an individual basis. The membership will be notified in advance of each meeting on whether it will be an in-person meeting or a Zoom meeting.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Minutes from the January 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The current bank balance is \$5979.33 with an available balance of \$3590.09. The balance sheet is posted on the post's website. The report was accepted.
3. The 1st Vice stated that in order for our post to be considered to have 100% renewal for 2022 we need 67 members renewed. As of this meeting we have 57 members renewed giving us an 85% renewal.
4. The chaplain is still working on setting up a visiting schedule with the assisted living facilities in Franklin. He will keep us updated.
5. Jackets now cost \$41.90. Patches for the coats including rifle squad patches, are at the home of John H. whose wife will sew onto your jacket if you request. Members will only need to pay for the cost of the patches. The quartermaster currently has 3 pairs of pants, 3 jackets as well as some yellow scarves.



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6. The Post Historian is working with the National Library and Museum archivist assisting on the search for past Post 75 commanders. The project is ongoing and will take a several weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The National Commander's testimonial will be held April 2, 2022. The post is sending the Commander and 1st Vice Commander. Any other member who is interested in going, please contact the Commander by the end of February.
2. The 1st Vice discussed the buddy check program. The post officers have called members to check on them. We are still waiting on some answers and returns from emails or snail mails sent. When we receive as much information as possible, the membership list will be updated. This program helps in not only checking up on our fellow members to ensure they are doing okay, but to also update contact information.
3. Dick showed a picture of the post coin which we are having made. Both the front and back of it look outstanding. Bids have been put out and we should have a price in a few days.

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. The 1st Vice received a letter from Shannon Nisbett (Franklin's VSO) regarding the monuments in the town Common. We are looking to send out flyers about them needing repair and trying to get donations to help with the cost.

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