



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **08 February, 2023**. Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900 hrs. 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 – Matt McGrath	Excused
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **13** members were in attendance.

NOTES: The 1st Vice Commander made a motion to set aside normal order of business in order to present certificates to Chaplain Bob Markunis and 2nd Vice Commander John Hefele for their generous and consistently hard work in going to the Franklin assisted living facilities as well as individual veterans' homes. They help with playing bingo, watching movies and just sitting and talking with the veterans. These certificates are part of the Legion's outreach program that benefits the community and nation. We all want to thank and congratulate Bob and John for their endeavors in this program.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

1. The minutes from the January 2023 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance officer's report was given. It was noted that the amount donated to a GoFundMe page the previous meeting was actually \$297, not the reported \$250. The current balance is \$5696.13 with an available balance of \$1702.95. The report was accepted and is on the post's website.
3. The 1st Vice Commander noted that we are at 81% renewal for 2023 membership which is below the 85% target set by the state. It was noted that we have a lot of transfers but they do not count for us this year. Membership is being pushed by the state as we are down from last year.
4. Chaplain Bob told us of past and future visits to the assisted living facilities: Bingo at Cedarwood the 3rd Saturday of every month; movie at Magnolia Heights on the last Thursday of every month; lunch at Enclave at noon the 1st Tuesday of every month. Dawn is going to bring a service dog to Cedarwood following



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bingo on February 18. He noted that he and John H. have been sitting with a gentleman every other Tuesday so his wife can get out for a few hours. Dawn said that she may be able to help out in this.

5. The Quartermaster noted that he has 3 pairs of small pants as well as yellow ascots.
6. The Historian said he talked with National about getting a list of our past commanders. He is also looking for a file cabinet to put historic documents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Dick talked of going to the funeral of member John Larney. He said the VFW did the casket watch.
2. The National Commander is coming to Marlboro on April 1. It was voted that the post will pay for our attendees, \$50 per person, and that the post will not put an advertisement into the dinner's booklet.
3. Dick told the group there is training on Zoom the 2nd Monday of every month.
4. Dick inquired of the group if we wanted to send someone to Girls State. A girl who is interested in attending has contacted us. It was decided that she needs to be interviewed to see if she is fully qualified.
5. The 1st vice asked us if we were interested in sponsoring a girls' fastpitch softball team. Apparently, there is interest in this, especially in western Massachusetts. This needs to be looked into further.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dick said that the parade committee is looking for veterans to march or ride in the parade. We are also looking for more volunteers to help on parade day.
2. Dick read a document from National that states a veteran who feels they are in trouble, specifically suicide, can go to any hospital for help. It does not have to be a VA facility.
3. One of our members is getting deployed to Poland. Chaplain Bob suggests that we re-start sending care packages to our deployed members. He is coordinating this endeavor with the New England Chapel.
4. Dick talked of the buddy checks we will be doing shortly. He said we have about 10 members who will call all the other members in our post. He discussed the check list we will use and things we will ask and talk about with the members.

GENERAL OLD BUSINESSS 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. The next set of bricks will be dedicated on Memorial Day in 2023.



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2. The veterans' coffee socials continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10a.m. at the Franklin Senior Center. All veterans are welcomed.
3. The Sons of the Legion is looking for new members.
4. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
5. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the post's website.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. A podcast, Tango Alpha Lima, tells folks what's going on.

COMMITTEES

1. Post Strategic Plan - Dave Labonte, 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 S.
4. Public Relations committee -John Hefe, 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 Milot, Matt McGrath, Jim McNeil, John Hefe, 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