American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75 43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on January 8, 2025.

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

Officer Roll Call:

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

12 members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes at 1900.

- Colors posted by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis.
- POW/MIA flag and 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.
- Officer Roll Call.

Reading the minutes of the previous meeting:

 Minutes of the previous meeting had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read them beforehand. Members who were present at the meeting were given a hard copy for their evaluation. After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted.

Reading of Communications and Bills (Dick Hynes):

- Before the meeting began, Dick offered a word of thanks that John Hefele had returned after being out due to health issues. He remarked that it had "been way too long since the last time he was at the table".
- CDR Hynes received a letter from Paul Molla, telling us that he had accepted a new position in the Medway Fire Department. CDR Hynes sent him a note to congratulate him and Paul replied and thanked us.
- A letter was received from Shannon Nisbett, thanking the Post for the VFW/American Legion dinner that was recently held.
- CDR Hynes said that, for the past three or four years, we have participated in the gift program that provides gifts to children of Veterans who have a special need. This year twelve to fourteen gifts were given out to anonymous children.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- Dave said that he asked John Milot to contact the Poker tournament guy to see if we can get some dates for their tournaments. Our funds are getting low. He said that the social night at the Rome Restaurant last month cost around \$800.00 including tip.
- Dave said that he looked into getting a larger Post Office box as the present one gets stuffed because
 of the numerous magazines that we subscribe to. He said that if the Post had more money, he would
 suggest a larger one but because of low funds, he will live with the smaller one.
- A copy of the financial report for the previous three months had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read them beforehand. Members who were present at the meeting were given hard copies for their evaluation.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial reports. A vote was taken, and the financial reports were accepted.

Senior Vice Commander report (John Milot):

• As of January 2nd, the target for membership is 80% with the Post currently at 72.8%. We need seven more members to reach 80%. The target for February is 85% and the March target is 90% and we should be at 100% by Armed Forces Day.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

 John said that a Post member who lives in South Carolina loves to get e-mails that keep him up to date on what the Post is doing.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

• Steve said that he will be working on archiving things and will do an annual report soon.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

• Frank was given a pair of new shoes that can be issued to anyone who needs them for the Color Guard. Frank said that patches for the rifle team are now available.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

Bob said that all outreach programs are at full strength.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

None.

Unfinished business:

- Dick said that the food at the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners that were held at the VFW was very good. These dinners were for those Veterans who would have been alone. They were not well attended. They will continue next year.
- Flag retirement ceremonies were held at the VFW on December 4th and 15th. Many flags were retired by cutting the blue star portion off so that they could be taken away for disposal. We cannot burn them ourselves anymore due to the material that the flags are made of.
- A Christmas tree that was decorated for the special event in December at the Senior Center was well-received.
- Frank said that we did not participate in the laying of wreaths for the "Wreaths Across America" event at the National Cemetery at Bourne but we will participate in the removal of the wreaths as part of the "Wreaths Off" event. There is a large response for laying of wreaths but a small participation in the removal of them.
- There will be a "coffee social" after the VFW meeting on the fourth Saturday of each month. The meeting starts at 9:00 am.

New business:

- John Milot said that a Color Guard has been requested by the Elks Riders as part of their "Charity Ride" that will be held on a date to be determined.
- Bob talked to a volunteer at Franklin High School about a request for a "game board" for the "mental
 health and well-being" task force. This game board would be like a corn hole board, with nine 6"
 diameter holes on it and would be used by them for fundraising efforts. A sketch was provided with the
 dimensions for the board. Dave knows someone who could make it. Dick and a few others offered to
 pay for the cost of this board.
- Dick said that "Wreaths Across America" has a trailer that goes around the country that has a small
 classroom and a display room in it. He will contact them to see if we could get it for the Memorial Day
 ceremony on the Common.
- Dick contacted Frank McDonald, editor of the American Legion magazine to tell him of our "Fallen Heroes" ceremonies and he will provide information to put in the monthly magazine.
- Dick said that the American Legion has a "Community Service" award that is given to Posts who deserve it. He will submit our "Fallen Heroes" ceremonies to see if the Post will get an award for this.
- John Milot said that Franklin TV has finished taping the "Fallen Heroes" ceremonies. They will create
 one program that shows all the ceremonies of the past year. We will continue to hold these ceremonies
 for 2025.
- John Milot got an e-mail from Franklin High School, thanking us for providing the two scholarships last year. They requested that we provide them with a form that describes what the requirements are to receive the scholarship.
- John contacted the Poker Tournament guy and he said that he'll get back to him with dates for our participation in the tournament.
- The Post will send two people to the National Commander's upcoming luncheon. The cost will be \$45.00 per person. The Post will place an advertisement in their booklet for \$60.00. A motion was made and seconded to send the Post Commander and a guest to this luncheon. After a discussion, a vote was taken and approved to have the Post pay this cost.
- John Hefele said that the "Buddy Check" effort will resume. He encouraged those who wish to do this to take the Columbia University course that is online.
- The Senior Center now has a van that can be used for such things as going to Battleship Cove or the Heritage Museum in Hudson. A 60-day notice must be given first.
- The pavilion at the Senior Center is available for use by groups who wish to use it. A suggestion was made to have a barbeque there.

- John Hefele said that there is a woman at the Senior Center who makes "lap blankets" for patients at Veteran's Hospital.
- The Commander of the Medfield Post owns a storage facility near BJ's in Franklin. He will be contacted to see if we can store our excess items off-site without cost.

For the good of the Legion:

None.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by SGT At Arms Dawn Anderson.
- Colors retired by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Hynes.