

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



- 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.