



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the zoom meeting held on **12 January, 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	Excused

➤ **12** members in attendance.

NOTES:

1. The meeting was held as a Zoom meeting due to the 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 December 2021 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The bank balance as of 01/01/2022 was \$6189.00. The balance sheet is posted on the post's website. The report was accepted.
3. The Commander said that Rep. Jeff Roy sent out a notice stating that the Bellingham VFW was giving out coats to anyone in need of one.
4. 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.
5. National American Legion baseball has requested help for a South Dakota post. This was discussed and it was decided not to do anything at this time, instead, concentrating on our local communities and posts.



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6. The 1st Vice discussed the buddy check program. It was decided to do it quarterly, if needed and the officers will be placing the calls. Other members may help with the calling if they desire. A packet with a “script” will be sent out and can be used when making these calls.
7. The 1st Vice said we have 52 members renewed for 2022 for a 77.67% renewal rate with a goal of 67 members renewed. This was as of 12-31-2021.
8. Flags are to be flown at half-staff on January 13 in honor of the late Sen, Harry Reid of Nevada.
9. Chaplain Bob said that Benchmark assisted living facility is closed for 2 weeks. Some of the other facilities are also having Covid induced lockdowns. He also said there was a possibility of having an open mic night.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. John H. is keeping the rifle squad rifles at his home.
2. The cleaning of the cemetery plots has been put on hold until the spring.
3. John H. will look into whether we have 1 more poker night coming up.
4. Dick H. told us that he has 2 quotes for our challenge coin.

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. Complimentary coffee and pastries are provided by Starbucks. All veterans are welcomed to attend.
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.



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7. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
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. There is a new Korean War veteran now living at Enclave.
2. John M. reminded us that officer elections are coming up this spring so we need to think about them and run them as required in the by-laws.
3. Dick H. says we need to try and get a candidate from Franklin High School for Boys State. Last year the individual was from Medway as we were unable to get a Franklin candidate. The cost is \$350 to the post.
4. Any member who brings in 3 new members will be given a membership excellence pin by national.
5. The commander brought up the possibility of having a zoom meeting along with the regular in-person meeting. This may help membership attendance at our monthly meetings.
6. A legion hat was given to member Joe Catalano, a WW2 Navy veteran.

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 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.



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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