



## American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **11 January, 2023**. Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Dick Hynes	Present
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice & Post Service Officer-John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant – Bruce Watkins	Present
Finance – Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Matt McGrath	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Excused
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **15** members were in attendance.

NOTES: The commander introduced Joe Landry to the attendees. He is rejoining the Legion after many years away.

James Roddy was also introduced as being new to attending meetings

We welcomed Dawn Anderson to the post. She is a Marine veteran and a long-time member of the Legion. She recently transferred from a post in New Hampshire

### OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

1. The minutes from the November 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance officer's report was given. It was noted that \$250 was donated to a GoFundMe page for the wife of longtime veteran supporter, Mark Ellis. He also noted that a \$40 tax bill was paid. The current bank balance is \$5927.13 with an available balance of \$1933.95. The finance officer noted that we should try and get some poker tournaments done in order to increase our general fund. The finance report was then accepted and is on the post's website.
3. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander noted that we are at 75% renewal for 2023 membership which is below the 80% target set by the state. We are about in the middle of all posts in our district. The state is currently at 72%. He stated that the National Commander is offering a special pin to those who bring in 3 new members.



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4. Chaplain Bob was absent, so the Sr. Vice discussed how both Chaplain Bob and John H. reach out and are very active with Franklin's assisted living facilities and other community events.
5. The Quartermaster noted that he had 2 Lg jackets, 2 Lg long jackets and 2 X Long jackets. He told the members to let him know if they needed something.
6. The Historian said he talked with the National Archives about getting items for the post to put in a cabinet that he is making. There was a short discussion of where this might be put and shown.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Dick talked of the death of member John Larney. The wake is Jan. 30 and burial Jan. 31 at 10a. We are unsure if a rifle squad will be needed.
2. We are looking for members who will be interested in being on a special rifle squad for funerals.
3. Dick told the group that 4 members attended the Commander's dinner and met a lot of people.
4. Dick told us that our post along with the VFW post were organizing the upcoming Memorial Day parade. The first meeting is to be held on Jan. 19 at the Senior Center and we are looking for volunteers to help in not only the organizing but at the parade itself.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Kent Belcher said that Franklin High School wanted to know if we were going to give any scholarships. We said we will give two \$500 awards. We are also going to see if we can get any nominees for Boys State.
2. Dick said that the Mass. Women's Network is having archery classes for interested people.
3. A Legion fast pitch softball league for women has been formed by the state. We discussed if we want to see a team in Franklin.
4. The National Commander is coming to the state on Saturday April 1. There will be a testimonial dinner for him in Marlboro that weekend.
5. National has a program that lists companies that hire veterans.
6. VetNews had a notice discussing having coffee socials with vets. John H. and Dick are going to look into it to see what it is all about. They said Starbucks might be involved.
7. Steve S. asked the post's adjutant to tell new members where they can find the post's website.
8. The District's February meeting will be held on February 22 at the Wrentham meeting place.
9. Dick said that we will do buddy checks this winter and asked for volunteers to call other members.



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### 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. The next set of bricks will be dedicated on Memorial Day in 2023.
2. The veteran's 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 a new commander. It is also 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](http://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 M, 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