



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **09 March, 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	Excused
Adjutant – Bruce Watkins	Present
Finance – Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Excused
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **9** members in attendance.

NOTES:

None

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Minutes from the February 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The current bank balance is \$3830.75 with an available balance of \$1441.51. The reason the balances are much lower than they should be is due to the debit/credit card number being stolen and used fraudulently. Dean Bank and the Franklin Police Dept. are looking into the matter to see if any of the stolen funds can be returned/recovered. The finance report was accepted and is on the post's website.
3. The 1st Vice stated that in order for our post to be considered to have 100% renewal for 2022 we need 67 members renewed. As of this meeting we do have 67 members renewed giving us a 98.51% renewal. There are 3 more members who have paid but have yet to show up as paid on our membership list which will then give us more than enough to meet our goal.
4. The chaplain is still working on setting up a visiting schedule with the assisted living facilities in Franklin as many have still been on lockdown. He will keep us updated as to when we can return for visits/bingo.



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5. The Post Historian is working with the National Library and Museum archivist assisting on the search for past Post 75 commanders from 1926-1997. The project is ongoing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The National Commander's testimonial will be held April 2, 2022. The post is sending the Commander, 1st Vice Commander and the Chaplain.
2. The 1st Vice discussed the buddy check program. He is finishing up and we should have everything updated soon.
3. Dick showed a picture of the post coin which we are attempting to have made. Both the front and back of it look outstanding. The initial bid came in at \$1400 which included enough made for the members as well as shipping, etc. Dick is going to check to see if we can have it done for a less expensive price.

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 over the Memorial Day weekend.
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. All veterans are welcomed.
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.
7. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.



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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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Post elections are coming up. The commander read the requirements. Nominations for the post's officers need to be made at the April meeting with elections in May. If anyone is interested in one of the positions, please have your name placed at the April meeting.
2. The commander notified the members that the town's VSO has told us that in order for there to be a Memorial Day parade, the VFW post and our American Legion post must organize it. A meeting is to be held with the VFW on Thursday March 10.
3. The commander asked if anyone wanted to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 20 in South Boston. Chaplain Bob said that he planned on attending.
4. A new banner was placed on the post's flag. It represents our 100% participation in the American Legion's child welfare program.

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 Hefele, 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 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