



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **08 March, 2023**. Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA. on the 2nd 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 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 – Matt McGrath	Excused
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Present
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **15** members were in attendance; 1 guest

NOTES: Mark Nooman was introduced as a guest at our meeting. He is a Coast Guard veteran and served in Guam as well as on Cape Cod. He was brought by Dave Labonte and was seeing what went on at our meetings.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

1. The minutes from the February 2023 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance officer's report was given. The main expenses for the month were \$229.50 for our website and \$175.00 for the member renewal at the Franklin Downtown Partnership. It was noted that our available funds have continued to decrease over the past few months. The upcoming poker tournaments should help alleviate this. The current balance is \$5625.13 with an available balance of \$1631.95. The report was accepted and is posted on our website.
3. The 1st Vice Commander stated that we are at 81.25% renewal for 2023 membership which is below the 90% target set by the state. The district is at 81.12% and the state is at 79.64%. It was noted that all the entities seem to be lower in their membership renewals so far this year than in the past. We will be doing buddy checks of our members this month and hopefully we will be able to get more renewals as well as getting our roster updated. He said that there are about 30,000 veterans in Massachusetts.



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4. The 2nd Vice Commander told us that we now have a bugle. We need a couple of buglers for it. He also told us that a calendar of events has been posted on our website.
5. Chaplain Bob told us of past and future visits to the assisted living facilities: Bingo at Cedarwood the 3rd Saturday of every month; movie at Magnolia Heights on the last Thursday of every month; lunch at Enclave at noon the 1st Tuesday of every month. We are still trying to get into Benchmark.
6. The Quartermaster noted that he has 3 pairs of small pants as well as yellow ascots. He also has 1 large long jacket as well as a large regular.
7. The Historian said he talked with National about getting a list of our past commanders. He is also looking for a file cabinet to put historic documents as well as a small display case to showcase artifacts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. 4 tickets were purchased by the post for the National Commander's dinner on April 1 in Marlboro.
2. There was a discussion about sending an interested individual to Girl's State. The commander and 1st Vice Commander are meeting with her guidance counselor on Thursday, March 9. We need to ensure that the candidate is well qualified and understands what is involved. They also stated they will talk with the candidate's parents/guardian as well. Dick will also see if the school has any qualified candidates for Boy's State.
3. Dick told the group there is training on Zoom the 2nd Monday of every month.
4. It was discussed again about sponsoring a girls softball team. Seeing that there currently only seems to be an interest in Western Massachusetts and there would not be anyone close to play, it was decided not to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mark Ellis of the Elks will be the Grand Marshal for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.
2. Mark Ellis is the individual who currently puts up American flags in the downtown area on the days of a veteran's funeral. Due to health concerns, he has asked for assistance in this endeavor. There was a discussion about our members doing this and we decided that we will. Dick will talk with Mark telling him that our post will do it and to see what needs to be done.
3. Dick told the group about the Memorial Day parade and said things are going pretty well. He said what is needed are vehicles to transport veterans who want to be in the parade, but are unable to walk it. This needs to be looked into further.
4. The 1st Vice Commander said that Robert Jerden was trying to be the state's 2nd Vice Commander and would like our endorsement. Robert was our district commander a few years ago. They are going to get together with him on April 16.



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5. We have adopted a unit that was deployed to Eastern Europe on February 11. They will need many items and Chaplain Bob will let us know what is needed that we can send them.
6. Dave suggested having a post get together to try and get more members together and involved.
7. The 2nd annual Mohawk fundraiser is being held on Saturday, April 8 in Norwood.
8. The buddy check program was discussed. Dick passed out packets to those members who will be making the calls. We went over the documents and discussed what is to be done.
9. Steve S. brought up that the Special Olympics 2024 is already looking for volunteers to help giving out medal awards to the participants.
10. John H. told the group that we should go to the opening game of the Legion baseball team that our post sponsors.
11. Commander John needs specific names by our next meeting of individuals who want to be in the rifle squad and honor guard.
12. We have 3 dates for the poker tournaments in Walpole. They are: April 8, April 22, and April 27. Volunteers are needed for all 3 dates.

GENERAL OLD BUSINESSS 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 veterans' 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 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 .
8. A podcast, Tango Alpha Lima, tells folks what's going on.



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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 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 Milot, 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