

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 8 November 2023.

Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, MA
on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900.

Officer Roll Call:

Commander - John Milot	Present
1st Vice Commander - Dick Hynes	Present
2nd Vice Commander - John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Excused
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Matt McGrath	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nesbitt	Excused
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

NOTE: Minutes of this meeting were taken by Patrick Doyle in the Adjutant's absence.

Introduction of guest at 1905.

- Walter Groundsel was introduced to the members. He spoke about how he enjoyed Boy's State and was looking forward to a career in the military as an Army Officer. He also learned a lot about the US Government structure and process. The best part about his experience was that he was amongst a "like-minded community". He also said that his group elected two from amongst themselves to proceed on to Washington. He also mentioned that he was interviewed by Dale Kurtz about the military academy. CDR Milot presented Walter with the "challenge" coin.

Meeting called to order by Commander Milot at 1924.

- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis, Colors posted by Sgt. At Arms Matthew McGrath, Pledge of Allegiance recited by all, Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all, and a moment of silence was requested by Commander Milot to honor the dearly departed.

Reading of Minutes:

- Copies of the October minutes were not available, so the matter was tabled until the December meeting.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bingo will be held at Benchmark on Tuesday, November 7th.
- Benchmark on 11 November at 1100 to hand out certificates of recognition to Veterans for their service.
- Cedarwoods Gardens on 11 November at 1400 to hand out certificates of recognition to Veterans for their service.
- Enclave on 13 November at 1100 to hand out certificates of recognition to Veterans for their service.
- Magnolia Heights on 13 November at 1400 to hand out certificates of recognition to Veterans for their service.
- Dawn Anderson will handle the movie at Magnolia Heights on 27 November at 1400.
- Two "Operation Care Packages" were sent out in the past ten days.
- Chaplain Bob is thinking of ideas for a fundraiser. He also wants to send cards to families of deployed troops.
- Walter Groundsel's father donated \$500.00 to the Post.

Reading of Communications and Bills (John Milot):

- Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has announced Jon Santiago as speaker at today's 8 November event.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- Copies of the financial report were passed out to all members.
- The original donation that Eileen Watkins made to the Post in Bruce's memory was moved to the general fund.
- Eileen Watkins donated \$50.00 to the Franklin War Memorials fund. A possible donation by the Post for an additional \$1000.00 was discussed and was moved to new business for a motion to be introduced and approved.
- Dave mentioned that there was no full consent on raising the dues from \$40.00 to \$50.00 and that this will be discussed in April of 2024. Other possibilities were discussed, including a 5-year dues plan or a PUFL dues plan if it made sense financially.
- Dave is researching a check for \$69.50 that was paid for a PUFL membership. There was no name on the check.
- Dave will cut a check for \$170.00 (10 wreaths) for the Bourne National Cemetery as part of "Wreaths Across America". Volunteers will meet at Franklin TV on 16 December at 1000 and the event will be at 1200 at the cemetery.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was accepted, and the financial report was posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

1st Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- No report.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- John has been visiting Larry Bederian. He seems to be restful.
- Dawn Anderson has taken over Dave Seyfarth's wellness visits.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- Steve asked if we are involved in the next brick installation on the common. The committee will be honored at the Veteran's Day luncheon on 10 November.
- The next brick installation will be on Memorial Day 2024.
- Steve is waiting to hear from the Special Olympics on if we can provide a Color Guard on November 18th.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank has jackets available for purchase at \$39.00 each. Joe Collins wants one.

Unfinished business:

- Dick wanted to know the status of the Army/Navy game that will be watched at Franklin TV. So far, 9 people have signed up. Shannon will mention this at the 10 November meeting and more people may sign up as a result.
- Dick said that the current National Commander is big on "Buddy Checks". We will do them after the holidays and we expect to begin on 15 January with a process for volunteers to use.
- Dick said that Joe Landry updated the "Post Officers Report".
- Dick said that the Post could place an ad in the Franklin Elks bulletin, which renews on 1 April. The Post should take the opportunity to participate.
- Dick said that we need to determine who we will contact at Tri-County School about the State Trooper program and who will be the Instructor.

New business:

- Dick said Post 225 in Wrentham will be having a fundraiser on 11 November from 1500 to 2100. If interested, people should respond to his e-mail. He asked if we should make a Post donation but it was decided not to do that as some members would be attending.
- Steve asked if we should hold our December meeting at the Rome Restaurant at 1830. If yes, we would need to plan ahead and contact the restaurant. After a discussion, it was decided that this might be something that could be done in January and we can discuss this at our next meeting.

For the good of the Legion:

- Frank recognized Pat Doyle and Dawn Anderson for their volunteering activities.
- Joe Collins reminded the members that there will be a Veteran's Tea on 18 November at the Franklin Senior Center.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob led the members in prayer and Colors were retired by Sgt. At Arms Matthew McGrath.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Milot.