



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the meeting held on **10 November, 2021**. Meetings are 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	Excused
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **15** members in attendance.

NOTES:

1. Ed Foti was introduced to the membership and received a tour of the facility. He has filled out a new member application. We look forward to Ed joining us
2. Matt Linehan who has been a member for the past 2 years was also introduced as he wants to become more active in the post.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Minutes from the October 2021 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The bank balance as of 11/01/2021 is \$5162.28. The total received from the poker tournament was \$3189.
3. The 1st Vice noted that we have 48 members paid for 2022. We are looking to get 67 members fully paid to reach our goal of 100%.
4. Chaplain Bob continues to work on getting a monthly schedule for visits to the assisted living facilities.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The bricks for the walkway in the Common have been installed and completed for the year.
2. The new VSO will be at the December meeting.
3. The Wreaths Across America event is being held on December 18 starting at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend and help. There will be further discussion at the next meeting.
4. We are still looking for rifle squad volunteers. It was suggested that we may want to hook up with members from the VFW as well as the Wrentham legion post.
5. We are getting a banner for our flag with the cost being \$74.
6. The Department commander's dinner is being held on Nov. 27 at \$40 per person with the cost being picked up by the post. John M., Dick H., and Bob M. are currently planning on attending.
7. Chaplain Bob said that there is a walk for autism at Gillette stadium on December 6.

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 with the cleaning throughout the fall.
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.
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. The 1st Vice Commander said that the National Commander is extremely concerned about the increasing rate of suicide of veterans as well as older Legionnaires. People will be performing buddy checks in the next couple of weeks.
2. Oak St. elementary and Remington Middle School students wrote cards to deployed servicemen. They will be shown at the Veteran's Day luncheon.
3. The new VSO will be attending our December meeting.
4. The 1st Vice suggests having a Post coin made. A design has been made and is being considered.
5. Marlboro Post 132 has been doing a Sweats for Vets. The 1st Vice wondered if we might consider doing it as well.
6. It was brought up that there is a bugle insert that can be used at funerals. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
7. Chaplain Bob said that we will be giving quilts of valor to veterans in the Franklin assisted living facilities. Currently, the schedule is Nov. 23 at Benchmark with 7 veterans with the 13 veterans at Enclave to receive quilts on a date yet to be determined.

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.



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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