



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **09 November, 2022**. 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	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Absent
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Absent

➤ **9** members were in attendance.

NOTES: None

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

1. The minutes from the October 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The commander received the permit from the Town of Walpole allowing us to conduct our poker tournaments again in the coming year.
3. The finance report was given. The current bank balance is \$5312.91 with an available balance of \$2077.73. It was noted that the bugle with insert has been purchase. The report was approved and is on the post's website.
4. The 1st Vice Commander noted that we are at 57.5% renewal for 2023 membership which is below the 65% target set by the state. Our District is at 60%. We discussed the possibility of the post paying the members' dues in advance of them paying us. It will be asked at the upcoming District meeting if this is possible and how it would work.
5. Chaplain Bob gave the schedule for visits to Franklin's assisted living facilities: Bingo at Cedarwood Garden on November 19; a veterans talk at Magnolia Heights on November 10; a Quilts of Valor event on November 16 at Magnolia Heights. He also stated that we will not be able to visit Benchmark until after the



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first of the year. Also, a call is being made to the Brockton VA to see if we can schedule a visit to them prior to Christmas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The commander talked of a meeting held with the VFW about having a joint dinner with them on Dec. 10. The members discussed it and agreed to do it. It is for both members and spouses/partners.
2. John H. told us that Eagle Scouts finished cleaning veterans' plaques in section 4 at St. Mary's Cemetery. A total of 379 plaques have been cleaned so far.
3. The members going to the Commander's dinner in Marlboro on Nov. 26 are John Milot, Dick Hynes, Bruce Watkins and Bob Markunis.
4. Dick Hynes told us that the trip to the military museum in Hudson, MA. was great and that it is worth seeing.
5. Dick showed pictures of member Bob Catalano being honored at a recent Patriots game.
6. Dick and the commander showed us a sign that the post used at its meeting place before the post went dormant in the mid-1980s. We discussed cleaning it and finding a place for it. We need to thank the son of Joe Verna, the commander at that time, for saving it and giving it to us. He apparently has more old post items that we need to look at as well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dick said that the state convention is June 9-11, 2023.
2. Vet News lists companies that are giving discounts for Veterans' Day.
3. John M. listed things that are still needed by Thanks To Yanks to give to needy vets. Articles need to be taken to Costello Realty in Franklin located in the Liquor World strip mall.
4. The commander stated that the present commander of our squadron of the Sons of Legion wants to be replaced due to time constraints. Henry Young may be the new commander. John M. also talked again about creating an Auxiliary for our post.
5. John H. said that the VSO asked him if the post can find any guitars that can be used for the Learn to play the Guitar program sponsored by the town's Veterans office. This program teaches vets how to play the guitar and is open for free to interested vets.
6. The District meeting will be held in Franklin on Nov. 16 at 6p. at our normal meeting place. We are looking for volunteers as a meal needs to be served.



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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 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. As noted in new business, 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.
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