



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the meeting on **04 October, 2021**. Meetings are held at 23 Hutchison Street, Franklin, MA.
Mailing Address: 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 – Dick Hynes	Present
2 nd Vice & Post Service Officer John Hefele	Present
Adjutant – Bruce Watkins	Present
Finance – Dave Labonte	Excused
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Absent
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Excused
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **9** members in attendance.

NOTES:

1. There were not enough members in attendance to form a quorum. Therefore, financial matters could be discussed but not voted on.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Minutes from the September 2021 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. Since the Finance Officer was not present, no financial report was given.
3. The 1st Vice noted that we have 39 members (58.2%) paid for 2022. We are looking to get 67 members fully paid.
4. The Harvest Festival went very well. There are 4 very good-looking new membership possibilities. Information was received and given to them.
5. The Chaplain is having issues in scheduling visits with the assisted living places. Bingo has resumed on Thursdays at Benchmark.
6. The new VSO, Shannon Nesbitt, will be attending the Veterans Coffee Social on Wednesday October 6.



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DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS:

1. The post has made close to \$3K for the 2 nights with 1 more night still to come.
2. Regarding the Department Commander's testimonial dinner on November 27, it was decided to take a tally in the following meeting on the number of members who would like to attend at \$40 per person.
3. It was also reminded that Child and Youth get the post's portion of its 50/50 raffle held at each meeting

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.
8. Steve S., the post's historian, is writing an article for the newspaper about Franklin's American Legion baseball team as well as an article about the Memorial Day weekend and the ceremony at the Common. Any material or pictures about our post that anyone has would be much appreciated.
9. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the post's website.
10. 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.



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11. 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 .

NEW BUSINESS

1. December 15 starting at noon, is the Wreaths Across America event at the Bourne cemetery. It was discussed whether to sponsor some wreaths but the discussion was tabled until the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
2. Chaplain Bob said that there is a walk for autism at Gillette stadium on December 6. A discussion will be held at the next meeting to decide whether or not to participate.
3. The commander asked if we could move our monthly post meetings to either the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of the month due to the TV station needing Monday nights for other meetings/events. An email will be sent out to the post's membership to see if they were okay to move the meeting to another night.
4. 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. We will be looking for people to perform buddy checks.
5. A podcast, Tango Alpha Lima, tells folks what's going on.
6. The 2nd Vice will invite the new VSO to one of our meetings.
7. John H. and Bob M. are sitting with an older gentleman once a week to help his care taker. They are looking for additional members to help out.

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