



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the meeting on **13 September 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	Present
SGT at Arms – Juan DelValle	Present
Chaplain – Bob Markunis	Present
Historian – Steve Szilniczky	Absent
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **15** members in attendance.

NOTES:

1. Frank Coughlin will assume the duties of the post's quartermaster, replacing Dave Labonte.
2. Conner Gilmore, an incoming senior from Medway, was the post's representative at this year's Boys State this past June and along with his parents were guests at the meeting. Conner gave a very interesting talk about his experiences at the camp and how he was so glad that we sponsored him. Not only did he learn a lot about history, politics, etc., but he made several new friends from around the state. He also told us he had been given a slot at West Point for next year. He is a very bright and engaging young man and will go far in his life endeavors.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Minutes from the June 2021 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given and accepted. It was noted that the post has 52% (35 individuals) paid for 2022. The state is at 54%. 67 have paid for 2021.
3. Chaplain Bob talked of giving quilts to some veterans.
4. Chaplain Bob also is looking to set up a schedule for visitation to the assisted living places.



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OLD BUSINESS:

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.
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 .



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NEW BUSINESS

1. The post's baseball team won the 2021 Chairman's Cup Tournament. It was Franklin's first Department Senior Tournament win. Congratulations goes out to the team for an outstanding season.
2. Dick H. suggested the possibility of having a post newsletter. He was going to look into it.
3. Shannon Nesbitt, an Army veteran, is the new VSO for Franklin. She will be introduced at the October coffee social.
4. John H. is passing on the care of our M1 rifles to Kent Belcher. We currently have 6 which 5 are in working order.
5. The post can get a banner/ribbon for our flag from child welfare by giving \$1 per member (65). The motion was passed.
6. There is a Nov. 27 testimonial for the Department Commander Anthony Davis. It was brought up about putting an ad in the book given at the dinner. Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.
7. The upcoming Harvest Festival was discussed. The post has a 10X10 pop up tent which will be used at our booth. We will give out American flags with pamphlets on how to care for them. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. The festival goes from 12-5 on Saturday, October 2.
8. It was suggested getting a Country Western band.
9. It was also reminded that Child and Youth get the post's portion of its 50/50 raffle held at each meeting.

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