



American Legion Post 75

Minutes of the in-person meeting held on **14 September, 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	Excused
Quartermaster – Frank Coughlin	Present

➤ **10** members were in attendance.

NOTES:

1. A thank you note was received by the finance officer from Fred Russell of Post 397 Shrewsbury thanking our post for the \$200 donation we made to American Legion baseball. The donation was made instead of placing a quarter page ad in the 2022 Playoff program.

OFFICERS' COMMUNICATIONS and REPORTS:

1. The minutes from the August 2022 meeting were accepted and are on the post's website.
2. The finance report was given. The current bank balance is \$5481.67 with an available balance of \$3723.49. The report was approved and is on the post's website.
3. The 1st Vice Commander noted that we currently have 42 members (52.5% of a goal of 80) who have renewed their membership for 2023. We are a bit above where the state says we should be at this point in time which is 50%. The district is currently at 48%. There are 14 members who have not renewed since 2019 or 2020. The commander tried to contact them and it appears as if most will need to be dropped from the rolls because they have moved or are no longer interested in being a member.
4. Chaplain Bob gave the schedule for visits to Franklin's assisted living facilities: Bingo at Cedarwoods on September 17 and a veterans' breakfast at Magnolia Heights on September 22.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The Franklin Harvest Festival is Saturday October 1 and volunteers are needed to man the tent.
2. The 1st vice Commander called fellow member Bob Catalano to see how he was doing. Bob appreciated the call and said he was feeling better. His 100th birthday is in October and the community is giving him a recognition certificate. The department commander, Sally Nay, as well as Franklin's state representative, Jeff Roy, will be present. This is to occur at the normally scheduled Veterans' Coffee Social at the Senior Center on October 5.
3. There was a short discussion about the lack of Veteran participation at the Elks dinner/dance in August and that we should try and encourage more participation at such future events.
4. Dick brought up having a new member initiation. It was decided to try and have it at this coming November's monthly meeting.
5. The post's Strategic Plan committee held a meeting. They worked out making up a plan for 2022-2024. The plan was printed out and reviewed by the members.
6. A part of the strategic plan was to make out a yearly budget. The finance officer constructed one and it was reviewed and discussed by the members. As this is the post's first budget, there were a lot of questions. We will have to see how things pan out for the year and understand that a lot of changes will probably have to be made to the budget as the year progresses.
7. John H. brought up the possibility of having a stand-alone funeral rifle squad along with the regular squad.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dick H. told the post that there is a field trip planned for October 15 to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, MA. It only costs \$15 and it comes with bus transportation, entrance fee and a catered lunch. Sign ups are through the VSO office.
2. Frank C. told the post that the Wreaths Across America will be on December 17. We will discuss at the next meeting about making a contribution as well as arrangements for anyone who wants to participate at Bourne National Cemetery.

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 Veteran's Day.



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2. See in unfinished business an update on the cleaning of the markers in the town's cemeteries.
3. 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.
4. There is talk of forming an American Legion Auxiliary for women in Franklin.
5. A Franklin squadron of the Sons of the Legion has been formed. 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.
6. John Hefe's wife has offered to sew patches on uniforms for free if assistance is needed.
7. Members, please remember that Bob Markunis takes prayer requests for the sick. This will be added to the post's website.
8. 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.
9. 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 .
10. 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