

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on September 11, 2024.

Meetings are normally held at 23 Hutchinson Street, Franklin, MA
on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1900.

Officer Roll Call:

Commander – Dick Hynes	Present
Senior Vice Commander – John Milot	Present
Junior Vice Commander - John Hefele	Excused
Adjutant – Joe Landry	Excused
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms – Dawn Anderson	Present
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Present
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

12 Members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes at 1900.

- Colors posted by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis.
- POW/MIA flag and chair placed at all meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of POW's and MIA's still unaccounted for.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.
- Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion recited by all.

Roll call of all Officers.

- See attendance chart on sheet 1.

Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting:

- A copy of the August meeting minutes were posted on the Post’s website so that members could read them before today’s meeting. Members who had not read them beforehand were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as posted. After a discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion was accepted.

Reading of Communications and Bills:

- None.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- A copy of the August financial report was passed out to all members who were present.
- \$500.00 was transferred to the “Rainy Day Fund” and \$500.00 was transferred to the “Relief & Disaster Fund”.
- The Post is in good financial shape.
- A statement from the “Sons of Legion” was given to the Senior Vice Commander.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report. After a discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion was accepted by the members who were present at the meeting. The financial report will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

Post Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- None.

Senior Vice Commander report (John Milot):

- Membership is at 50% with 46 members paid up. The post is on target.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- None.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- None.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bingo will be held at Cedarwoods on September 21st. A coffee social will be held at the Enclave on September 20th. A movie (Gone With The Wind Part 1) will be shown at Magnolia Heights on September 30th.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None.

Unfinished business:

- Commander Hynes said that the upcoming “Fallen Heroes” ceremony coming up will be the 32nd one to be held on the common. He also said that the October 5th ceremony will be for Eddie Grant and he would like to see the Post have a good showing at this ceremony, as the Post is named for Eddie Grant. He read the biography that will be read at the ceremony.
- “Homes for Troops” provided tee shirts to those members who participated in the Color Guard at their ceremony at the Country Club last month.
- Pat Doyle went to the Veteran’s Expo and said that it was service oriented and was very informative. The Service Officer said that she couldn’t attend it but she got good feedback from it.
- The Junior Vice Commander was excused from the meeting but will provide an update on the cleaning of the Veteran’s plaques at St. Mary’s Cemetery.
- The Ceremony for the awarding of the “Massachusetts Medal of Liberty” will be held in Milford on Saturday, September 21st at 10:00 am. It will be held at the Milford National Guard building. Five Post members can go. Commander Hynes, Senior Vice Commander Milot, Service Officer Nisbett and Chaplain Bob are going. The Service Officer asked the Senior Vice Commander to make up a citation for the Veteran who will be honored.
- Two members from the Post are going to the Department Commander’s Banquet. The Finance Officer will provide a check for \$65.00 to cover the advertisement that will appear in their contribution pamphlet.
- Regarding the “Be The One” promotion, 5,000 people have taken the Columbia University online training program on helping to prevent suicide. It is 90 minutes long. The Quartermaster took the program and said that it is very informative. The next one is September 19th and the next one after that is on September 26th. Both are at 2:30 pm.
- At the previous meeting, there was a discussion on the Post getting liability insurance. The concern was that members who are assisting at the Poker Tournaments might be exposed to liability in case anything happens while they are there. The Finance Officer pointed out that he was told that, because we are only there to collect money, we are not exposed to any liability. Berry Insurance provided information on two policies that we should consider. One is for liability for the Post (roughly \$500.00) and the other one covers Post Officers (roughly \$1,200.00). A motion was made and seconded to purchase liability insurance for the Post. After a discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion was accepted by the members who were present at the meeting. The Finance Officer will take care of this.

New business:

- Commander Hynes and Commander Corruthers of the VFW are working on putting together a list of Veterans who have financial difficulties and who have children who should get presents at Christmas. He also said that there has been a roast beef dinner held at the VFW over the past few years and that we should consider opening this year’s dinner up to all Veterans of Franklin. There would have to be a sign-up sheet for this as there are a limited number of people who could attend. The members of the Post would have to be given a chance to provide input on this first. A motion was made and seconded to support this year’s dinner. After a discussion was held, a vote was taken, and the motion was accepted by the members who were present at the meeting.
- It had been suggested at the previous meeting that a fundraiser be held for the Veteran’s Home. This is something that will be discussed in the spring.
- Janet Bederian has resigned from taking care of the VFW Post building on Pond Street. Ernie Corruthers and his wife will now take care of this. Ernie has a five-year plan to refresh the building, and it was suggested that members of our Post could help out with this.
- Senior Vice Commander Milot said that there are two members who are also members of the “Sons of Legion”. If anyone is interested in joining this, he said to contact him for more information.
- There is a Women’s Veteran’s meeting that will be held on Friday, September 20th at noon. Dawn Anderson and Judy Hynes will be there. This is a “health care workshop” and Café Assisi will provide food.

- The baseball team that the Post supports made it to the finals but lost the first two games.
- There is a women's fast-pitch softball league that has been formed. We were asked by one of the teams if they could be associated with our Post and they were told that they can. They were told that we will not be providing any financial support.

For the good of the Legion:

- None.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer.
- POW/MIA flag retired by SGT At Arms Dawn Anderson.
- Colors retired by SGT at Arms Dawn Anderson.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Hynes.