

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on 9 April 2025.

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
1 st Vice Commander - John Milot	Excused
2 nd Vice Commander - John Hefele	Present
Adjutant - Joe Landry	Present
Finance - Dave Labonte	Present
SGT at Arms - Dawn Anderson	Excused
Chaplain - Bob Markunis	Present
Historian - Steve Szilniczky	Present
Service Officer - Shannon Nisbett	Excused
Quartermaster - Frank Coughlin	Present

13 members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Hynes at 1900.

- Colors posted by Acting SGT at Arms Jim Gurganus.
- 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.
- Officer Roll Call.

Reading the minutes of the previous meeting:

- Minutes of the previous meeting had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read them beforehand. Members who were present at the meeting were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. A vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted.

Reading of Communications and Bills (Dick Hynes):

- A letter from Beckwith Post 110 in Medfield was received, thanking us for our participation in the 100th birthday party for Edwin Kinnon as he became a "centurian".

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- A copy of the financial report for the previous month had been posted on the Post's website so that members could read it beforehand. Members who were present at the meeting were given a hard copy for their evaluation.
- A bill of \$32.00 was received for District 6 dues.
- There is \$1548.00 in the General Fund.
- A check for \$5,979.95 was received from the law office of Vignone & Vignone. This money was from the Estate of Bob Catalano and represents 1% of the distribution of income earned from the trust. The Post will receive another check from the Estate when the principal is distributed later this year. No tax will be due as the Post's income doesn't exceed \$50,000. It was decided to put this money in the General Fund. CDR Hynes will send a "thank you" letter to Paul Molla, the nephew of Bob Catalano.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report. A vote was taken, and the financial report was accepted.

Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- Dick and John Milot attended the luncheon in Marlboro for the National Commander. The National Commander is heavily promoting the "Be The One" program and he said that this program has a special place in his heart because two fellow Legion members reached out to him in his own time of need. He said that he wouldn't be standing there if it hadn't been for them. Dick got one of the Commander's special coins and Dick presented it to John Hefele in gratitude for all that he has done for this program.
- A request has been received from Benchmark at Forge Hill for us to do a Flag Day ceremony at their facility. It will be on Saturday, June 14th at 10:30 am. Joe was asked to do a short speech about the flag and will lead those in attendance in the singing of "God Bless America". It is possible that there will be other facilities that will be requesting our participation, but this was not finalized as of the meeting.
- Schools are looking for Veterans to speak to the students in two classrooms about their experience in the military.
- It was suggested that the Post have a short ceremony for Bob Catalano at his grave on the anniversary of his passing.

1st Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes in John Milot's absence):

- The target for membership is 95% with the Post's percentage being 85.87% (79 members). Out of 28 Posts in the county, we are in 19th place.

2nd Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- Regarding Poppy sales at the Memorial Day parade, there are three teams of people who will be doing this.
- Some of the "buddy check" packs have been returned and a few still need to be completed.
- The Commander of the Norfolk Post was going to be contacted to see if he can loan us one of his rifles for the Memorial Day parade, but Lori Shaaf said that she thought he had sent them back to Michigan. The Wrentham Post will be contacted to see if we can borrow one of theirs.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- Draft of the 2024 Annual report has been finalized and will be voted on at the next meeting.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- None.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- All outreach programs are proceeding as usual.
- Bob told the Historian that he has many pictures that he will provide so that they can be digitized and recorded.

Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):

- None

Unfinished business:

- CDR Hynes expressed his disappointment with Frank McDonald, the editor of the Legionaire magazine, about not putting an article in the magazine regarding our "Fallen Heroes" ceremonies. He will contact him again along with pictures.
- CDR Hynes met with the parents of Ella Hutchinson regarding her participation in Girls State, which will be held from June 14-20. He said that she is a great young woman with a 3.8 GPA average and is very active in school clubs. She also said that she knows someone who would be a good candidate for Boy's State.
- CDR Hynes also interviewed the mother of Cole McHenry about Boy's State. This was the young man that Ella was referring to. He has his sights on going to Norwich University and wants to be in the military. He has a 3.8 GPA and is in the lacrosse league. His grandfather was a 1968 graduate of West Point. The fee for both Boy's and Girl's State has been paid for.
- A discussion was held regarding a young man from Norfolk who wanted to go to Boy's State. It was suggested that Post 75 pay for his fee if the Norfolk Post can't do it. Joe Collins asked if Post 75 would offer financial support to a girl if one is identified. CDR Hynes said that the State could come up with the money if that happens.
- CDR Hynes thanked Joe for creating a "Welcome to Post 75" information sheet that explains the many activities that the Post participates in. This sheet will be given to new members as well as members when they renew their membership. Tim App was the first member to get a copy.

New business:

- Nominations for Officers in the upcoming year are now open. This would be for the position of Commander, First Vice Commander and Second Vice Commander. All other Officer positions are appointed roles.
- The State Convention will be held from June 6-8 in Marlboro again this year. CDR Hynes suggested that everyone attend this as it is very informative. The Post has paid for four tickets. Members cannot simply show up.
- The Department is sponsoring a "Legion College training program" at the Vernon Hill Post on May 17th.
- Lisa McPhee, the Department Adjutant announced that she will be taking her office on the road. She will spend the day at different locations around the state from time to time. CDR Hynes will put in a request to have her come to Franklin.
- There will be a POW/MIA ceremony at Battleship Cove in September. Our rifle team will participate.
- A group of five Post members will visit the VA Hospital in Brockton soon. Matt McGrath will take care of getting the pizzas.
- At this time, there are three people who play the bugle at the "Fallen Heroes" ceremonies. They are Jen O'Zempa, Randy LaRosa and Tim O'Toole. Each bugler has the names of the other buglers in case they need to contact each other.
- Flags will be placed at Veteran's graves by three Scout Troops at Union Street Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery and City Mills Cemetery on May 24th at 10:00. Frank Coughlin is coordinating this.
- Anyone who wants to go to the Memorial Day weekend breakfast at the Senior Center needs to let Debra Martin know as soon as possible. There are a limited number of tickets available, and none will be available at the door.
- There is a new US Navy bell that will be used at the ceremony at the common when the names of deceased Veterans are called out.

For the good of the Legion:

- None.

Closing the meeting:

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