

# American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

Franklin, MA 02038-0042

Telephone: 508-517-9909 Website: <http://www.mapost75.com>



## Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on February 12, 2025.

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

### Officer Roll Call:

Commander – Dick Hynes	Present
Senior Vice Commander – John Milot	Present
Junior Vice Commander - John Hefele	Present
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

**13 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.
- Officer Roll Call.

### Introduction of guests:

- CDR Hynes introduced Tobi Whelan who was at the Coffee social at the Senior Center and expressed an interest in joining the Post. She served in the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the National Guard out of Norman, Oklahoma for eight years and served one year in Afghanistan.

- Senior Vice CDR Milot introduced Henry Raposa from Medway. He was drafted in 1967 and joined the American Legion in 1970. He served in various positions in the Post in Port Charlotte, Florida.

**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. Copies were not available at this meeting and will be tabled until the next meeting.

**Reading of Communications and Bills: (Dick Hynes)**

- He reported that PJ Comer, a past Department CDR had passed away.

**Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):**

- He reported that the debits exceeded the credits. The three Poker tournaments that will be held over the next few weeks will increase our funds.
- 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.
- 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.

**Senior Vice Commander report (John Milot):**

- He reported that the Legion’s membership target is 85% and Post 75 is currently at 81.5% with 75 members. We would need 78 members to reach 85%. Post 75 is 21<sup>st</sup> out of 29 for the District.
- He noted that some Posts pay for all their member’s dues up front and then the members pay their Post back later. This gives them 100% membership. CDR Hynes said that our Post is not able to do this.

**Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):**

- He reported that he oversees the six rifles that are used for the Color Guard. These rifles belong to the US Army and are loaned to us by them. He is required to send in a certificate to the Army every three years to tell them that he still has the rifles. He said that this process has been made easier because they digitized the process.
- He reported that Post 75 is affiliated with a ladies’ “Fast Pitch Softball” team from the western part of Massachusetts named “Franklin Fury”. We don’t give them any financial support. They are only affiliated with us. They came in fourth place, but it was noted that there are only four teams in their league.

**Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):**

- He reported that he is still working on last year’s annual report. He is still hoping for a display case.

**Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):**

- He reported that he has some jackets that are available for purchase. He is having someone sew the patches onto the jackets so that they are ready to go.

**Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):**

- He reported that the four outreach programs are going strong. He had to cancel the Bingo on February 4<sup>th</sup> because he was “off his feet”. John Hefele did not attend either, as he had the flu.

**Service Officer report (Shannon Nisbett):**

- She reported that the Senior Center will be closed for a few weeks in March for repairs and the Coffee Social will be located somewhere else.

## Unfinished business:

- The Junior Vice Commander took over the “Be The One” buddy check program for the Post. He suggested that the Officers in the Post sign up for this and if anyone would not like to participate, they should let him know. He will provide packages of information at the next meeting for those who do sign up.
- Columbia University has a special “suicide training” video that is available online.
- Changes to the By-Laws have been made and copies were distributed to all members who were present. The changes were as follows:
  - The only Officer positions that will be elected positions are the Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander. The other positions will be appointed.
  - The Senior Vice Commander will be responsible for membership achieving 100%.
  - The Junior Vice Commander will be responsible for communications with the membership and the community at large.
  - The meeting night was changed to be the Second Wednesday of each month.
  - A Scholarship committee was established to give a \$500.00 scholarship to two qualifying Franklin High School graduates.
  - A “Be The One” committee was established.
- After a discussion was held, a motion was made and seconded to accept the changes to the Post 75 By-Laws. A vote was taken, and the changes to the By-Laws were accepted.
- CDR Hynes recently applied for a “Community Service” award for the Post to recognize the “Fallen Heroes” ceremonies that are held on the Common. He reported that we received the award.
- CDR Hynes is still working on the next newsletter.
- The three upcoming Poker Tournaments that we will be attending are February 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The flags that are flown downtown on the day of a Veteran’s funeral continue to be flown. Last year, roughly 113-man hours were devoted to this effort. It was noted that the flag that is placed in front of the H & R Block office gets tangled up in the tree that is there. Also, it was noted that if weather conditions make it difficult to put the flags up, the people can decide to put up fewer flags, especially if there are icy conditions that make this difficult.
- Matt McGrath reported that there is a tentative date of March 6<sup>th</sup> for a visit to the VA Hospital in Brockton, where we visit the patients and play games with them and share pizza too. We have been told that the patients enjoy our company.

## New business (CDR Hynes)

- He reported that the people at Starbucks who provide refreshments at the monthly Coffee Socials at the Senior Center will be honored at the April social event. He suggested that the Post have a plaque made up to show our appreciation. This was agreed upon by members with a voice vote.
- He reported that our Rifle Squad has made a commitment to march in the Norfolk Memorial Day parade. However, their parade starts at the same time as our parade, so he said that if anyone was thinking about being in the rifle squad, now is the time to join. Since we have six rifles, we could provide a squad at both parades if we have enough qualified people.
- He said that this year’s Department Convention will be held from June 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, most likely in Marlboro. He suggested that people go to this.
- He said that Scott Connor is a candidate for Department Commander and is holding a “backyard” barbeque at the Paxton Post on May 10th.
- He said that Bob Jurgen is running for Senior Vice Commander this year and is having an event on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Dedham American Legion.
- He reported that the Department gives scholarships to the children and grandchildren of members in good standing each year. Ten \$1,000.00 scholarships and ten \$500.00 scholarships are awarded to graduating high school students.

- He reported that there will be a “POW/MIA” ceremony in September at Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA. Our Rifle Squad will be attending as well as members from two other Posts. Senior Vice CDR Milot is in charge of this event.
- He said that the Vernon Hill Post is holding a “Legion College” on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> that will teach such things as leadership, how to run a meeting properly, resolution rating and train the trainer programs.

**For the good of the Legion:**

- It was noted that there will be a Veteran’s Resource Event that will be held at Gillette Stadium on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- It was noted that the VA Hospital that is under construction in Holyoke is progressing nicely.

**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.