

American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75

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Minutes of the in-person meeting that was held on 10 April 2024.

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

Officer Roll Call:

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

16 Members were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Commander Milot at 1905.

- Colors posted by Pat Doyle, Acting as SGT at Arms).
- Opening prayer offered by Chaplain Bob Markunis.
- POW/MIA 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 March meeting minutes was passed out to all members who were present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion was accepted, and the March minutes will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.
- Dave Labonte suggested that the minutes of the meeting should be posted on the Post's website before the next meeting so that the membership can read them ahead of time. Moving forward, this will be done.

Reading of Communications and Bills (Dick Hynes):

- A letter was received from the "Memorial Day Foundation" to see if we would like to contribute to their "Wreaths Across the Pond" fundraising drive to honor and remember American service members who are buried in overseas cemeteries. A motion was made and seconded to contribute \$50.00. After a discussion, the motion was voted on and approved by the members.
- An e-mail was received from the "American Legion Baseball National" to let us know that \$22,000 to \$25,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving baseball players each year. Each Department baseball committee can select a deserving player from its department. Several scholarships will be awarded each year, depending on the number of applicants received and the amount of interest that has been earned in the trust fund. Dick will give this information to Tyler Pasquarosa, the coach of our baseball team.
- A letter from the "Franklin Food Pantry" was received to let us know that any donations received by April 30th will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a maximum of \$25,000.00. A motion was made and seconded to contribute \$50.00. After a discussion, the motion was voted on and approved by the members.
- A letter was received from Wayne Ross, who is a disabled Veteran in Post 144 in Scituate. He is a quadriplegic who is hoping to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New Orleans, LA in July. He is asking for funds to cover his transportation and lodging for himself and his personal care attendant. A motion was made and seconded to contribute \$50.00. After a discussion, the motion was voted on and approved by the members.
- A "thank you" note was received from the family of Bob Catalano, expressing thanks to the Post for our participation in his funeral.
- A flyer for the "22 Mohawks Trivia Night" event was received. It will be held on May 3rd at the Norwood Elks Lodge. Cost is \$25.00 per ticket or \$200.00 for a table of 10.
- A request was made by the Norfolk Post for our color guard. CDR Milot will get back to them with an answer.
- Dick gave CDR Milot the permit for our participation in Walpole's Poker Night.

Finance Officer report (Dave Labonte):

- A copy of the March financial report was passed out to all members who were present.
- Dave noted that a duplicate payment of \$10.00 was made to the Coral Grout Leadership Fund. Dave was not sure how this happened.
- Dave asked Chaplain Bob if we should keep Operation Care Package going and he said yes.
- Dave asked Tyler Pasquarosa for a schedule of games that the baseball team will be playing. He had not gotten a response yet. John Hefele said that he will contact Tyler to tell him about the baseball scholarship and he will bring this up with him at that time.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the March financial report. The motion was accepted, and the March financial report will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

Senior Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):

- Dick reported that the Post membership is currently at 116% for the year, with 87 members active. Our target was 75 members.
- Joe gave Dick the remaining 2024 membership cards of those who still have not paid their dues. He will contact them to see if they want to renew their membership.

Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

- John announced that nominations for Post Officers are now being taken and they will close by the May meeting. Members can nominate a member for each Officer post, except the Adjutant which is an appointed position. John said that there is a form on the Post website for this purpose. The filled-out ballot will be sent to the Adjutant by e-mail and he will keep track of the votes. If only one person is nominated to a position, then that person will be voted in by acclamation, which will take place at the June meeting. Otherwise, a vote by ballot will be taken on the position.
- CDR Milot asked if there was anyone who did not wish to be nominated for a position. Nobody responded to his request.
- CDR Milot announced that he will be stepping down as the Post Commander and will assume the Senior Vice Commander position, while Dick Hynes will assume command of the Post. CDR Milot will be the new District Commander and he felt that he would not be able to do both jobs efficiently. He will remain active in the Post, though.
- Dick will see how many poppies we have on hand. If more are needed, John Hefele will order more. Shannon said that 130 poppies will be needed for the Memorial Day Breakfast.
- A request for a Color Guard at the Enclave was received for Flag Day, which is June 14th. John will provide a speech for this event in case he cannot attend. John will contact the staff at the Enclave to see if some of our members could visit the patients in their memory unit. This would be a separate thing from Flag Day.
- An Eagle Scout wants to help with cleaning the Veterans plaques at the cemeteries as a project.
- Visits to the Brockton VA Hospital might resume in the spring or on a quarterly basis.

Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

- He is just about finished with the annual report (80% done). He hopes to have it finished within a week.

Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

- Frank still has few jackets and pants.

Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Bingo is still being held at Benchmark and at Cedarwood Gardens.
- A movie will be shown at Magnolia Heights. This month's movie is "Seawolfs".

Unfinished business:

- Senior Vice reported that the \$65.00 that Ernie Carruthers owed us will be donated to the VFW Post 3402 to help cover the cost of the Veteran's luncheon that was held at the Post on March 29th.
- Dick and CDR Milot will be interviewing Lea Viola for Girls State and they will also interview Willow Ogle for Girls State too. Lorelai Eidswick (a past Girls State recipient) recruited these two young ladies. There are no candidates for Boy's State this year.
- Dick and CDR Milot will be interviewing Aquila Rossi, a student at Tri-County Vocational School for the State Trooper program. He is 16 years old and is highly recommended.
- Dick said that he and a few members went to the National Commander's Banquet and heard him speak. CDR Milot got an autographed picture of the National Commander and it was given to the Historian.

- Joseph Paulette and Russell Shaw (2 Vietnam Veterans) had their “Fallen Heroes” ceremonies held on April 9th. John Kell will have his ceremony on April 17th and John Pasquantonio will have his on April 30th. Charles Christakes will have his on May 11th.
- It was noted that the flag on the common for the Merchant Marines was in bad shape and should be replaced. Shannon will notify the DPW.
- We hope to provide the Color Guard for the Post’s first baseball game of the season, once we know the date.
- The Post’s luncheon at the Rome Restaurant will be rescheduled, possibly in May. Matt will look into this.

New business:

- Dick read a copy of a letter that had been sent by Sandra Davis and Lisa McPhee to Governor Healey’s office to express their dissatisfaction with the Commonwealth’s plan to give “illegal migrants” preference over homeless Veterans in the Chelsea Soldier’s Home. They felt that preference should be given to our Veterans first.
- Dick said that the Post By-Laws need to be revised. He doesn’t feel that they should be sent to the State in their present condition. There are things in there that are not being done and if we’re not doing them, then they should be removed. The Post needs to have an Executive Committee formed, which will consist of three members (other than Post Officers). Pat Doyle, Dawn Anderson and Judy Hynes agreed to be members of this Committee. These positions are elected positions and will be added to the nominating ballot. This Committee can meet on a quarterly basis. Standing Committees also need to be created too. Once the By-Laws are finalized, they will be voted on at the June meeting.
- Dick created a newsletter for the members to evaluate. There are 28 members who don’t have e-mail addresses so they will receive copies by snail mail. Dawn volunteered to help in putting them in envelopes, adding labels and stamps, etc.
- John Hefele said that he will take charge of the Buddy Check list.
- We are signed up for the Strawberry Stroll, which will take place on Friday, June 7th.

For the good of the Legion:

- No report.

Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer. Colors retired by Pat Doyle, acting as SGT at Arms.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Milot.