# American Legion, Edward L. Grant Post 75 43 Main Street, P.O. Box 42

Franklin, MA 02038-0042

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

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 - 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	Excused
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 Milot at 1900.

- Colors posted by Jim McNeil, 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.

### Suspension of Meeting:

• A motion was made and seconded to suspend the meeting so that Tyler Pasquarosa could speak to the members. The motion was accepted, and Tyler gave his presentation. He has been the coach of the baseball team that Post 75 sponsors for the past three years. He said that Post 75 has been sponsoring the team for 13 years and has won the State Title for the last two years. The team will now move on to the New England Regional. The team members wear American Legion patches on their uniforms, and he makes sure that they represent the Legion and the town in the right way. CDR Milot suggested that we have the Post Color Guard walk in at their first game of the season. Tyler said that the cost of the uniforms is around \$300.00, and the parents are happy that they only have to pay that much as compared with other activities. Aluminum bats are used instead of wood. Players from surrounding communities can play. He said that it costs \$600.00 for 25 ballcaps and \$60.00 for a dozen baseballs. He has a number of trophies in his possession and 2 Champion Flags too. It was suggested that CDR Milot throw out the first ball at the first game next season.

#### Meeting resumed:

• When Tyler was finished with his presentation, a motion was made and seconded to resume the meeting. The motion was accepted, and the meeting resumed.

## Reading of the minutes for the previous meeting:

A copy of the February 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 February minutes
will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

### Reading of Communications and Bills:

- Paul Molla, the representative of the "Random Smile Project" sent a thank you note to the Post for our donation of \$50.00 in memory of Bob Catalano.
- The Town of Franklin sent a thank you note to the Post for our donation of \$1,000.00 to the Monument Restoration Project in memory of Bruce Watkins.
- A "thank you" note was received from Jaimie Hellen, the town Administrator for our donation to the Monument Restoration Project.
- A notice was received from the Department, stating that Coral May Grout would be leading the National Legion Auxiliary in 2027. There will be a raffle for a Webber Grill and a cooler filled with things for a Fourth of July picnic. Dave Labonte bought tickets for this raffle.
- A letter from the Department was received regarding "Homes for Troops", telling us that they are building homes in our community and that we should spread the word.

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

- A copy of the February financial report was passed out to all members who were present.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was accepted, and the February financial report will be posted on the Legion Post 75 website.

- CDR Milot asked Dave if the Post had paid \$180.00 for 4 tickets to the National Commander's Banquet. Dave said that he had paid for the tickets, but the check had not cleared yet.
- Dave said that he went to the Walpole Town Hall to pay \$50.00 for the Poker Tournament permit fee.

## **Senior Vice Commander report (Dick Hynes):**

- Dick said that our membership is at 114.67% and we are still leading the district. He said that 5 out of 28 Posts are at 100%. We are number one in the county.
- Dick said that three calls were made to members in Post 462 (the holding Post) to see if they would be interested in transferring to our Post. One was not interested and the other two never responded.
- Joe said that Richard Sousa was transferred from Post 462 and is now a member of our Post.
- Dick asked Shannon if she had ordered street sign flags yet and she said that she had ordered them.

## Junior Vice Commander report (John Hefele):

No report.

## Historian report (Steve Szilniczky):

• Steve is hammering out an annual report. He will access the archives of the minutes of the meetings to see if there is anything important and he will present this for evaluation.

## Quartermaster report (Frank Coughlin):

No report.

## Chaplain report (Bob Markunis):

- Visitations are being kept up. Bingo and movies are still being held.
- He is trying to arrange for the Color Guard to meet our returning troops at Logan Airport. There is an upcoming unit that is going to Syria.

#### Unfinished business:

- The Post still does not have a candidate for Boys State or Girls State.
- Dick contacted Brenna Ferrick at Tri-County Vocational High School about the State Trooper program
  there. Brenna will select a candidate to attend this program. Dick will meet with the candidate first
  before he or she is accepted.
- Dick said that the Department Convention will be held from 7-9 June. All are welcome to attend. Saturday is when the most work is done.
- The "Fallen Heroes Program" is going well. Steve Sherlock is a regular attendee and has posted the roster on the town's website.
- The VFW Corned Beef Dinner that the Sullivan family sponsored on March 16 was not well attended.
  The food was excellent but the number of people who attended was disappointing. Before Covid, they
  would order 100 pounds of corned beef. This year, they ordered 60 pounds and they had a lot of beef
  left over.
- On March 28th, there will be a "pinning" ceremony and luncheon at Gillette Stadium for Vietnam Veterans from 10:30 to 12:30. Veterans can bring a guest.
- On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the VFW Post 3402 will hold a luncheon at 12:00 for Vietnam and Vietnam-Era Veterans. Spouses will not be invited this year so that they can see how it goes.
- Dick said that he reminded Ernie Carruthers about the \$65.00 that the VFW owes us and Ernie said that he will forward a check as soon as possible.

- A motion was made and seconded to discuss the Post making a donation to the baseball team. The motion was accepted, and the discussion was held. Dave said that there is enough money to make a donation but it will leave us tight. There is nothing scheduled to replenish the funds right now. He said that some Posts pay for everything for their baseball teams but we are not able to do that. A motion was made and seconded for the Post to make a \$300.00 donation to the team. The motion was accepted and the Post will make the contribution.
- The Rome Restaurant banquet for the Post will be discussed at next month's meeting.

#### New business:

- Franklin High School has reinstated a "Community Service" requirement for the graduating class of 2028. It was suggested that we try to get students to help out with such things as putting flags on Veteran's graves on Memorial Day.
- John Hefele said that his request for instructions on how to clean the VFW caps was finally answered. He was told that they should be soaked in Woolite and air-dryed. He did this and he said that it did a very nice job.
- Chaplain Bob asked the members if they had any suggestions on how he could raise funds for his upcoming trip to North Carolina with his church group. They will be going there to help repair houses and there are 18 people going. This will be from July 6 to 13. He was not asking members for money. He simply was asking for ideas on how he could do fundraising. His cost would be \$900.00.
- The Department Adjutant sent out a memo which described a program that will assist Posts to make money. Star Market/Shaws has a program where each store chooses a local non-profit to support each month. That store would receive \$1.00 for every purchase of a "Give it Back Where It Counts" reusable bag that is sold for \$3.00. The program is designed to support local non-profits as well as to support the environment. Our Post meets their requirements for this program. A motion was made and seconded to sign up for this program. The motion was accepted, and Dick will sign us up.
- Dick reported that Jon Santiago, the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs was at the monthly coffee social
  at the Senior Center to answer questions from Veterans. Dick said that he was a very sharp guy. He
  also wrote him a nice "thank you" letter to tell him how grateful we were that he was there. He also
  offered the Post's support if he ever needs it.
- There is an online training program at Columbia University for those who want to learn about interacting with Veterans in crisis. This training is 1-1½ hour long.

### For the good of the Legion:

• On April 1<sup>st</sup>, nominations for Post Officers will take place. This nomination process lasts until May when it is closed. The Officers will be elected at the June meeting. Junior Vice-Commander will put the nomination process on the Post's website. People who are nominated must accept or decline the nomination. If only one person is nominated, they will be approved by acclamation. If more than one is nominated, then a vote will be taken.

### Closing the meeting:

- Chaplain Bob Markunis led members in prayer. Colors retired by Jim McNeil, Acting as SGT at Arms.
- The meeting was adjourned by Commander Milot.