



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ***Squadron 90, Cape Coral, FL 33904***

1401 Southeast 47th Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33904 • 239.540.8128

Meeting of the Membership Squadron 90

Presiding: John Baker, Commander

Recording: Keith Berres, Adjutant

Date: April 13, 2026, **Begin Time:** 7:05 PM **End Time:** 7:44 PM

Call to Order (1 rap of the gavel)

Remind everyone to turn cell phones off.

Sergeant-at-Arms announces the meeting at the canteen & secures the door.

Opening Ceremony

Stand (3 raps of the gavel)

Hand Salute: Present Arms, Order Arms

Uncover

Commander: - “All members/guests in attendance shall remain standing with their cap removed and placed over the heart from the opening prayer, through the POW/MIA ceremony and concluding with the Pledge of Allegiance”.

Opening Prayer – The Chaplain will offer prayer.

POW/MIA Empty Chair

Please join me at the **POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony:**

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th National Convention and Resolution NC 2-94, adopted at the 23rd National Convention of the Sons of the American Legion, calls for designating a POW/MIA “Empty Chair” at all official meetings of The Sons of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all the wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for

all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing.

Let us dedicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

Sgt. at Arms please place the POW/MIA flag on the "Empty Chair"). Please observe a moment of silence for those who are serving and who served in defending our country from all wars and conflicts. (60 seconds of silence should be observed).

Pledge of Allegiance: (Sgt at Arms)

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Recover: Everyone will recover.

Commander: Please join me in reciting the Sons of the American Legion Preamble

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all Wars, associate ourselves together as Sons of the American Legion for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.
- to maintain law and order.
- to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism.
- to preserve the memories of our former members and associations of our members and our forefathers in all wars.
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses.
- to make right the master of might.
- to promote peace and goodwill on earth.
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

- to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."
- To adopt in letter and spirit of all the great principles for which The American Legion stands and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Call Meeting to Order: One rap of the gavel.

Commander: I now declare the meeting Squadron 90 of the Sons of the American Legion of SWF Post 90, Department of Florida regularly convened.

Business Order

Roll Call: All Officers were present except:

Excused –

Absent –

Determination of Quorum: A total of 10 members and officers are present. Quorum (minimum of 4 members of good standing) was met.

Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests

- None

Approval of Minutes from Previous Membership Meeting:

The March 2026 Membership meeting minutes are posted for review on the Squadron 90 bulletin board at the Post and on the Legion Post 90 website.

Motion to accept the March 2026 membership meeting minutes as posted was made by Mark Keeling, seconded by Sean Wing, Discussion - None. Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Officer Nomination Reading

Commander – Mark Keeling

1st Vice Commander – Elon Hertzfeld

2nd Vice Commander – Larry Horner

Finance Officer – No candidates

Chaplain – Roland Meadows

Historian – Tony Gregg

Sgt at Arms – Nick Napolitano, Tony Truzzolino

Initiation of Prospective New Members

Keith Berres, Adjutant, reads the following:

New Member

William Clark, Father, Army

Terry J Toman, Father, Army

Dan M Wagner, Father, Army

Marvin Wisher, Father, Army

Transfers

Anthony Dellipaoli, NJ 139, Father, Army

Brian Sheridan, RI 43, Father, Navy

Is anyone present whose name was read? (If so, have them introduce themselves). None were present.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if any of these personnel are present, please escort them out of the room so we may vote them in.

Does anyone have any reason not to accept any of these as new members?

A motion to accept the new members into Squadron 90 subject to completion of the vetting process by the Adjutant was made by Elon Hertzfeld, seconded by Chris Antonelois, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Commander Report (John Baker)

- Running 50/50 raffles when the date is open for Legion events.
- The Squadron 90 officer election will be held next month on Monday, May 11 from 1:00 to 6:59 PM. The Adjutant will need at least two election officers to verify members, and hand out and count ballots. John Baker, Chris Antonelis and Sean Wing volunteer to conduct the election and count the ballots.
- The next membership meeting will be Monday, May 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM at which time the new Commander's appointments will be approved.
- The Post Everlasting Ceremony will be on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 starting at 1:00 PM.
- Legion Convention is June 11-14, 2026. If you are attending and need a room, contact Adjutant Keith Berres as soon as possible.

- The installation of officers will be held on June 28, 2026, with the cocktail hour at noon and the meeting commencing at 1:00 PM.
- Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. Like last year I would like Squadron 90 to host breakfast from 8:00 AM to noon. Mothers and future Mothers eat free and get a rose. Everyone else pays. John B needs some volunteers to help with cooking, serving, taking money, dishwashing and cleaning. A 50/50 raffle should also be held.

1st Vice Commander Report (Chris Antonellis):

- Nothing to report

2nd Vice Commander Report (Larry Horner):

- Basket for SAL is going on this month. Please help promote the basket.
- Gun raffle will be starting soon.

Finance Officer Report (Submitted by Mark Keeling):

- March 1, 2026, beginning balance: \$9,919.65
- Deposits total: \$934.00
- Charges and withdrawals total: \$154.00
- March 31, 2026, Ending Balance: \$10,699.65
- Honor Flight Escrow: \$2,371.43
- March 31, 2026, Available Balance: \$8,328.22

A motion to accept the March 2026 finance report, subject to audit, was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Peter Burt, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Adjutant Report (Keith Berres)

- As of April 13, 2026, Squadron 90 has 241 paid members for 2026. This is 101.69% of the target goal of 237 members. With the 6 members just approved and dues collected this weekend, the Squadron will have 245 paid members or 103.76% of the goal.

Sergeant-at-Arms Report (Tony Truzzolino).

- Nothing to report

Chaplain Report (Elon Hertzfeld):

- "Be Nice to People"

Judge Advocate Report (Open)

- None

Committee Reports **If any– Limited to 3 minutes per report (reminder that all committee reports should be submitted via email so they can be included in the minutes):**

- **Legion Advisor** – John Baker (SAL Commander):
 - Family Member of the year – Larry Horner to be nominated
- **Americanism** – Nothing to report
- **BE the One** – Nothing to report
- **Honor Flight** – Monies allocated
- **American Legion Baseball** – Joe has not returned
- **Children and Youth (Families)** –
Motion to give \$300 to Child Well Being Foundation by Keith Berres, seconded by Sean Wing, Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed
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Unfinished Business:

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New Business:

- Squadron 90 has received a request from Christian Rapp, Detachment Adjutant, for Squadron 90 to donate to Squadron Commander Michael Nigbor's charity (COTA, Children's Organ Transplant Association). Adjutant Rapp suggested \$50.00 to \$100.00. This was tabled until next month's meeting.
- Gun Raffle, Larry Horner is to secure the firearm and Keith to print the tickets.

Motion to authorize up to \$750 for annual Gun Raffle by Sean Wing, seconded by Chris Antonellis, Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed

The Good of the Sons of the American Legion (The membership shall be permitted to make suggestions of any kind, character, or description, save religion or partisan politics. Time is limited to 2 minutes per person.

- May 9th is the blood drive.
- If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, you cannot purchase adult beverages and must sign-in as a guest of a member. If you do not renew by July 1, 2026, you must rejoin for 2027, and your continuous years will begin a “1”.
- Post 90 is adhering to the Florida law which requires all family members (Legion, SAL and Auxiliary) of Post 90 to present their membership card to the bartender before ordering an alcoholic beverage. If you do not have your card or a current 2026 card, you will be a guest and must be signed in by a card-carrying member.
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Motion To Close:

Motion to close the meeting was made by xxxxx, seconded by xxxxx, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Closing Ceremony

Stand (3 raps of the gavel)

Uncover

Closing Prayer – Chaplain recites a prayer

Recover

Retrieve the POW/MIA Flag: Squadron 90 members are to join the Sergeant-at-Arms with a slow salute as the POW/MIA flag is recovered.

Sergeant-at-Arms, recovers the POW/MIA flag.

Commander: Till we meet again let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of The Sons of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. Face the flag.

Hand Salute: Present Arms, Order Arms.

MEETING CLOSURE

Commander: I now declare the meeting of Squadron 90 the Sons of the American Legion of SWF Post 90, Department of Florida regularly adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Everyone was reminded to turn their phones back on.

Keith Berres, Adjutant