

CAPE LEGION'S VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Cape Coral, Florida - Post #90



JULY-AUGUST 2023



COMMANDER'S CORNER

With Keith Berres

Hello to the Post 90 Family,

As the Commander for this past year, I would like to thank everyone at the Post that made this year a success. We saw many opportunities, challenges, and changes. The biggest challenge was that of Hurricane Ian. On September 28, 2022, life changed in Cape Coral as one of the worst storms to hit the United States hit our area and disrupted our lives. With this challenge, we saw our Post and its members come together and work together to bring normalcy back to our lives. The Post suffered over \$100,000 worth of damage and between insurance and the Legion NEF fund was able to implement repairs with minimal funds from our own accounts. One big item from the storm is the future addition of an awning in the front of the building. This will allow members to enjoy sitting outside and not worry about the rain and direct sunlight. This addition will include fans and lighting to make the area usable all day and evening.

Our Post won several awards this past year at the American Legion of Florida Department Convention. We won the following awards: 100%+1 membership, Runner-up Best Post Four Chaplains Memorial Service, Runner-up Best Post Public Relations Program, Best Post Shooting Sports Program, Outstanding Post Scouting Program and Best Post JROTC Program. We also had a Legionnaire from our Post win the prestigious Legionnaire of the Year award. John Baker has dedicated much of his time to the American Legion and deserved this recognition. We also received a National TALMA award for the work done by Ted Clark and his team.

This next year will be a year of new challenges. My goal is to get more involvement of our membership in our post. I have continually mentioned the need for more volunteers. Many seem to think of the Post as just a lounge or bar. The American Legion Post is a place for members to become involved in the four pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. We have open officer positions and chairs that need to be filled. We are a Post that has a reputation of getting things done but, due to attrition and the lack of others stepping in to volunteer, we are starting to see an erosion of our programs.

The incoming Department of Florida Commander has set a goal to increase membership across the state. This month begins our membership drive for 2024. 1st Vice Commander Ted Clark has been challenged to continue to increase our membership at the Post. As 1st Vice Commander, his responsibilities include membership growth. He is the chairman of the Membership Committee and I am confident that he will do a great job at promoting our Post and recruiting new members. As an incentive to renew your membership early, we will be having an Early Bird Reception for those members that renew their 2024 membership before September 8th, 2023. The reception will be held on September 30th of 2023..

For God and Country,

American Legion Post 90 Commander,

Keith Berres



Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is safe & well. If you know of anyone else who is sick or passed away recently in our American Legion Post 90 membership, please let me know. You can reach me at: (239)313-8630.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Chaplain,

Jerry Gray



July 4th Raffle
First ticket drawn gets large basket
Second ticket drawn gets small basket

\$5 donation per ticket
Buy 4 and get 1 for free

Drawing to be held at 5 pm on July 4th
Need not be present to win

Proceeds to be used for Dept Commander Project



"How else are we going to pay for the war?"



The jokes above were submitted by Amy O'Neill. Thank you! I am looking for some clean and funny Military Jokes for the American Legion Post 90 Newsletter. If you have any, please email, text, or call me. Please include your full name for recognition.

strawjazz1978@gmail.com

[\(239\)322-6945](tel:(239)322-6945)

Sincerely,

Chairman & Editor of American Legion Post 90 Newsletter,

Amy M. O'Neill





JOHN'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

We are closing on completing the repairs caused by Hurricane Ian. We will be replacing the old front canopy with a roof over the entire patio. The contract has been let and the contractor is working with Jay Bissel in coordinating the work and permitting. Hopefully, the patio roof will be installed before the end of the year. We are still waiting on having the two canopies on the west side of the building installed. The next project will be replacing all of the bar stools.

We are planning on having special dinners at least once a month throughout the summer. So, keep your calendars open as events could happen in a moment's notice. It is hard to believe that the NFL pre-season begins in the middle of August and the regular season starts in September. When the regular NFL season begins, the Post kitchen will be open.

Post 90's Service Officer is Lakesha "Keshia" Penn. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to call her.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Second Vice Commander,

John Baker





JOHN'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

We have several new officers and executive committeemen for the 2023-2024 year. Since Wayne Cave retired, and I was elected as the Post Adjutant. I will be managing all membership renewals, transfers and new member applications. If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact me by phone, text or email. We ended the fiscal year at 102.67%. Post 90 gained 85 new members and had an additional 22 new members through transfer from the Headquarters Post (0400).

If you need to obtain your DD-214, here is a link to get it:
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.

Remember, the Post holds its Membership Meetings every fourth Monday of the month beginning at 7:00 pm. Typically, they last 55 minutes to an hour, and much information is processed, gained, and approved during the meetings. Post 90 belongs to you, the members, so, please come to the meetings and express your rights.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Adjutant,

John Baker



CONTINUE TO SERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Children & Youth Programs
- Scholarship & Financial Aid
- Veterans Legislation & Benefits
- National Security & Protection of Our Flag

I WANT YOU

TO JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 90

1401 SE 47th St. Cape Coral, FL 33904 (239) 540-8128 Post90swf.org

Membership in the American Legion is open to all Veterans who have served on active duty with an honorable discharge. **COME JOIN US!** Mail in the application, use the website, call, or visit us.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Gender: Male Female Branch of service _____ Dues \$40

I certify by forwarding this application that I served at least one day of active military duty and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably. Membership is \$40 per year. Recruiter: PR Committee Alpost90cape@yahoo.com



POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



American Legion Post 90 of Cape Coral Wins Multiple Awards at Florida State Convention

The American Legion Department hosted its 104th statewide convention on June 15th-June 18th, 2023, at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Post 90 of Cape Coral had a total of 15 members at the convention and performed exceptionally well, earning seven awards for the Best Post JROTC Program, the Outstanding Post Scouting Program, the Best Post Shooting Program, runner-up for the Best Post Four Chaplains Service, runner-up for the Best Post Public Relations Program and a 100%+1 goal award for membership. However, the most prestigious honor was awarded to John Baker as Legionnaire of the Year in recognition of John's hard work throughout the year. That makes it two years in a row that Post 90 has received this honor! Ted Clark, Post PR officer, was Legionnaire of the Year last year.

John Baker stated, "he had been surprised twice this year, and this award was one of them." John is the Second Vice Commander at Post 90 and has held Legion officer positions of Judge Advocate, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Second Vice Commander, and Commander. He is also a Post Honor and Color Guard member and serves as the Adjutant and Chaplain for the SAL (Sons of Legionnaires) of Post 90. John has been a member of the American Legion since 1971 and has 25 continuous years of service.

Approximately 3,000 American Legion members, including spouses and family members, attended the convention. There was something for everyone to enjoy at this significant event, from vendors, banquets, activities, classes, etc. The American Legion Department of Florida has over 130,000 members, with more than 300 Legion Posts statewide.

American Legion Post 90 in Cape Coral was founded in April of 2001. The Post offers a full canteen and food service at 1401 SE 47th Street and sponsors scholarships, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, blood drives, V.A. volunteers, and national emergency funds programs to assist veterans in need.

For more information at the local level, call (239) 540-8128 or contact alpost90@yahoo.com or the Legion PR Officer Ted Clark, tedclark12@gmail.com, (845) 527-7948.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 PR Officer,

Ted Clark





POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



American Legion Post 90 Honors First Responders

Each year the Cape Coral Fire Department honors a firefighter and an EMS paramedic. Similarly, American Legion Post 90 of Cape Coral honors those chosen. So recently, the two organizations held a brief ceremony to present their American Legion awards.

The annual Firefighter of the Year and Paramedic of the Year process began last January, and the Department recently announced the winners.

Fire Lieutenant Laurel Cornelius won firefighter of the year. She has been with the Cape Coral Fire Department for 16 years and was promoted to Fire Lieutenant one year ago. Lieutenant Cornelius stated, “She was excited and surprised to receive the award because she feels she only does her job and strives to help everyone, especially in training.” She also stated she “was particularly pleased about the recognition from her fellow firefighters.”

Paramedic Henis Bitri, who recently transferred from the City of Cape Coral to the Cape Coral Fire Department to serve as a paramedic stated: “I was surprised about the award and felt I hadn’t done anything extraordinary and just performed at my best during every shift.”

Deputy Chief Michael Russell praised both Lieutenant Cornelius and Paramedic Bitri, whom, he said, “were deserving of the awards as they just didn’t just do their jobs but, helped to move people forward by the commitment and the extra effort they made to meet all challenges.”

The American Legion Post 90 Commander, Keith Berres, stated, “he was pleased that Post 90 could participate in recognition of these two first responders.”

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 PR Officer & Marketing Committee Member,

Ted Clark & Bill McKernan



Left to right: Legion Chairman Carl Saitta presents the awards to Paramedic Henis Briti and Fire Lt. Laurel Cornelius as Deputy Chief Mike Russell looks on.



POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



AMERICAN LEGION OF CAPE CORAL WINS NATIONAL PRESS AWARD

American Legion Post 90 in Cape Coral was awarded the prestigious American Legion Media Alliance Award for Best Public Relations Program.

Post 90 of SW Florida was awarded first place in the nationwide competition for 2022-2023. Judges selected Post 90 over 95 entries from any Post in the country with over 750 members. Winners were selected by the American Legion Media Alliance, (TALMA) task force and certified by the American Legion Media & Communications Commission.

The PR Chair of Post 90, Ted Clark, stated “he was delighted with the award, because it is a recognition at the national level and is the result of the collective hard work of the Post’s Marketing Committee, the American Legion Riders, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Auxiliary. The Commander of Post 90, Keith Berres, stated “he was very proud of the effort made by the Post Marketing Committee to promote recognition with our local print media of the assistance the Post provides to veterans and the community of Cape Coral.”

TALMA awards are open to any branch of the American Legion family. However, it is intended primarily for members who handle media, including but not limited to, public relations, websites, social media, newsletters, etc., at the post, district, state, and national levels.

American Legion Post 90 was founded in April of 2001. The Post offers full canteen and food service on Southeast 47th Street in Cape Coral. It sponsors scholarships, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, blood drives, V.A. volunteers, and national emergency programs to assist veterans in need. For more than 100 years, the American Legion has acted as the nation’s leading advocate for U.S. military Veterans’ benefits and help for transition assistance from military to civilian life, for providing resources for careers, education opportunities, and childcare. For information at the local level, call (239) 540-8128 or contact alpost90@yahoo.com or Ted Clark, PR Officer, at (845)-527-7948 or tedclark12@gmail.com. Also visit our website: www.post90swf.org. Post 90 urges all veterans to join our Post.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 PR Officer & Marketing Committee Member,

Ted Clark & Bill McKernan





POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



CAPTURING HISTORY

World War II ended seventy-eight years ago. There are few of the millions of men and women who fought in it or supported it on the home front. Most have passed on. Those who are left have important stories to tell.

One of those people is Karl Wallach of Cape Coral. Karl is 98 years old. He enlisted in the Navy in 1943. Karl was a student at Columbia University in New York City. An exceptional student, Karl entered college at age 16 and volunteered for the Navy at 17. A program at that time allowed him to continue as a student before entering the Navy at 18. Even though he had one year of college to go, Karl was off to midshipman's school to become an officer. Graduating from officer training in October of 1944, the war was still raging. Food, clothing, and everything else was rationed. But the end was in sight. The final push was on in Europe and the Pacific.

Karl became an Ensign on the USS Lapwing, one of the oldest minesweepers in the US Navy. But, she still had important work to do. She left Atlantic patrols and joined a special group of ships perfecting anti-submarine warfare technology. Karl was a part of that. Eight months later, Karl was assigned to the USS Yellowstone, the newest destroyer tender in the Navy. Almost 600 feet long with a crew of almost 500, she supplied food, fresh water, medical supplies and spare parts to scores of destroyers and submarines. She did it so well she was known as "old faithful." Karl was the officer in charge of communications and navigation. But, now World War 2 was finally over.

USS Yellowstone participated in "mopping up" operations in the Aleutian Islands. Then, she left the Pacific, went through the Panama Canal, and on to Newport, Rhode Island to support destroyers of the Atlantic Fleet. That was a lot of navigating for now Lt. Wallach. Then, in June of 1946, Karl left active duty and returned home to New York City. The Yellowstone continued to support the Atlantic fleet for another 28 years.

Now a civilian, Karl took an interest in winter sports gear working for a large New York City department store. In those days, department stores had everything and winter sports like skiing were fast becoming popular. Karl left the retail industry and joined a growing European sporting goods company named Beconta.



POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



CAPTURING HISTORY

Beconta introduced such brands as Nordica Ski Boots as skiing and other winter sports were growing rapidly. Karl next became involved in athletic shoes and introduced the Puma brand to America. Over the years, Karl became friends with such sports legends as Joe Namath and Jean-Claude Killy, the French triple Olympic champion. Living in Aspen Colorado for many years with his wife and stepchildren, Karl now lives with his son Edward and wife Diana in Cape Coral. Karl loves fishing and enjoys going out on his boat with his son and his many friends.

And yes, Karl finished his final year at Columbia as one of the first to use the GI Bill. He was one of the “greatest generation”, who not only helped save civilization from tyranny, but also helped post-war America grow. What a story!

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 PR Officer & Marketing Committee Member,

Ted Clark & Bill McKernan



Lt. Wallach in 1943.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 90

HONOR GUARD CORNER



Hello Everyone,

I hope you all are doing well. The color/honor guard was busy in May. We did a memorial on the 6th, practice on the 13th, opening ceremony for the Boy Scouts on the 21st, a Colors Presentation at the German American club, and the everlasting ceremony at the Post on the 29th. Our volunteers have performed with enthusiasm, and I am proud of them. Thank you to the men and women that make up our Guard. We will continue to have practice on every 2nd Saturday of the month starting at 9am at the Post. The following are dates and times of the next 2 Honor/Color Guard practices.

There will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony at 11am at American Legion Post 90 on Tuesday, July 4th, 2023, in Honor Guard Uniform. Please call me if you are a Post 90 Honor Guard member to find out when to be there and what uniform to wear.

There will be Honor Guard/Color Guard Practice at 9am at American Legion Post 90 on Saturday, July 8th, 2023, in civilian clothes.

There will be Honor Guard/Color Guard Practice at 9am at American Legion Post 90 on Saturday, August 12th, 2023, in civilian clothes.

Please help honor our veterans by volunteering for our Legion's Color and Honor guards. We do a lot in the community to honor our fellow departed & living veterans in many ways. You must be a current member of American Legion Post 90's membership, Riders, Auxiliary, and/or SAL to join. No experience is necessary. Your uniform will be supplied to you. We will train everyone for the position you volunteer for. If you are interested in joining any of American Legion Post 90 Honor/Color Guards, please call me at: (860) 336 – 1198. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Captain of American Legion Post 90 Color/
Honor Guards & Sergeant of Arms,

Arman LaFleur





Hello everyone,

The Riders have been busy the last couple of months. We attended the Memorial day Service at Coral Ridge Cemetery and manned the flag line for the departed Veterans as we do every year. Currently, the Riders have been working on a fundraising event to benefit the Posts in our District 13 that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Ian. We have also supported our Post by attending the State convention in Orlando in June. The Riders will be having a fundraising event with an Italian dinner on July 16th, 2023. All the food will be home made, Baked Ziti, meatballs, salad, and Italian bread & butter and a cash bar. We are also planning to start a breakfast. Details will be coming soon. Please help us in our fundraising efforts to support our veteran causes. The Florida Riders raised over \$346,000.00 for Project Vet Relief this past year. That's where the money we raise is forwarded. So, Support our 50/50 and our dinners and hopefully, our breakfasts for the Cause, not the Applause.

Sincerely,

Director of American Legion Post 90 Riders,

Jack Fitzgerald



American Legion Post 90 Officer Installation Ceremony

On Sunday, June 25th, 2023, recently elected members assembled at American Legion Post 90 at 1pm to be installed as Officers and Executive-Board members. Officers of the Sons of the American Legion, Riders, and Auxiliary were also installed, and current District 13 Officers were there to officiate the ceremony. Family members, close friends, and Post 90 members were also invited. All the Officers and E-Board members looked sharp in their uniforms, legion tops, & rider vests. This was followed by a light meal and social time.

Sincerely,

Amy M. O'Neill



American Legion Post 90 Officers	
Commander: Keith Berres 1st Vice Commander: Ted Clark 2nd Vice Commander: John Baker Finance Officer: Keith Berres (Acting) Adjutant: John Baker Sgt. At Arms: Armand LeFleur Judge Advocate: Bob Noble Historian: Open Chaplain: Jerry Gray Service Officer: Lakeshia Penn Past Commander: John Baker	Executive Board Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Arnold • Jack Fitzgerald • Harry Finke Jr. • Joe Linhorst • Bill McKernan • Rebecca Sewell • Dennis Stebbins



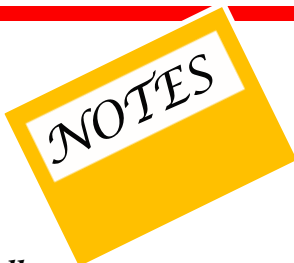
S.A.L. Squadron 90 Officers	
Commander: Ralph Camp 1st Vice Commander: Brian "Taz" Gehling 2nd Vice Commander: Larry Horner Adjutant: Ralph Camp Finance Officer: Keith Berres Sgt. At Arms: Tony Truzzolino Judge Advocate: Sean Wing Historian: Nick Napolitano III Chaplain: Elon Hertzfeld Judge Advocate: Sean Wing	



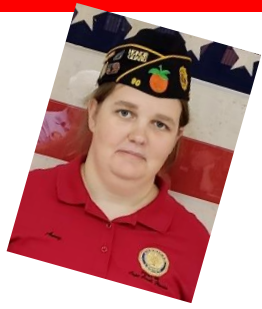
Legion Auxiliary Unit 90 Officers	
President: Nita Keeling 1st Vice President: Sherry Baker 2nd Vice President: Freda West Secretary: Janice Nordquist Treasurer: Patti Kelton Sgt. At Arms: Karen Horner Chaplain: Carol Berres Historian: Judy Lindhorst	



Legion Riders Chapter 90 Officers	
Director: Jack Fitzgerald Assistant Director: John Leuthard Treasurer: Ken Worley Secretary: Laurene Flower Chaplain: John Leuthard Sgt. At Arms: Charles Pothier	



FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone,

Please keep in mind that the deadline for submitting items to be included in the Bi-Monthly Newsletter is the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter coming out. Only special situations are allowed past that date due to the events being held after the 15th but prior to the end of the month and needing to be included in that coming newsletter. If you need more time, please call, or email me and I will make other arrangements with you at that time.

Notice: Please submit newsletter entries as a WORD document, written out in the body of an email, or PDF formats. **ALL** submissions must be in one or more of these listed formats to be included in the newsletter. There will be NO exceptions! This is due to keeping it simple and easy to cut/paste into the newsletter template. Other formats may require an excessive amount of editing and complication to include. If you have trouble with computers, please let me know and I will help you. I can also put your article in the newsletter myself if you tell me what you want in it.

I have posted below the Article Turn-In Dates of the newsletter so everyone can plan ahead. I urge you all to please plan ahead & give your articles to me ahead of time if you will be out of town when they are due so that I am able to get the newsletter out on time to everyone.

- Jan-Feb - (due date Dec 15th)**
- Mar-Apr.- (due date Feb 15th)**
- May-Jun.- (due date Apr 15th)**
- Jul-Aug.- (due date Jun 15th)**
- Sep-Oct.- (due date Aug 15th)**
- Nov-Dec.- (due date Oct 15th)**

Articles to be included in the American Legion Post 90 Newsletter can be about events at Post 90 coming up or events we have already done that you would like everyone to know about. If members of our legion were at an event or will be at one, you can include that in your articles as well. I will only include articles in the newsletter about events that happened up to 2 months prior or 2 months ahead. Yes, even though I have moved away I am still doing the Post 90 newsletter. I have made arrangements to get the newsletter copies printed and delivered to Post 90. I enjoy it and it is mostly online so I can do it from anywhere. I have everything I need. No, I am not thinking currently about a monthly newsletter because it is hard enough making sure I get enough articles for the current Bi-monthly newsletter. Please send any pictures you have of American Legion Post 90 events! It helps me give some character to the newsletter articles. If you have any questions or need to speak with me, you can call or email me at (239)322-6945 or strawjazz1978@gmail.com. Thanks!

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Newsletter Chairman & Editor,

Amy O'Neill



CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION



PUBLIC INVITED

FAMILY FUN



FREE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

The American Legion Cape Coral is celebrating July 4th at Post 90 at 1401 SE 47th Street in Cape Coral. We will be serving free hot dogs and hamburgers. Bring the whole family.

A Flag Retirement Ceremony begins at 11 o'clock by the Post Honor Guard. Please bring your old unserviceable flags. There will also be a Blood Drive starting at Noon to 5 o'clock pm. At 1 o'clock pm, hot dogs and hamburgers will be served. Lunch is free but, donations are appreciated. There will be live music provided by the "Bob and Bob" show. Bring a dish to share if you can. Vet or not, please join us. And, if you are a Vet, please become a member. Everyone is welcome.

This article was written by Post 90 Assistant Adjutant and Marketing Committee Member, Bill McKernan.



Find us on Facebook



You can find us here... On Facebook,

American Legion Post 90

If you have not visited our website lately, you really should go check it out!

We have an all-new look, and more to come!!

See what is new and what we have already been doing!

***See the website for additional information! ***



www.post90swf.org



**Are you a Member of the American Legion, but not our Post? We would be honored to have you as our guest!
(Please bring your current membership card)*

Phone: (239) 540-8128

Our Post is non-smoking inside the building, however we have designated covered areas for our smoking members & guests

Post Hours:

Bar is open from 11 am to 10 pm

Kitchen is open from noon to 7:30 pm (Tuesday through Saturday)