

CAPE LEGION'S VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Cape Coral, Florida - Post #90



JAN. – FEB. 2024



COMMANDER'S CORNER

With Keith Berres

Greetings to the Post 90 Family,

Happy New Year! Well, another year is over and 2024 is just beginning. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. This past year we saw changes that have strengthened our Post. Coming out of Covid 19, and then Hurricane Ian last year, we had a full year with no major catastrophes or issues. The Post has been growing and we are starting to add more activities here at the Post.

I am looking forward to the next year as we work to fulfill the four pillars of the American Legion, Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. The American Legion was founded on being a source for veterans to come together to help each other, continue to advocate for those serving & veterans, and the community around us. Over the years, the American Legion has actively gone before Congress at the National and State levels to get laws passed to help those in the service & veterans.

In November, the membership voted to raise annual dues to \$55 to cover the cost of the increase by National and possible increase by the Department. The American Legion is offering a 3 year membership plan that would allow you to purchase your 2024 – 26 dues at the current \$45 rate. To take advantage of this opportunity, you must go to www.mylegion.org to purchase the extra year's dues. We will not be able to accept these extra payments at the Post. This will only be available through June 30, 2024.

We have moved forward on covering the patio with a Chickee Hut and will be purchasing new patio furniture along with other improvements to the area. Some of the new activities we are working on are:

- Taco Tuesdays and Wing Wednesdays each week.
- Karaoke on two Saturdays each month.
- Trivia on Thursday afternoons starting this month.
- Legion races beginning in March & on Sunday afternoons.
- We are also looking at bringing Bingo back to the post.

Our largest fundraiser of the year, the Boston Red Sox Spring Training, will be starting back up soon. The sign-up sheets will be ready for sign-ups within a week or so. We have yet to determine if we will have two booths or just one booth. Unless someone steps up to help manage the second booth, we will only be doing concession stand #3. If you are interested in finding out what is involved and the commitment needed, please contact me as soon as possible.

As I have stated before, get involved, volunteer, come to the meetings, etc. The American Legion needs volunteers to grow. Less than 10% of our membership here at Post 90 volunteer to get involved in activities needed to keep the Post alive. The Honor and Color Guards need more people, we are in need of help with the Scouting Program, and we need a volunteer to chair our Special Olympics fundraising. Without people stepping up soon, these programs could begin to fail. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

For God and Country,

American Legion Post 90 Commander,

Keith Berres



Hello Everyone,

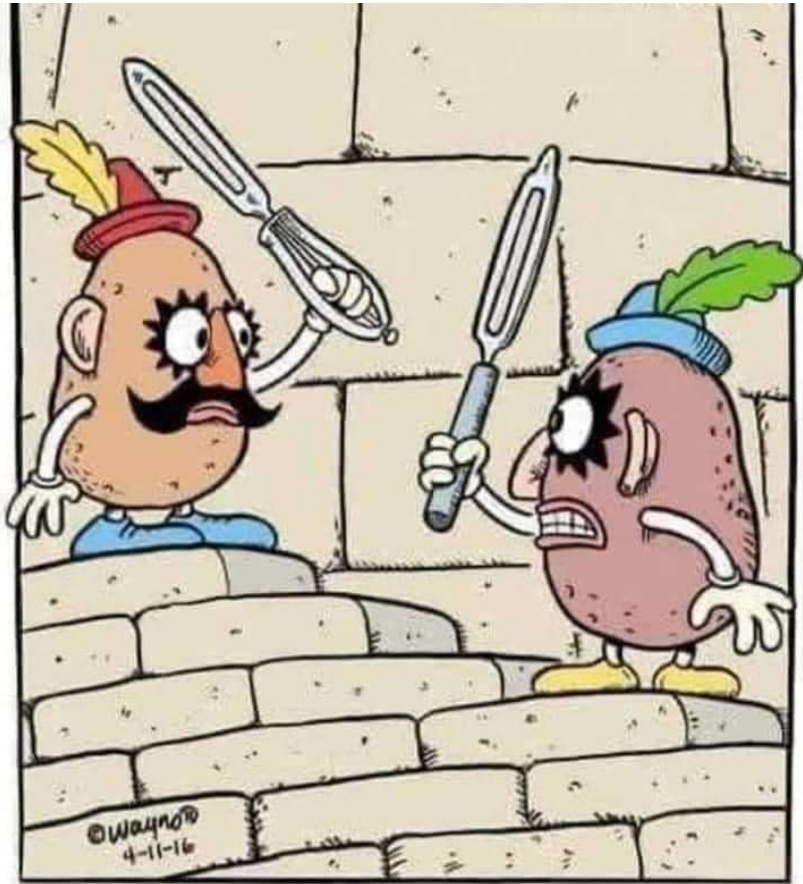
I hope everyone is safe and well. American Legion Post 90 Riders Director, Jack Fitzgerald, was in the hospital recently. Please keep him in your thoughts and Prayers. If you know of anyone else who is sick or passed away recently in our American Legion Post 90 membership, please let me know. You can reach me at: (239)313-8630.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Chaplain,

Jerry Gray





Hello, my name is Idaho Montoya.
You peeled my father. Prepare to fry.

The joke above was submitted by Bill Walchesky. 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,

The members of Post 90 who live up North for half of the year are returning in full force.

We are close to finishing repairs to the Post facility resulting from damage caused by Hurricane Ian. We have replaced the front canopy with a Tiki Hut covering the entire patio. To complete this change, Post 90 needs to install lighting, fans, speakers, televisions, and purchase new furniture, which should be completed in the first Quarter of 2024. Post 90 members, Jay Bissell, and Brian Carrier, have built the fence around the patio, and it looks great. If you see them, please thank them for their unselfish and hard work. There will only be one entrance to the Patio from the west side, and you must use your door card to enter. A buzzer will not be at that location; so, if you don't have a door entry card, you must use the main entrance on the west side of the building. This provides the Post 90's Bartenders greater control of non-members who enter the Post.

We are having special dinners at least once a month from January to April, and when possible, entertainment will be provided. We have started Karaoke two Saturdays a month, and will try a Trivia event also. The Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Riders have scheduled numerous events through the next six months; so, please stay in touch through the web site, Facebook, Instagram and the Commander's "Weekly Report" that is emailed to you.

The NFL season is about over, and the Post kitchen will be closed on Sundays after the Super Bowl. However, pizzas will still be available at the bar.

Post 90's Service Officer is Lakeshia "Kesha" Penn. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to call her at: (850)443-8453.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Second Vice Commander,

John Baker





JOHN'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

Thanks to all members who renewed their membership for 2024 and the many transferring and new members to Post 90. We have been able to meet each membership goal established by the American Legion. In fact, in December 2023, Post 90 has already achieved its January 2024 goal. At the end of the 2023-year, Post 90's membership stands at greater than 80% of the goal.

If you have not renewed your membership by December 31, 2024, you cannot enter the Post except by ringing the buzzer and signing the guest book. As a non-member, you are a guest, and must have a sponsoring member to obtain an alcoholic beverage. The Adjutant will be available at the Post all day on January 1st and 2nd of 2024 to quickly process memberships.

The American Legion provides its members with a grace period from January 1st to January 31st of 2024 to renew your membership. After January 31, 2024, a member is no longer considered a "member in good standing", and must be voted upon by the Post members at the next regular membership meeting. It is best that memberships are renewed before January 31, 2024.

It has been announced that The American Legion will be testing a change in the membership policy for a five-year period. This change will allow a member to pay membership dues for three years (2024, 2025, and 2026,) at the first year's price. For example, if you purchase three years of membership at 2024's \$45.00 price, you pay only \$45.00 for each of the following two years. Should Post 90 increase its membership dues, you are exempt from the increase. However, the three-year renewal can only be done on-line through the American Legion Website. Potential and current members cannot renew for the three-year membership period through www.MyLegion.org.

The easiest way to renew your membership is to sign-up on "MyLegion.org". As soon as you sign-up through MyLegion.org and renew your membership, I can send your membership and door access cards to you. MyLegion has a number of functions that you may be interested in, and we are considering placing Post 90's newsletter on MyLegion rather than emailing it to you. When you access the website, just follow the directions for signing up, and please enter your phone number and email address. Should we need to contact you, the phone and email work best.

To get a DD-214, here is a link: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.

We are half way through the Post's 2023-2024 fiscal year, and it is time to recruit prospective Officers and new members to the Executive Committee. If you are interested in serving your Post, please contact the Commander, Keith Berres or the Adjutant, John Baker. A sign-up sheet is by the main entry door. Nominations are accepted through April with the election held in May. The Officer installation will be held after the next American Legion Convention, which is June 13th - 16th of 2024.

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 ask about your rights.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Adjutant,

John Baker



JANUARY POST DINNER

January 20th starting at 5 pm

Signup by January 17th

Price \$15

Chicken Marsala or Chicken Piccata

Pasta

Vegetable Melody

Salad

Dessert (\$2.00)



Entertainment by Candi Herte

LEGION QUILT RAFFLE



\$5 per chance

or

Buy 4 get 1 Free

Drawing at 7 pm

February 24th

Need not be present
to win



All proceeds go to support Boys State



POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



Hello everyone,

On December 12th , the American Legion Post 90 in Cape Coral celebrated the good fortune of one of the members of local Post 90, who won half of the \$44,000 50/50 statewide raffle.

The celebration at Post 90 for Ted Clark was attended by the members of Post 90’s Executive Board, the Marketing and Membership Committee, and many local members. In addition, several officers from the Department of Florida, including the Department of Florida Commander, Michael Raymond, 2nd Vice Commander, Jessica Moore, and District Commander, Bud Boyer, traveled to Cape Coral to present the check to Ted.

Ted Clark, the Post’s First Vice Commander, who was Legionnaire of the Year in 2022, stated, “He was delighted to win the \$24,000, especially around the holidays, and pledged a portion of his prize to support the Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA).”

The Department Commander, Michael Raymond, stated, ” Ted deserved to win because of his strong commitment to the local Post as evidenced by the recognition received as the Legionnaire of the Year.”

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 PR Officer and
Marketing Committee Chairman,

Ted Clark





POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



American Legion Post 90 Announces Scholarship Contest for High School Students



Cape Coral City High School students are invited to compete in the 85th Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The program is a multi-level contest where students first compete at the Post level, then progress to the District, Area, and the State level. The winner of the State contest advances to the National Contest held in Indianapolis, IN, in April of 2024.

The contest is open to any student in grades 9 through 12, including homeschooled students.

To compete, the student must prepare and deliver an original 8 - 10-minute speech about some aspect of our Constitution, emphasizing a citizen's duty to their country and government. Additionally, the student will give a 3 - 5-minute speech on an assigned topic to test the speaker's knowledge of one of four Constitutional subjects.

At the local Post level, scheduled between December 1 and Jan 21st in 2024, the Post Commander will award the first-place winner a \$300 scholarship, second place \$200, and third \$100. At the Legion District and Area levels, scholarships will be \$200. At the State level, the awards are \$500-\$2,500 for the top 6 contestants. At the national finals in Indianapolis, scholarships of \$25,000, \$22,500, and \$20,000 will be awarded to the first through third places. Each state winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and in the second round those who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional \$2,000. The top three orators who have won all previous elimination rounds of the contest will vie for top honors in the national competition in April. The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

High school students in Cape Coral who are interested in entering the competition will find complete rules and contest information at www.floridalegion.org/oratorical.

Students can enter by contacting Ted Clark, American Legion Post 90 Oratorical Chair, at (845)527- 7948 or (239) 540-8128 or alpost90cape@yahoo.com or Tedclark12@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 PR Officer, Oratorical Chairman,
Marketing Committee Chairman, and 1st Vice Commander,

Ted Clark





TED'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

As the First Vice Commander, it's my pleasure to share some of my thoughts and information that will be of interest to members. The Post needs to complete a "Buddy Check" program to reach out to as many veterans as possible to determine their health and well-being. As the First Vice Commander responsible for recruitment and retention, we will start our Buddy Check calls to members to ensure they are not experiencing any negative issues. Therefore, I will be looking for volunteers from our membership to staff a "call center" at the Post or make calls from home with a script and a list of veteran members in January.

At the Department of Florida convention in November, members of the Marketing Committee learned of several benefits available to veterans. Did you know that you and your spouse can be buried with minimal cost at the Veterans cemeteries in Florida such as the one in Sarasota? There are criteria you must meet, but, it's worthwhile to determine if you qualify. Who is eligible for VA burial benefits? Open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum Active-Duty service requirements, as applicable by law, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces who die while on Active Duty under certain circumstances or who die while on training duty are also eligible for burial. A Veteran's spouse, surviving spouse, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Anyone can apply for a pre-need burial eligibility determination for themselves by submitting VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO) by: toll-free fax at (855) 840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO. 63151. Applicants should provide documentation of military service, (such as a DD-214 or other record of discharge) if readily available, if not, apply anyway.

Did you know? One of the on-line sites provides a substantial amount of free stuff, including free tickets and discounts. Vet Tix provides tickets to all branches of currently serving Military and Veterans, including immediate family of troops KIA. However, there might be a small fee. Vet Tix - Tickets For Troops - Veteran Tickets Foundation

I plan to post additional benefits as I become aware of them. Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to all Veterans, especially those who are members of Post 90 and those deployed.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 First Vice Commander,

Ted Clark





UNIT 90
AUXILIARY
CORNER



Hello everyone,

Hope you all had a wonderful New Year! Our next meeting will be held on the 15th of January at 7pm and I am looking forward to seeing you all.

We have an opportunity to represent and share our Unit 90 Auxiliary membership and distribute poppies at the Cape Coral Art Festival on Saturday, January 13th, and Sunday, January 14th of 2024, from Noon – 5pm on both days. Ted Clark is organizing our booth, and we would very much appreciate your time, if you can help out. We will be giving out information on American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Rider's memberships. We will also be distributing poppies for donations. Please contact Ted Clark, Phone: **(845)527-7948**, or Email Address: tedclark12@gmail.com, as soon as you can to volunteer for the event. We will supply the materials and poppies for the event. Please attend to help us out, even 2 hours early would be a great help. Thank you for the support of our Legion and Auxiliary!

Sincerely,

President of Unit 90 Auxiliary,

Nita Keeling



AMERICAN LEGION POST 90

HONOR GUARD CORNER



Hello Everyone,

We have practice on the 2nd Saturday of each month. 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. Happy Holidays!

There will be Honor Guard/Color Guard Practice at 9am at American Legion Post 90 on Saturday, January 13th, 2024, in civilian clothes.

There will be Honor Guard/Color Guard Practice at 9am at American Legion Post 90 on Saturday, February, 10th, 2024, 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. 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 & we will train you. 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



Veteran's Day Parade of 2023

The Veteran's Day parade in Cape Coral, Florida on Saturday, November 11th, 2023, at 11 am was an enormous success! There was a great turnout. The star of the parade was Post 90's Service Officer, Lakeshia Penn, as the Grand Marshall. American Legion Post 90 was proud to be in the parade. Marching members of the American Legion Post 90 Honor Guard carried flags and M-1's and were followed by Post officers who rode in a car and walked, waving to the crowd. They were followed by trucks carrying Honor Guard members, SAL, Riders, Unit 90 Auxiliary officers, and members looking very sharp in their polo shirts and uniforms. The American Legion Post 90 Riders followed, looking great on their shiny motorcycles and waving small American Flags. After the parade, everyone met at American Legion Post 90 for free hamburgers, hotdogs, sides, desserts, and plenty of drinks & laughs.

This article was written by Amy Oneill.





Hello everyone,

As usual, Chapter 90 Riders continued to be busy these last 2 months. During November, we participated in the District 13th Children and Youth Picnic at Post 323, and we rode with Post 90 in the Cape Coral Veterans day Parade. We also had a Fundraiser Breakfast to support the Project Vet Relief Suicide Prevention Initiative, along with our 50/50 drawings held on Friday nights at the Post.

In December, the Chapter 90 Riders traveled to Key West, Florida for our annual Getaway Trip. We were lucky enough to be able to stay at the Trumbo Pt. Naval Air Station housing that really saved us money. This year, we had 16 bikes and 5 cars on the trip with 38 people. This was our biggest group so far! We also participated in the Teddy Bear run for Golisano's Children's Hospital. The Chapter 90 Riders also supplied and laid wreaths for the Wreaths Across America event held at Coral Ridge Cemetery. Also, in December, we held another Fundraiser Breakfast to support Project Vet Relief along with the Friday night 50/50 drawings.

The Chapter 90 ALR has a couple of upcoming events in January and February with our Italian Dinner in January, and our Big Fundraising Breakfast in February. Chapter 90 ALR would like to thank everyone that supports our fundraising efforts. We couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,

Director of American Legion Post 90 Riders,

Jack Fitzgerald



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS KICK OFF “WINTER STAMPING TOUR”

How would you like to support our Veterans while patronizing businesses that you probably already frequent? Now you can.

American Legion Post 90 of Cape Coral is part of a charity “Winter Stamping Tour” that started on November 1st and runs until Feb 28, 2024. The American Legion Riders of Florida’s District 13, of which Post 90 in Cape Coral is a part of, includes 17 Legion Posts in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry Counties. Legion Riders have visited businesses all over the area and signed them up to be a sponsor. For \$100, a business gets a coupon in a “stamp passport booklet”. These booklets are available to Legion members and the public for \$10.

Money raised will be used to help American Legion Posts in Lee County that were severely damaged by Hurricane Ian to repair and rebuild. Many Posts suffered storm damage, but four Posts, Fort Myers Beach, Port Charlotte, Sanibel/Captiva, and Bonita Springs had catastrophic damage.

The book includes 63 businesses who are participating. Anytime a person visits one of these businesses with their book, they can get it stamped. No purchase is necessary.

At the end of the four months, if you have at least 10 businesses “stamped”, you can mail in the booklet and have a chance to win up to \$500.

Legion Riders are a part of the American Legion Family which also includes the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Together, they support veterans in need, community organizations, and youth programs.

To locate a Post where you can purchase a booklet, go to: www.floridalegion.org/findpost/. Follow the tour on Facebook at “District 13 Winter Stamping Tour”. Post 90 Cape Coral is located at 1401 SE 47th Street in Cape Coral.

This article was written by Bill McKernan.



Laurene Flower gets a check from Cathy Tobias at Ralph’s Place in Cape Coral, Florida.

American Legion Riders Mike Flower and “ET” Moore get ready to head out on the tour.



American Legion Chapter 90 Riders

BREAKFAST

to benefit

PROJECT VET RELIEF

Sunday, February 18th

8:00 - 11:00 AM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

\$10 per plate

Eggs to order, pancakes,
bacon, sausage, juice, tea
& coffee

Cash Bar

Drink specials



**American Legion Post 90
1401 47th Street, Cape Coral**



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!

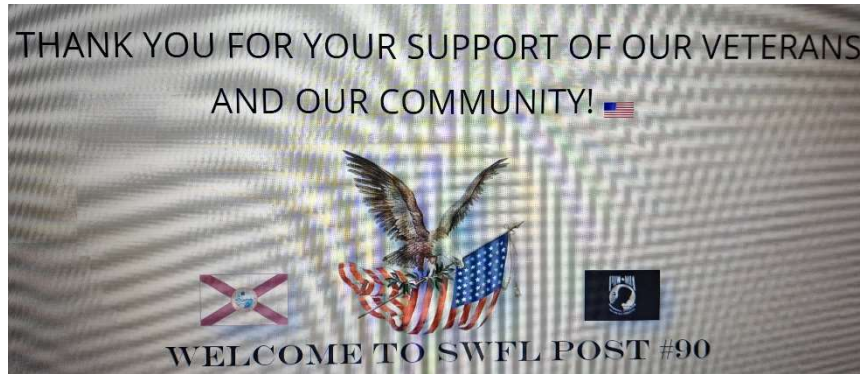
We have an all-new look, and more to come!!

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)



Coming Events Summary

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

Enjoy any or all these events and entertainment.

We appreciate your support of American Legion Post 90.

January 2024 (Music & Events)

Monday the 1st – meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

Wednesday the 10th – meeting at 6pm for **AMERICAN EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Monday the 8th – meeting at 7pm for **SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION**

Monday the 15th - meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Monday the 22nd – meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP**

(Some meetings may be cancelled due to the Holidays. American Legion Post 90 is closed on Monday, January 1st, 2024.)

February 2024 (Music & Events)

Monday the 5th – meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

Monday the 12th - meeting at 7pm for **SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION**

Wednesday the 14th - meeting at 6pm for **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Monday the 19th - meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Monday the 26th – meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP**

(Please see any Post 90 Bartender for the Friday Night Entertainment Schedule. You can also find it on the tv by the office in the lounge and on the Post 90 Website.)



AMERICAN LEGION POST 90 IS NOW OPEN MON.- SUN. FROM 11AM-10PM.

Every Tuesday – 5:30pm - **SHOW ME THE MONEY CARD GAME**

Every Wednesday – 11am to 1pm – **FREE DROP-IN GAME DAY**

Every Wednesday – 7pm – **WEEKLY POOL TOURNAMENT = \$5
SIGN-UP TO PLAY**

Every Third Wednesday - 10am to 1pm – **FREE HAIRCUTS FOR ALL VETERANS**

Every Thursday – 5pm – **DINNER SPECIALS - SPECIALS ARE NEW EVERY WEEK
50/50 NAME DRAWING AT 7PM**

Every Friday – 11:30 to 4pm – **REGULAR MENU**

Every Friday – 5pm to 7:30pm – **DINNER SPECIALS –
SPECIALS ARE NEW EVERY WEEK**

Every Friday – 6pm to 8pm – **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT – SEE PAGE 12**

Every Saturday – Noon to 7:30pm – **REGULAR MENU & SPECIALS**

Every Saturday – 7pm – **LAST ACE STANDING GAME (MEMBERS ONLY)**

KITCHEN IS OPEN TUESDAY TO SATURDAY FROM NOON – 7:30PM



**American Legion Post 90 Newsletter
Chairman & Editor: Amy O'Neill
Associate Editor: Ted Clark**