

CAPE LEGION'S VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Cape Coral, Florida - Post #90



MARCH – APRIL 2024



COMMANDER'S CORNER

With Keith Berres

Greetings to the Post 90 Family,

Well, Spring is upon us, and we have had many of our winter friends visiting the Post over the past two months making the Post a very busy place. Some evenings I know there is frustration as the building is packed to overflowing. The last Tuesday in February we had players for Show Me the Money on the front patio for the first time. We even had a “Show Me the Money” winner called from the patio. This congestion is an annual problem as our Post has a lot of loyal winter guests that support us by eating here and enjoying some libations. Please be patient when coming in, be nice to our staff, and help by cleaning up after yourselves.

Our largest fundraiser of the year, Boston Red Sox Spring Training, is in full swing. We are operating two stands and a Walk-Thru Beverage stand. At the time of this writing, we have had 5 events and sold over \$85,000 in food, beverages, and snacks. The money donated to our Post from Aramark is used to help with Post expenses and charities that we support. Thank you to all of those that come out to work the games.

These past two months we have added more activities here at the Post. We now have Karaoke every Saturday night with Claud Grant. We started Bingo on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm and will be starting Bingo every Sunday beginning at 4 pm. If you are interested in helping with calling the game, please contact me.

I know that many of the members have heard that I am stepping down as Commander of Post 90. I am running for District 13 Commander and feel that I could not do both jobs at the same time. I will be running for 2nd Vice so that I can help the incoming Commander transition into that position. I thank everyone over the past two years for the compliments and thanks for the hard work that myself and the entire officers and staff do to make this Post what it is. With that said, nominations are open for all elected positions and are posted on the Legionnaire bulletin board inside the side door. Call for nominations will be at the April 22nd meeting with elections held on June 10th.

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 guard 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



This joke was submitted by Amy Oneill. 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

[\(304\) 964-5856](tel:3049645856)

Sincerely,

Chairman & Editor of American Legion Post 90 Newsletter,

Amy M. Oneill





JOHN'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

The members of Post 90 who live up North for half of the year have arrived in full force. We all are glad they have come south to enjoy our beautiful weather and sunshine.

We have finished repairs to the Post facility resulting from damage caused by Hurricane Ian. The front canopy has been replaced with a Tiki Hut covering the entire patio. To complete this change, Post 90 will install lighting, fans, speakers, TV's, and purchase new furniture (which should be completed by the end of the second first Quarter of 2024). 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 Post 90's Bartenders greater control of non-members who enter the Post.

We have made some electrical and plumbing repairs, and have purchased new floor mats for the bar and kitchen. Newly engraved bricks are being installed in the patio.

We are having special dinners at least once a month from January to April, and when possible, entertainment will be provided. We have Karaoke every Saturday, and Horse Races will begin this quarter. The Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Riders have scheduled numerous events throughout 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 over, and the Post kitchen is closed on Sundays; however, pizzas are available at the bar. Also, the ALR will be hosting Sunday breakfasts during the next two months; so, keep checking.

The Boston Red Sox training camp began with and Open House on February 17, 2024. There are 17 games through February and March for which Post 90 manages two concession stands. This is Post 90's largest fund raiser each year, and we are always looking for new volunteers. If you can volunteer, please sign up to work one or two games. The sign-up sheets are posted on the Post bulletin boards near the restrooms. Please provide us with your name, phone number, email address, and shirt size.

Post 90's Service Officer is Lakeshia "Kesha" Penn. If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to call her to call her at (830)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, we have exceeded the goal in January and February, and will likely achieve 100% in March well before the May target date. With your help with recruiting new members, it is a reasonable assumption that 105% can be achieved in May.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2024, you cannot enter the Post except by ringing the buzzer and signing the guest book. The Adjutant is usually able to process the membership in 1-2 days; so, please renew your membership.

The American Legion will be testing a change in membership policy for a five-year period. 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 MyLegion.org.

This membership policy change will allow an American Legion member to pay membership dues for three years (2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027) at the current 2024 Post 90 price of \$45.00. For example, if you purchase three years of membership at the 2024's \$45.00 price, you pay only \$45.00 for each of the following two years (2024, 2025, and 2026). This is a savings of \$20.00. However, if you have already paid your 2024 membership dues, you can renew your membership for an additional three years (2025, 2026, and 2027). This is a great savings to American Legion members of \$30.00. Post 90 is increasing its annual membership dues for 2025 to \$55.00 beginning July 1, 2024. If you have not participated in the new membership plan by then, your annual membership dues will increase to \$55.00.

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 web site, 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 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 13-16, 2024. Post 90's Officer position sign-up sheets for Auxiliary, Riders, and Sons of the American Legion can also be found at the Post.

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



Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is safe and well. Post 90 Honor Guard member, Joe Noviello, passed away recently. Please keep his family and friends in your 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





TED'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

As the 1st Vice Commander, responsible for retention and recruitment, I want to share some great news. As the Adjutant, John Baker stated, we are far ahead of our goal of recruiting new members, partially as the result of the work done by The Marketing and Membership Committee consisting of Bill McKernan, Harry Finke, Lisa Arnold, Hector Gomez, Ed Pearsall, and George Laman. We are at 99% of our goal – almost 100% - far ahead of the target date of May 8th for 100%. Thanks to Commander, Keith Berris, and Adjutant, John Baker, for recruiting snowbirds, potential transfers, and new members who visit our post. A special thanks to all the members of the Legion, Riders, and Sons, who volunteered to staff our tent at festivals and events - a consistent source of prospects for membership. Finally, thanks to the members who recruit their friends, relatives, and neighbors. In the future, we plan to develop a breakdown of the source of new members.

The other good news was the visit by one of the five National Deputy Commanders, Charles Aucoin, Department Commander, Michael Raymond, Jim Ramos, National Executive Committeeman, and other dignitaries who joined Commander Aucoin to review our membership process. The group found that Post 90 was well organized and remarkably successful in terms of recruiting and retaining members. The only critique offered was the need to reach out to the remaining members who had not renewed. The committee is planning a “Buddy Check” in March to reach those members.



The picture from left to right are Jim Ramos, National E- Committeeman, Post 90 Commander Keith Berres, National Vice Commander, Charlie Aucoin, and Dept. of FL Commander, Michael Raymond.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 First Vice Commander,

Ted Clark





POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



Cape Coral Charity Car Show 2024 is a great success for American Legion Post 90!

American Legion Post 90 had a successful PR event at Cape Coral's Charity Car Show at Mariners HS on Saturday, 02/25/24, from 9 am to 3 pm. The American Legion Marketing Committee members conversed with 40-50 show attendees, distributed 15 applications, and approximately 40 business cards. Most importantly, we collected contact information from 10 prospects. The publicity obtained for our Post and our programs, from being exposed to six thousand classic car enthusiasts, is challenging to measure but effective in enhancing the Legion and our Post's image.

The Charity Car Show, held at Mariner HS, is sponsored by Cape Coral First Methodist Church, with proceeds benefiting Cape Coral Caring Center. In 2023, the Show raised \$50,000 for the Caring Center. There were at least 400 cars and six thousand spectators at this year's show, and at noon, a tribute to the US military featuring the Star-spangled Banner was performed. Bill's neighbor placed American Legion Decals on each side of his classic car and parked it in a conspicuous place.

I want to thank the Marketing Committee of the coordinator, Harry Finke, Ed Pearsall, Kurt Hartman, Bill McKernan, and his neighbor, Pete, for their time and effort in ensuring another successful Post 90 PR event.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 PR Officer and
Marketing Committee Chairman,

Ted Clark



AMERICAN LEGION POST 90

HONOR GUARD CORNER



Hello Everyone,

Since the Veterans Day parade on November 11th, our Color/Honor guard has participated in two practice sessions, two memorial services for veterans that have passed, and accompanied the Legion Auxiliary at grammar school information presentation. The Color/Honor Guard also participated in an opening ceremony for the Boy Scouts and the 4 Chaplains Ceremony Memorial service,

The total number of members serving at these ceremonies was fifty-four.

The total time volunteered was approximately 135 hours.

I am sorry to report that we have lost an active, dedicated member, Joe Noviello. He will be missed by all.

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.

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

There will be Honor Guard/Color Guard Practice at 9am at American Legion Post 90 on Saturday, April 13th, 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





Hello everyone,

The Chapter 90 American Legion Riders have been busy these last couple of months having dinners and breakfasts at Post 90. We had a breakfast on January 21st and an Italian dinner on the 27th. On February 18th, we hosted a very successful breakfast, raised over \$3,400, and served 208 breakfasts. All the proceeds from that event went to the Project Vet Relief Suicide Prevention Initiative.

We will be having a ham dinner on March 2nd and a St. Patrick's Day Kegs & Eggs breakfast on March 17th.

Chapter 90 has been busy with the winter Stamping Tour which will benefit the four posts in our District that were damaged during hurricane Ian. The ending party will be on March 23rd at Post 103 in Punta Gorda with all proceeds to be split evenly among the four damaged posts.

In January, members of Chapter 90 ALR went to the American Legion Riders Summit in Orlando where we took training classes over a four-day time period that helped us perform better in our legion positions.

As always, the American Legion Riders Chapter 90 appreciate all the support we receive from the Post 90 members and guests with our 50/50 drawings on Fridays, Quarterly Basket Raffles, dinners, and breakfasts.

Sincerely,

Director of American Legion Post 90 Riders,

Jack Fitzgerald



SCOUTING REPORT

We celebrate our new Eagle Scout, Luke Micheals.

The scouts of COR, Troop 777, and 2020, Pack 777, have been busy with their weekly meetings and campouts throughout this school year.

Popcorn sales were a great success! This allows the scouts to pay for their own expenses throughout the year, including dues, food for activities, and rechartering. The fundraising success alleviates the parent(s) from spending their family funds. The current ceremony has been a burden to most families.

The Court of Honor for both troops and the Blue and Gold Banquet will be held on March 6th. We continue to appreciate the Heritage Charter Academy in Cape Coral, for their hosting of weekly meetings and activities.

I would like to express my extreme gratitude to all of the adult leaders, volunteers, and parent(s) which make the program successful for the scouts.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Scouting Chairman,

Dennis Stebbins





JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS



Hello everyone,

District Competition 1-19-2024 Results

1st Place – Mariner HS 2nd Place – Ida Baker HS 3rd Place – S. Ft. Myers HS

State Competition 1-20-24 Results

Top Five Results

1. Mariner HS - 2223 pts.
2. Mulberry HS - 2072 pts.
3. Palmetto HS - 2038 pts.
4. Braden River HS - 2032 pts.
5. Parrish HS - 2018 pts.

National Competition 2-8 thru 2-10 2024 Anniston, Alabama

Individual Results: 1st Nathan Krokstrom 6th Tyler Dennard 7th Eryka Vasquez

**It is very unusual for any team to have three competitors score in the top 8, in the nation.

We have expanded our JROTC program to include the five high schools in Cape Coral and adding N. Ft. Myers HS starting in the 2024-2025 school year. The American Legion will then be supporting the entire West Zone for Lee County School District JROTC.

The Lee County High Schools that we support greatly appreciate our sponsorship and our continued support. Our donation of new equipment includes shooting mats, telescopic poles for mounting sighting scopes, and awards.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 JROTC Marksmanship Chairman,

Dennis Stebbins



Mariner Championship Team



State Championship



District Champions
Mariner



Congratulations to the Mariner HS JROTC Air Rifle team on winning the National Air Rifle championship in the Sporter division. Mariner High School is one of the five high schools that we support.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

March 17th

Starts at noon



Dinner (\$16)

Sandwich (\$11)



Corned Beef
Cabbage with Potatoes and Carrots

Sign-up by March 13th
Reservations guaranteed a meal

Drink Special - \$5 Jameson
\$3 Guinness Beer (while it lasts)



Our annual St Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage is fast approaching.
Make sure to sign up early at Post 90 to guarantee getting yours.

 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)

American Legion Post 90 Newsletter

Chairman & Editor: Amy O'Neill

Associate Editor: Ted Clark