

CAPE LEGION'S VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Cape Coral, Florida - Post #90



MAY – JUNE 2024



COMMANDER'S CORNER

With Keith Berres

Greetings to the Post 90 Family,

As I write my last article as the Commander, I reflect back to the many veterans, friends of veterans, and changes that the Post has been through in the past 2 years. Our Post has grown by over 15%, we added credit card processing, video games returned helping to cover operating costs, we weathered the worst hurricane in Cape Coral history, and improved the patio area along with many other memorable events. This was all accomplished due to the dedication of the entire Post and especially the volunteers that make this Post as great as it is.

This month the patio furniture will be arriving, electrical completed, and televisions and fans hung. I want to thank Jay Bissell for his dedication and hard work volunteering to help this project to be a true success. We will be updating the Point of Sale (POS) system with a modern-day system that will allow for seamless integration of the use of credit cards. For the summer months, we will be experimenting with a server tablet allowing the food servers to take your food order at the table and it directly into the kitchen. We will also be updating the televisions in the canteen area along with replacing the “padded” chairs in the dining area.

Elections are May 13th with a special membership meeting on May 20th to approve the Adjutant, Judge Advocate, and Service Officer for the next year. I know that ET Moore will do a great job at continuing to lead this Post to be the best Post it can possibly be. Please welcome him in as the new Commander.

As I have stated in every newsletter, 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



Hello everyone,

The members of Post 90 who live up North for half of the year have returned to the “Great White North”. We all are grateful they came south to enjoy our beautiful weather and sunshine. Activity is slowing down, but continue to check for activities at Post 90.

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 is installing lighting, fans, speakers, and TVs and has purchased new furniture. The Tiki Hut should be fully completed by June.

We will be having special dinners at least once a month through the summer, and when possible, entertainment will be provided. Karaoke is held every Saturday, and as usual, entertainment is held every Friday night. 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. May is “Poppy Month”, and the Auxiliary has received permission to distribute Poppies on the weekends in May at various establishments throughout Cape Coral. Volunteers are still needed; so, please sign up at the Post.

The Boston Red Sox training camp has ended and through your efforts, the Post earned about \$43,500 to help fund approved charities and Post improvements. The charities include Cape Coral Caring Center, Fisher House, Collier-Lee Honor Flight, K-9s For Warriors, and the Legions Disaster Relief and Childrens Program Transplant Association (C.O.T.A.). As for Post Improvements, the men’s restroom needs renovation, the tile floor needs repairs or replacement, 8 TV’s need replacement, and some new chairs are needed in the Canteen.

Post 90’s Service Officer is Lakeshia “Kesha” Penn. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to call her.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Second Vice Commander,

John Baker





Hello everyone,

Thanks to all members who renewed their membership for 2024 and the many transferring and new members to Post 90. We have exceeded the membership goal established by the American Legion. In fact, we are currently at 107% of the goal. With your help with recruiting new members, it is a reasonable assumption that 110% can be achieved by the end of May.

The American Legion has been testing a change in membership policy. This membership policy change will allow paid up 2024 American Legion Post 90 members to pay membership dues for three years (2025, 2026 and 2027) at the current 2024 Post 90 price of \$45.00. This is a savings to the member as Post 90's annual membership dues for 2025 will increase to \$55.00 on July 1, 2024. The three-year renewal can only be done online through The American Legion website at MyLegion.org, and you must create an account. I have seen many of the Post 90 members take advantage of this new program.

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 several 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 halfway through Post's 2023-2024 fiscal year, and the Post has recruited prospective Officers and new members to the Executive Committee. A list of the potential officers is on the bulletin board. The election of officers will be on Monday, May 13th, 2024 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. The Officer installation will be held after the next American Legion Convention which is June 13-16, 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 express your rights.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 Adjutant,

John Baker





TED'S CORNER



Hello everyone,

It's been a busy two months for the Marketing and Membership Committee. Unfortunately, we lost two valuable committee members due to relocation, which limited the number of events we could be involved in, such as Bike Night. However, we have generated a substantial amount of PR by submitting a record number of newspaper articles on various topics, from the Rider breakfast to the Oratorical Scholarship competition. The latter gave Post 90 exposure at the highest level in the state because it was the first time the Post had sent a scholarship candidate to compete at the Department level after winning the Post, District, and Area competitions. In addition, our Post was asked to join the Department Revitalization team partially because of the results we achieved in increasing membership well beyond our Post goals. Thanks to the members for signing up their friends and neighbors and to the Commander and Adjutant for converting snowbirds, visitors, and Post 400 transfers. The Committee also just finished a membership drive calling 125 of the 2023-24 members who have yet to renew. Almost 50 % of the members we talked to agreed to renew their membership. In addition, we launched our annual Buddy Check program with the cooperation of 9 members of the E-Board, who were provided a list of names and a script to call from the comfort of their homes. We'll have the results in two weeks. It doesn't take a village; it only takes a team!

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 First Vice Commander
And Oratorical Chairman,

Ted Clark





POST 90 MARKETING CORNER



Cape Coral student wins at American Legion

State Scholarship Competition

The Cape Coral American Legion Post 90 candidate, Kris Wydysh, won 3rd place at the Legion’s State Oratorical Scholarship competition held at the Legion Department headquarters in Orlando, Florida on Saturday 3/30, after winning the competition at the Post, District and Area levels. Kris Isa, Junior at North Ft Myers High School, and has been active in the Florida YMCA Youth in Government Program, the Cape Coral Youth Council, an intern for a Cape Coral Councilmember, High School Student Government Assoc., and Lee County School District Student Advisory Committee.

To compete, Kris prepared and delivered an original 8 to 10-minute speech about the 2nd Amendment. He emphasized a citizen’s duty to their country and their responsibility to adhere to that amendment. Additionally, Kris gave a 3–5minute speech on an assigned topic to test his

knowledge of one of four other Constitutional amendments.

At the local Post level, held in December 2024, the Post Commander, Keith Berres, awarded Kris, the first-place winner, a \$600 scholarship check. The district and area scholarships are \$300 each and at the state level, the awards are \$500-\$2500 for the top 6 contestants. Kris was awarded a \$1000 scholarship.

Ted Clark, the Post 90 Oratorical Chair, stated “he was thrilled and proud to see Kris excel at each level of the scholarship competition and hopes other Cape Coral students will be attracted to the Legion competition.” Post Commander Berres said, “he is proud of the work done by members of the Post to help develop the potential of Cape Coral’s high school students.”

Students can learn more about the program for next year 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 First Vice Commander
And Oratorical Chairman,

Ted Clark



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.

There will be Honor Guard/Color Guard Practice at 9am at American Legion Post 90 on Saturday, May 11th, 2024, in civilian clothes.

There will be Honor Guard/Color Guard Practice at 9am at American Legion Post 90 on Saturday, June 8th, 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 American Legion Riders of Post 90 have been very active this past year. We are known as a 70mph billboard for the Legion. We had successful dinners in March and April. On May 4th, we will be doing our signature Italian Night Dinner. Breakfasts were put on hold for March and April, but we are back again on May 19th, from 8 to 11 am.

On March 23rd, we successfully completed our 1st Annual District 13 Winter Stamping Tour with a BBQ fundraiser at Punta Gorda Post 103. We had 63 stops throughout SWFL and participants had 4 months to complete the booklet. We raised over \$17,000 to distribute to the American Legion Posts destroyed by Hurricane Ian; Sanibel Post 123, Bonita Springs Post 303, Fort Myers Beach Post 274, and Port Charlotte Post 110 will all benefit. The checks will be distributed at the DCC Meeting on May 19th. We will be announcing the start of the 2nd Annual Winter Stamping Tour at that meeting and the proceeds will be going to Project Vet Relief.

We have continued to raise money by doing a 50/50 drawing every Friday night at the Post. Red shirts are in great attendance and the ALR always fill a few tables for dinner.

On April 21st, a foursome of Riders will embark on the Unity Tour to raise money for Project Vet Relief to end Veteran Suicide. We are doing the Central Ride and will be stopping at 32 different American Legion Posts throughout the State of Florida; 1,079 miles in 5 days. ALR Chapter 90 will be donating a check for \$6,000 to Project Vet Relief when we arrive at St. James City Post 136 during this ride.

We will be doing our first ever Pocketbook Bingo on April 29th. Buy a ticket to win your mother a designer bag for Mother's Day! Many of us have also been riding to complete our District 13 Merit Patch and the miles are adding up!

Finally, we will be escorting Michael "Gambler" Raymond for his homecoming tour of Posts in our area from May 14th to May 17th as he prepares to leave the Department. We appreciate all your support throughout the year in our endeavors and will continue our own support to and for the American Legion Families of Post 90.

Sincerely,

Chapter 90 ALR Secretary,

Laurene Allen-Flower





JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS



Hello everyone,

Multiple High Schools received new equipment from American Legion Post 90 for their Marksmanship Program.

Cape Coral HS - 6 shooting mats

Ida Baker HS - 3 Telescopic poles for mounting scopes with cases

Island Coast HS - 5 Telescopic poles for mounting scopes with cases

North Ft Myers HS - 2 Telescopic poles for mounting scopes with cases, 2 shooting mats

We have a new addition to our JROTC High Schools family that we support. North Ft Myers HS will join us starting the 2024-2025 school year. They have a new marksmanship program that's up and coming under the direction of SGM Peterson. They recently qualified 4 shooters for a national competition in Annison, Al. American Legion Post 90 recently presented a donation to N. Ft Myers of \$1,250.00 to help with the cost of the trip to Annison.

We now support the entire West Zone of Lee County Schools JROTC Marksmanship Program, which includes:

Cape Coral HS, Ida Baker HS, Island Coast HS, Mariner HS & Oasis HS (which all in cape coral) and N. Ft Myers HS in Ft Myers.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the expansion of our JROTC Program.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post 90 JROTC Marksmanship Chairman,

Dennis Stebbins



Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is safe and 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



Unit 90 will be distributing Poppies at various locations throughout Cape Coral on weekends thru the month of May. Unfortunately, a lot of the Publix stores were booked up in early December but fortunately we have been able to add a few new locations this year.

The sign-up sheets have started going up on the wall between the restrooms at the Legion. We will need many volunteers and are asking for help from all of the families of Post 90, Legionnaires, SAL, Riders and Auxiliary. We currently have permission at 8 locations and are hoping to add a few more. It will be a little different this year as we will not be going to the same places every week.

Please consider signing up. Sign-up sheets are on the wall in the hallway outside the kitchen. All poppy proceeds go to programs that benefit veterans and their families.

Questions? Contact [Pam Clark](mailto:Pam.Clark@alpost90.com) 703.598.0782 for more information




CASH BAR

AMERICAN LEGION CHAPTER 90 RIDERS

ITALIAN DINNER
 Saturday, May 4th
 4:30 - 7 pm

\$15 per plate
 Stuffed shells, 2 meatballs,
 salad and bread and butter.
 Extra meatballs \$0.50 each.

Last dinner before the end of season!
Sign Up by May 1st

For more information
 Jack Fitzgerald
 716-863-6813

*Walkins Welcome -
 Signups have priority*



**PRIME RIB
 DINNER**

May 18th
 Starting at 5 pm
 Must Signup by April 17th
 Price \$18

Prime Rib
 Baked Potato
 Green Beans
 Salad

Dessert (\$2.00)



 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.



May 2024 (Music & Events)

Monday the 6th – meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

Wednesday the 8th – meeting at 6pm for **AMERICAN EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Monday the 13th – meeting at 7pm for **SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION**

Monday the 20th - meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Monday the 27th – meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP**

(Some meetings may be canceled due to Holidays.)

June 2024 (Music & Events)

Monday the 3rd – meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

Monday the 10th - meeting at 7pm for **SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION**

Wednesday the 12th - meeting at 6pm for **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Monday the 17th - meeting at 7pm for **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Monday the 24th – 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**