



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

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***1401 Southeast 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33904 • 239.540.8128***

### **Meeting of the Membership Squadron 90**

**Recording: John Baker, Commander:**

**Date:** November 10, 2025, **Begin Time:** 7:00 PM **End Time:** 7:38 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 67<sup>th</sup> National Convention and Resolution NC 2-94, adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 convened.

### **Business Order**

**Roll Call:** All Officers were present except:

Excused – Keith Berres, Chris Antonellis

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 October 2025 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 October 2025 membership meeting minutes as posted was made by Mark Keeling, seconded by Sean Wing, Discussion - None. Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

### **Initiation of Prospective New Members**

Commander John Baker read the following:

- New Members:
  - Joseph Costa – Father – Army – Honorable
  - Thomas Fogel – Father – Air Force - Honorable
- Transfer Member:
  - Doug Coyle – Post FL0136 – Father - Honorable

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

Is there any reason not to accept any of these as new members? None.

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

**Commander Report (John Baker)**

- Thanks to Elon Hertzfeld and Larry Horner for participating with the Legion's Honor/Color Guards during the Veterans' Day parade. The Guard was awesome, and it was great way to present the American Legion Post 90 to the Cape Coral Community.
- The SAL will host a dinner on January 24, 2026. John Baker will cook, but needs assistance with ordering & serving, meal plating and dishwashing.
- John Baker will not run for Commander for the 2026-2027 year. An officer sign-up list will be placed on the bulletin board on January 1, 2026. The SAL election is planned for May 11, 2026, from 1:00 to 6:00 PM, with ballots counted between 6:00 and 7:00 PM and the new Commander's appointments approved at the 7:00 PM membership meeting. The date for the installation of officers will be after the Legion Convention in June 2026.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Report (Chris Antonellis):**

- No report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Report (Larry Horner):**

- The Christmas Cash raffle will begin in November. Keith Berres will print the raffle tickets before the raffle begins. The drawings will be on December 21, 22, 23 and 24.
- The SAL will hold a basket raffle in December.

**Finance Officer Report (Submitted by Mark Keeling):**

- October 1, 2025, beginning balance: \$7,169.55.
- Deposits total: \$950.00
- Charges and withdrawals total: \$231.00.
- Checks written and cleared 10/15/25: \$1,000.
- October 31, 2025, Ending Balance: \$6,888.55
- Honor Flight Escrow: \$2,371.43
- October 31, 2025, Available Balance: \$4,517.12

**A motion to accept the October 2025 finance report, subject to audit, was made by Elon Hertzfeld, seconded by Peter Burt, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

### **Adjutant Report (John Baker for Keith Berres)**

- As of November 10, 2025, Squadron 90 has 118 paid members for 2026. This is 50.63% of the target goal of 237 members. With the three members just approved, the Squadron has 121 paid members or 51.48% of the goal.

### **Sergeant-at-Arms Report (Tony Truzzolino).**

- No report.

### **Chaplain Report (Elon Hertzfeld):**

- No report.

### **Judge Advocate Report (Open)**

- The Squadron Constitution and By-Laws were approved by the Detachment. They are in the post office for review.

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) No report.
- **Americanism** – No Report.
- **BE the One** – No Report.
- **Honor Flight** – Squadron 90 has not received any requests for assistance.
- **Children and Youth (Families)** – No Report.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Last month the question arose as to why Squadron 90 only has one Sunday for a 50/50 raffle. John Baker reported that the raffle dates were changed when the Legion requested contributions from SAL, ALA, and ALR to help fund the NFL package. The Legion, SAL and ALA contributed, but the ALR did not. To help pay back the programs, each program was given a Sunday to generate 50/50 funds. Commander Baker has no idea why the ALR was given a Sunday as they did not contribute to the NFL package, but he will try to get an answer before the next meeting.

## **New Business:**

- The Florida ABT is inspecting all establishments with an 11C liquor license which includes Post 90. 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. The bartenders have been instructed to ask for a membership card from everyone. If you do not have your card, you will be treated as a guest and must be signed in by a card-carrying member. Guests cannot purchase an alcoholic beverage which must be purchased by the member.
- If you have not renewed your membership by December 31, 2025, you will not be able to enter the Post except by ringing the buzzer. You will be asked to renew your membership. The American Legion grants a 30-day extension to January 31, 2026, before your membership will expire. If your membership expires you must rejoin, and your continuous years will begin a “1”.
- The Post will be closed all day on Monday, November 17 to have a new canteen floor installed. From November 18 to 21, the Post will open at Noon.
- The Legion is instituting an “Honorary Legion Family Member of the Year Award”. Each Legion program (Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders) will submit one name to the Legion Commander for consideration of the award. SAL Commander Baker has received two names for the SAL candidate, and if you would like to consider a SAL member, please contact the Commander Baker. The submission for the award will be by an application with a narrative as to why the candidate is given consideration.
- Sean Wing requested suspension of the meeting and that Commander Baker leave the meeting & room and Second Vice Commander Horner preside. Commander Baker complied

**A motion was made by Sean Wing to make Commander Baker a Life Member of Squadron 90. The motion was seconded by Elon Hertzfeld, Discussion – none, Vote: Yeas – unanimous, Nays – none. The motion passed.**

Commander Baker returned to the meeting and presided.

**The Good 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.

- None

## **Motion To Close:**

**Motion to close the meeting was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Elon Hertzfeld, 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.

**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 adjourned 7:38 PM.

Everyone was reminded to turn their phones back on.

John Baker for Adjutant Keith Berres