



## ***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: Mark Keeling, Finance Officer**

**Date: December 8, 2025, Begin Time: 7:00 PM, End Time: 7:47 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 regularly convened.

## **Business Order**

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

Excused – Keith Berres

Absent –

**Determination of Quorum:** A total of eleven members and officers are present. Quorum (minimum of four members of good standing) was met.

## **Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests**

- None

## **Approval of Minutes from Previous Membership Meeting:**

The November 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 November 2025 membership meeting minutes as posted was made by Mark Keeling, seconded by Elon Hertzfeld, Discussion - None. Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

## **Initiation of Prospective New Members**

Commander John Baker reads the following:

### **New Member**

William Tone – Father Army WWII, Not present

### **Transfers**

Stanley Giesler – transferring from IN0094, Father, Not present.

Thomas Harpring – transferring from FL0274, Father, Not present.

Richard Engen – transferring from WI0481, Grandfather, present.

Is anyone present whose name was read? (If so, have them introduce themselves). Richard Engen reported.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if any of these personnel are present, please escort them out of the room so we may vote them in. Richard Engen was escorted from the meeting and returned after the motion.

Does anyone have any reason not to accept any of these as new members?

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

### **Commander Report (John Baker)**

- Hosting dinner on January 24, 2026. John Baker will cook, but needs assistance with ordering & serving, meal plating and dishwashing.
- Running 50/50 raffles when the date is open for Legion events.

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

- No Report.

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

- The Christmas Cash raffle tickets are for sale at the Canteen. The drawings will be on December 21, 22, 23 and 24.
- The SAL is holding a basket raffle in December.

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

- November 1, 2025, beginning balance: \$6,888.55.
- Deposits total: \$540.00.
- Charges and withdrawals total: \$220.00.
- Checks written and cleared 11/7/25: \$100.00.
- November 30, 2025, Ending Balance: \$7,183.55
- Honor Flight Escrow: \$2,371.43
- November 30, 2025, Available Balance: \$4,812.12

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

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

- As of December 4, 2025, Squadron 90 has 139 paid members for 2025. This is 58.65% of the target goal of 237 members, but Squadron 90 achieved the Detachment target of 45.00% by

November 4, 2025. With the four members just approved, the Squadron will have 143 paid members or 60.34% and exceeds next goal which is 60.00%.

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

- No Report.

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

- Keep Karen Horner in your prayers as she is being transported to Tampa this evening for surgery.

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

- The Squadron Constitution and By-Laws were approved by the Detachment and are available in the office and on the Post 90 web site.

**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) The Legion is recognizing two SAL members, Jay Bissell and Terry Reynolds for their work in getting the new Canteen floor installed. They have spent many hours during the process. In addition, Jay Bissell has volunteered his valuable time to get the Post ready for business every day. Two other volunteers assisted: Brian Carrier and Charlie Renhart. Commander Baker would like to assist the Legion, if possible, with the gifts either all totaling \$600 or partially \$400.00 for Bissell and Reynolds or \$200.00 for Carrier and Renhart.

**Elon Hertzfeld made a motion to either match a not to exceed \$600 gift for the four volunteers but the motion for the contribution was amended so that it could be a lesser dollar amount after Commander Baker speaks with Commander Arnold to clarification the amounts needed. Seconded by Sean Wing. Discussion: None, Vote: Yeas Unanimous, No Nay votes, Motion Passed**

- **Americanism** – No Report.
- **BE the One** – No Report.

- **Honor Flight** – Squadron 90 has not received any requests for Honor Flight assistance. Commander Baker will get notices out to attract Honor Flight candidates.
- **Children and Youth (Families)** – No Report.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- 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., and 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 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. **As an SAL family member of Post 90, please show your membership card every time you order an alcoholic beverage. Also, use your door entry card every time.**
- The Legion has instituted the “Armand LaFleur Honorary Legion Family Member of the Year Award”. The final rules will be published before January 1, 2026. Each Legion program (Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders) can submit more than one name to the Legion Commander for consideration of the award. So far, SAL Commander Baker has received two names for an SAL candidate, and if you would like to consider another 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.

### **New Business:**

- **Donate funds to the Commander Moore’s project: Special Olympics.** A request has been made to Post 90 to donate \$1,000 to Special Olympics. Post 90’s Commander Arnold has asked that each of Post 90’s families donate \$250.00 to the project.

**A motion to donate \$250.00 to Special Olympics was made by Elon Hertzfeld, seconded by Chris Antonapolis, Discussion None, Yeas 10, Nays None, Abstention One, Motion Passed.**

- Mark Keeling stated that last year the SAL contributed approximately \$1,200 for the inaugural season of American Legion Baseball in Cape Coral. The funds were for registration, uniforms, hats, and baseballs. This year Squadron 90 is also willing to pay for the team's insurance, which will be about \$278. Thus, Squadron 90 would be committed to about \$1,500, not to exceed that amount. It could be less as the uniforms were purchased in 2025, and hopefully returned by the players. According to Keeling, this funding is not needed until March or April. Sean Wing requested this issue be tabled until the January 2026 meeting when the final amounts for funding can be determined.
- The Four Chaplains' Ceremony will be on February 1 which is the closest Sunday to February 3, and it is time we start gearing up for it. Commander Baker has been doing it for 10 years and would like to teach someone to take over. Legion Chaplain Ron Montange is being asked if he would like to run the show as Master of Ceremony, as Baker has always believed it is best for a Chaplain to be the Master of Ceremony at the Four Chaplain event. In case Montange cannot do it, as he is also the VFW Chaplain, or does not want to do it, Squadron 90 Chaplain Elon Hertzfeld was asked if he would be willing to do it. Hertzfeld is a little reluctant but said he would look at what he needs to do. If Montange or Hertzfeld cannot do it, Baker will ask Roland Meadows if he might do it. Meadows is the Post Chaplain of the Hollywood Legion Post 92 who is moving to Cape Coral and will transfer to Post 90. **The Four Chaplains' ceremony requires several readers, and if you are willing to read a part, please contact Commander Baker.**
- The sign-up list for new Squadron 90 officers is on the bulletin board. Please consider an officer position for the 2026-2027 year.

**The Good of the Sons of the American Legion** (The membership is permitted to make suggestions of any kind, character, or description, save religion or partisan politics, but the time is limited to 2 minutes per person.

- Mark Keeling suggested that Squadron 90 assist the Legion Auxiliary Unit 90 with the giving tree for the veterans at the Jacobson Home for Veterans. There are only two gifts left on the

tree which would cost the Squadron about \$40 to \$50 each. Elon Hertzfeld asked that the contribution not exceed \$100.00.

**Mark Keeling made a motion to spend a maximum of \$100.00 to purchase two Christmas gifts for veterans at Jacobson Home for Veterans. Seconded by Elon Hertzfeld. Discussion: None, Vote: Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

- Elon Hertzfeld joined the Post 90 Honor Guard. Thanks for his volunteerism.
- The Legion has posted a list of open committee chairs on the bulletin board. SAL members can volunteer to chair any of these committees. Please look at the list, and if you would like to sign up for a committee chair, please do so.
- The District 13 meeting will be next Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Port Charlotte, Post 110, at 9:00 AM.
- Commander Baker will not be able to attend the SAL meeting on January 12, 2026. Chris Antonopolis will preside.

### **Motion To Close:**

**A motion to close the meeting was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Chris Antonopolis, 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. Face the flag.

**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 regularly adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Everyone is reminded to turn their phones back on.