



## ***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**

**Presiding:** Chris Antonellis, Acting Commander for John Baker, Commander

**Recording:** Keith Berres, Adjutant

**Date:** January 12, 2026, **Begin Time:** 7:00 PM **End Time:** 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 – John Baker, Commander

Absent –

**Determination of Quorum:** A total of 13 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 December 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 December 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**

Keith Berres, Adjutant, read the following:

#### **New Member**

Michael Flower – Father in the Army

Chris Hamstra – Grandfather in the Army

#### **Transfers**

William Finnegan – Transferring from MO624, Sunrise Beach, MO

Lewis Palmer – Transferring from FL136, Pine Island, FL

Rick Moore – Transferring from MD268, Wheaton, MD

Stephen Ashe – Transferring from FL274, Fort Myers Beach, FL  
John Roland – Transferring from IN64, Indianapolis, IN

Is anyone present whose name was read? (If so, have them introduce themselves). Michael Flowers was present.

Sergeant-at-Arms, if any of these personnel are present, please escort them out of the room so we may vote them in.

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 Mark Keeling, seconded by Sean Wing, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

**Commander Report (John Baker, read by Chris A.)**

- Hosting fish dinner on January 24, 2026. John Baker will cook Cod in Foil and Red Wine Poached Salmon, 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):**

- None

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

- Christmas Cash was not as good as expected. \$304 was the profit.
- Next basket is in April.

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

- December 1, 2025, beginning balance: \$7,183.55.
- Deposits total: \$1,692.00
- Charges and withdrawals total: \$341.00
- Checks written: \$1,155.98
- Outstanding Checks: \$0
- December 31, 2025, Ending Balance: \$7,378.57
- Honor Flight Escrow: \$2371.43
- December 31, 2025, Available Balance: \$5007.14

**A motion to accept the December 2025 finance report, subject to audit, was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Nick Napolitano III, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

**Adjutant Report (Keith Berres)**

- As of January 7, 2026, Squadron 90 has 182 paid members for 2026. This is 76.79% of the target goal of 237 members. With the members that were processed today and those just approved, the Squadron has 192 paid members or 81.01% of the goal.

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

- The Sgt at Arms recommends Chris Antonellis for an Honorary Life Membership provided he meets the Squadron's Life Membership requirements.
- **A motion to accept the Chris Antonellis for life membership in the Sons of the American Legion provided he meets the Squadron criteria was made by Tony Truzzolino, seconded by Michael Flower, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.**

**Chaplain Report (Elon Hertzfeld):**

- None

**Judge Advocate Report (Open)**

- None

**Committee Reports 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** – None
- **BE the One** – None
- **Honor Flight** – Squadron 90 has not received any requests for Honor Flight assistance.
- **Children and Youth (Families)** - None

### **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. 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 a 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) 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.

### **New Business:**

- The sign-up list for new Squadron officers has been posted on the bulletin board.
- Legion Baseball (Mark Keeling), no update since last meeting.

**The Good of the Sons 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.

- Nothing mentioned

### **Motion To Close:**

**Motion to close the meeting was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Michael Flower, 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 7:25 PM.

Everyone was reminded to turn their phones back on.

Keith Berres, Adjutant