



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

1401 Southeast 47th Street, Cape Coral, Florida 33904 • 239.540.8128

Meeting of the Membership Squadron 90

Recording: Keith Berres, Adjutant:

Date: February 9, 2026, **Begin Time:** 7:00 PM **End Time:** 7:37 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 67th National Convention and Resolution NC 2-94, adopted at the 23rd 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 –

Absent – Chris Antonellis

Determination of Quorum: A total of 15 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 January 2026 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 January 2026 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

Adjutant, Keith Berres read the following. If you are present, please stand up when called and introduce yourself.

- New Members
 - Norris Baxter, recruited by Sean Wing, will be youngest member, eligible through his great grandfather who served in the Army
 - Michael Belling, eligible through his father who served in the Air Force
 - Scott Cooley, eligible through his father who served in the Coast Guard
 - William Crowder, eligible through his father who served in the Army

- Stephen Hajek, eligible through his father who served in the Army
- William Kennedy, eligible through his father who served in the Navy
- Morris Perry, eligible through his father who served in the Army Air Corp
- Transfer
 - John Pyne, transferring from Squadron 274 in Fort Myers Beach.
 - Donith VanCamp, transferring from Department of Michigan, Squadron 141.

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 Sean Wing, seconded by Elon Herschfeld, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Commander Report (John Baker)

- Reported the SAL fish dinner netted \$170.00.
- The next event is Mother's Day May 10, 2026.
- Traveling February 15 to 22, 2026.

1st Vice Commander Report (Chris Antonellis):

- None

2nd Vice Commander Report (Larry Horner):

- Quarterly basket is due in April. Donations would be appreciated.
- Gun raffle is coming up.

Finance Officer Report (Submitted by Mark Keeling):

- January 1, 2026, beginning balance: \$7,183.55.
- Deposits totaled: \$2,349.00
- Charges and withdrawals totaled: \$286.00
- Checks written: \$0
- Outstanding Checks: \$0
- January 31, 2026, ending balance: \$9,441.57
- Honor Flight Escrow: \$2,371.43
- January 31, 2026, available balance: \$7070.14

A motion to accept the January 2026 finance report, subject to audit, was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Bill Crowder, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Adjutant Report (Keith Berres)

- As of February 4, 2026, Squadron 90 has 15 new and 187 renewals, for a total of 202 paid members for 2026. This is 85.23% of the target goal of 237 members. The goal for February 11th is 75% so we are still ahead of goal and already hit the March 1st goal of 80%.
- With the members that were approved for membership today and those just approved, the Squadron will have 196 paid members or 89.87% of the goal. For the entire year.

Sergeant-at-Arms Report (Tony Truzzolino).

- None

Chaplain Report (Elon Hertzfeld):

- None

Judge Advocate Report (Open)

- None

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)
- **Americanism** – None
- **BE the One** – None
- **Honor Flight** – None
- **Children and Youth (Families)** – None
- **Baseball** – Mark Keeling discussed

A motion to approve up to \$1000 to support American Legion Baseball team again this year was made by Mark Keeling, seconded by Sean Wing, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

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.

- Bill Crowder talked about meat raffle with Burnt Store Tavern.

Motion to allow up to \$350 to be used to purchase meat for Burnt Store Tavern, if they will allow us to participate was made by Keith Berres, seconded by Sean Wing, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

- Commander Baker mentioned that we need volunteers to do open positions.
- Everblades Hockey game fund raiser was brought up.
- Riders have their breakfast fundraiser this Sunday.

Motion To Close:

Motion to close the meeting was made by Sean Wing, seconded by Mike Racioppi, Discussion None, Yeas Unanimous, Nays None, Motion Passed.

Closing Ceremony

Stand (3 raps of the gavel)

Uncover

Closing Prayer – Chaplain recites a prayer

Recover

Commander: As a reminder, Squadron 90 members are to join the Sergeant-at-Arms with a slow salute as he recovers the POW/MIA flag. Sergeant-at-Arms, recover 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 7:37 PM.

Everyone was reminded to turn their phones back on.

