

# POST NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Cape Coral, Florida - Post #90



JAN - FEB 2019



COMMANDER'S CORNER

*with John Baker*

***Hello everyone,***

Another year has passed and we are thankful that we survived the year in good financial stead because of your support of Post 90. Post 90 donated a lot of money, blood and sweat to support veterans' charities and to help the needy of Cape Coral. Thanks to the Officers, Executive Board members and you, the members of Post 90.

On January 12, 2018, Post 90 along with Lee Health is hosting a Blood Drive from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. We collected 23 units of blood in October 2018 and would like to exceed that amount in January. Please sign up and support this endeavor. It helps your Lee County and Cape Coral communities.

We are on track to run the First Base Grill at the Boston Rex Sox training camp again this year. The schedule and sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. There are eighteen events with only one (1) night game. Aramark has asked us if Post 90 can support working in a second stand (#5) this year. We told them yes if we can get enough volunteers to do it otherwise, we will only operate Stand #3, the First Base Grill. Last year we worked Stand #5 four times and the result was we raised nearly \$23,000 for Post 90 and its charities. Bob Buchholz and I feel confident that we can raise \$20,000 this year without Stand #5, but should exceed \$23,000 with Stand #5. Remember that 75% of what we raise goes to veterans and local charities. Please help us support this endeavor.

On February 3, 2019 (Super Bowl Sunday) from 1:00 to 2:00 PM, a Four Chaplains Ceremony will be held at the Post 90. We honor the sacrifice of four Army Chaplains who at 12:55 AM on February 3, 1943 lost their lives when the USAT Dorchester was sunk by a German submarine in the North Atlantic Ocean. On that night 672 men perished and 230 survived. Please join us in celebration of these brave American servicemen.

February begins the season of Officer Call for the Legion and the Sons of the American Legion (SAL). There will be a number of vacancies this year and your help is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in serving the Post and its members as an Officer or Executive Board Committeeman, please put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board by the west entry door on January 1, 2019. The call lasts three months (February, March and April) with the election in May. The term of service is one year from July 2019 to June 2020. Everyone will have a job, so your time will not be wasted. Please serve your Post members and keep the Post running smoothly with great accountability.

We here at Post 90 have two excellent Veteran's Service Officers (VSO's): Nick Napolitano and Brian "Taz" Gehling. These men are trained and certified to assist Veteran's with their walk through the VA maize. Both of our VSO's are stationed at the Cape Coral Military Museum, but Brian holds office at Post 90 on Monday and Tuesday from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. They can be contacted by phone or email. If you need help, PLEASE contact them and make an appointment.

If as an American Legion Member, you might qualify to also be a member of the Sons of the American Legion or the Legion Auxiliary, please give some thought to joining the SAL and Auxiliary. There is a substantial discount on the annual dues for being a Dual Member.

Please remember the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guardsmen who sacrificed so much for our freedom, liberty and our way of life.

*For God and Country,*

*John Baker*





# *John Hogrewe*

**January 30, 1945 – November 8, 2018**

Most recently, another of our Post 90 members has fallen. John served as our Post 90 Chaplain, and the many visitations he made to ailing members at their homes or in the hospital to provide comfort and convey the words of our Lord will remain in our hearts forever.

On Saturday November 17, 2018, a memorial service was held at Post 90 with full military honors. Many of John's family and friends were in attendance.

The Post 90 Honor Guard provided a 21-gun salute, Taps was played and a folded flag presentation was made to John's spouse, Laura. All Post 90 Officers that were present individually offered a final salute to the urn that contained the final remains of our fallen Comrade.

In remembrance, the significance of the echoes of the bugler sounding Taps and the rifle shots will remain with us as we departed to our homes.

A luncheon was provided by the Legion and was enjoyed by all.

Rest in peace John and rest assured your presence will be missed by all of us.

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Donald Gurney*





Kind of a slow ride summer (Snowbirds gone) and last winter several medical issues with a few road captains....it's a bummer getting old, but better than the alternative!!

### **9/8/2018**

Parade For Heroes, in conjunction with the Military Museum, was a success. 8 Bikes participated along with the Color Guard.

### **10/11-15/2018**

Key West was our long overnigher, this year. We rode down with 8 bikes, 10 people, and a support truck with a two-bike trailer (always a comfort on a long ride). Two bikers came over on the Key West Express as the ride was longer than they wanted, and one person actually flew over as she had to work the day we rode down. As we have several Military ID holders, we were able to rent 3 Townhouses on base, only paying \$44 per room (two person) a night. This price is unheard of ANYWHERE else in Key West.....maybe in the entire state of Florida!! Since we were within a 1.5 radius of Duval Street, the bikes were parked and we either walked or group-cabbed everywhere. Made the bar hopping much safer!

### **10/19/2008**

A few of our members participated in the SWFL H.O.G. Chapter (Harley Owner's Group) annual Rattlesnake Run event in Brooksville, FL. It's always a pleasure spending time with friends we don't see very often. This year Black Widow Harley Davidson in Pt Charlotte was the sponsor and did a great job. Hope to see them back next year!

### **11/3/2018**

Flag Retirement Burning Ceremony was, again, a success. This year, for the first time, we had our Honor Guard with us. It's always a moving ceremony, but with both the Color Guard and the Honor Guard it was especially impressive.

### **11/11/2018**

The annual Cape Coral Veterans Day Parade went on without a hitch. The usual crowd of supporters were lined up along the route. The Color Guard and Honor Guard were looking smart, also. It was a bit longer this year. We had 12 bikes participate. I hope we can round up a few more next year!

### **12/15/2018**

Wreaths Across America Tribute at Sea was, again, a success. Not only was it a beautiful day for a motorcycle ride, but a great one for boating, as well. We participated with 10 bikes (several flags flying) and 11 people. About 50 total for the escorted ride. This year, one of our newer members Ron Palm, went out to the ceremony 3 miles off the coast.

### **12/16/2018**

The Jacobson Veteran's Home (Pt Charlotte) Ride also had great weather. There were 12 bikes and 15 people from our group, but we met up with another 100+ motorcycles from the area. Everyone brought gifts, but the residents LOVE watching us arrive, and checking out all the bikes. It's so rewarding to speak to older veterans about their service, and they are always appreciative of our attention. They are every bit as proud of their service as we are of ours!

**For the 2019 year, we already have lots of plans.**

The Blessing of the Bikes at Post 192, Bonita Springs, and the American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party in Christal River Post 155, and a Poker Run for our Legacy Fund at Post 323, Lehigh, are all scheduled in January. February, we have our annual 4-day Rider Summit in Cocoa Beach. March 2-3 is 'Kick 'in. It In The Canal" (2 day event) up at Post 110 Port Charlotte, and the Steak Dinner at Post 136, St James City.

We always support the St. James City Post 136 on Pine Island, with their annual Steak Dinner, March 9<sup>th</sup> this year. If anyone wants a ticket (they're \$20, must have one to eat) contact Rebecca Sewell (239-246-2838), Assistant Director for the Riders. Tickets go fast, so don't wait until February to get yours! It's a fund raiser (not to mention a GREAT steak, potato, salad, roll, etc.) so try to make it! They have entertainment, and a 50/50. The outside porch is on a pond with a fountain. Nice digs!

The local Bike Nights are always a big hit. Cape Coral and Ft. Myers, each, do it every other month. It's usually the second Saturday every month, all season. January it's in Ft. Myers, February in Cape Coral, etc.....

These are just a few of the things coming up. We have a Ride Planning Meeting every month to fill in the empty weekend days with rides. Anyone can join us to ride. We do welcome guests, and have a lot of fun. If you aren't part of our group, you'll only need to sign a waiver before the ride. All the Rd Cpt's have them.

All our prayers go out to Carl and Linda while they're dealing with Linda's health issues. She is currently at Hartland Rehab on Matthew Dr in Ft. Myers. Her room number is 601. Walk-in visits are welcome.

Don't forget our main fund raiser 50/50 and L-C-R on Wed nights 6:00pm.

*Respectfully,*

*Rebecca Sewell*  
Assistant Director ALR



# SERVICE OFFICER REPORT



*Hello everyone,*

I want to remind everyone that veterans may qualify for a Veterans Identification Card, VIC. The VIC is designed for those veterans that do not qualify for medical care. The card may be applied for at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/>.

You can also learn more about burial and memorial benefits available for veterans and their families from our [Burial & Memorial Overview page](#).

If you have any more questions, please see Taz or myself.

*Thank You*



*Nicholas A. Napolitano*  
Service Officer



You can find us here... On Facebook,



**Cape Coral American Legion of Southwest Florida Post 90**

Or on the Web

**[www.Post90swf.org](http://www.Post90swf.org)**

If you haven't visited our website lately you really should go check it out! We have so many updates and all new look, and more to come!!

***Come see what's new and what we've already been doing!***







2018 was a great year for the S.A.L and with another great year ahead. Let us remind each and every member of what this wonderful program has done.

The veteran's day parade featured the S.A.L's commander, Brian Gehling II, and Sgt. At Arms, Chris Jani, wielding flags for their mile-long walk in Cape Coral's monumental veteran's day parade. While that day was very hot, and the mile seemed long, it's always worth it to show that we care and are dedicated to helping our veteran's who fought so valiantly for our country. However, the day before Cape Coral's own veteran's day parade you could find the S.A.L's commander in Fort Myers's veteran's day parade where he offered a prayer to the city delivered at the city library for their wonderful parade.

In December, the S.A.L donated \$500 to Boys State to sponsor a boy to be learn more about the government. The S.A.L donated to the Friends of the Cape which donates turkey dinners to our post to distribute to needy families and members. The S.A.L also donated to Special Olympics, winning the squadron an award during the annual convention displayed on the wall in our post.

It's that time of the year again to renew your dues ASAP. Just as a reminder, membership for Jr. and Dual members are \$10 otherwise it's \$25. RENEW ASAP. Remember that your membership allows for this program to do all the wonderful things for not only our community, but to our state and nation.

Thank you,

*Brian Lee Gehling II*

S.A.L Commander





## *Quick Coming Event Summary*

### **Jan 2019 (Music & Events)**

- Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>** - music by Kenny G
- Friday the 11<sup>th</sup>** - music by Way Out South
- Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>** - music by Busted Stuff
- Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>** - music Classix

### **Feb 2019 (Music & Events)**

- Friday the 1<sup>st</sup>** - music by Retro Road
- Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>** – music by Classix
- Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>** – music by Busted Stuff
- Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup>** – music by Terri Hood



*\*\*See the website for additional information\*\**



Come and enjoy any or all of these events and entertainment. We appreciate your support of Post 90.

