

Charles A. Conklin Post #28

P. O. Box 439
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THE AMERICAN LEGION



Janet E. Fonger, Post 28 Commander
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HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 1 pm - 10 pm ~ Saturday 12 pm - 10 pm ~ Sunday 1 pm - 7 pm
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AMERICAN LEGION

Jay Stevens, 1st Vice Commander
TBD, 2nd Vice Commander
Julie Johnson, Adjutant
Jeff Moody, Finance Officer
Duane Smith, Chaplain
Jack VanWeelden, Judge Advocate
Hoyt Fonger (interim), Sergeant-at-Arms
Dennis Siron, Historian
Hoyt Fonger, Service Officer
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Chuck Potter, Executive-at-Large
Jerry Toogood, Executive-at-Large
Hoyt Fonger, Executive-at-Large
Bob Wydeck, Past Commander
Mike Zeef, Past Commander

AUXILIARY

Darlene DeHaan, President
marcdarlene@gmail.com
Melanie Riekels, 1st Vice Pres.
Diane Janusch-Johnson 2nd Vice Pres.
Ginny Hebert, Secretary
Michele Stettus, Treasurer
Linda Gieske, Historian
Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain
Barb Kelly, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Ross Berens, Commander
salcmdrpost28@yahoo.com
Hans VanHorsssen, 1st Vice Commander
TBD, 2nd Vice Commander
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
TBD, Historian
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms
Scott Kelly, Membership
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant
Jeff Warner, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Gerald Keen, Director
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Steve Barnes, Assistant Director
Chase Kamhout, Sergeant-at-Arms
Michelle Lucas, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
TBD, Chaplain
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair

Yale Pope, Post Manager
Dawn Stevens, Kitchen Manager
(616) 842-5310

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



As we begin the new year, hindsight is, 2020! COVID-19, opening the Post, closing, reopening, capacity limitations, contagion concerns, all lead to one major question, "What will 2021 look like for our Post?"

To begin, the challenges of 2020 were met head-on with Post membership numbers coming in above District goals! Adaptability was key for most of 2020 and will play a significant role in navigating our Post into 2021. Our Post Legionnaires and family units have historically persevered through difficult

times. This last year was no exception.

Goodfellows successfully served 153 families including 435 children, in spite of, strict state mandated COVID restrictions. This required the operation to adapt and find new ways to overcome obstacles in delivering toys to local children in-need, during the 2020 Christmas season! Thank you to all who volunteered their time to ensure Tri-cities families in-need, were served.

As the COVID-context continues to evolve, so has the Post. Times have changed and so has the way we approach our Post's programs and offerings into the next decade. While change can be fearful and challenging, it is necessary to adapt to changes in society and how we navigate into the next century.

Our Post has a history of perseverance and fortitude as reflected in the Post 28 documentary. Antiquated thinking and techniques will hinder an organization, including our Post. Looking forward with hope and anticipation is understandable. However, we must approach the future with a new thinking, one that moves our Post forward for tomorrow. This means all veterans, younger and older generations, from all walks of life, and their needs, coming together with positive and encouraging outcomes.

Our Post's newly renovated kitchen has become a symbol of positive change. Since its official reopening, Labor Day weekend in 2020, the new Post 28 kitchen has served numerous meals from our new menu including salads, sandwiches, pizzas, soups, and more. This is clearly a departure from previous food offerings at Post 28 and has been successful. Stay tuned for updates on what is happening on the culinary side of Post 28 for 2021.

Speaking of services.... The fluctuation in state mandates governing gatherings, social distancing, and mask usage has kept Post 28 operations on a roller-coaster ride. As of this writing, the Post's enterprise operations (lounge and kitchen) are closed. Once we reopen (scheduled after January 15th per Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) mandates), we anticipate beginning Friday Burger Nights (on some Fridays) and occasional Wednesday night dinners, including Post 28 classic dinners!

We do understand the reluctance of some to volunteer out of fear under the COVID context. The health and well-being of everyone is priority-one and we will resume kitchen operations as necessary respecting the right of individuals to not volunteer until the situation under COVID-19 changes.

The Executive Committee has governed our Post through many changes and restrictions over the past several months. I am very grateful to serve as Commander with such giving and committed Officers. The current Executive Committee represents a professional cross-section and consists of Post 28 Adjutant, Julie Johnson, Finance Officer Jeff Moody, 1st Vice Commander Jay Stevens, Past Post 28 Commanders, Bob Wydeck and Mike Zeefe, and Executives at Large: Jerry Toogood, Chuck Potter and Hoyt Fonger. Our Post Manager, Yale Pope works diligently with me and the Executive Committee to ensure that Post 28 stays on a positive course and is able to navigate through the storms during the COVID-context.

We are excited for a "grand reopening" and welcome back all of our honorable Post 28 members and families once state mandates governing the COVID context, allow us to open our kitchen and lounge.

Post 28 will continue to abide by all mandates to ensure the health and well-being of others and to protect our Post's licenses.

Please continue to view Facebook and the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 website for updates and announcements. Thank you for your continued support and faith that 2021 will be a remarkable year for everyone!

Commander Janet
#102 & #103

From Your Post Manager

Upon taking over as Post Manager on October 31st, I've had a minimal amount of time prior to the shutdown to get to know most of our members. As a result, I ask that if I haven't had the opportunity to meet you personally, please feel free to introduce yourself to me and give me any feedback or suggestions you may have for the betterment of the Post.

We have been working on streamlining our kitchen operations with the goal of making ordering from the kitchen easier as well as changing up the menu somewhat based on recommendations that we've had from members. In addition, we will be introducing some menu items on a weekly trial basis and will be asking for your feedback on these. So don't forget to ask your server about daily food specials because we would like to hear from you.

As you know, in Michigan we experience transitional weather seasons and many people like to experience seasonal-type beer. So in addition to our traditional brand favorites, we will have a more evolving tap line to conform to seasonal changes, as many of you have requested.

I look forward to seeing you all back upon our re-opening.

Thank you,
Yale C. Pope
Post Manager

The Chaplain's Corner

GOD SMILES ON ALL OF US
His Will, will be done...

Numbers 6:25-27

25
May the Lord smile down on you and show you his kindness.

26
May the Lord answer your prayers and give you peace.'

27 In this way Aaron and his sons will use my name to give a blessing to the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Deuteronomy 18:18

18 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

As Chaplain may my article be short and to the point.. everyone has to answer to someone. As leaders, in the Faith, we answer to our Creator. He leads our Leaders. May our Leaders of this Country receive the knowledge of Who is in Charge, and guide us fully knowing Who is Watching and Smiling down on us!

In His Service,
Pam Medendorp-Peck
Chaplain

Sick List as of December 30:

Jim "Jimbo" Land, George Bennett, Charles Davis,
Jack Gardner, Ken Kelly, Carl Kuzyk, George Bryant,
Mike Ripka

Nov Taps were played for:

Allen Plantenga, USMC
John Styf, Army
James Vette, Army
Gorden Gibson USMC
Robert Start, jr. USMC
Wayne Raifsnider, Army



USMC helped with 2
Army with 2

In His and Your Service
Duane "Smitty" Smith
Chaplain American Legion Post 28
Grand Haven MI
Pastoral Care Assistant

GENE ROTH SCHOLARSHIP - 2021

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications are available at Post 28 (see a bartender) when Post is open, or may be requested by email from jim.porenta@hotmail.com or you can view and print the application by clicking on the "View and Print the Scholarship Form" button on the Post 28 website page (<https://www.americanlegiongh.org>). 2021 high school graduating seniors who are descendants of Post 28 American Legionnaires (current or deceased) and will be incoming 2021 - 2022 college freshmen are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received at Post 28 by April 16, 2021! Awardees will be notified by mail in mid May. Applications may also be mailed to: Chair, Post 28 Gene Rothi Scholarship Committee, 700 S. Harbor Dr. Grand Haven, MI 49417



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Happy 2021 to everyone! I am hopeful that the new year will include transitioning back to our pre-COVID life soon...including the ability to gather for meetings, meals and events!

Please make sure you check our Auxiliary Facebook page regularly for up-to-date information, news and events.

This month I would like to re-introduce you to Jean Harms, one of our Auxiliary Executive Board Members. Many of you might know Jean from our Post 28 Swiss Steak and Spaghetti dinner nights...where she put in many volunteer hours in past years! Like many of us, if she wasn't volunteering on a Wednesday night, she was there to eat!

Jean grew up in Ludington, and visited that Post often while living there. After graduating from Ferris in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in Industrial & Environmental Health, she lived and worked in Muskegon until moving to Grand Haven in 1997. Jean has worked in environmental consulting and manufacturing for many years.

Jean joined the American Legion Auxiliary several years ago under her step-dad, Lloyd (Andy) Anderson. He served in the Korean War in the Army, and later joined the Navy. Jean described Andy as a great person, very quiet and someone who didn't share much about his life or service. Unfortunately he passed away four years ago, and is greatly missed. Jean's dad, sister and brother served in the Air Force / Air Force Reserves, and her boyfriend served in the Army.

Jean joined Auxiliary first and foremost because she wanted to be part of an organization that helps our military veterans. She enjoys being part of an organization with a rich history of serving the people who have served our country. Serving on our Executive Board gives her another way to serve and support us. Last year she completed the training and certification for Community Emergency Response Team.

The past year has been a challenging one due to COVID, and not being able to come together as an organization and as a Legion Family is something that Jean misses, and she is looking forward to hitting the ground running when things open back up. Jean stated: "I miss volunteering and being a part of an organization with so many wonderful people, with their main mission to be of service to others. Reconnecting and getting back to working together as a cohesive group is top priority."

Please join me in thanking Jean for her service to Auxiliary and to Post 28, and I look forward to the ongoing leadership and spirit of volunteerism that she will bring in the future!

Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chair

At our December "ZOOM" meeting we approved 5 new members. Please help me welcome these new members to Post 28: Christopher Bell, Benjamin Braschler, Steven Crow, Brady Goldberg and Casey Lewis.

Due to current restrictions, we have postponed our January meeting and our next meeting is scheduled for February 1 and will start at 7:00 p.m. Pending the Post reopening, this meeting may end up being another Executive Board Meeting thru ZOOM.

Thanks goes out to all the SAL volunteers that came out to deliver canned goods for Love in Action. Also, thanks all those that participated in the gift distribution for "Goodfellows Crusade for Toys" on December 17 and 18.

With the Covid vaccine now being distributed, I hope to see you soon at the Post and that we have a Happy New Year together.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!!
Serving Veterans and the Community
Ross Berens, SAL Commander



Above - Auxiliary members held an impromptu fundraiser on December 5, raising over \$900 for the Poppy Fund.



Left - "Bags of Joy" - Continuing the annual tradition, Auxiliary members put together & delivered 375 Christmas "bags of joy" to veterans/veterans' wives living in assisted living/nursing homes.

8&40 Salon 499

Happy New Year to all from the partners of the 8&40. For Christmas, we sent gift cards to our CF "adopted" children, Mabel Jane & Felix. We also sent a birthday gift card to Felix in October and will be sending one to Mabel Jane in January. Partners raised over \$500 in donations for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation via a craft fundraiser and individual donations. Sadly and unexpectedly, we lost partner Lisa Baldwin (Myrna Puse's daughter) on November 28, 2020. Auxiliary, 8&40 and Legionnaires conducted a memorial service for Lisa on December 2, 2020. Hoping everyone is staying safe and healthy. Looking forward to seeing you all soon! - La Chapeau, Becky



JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01 NEW YEAR'S Day	02
03 National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day	04	05	06	07	08	09 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 ML King Jr Day	19 National Popcorn Day	20	21	22	23 National Pie Day
24	25	26	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	28	29	30
31						