

Charles A. Conklin Post 28
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**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Michael Thurber
Post 28 Commander
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Monday - Friday 2pm - 10 pm
Saturday 12 noon - 10 pm
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

April 2024
Issue #1235

AMERICAN LEGION

Ron Streng, 1st Vice Commander
Walt Pedersen, 2nd Vice Commander
Chris Jarvis, Adjutant
Robert Kepner, Finance Officer
Gary Doublestein, Chaplain
John Bilski, Judge Advocate
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms
Saul Lopez, Historian
Garrett Viehl, Service Officer
Mike Thurber, Service Officer
Garrett Viehl, Executive-at-Large
Phil Polyak, Executive-at-Large
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large
Richard White, Past Commander

AUXILIARY

Cheryl George, President
cageorge4@gmail.com
Becky Glockzin, Vice President
Ginny Hebert, Secretary
Michele Stetts, Treasurer
Linda Gieske, Historian
Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain
Laurie Koldyk, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Ron Ribbink, Commander
rjribb@gmail.com
Bill Moss, 1st Vice Commander
Tim Deiters, 2nd Vice Commander
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
Scott Kelly, Historian
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dr. David Ireland, Membership
Mike Brown, Adjutant
Paul Kubicek, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Alan Smith, Director
alriderspost28@gmail.com
Jay Stevens, Assistant Director
Michelle Lucas, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
Wes Spyke, Chaplain
Jeannine Harms, Historian
Bob Wydeck, Sergeant-at-Arms
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair
Al Smith, Road Captain
Tom Schultz, Safety Officer
Steven Barnes, Past Director
Yale Pope, Post Manager
(616) 842-5310



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Greetings Post 28 and welcome to spring! I think this will be a fairly short letter this month, but there are some important things to say. First of all, I'd like to thank Cindy for an excellent Legion Birthday dinner and EVERYONE who helped put it on. It was a great evening with lots to celebrate. Special thanks to the Auxiliary and the SAL who worked their tails off in the kitchen and on the serving lines to get that fantastic meal out to all that came to celebrate.

I'd like to get a shout out to Past Commander Garret Veihl for his moving speech during the Birthday dinner and all the work he put into the St. Patrick's Day celebration we had at the Post with GOTAK. They are a hit every year and we are pleased to have them. Standing room only, just the way we like it. I hope everyone who came had as much fun as I did!

Now, on to a more serious matter. I am asking every Legionnaire for help. As you may or may not know, in the next month or two we will be holding nominations and elections for next year's officers. WE NEED PEOPLE TO STEP UP FOR A POSITION!!!! We are especially looking for an Adjutant and a Finance Officer. Three officer positions that MUST be filled in any Legion post are Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer. We will be also on the look out for an Executive-at-Large. So, if you have been wondering how you can get involved, or you have some ideas you would like to see at the Post, here is your chance to get involved and make a difference.

Ok, I believe that is all for now. Another friendly reminder, Post General Membership meetings are always on the 1st Tuesday of every month. Love to see as many people as we can up at those meetings. Until next time....

For the good of the Legion,
Mike Thurber Commander #105



ELECTION TIME

2024-2025 Prospective Officers Post 28

106th Commander: Ron Streng
1st Vice Commander: Walt Pedersen
2nd Vice Commander: Cyndy Wierenga

Adjutant: (Open)

Finance Officer: (Open)

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Porenta
Executive at Large: Freddy Smith
Executive at Large: (Open)
Executive at Large: Phillip Polyak

Service Officer: Garrett Viehl
Service Officer: Mike Thurber
Historian: Robert Kepner
Chaplain: Gary Doublestein
Delegates needed 66 (33 + 33 Alternates)

For the Finance Officer we are looking for someone with bookkeeping or accounting experience. For both the Adjutant and Finance Officer it would be helpful if both would be willing to stay in this position for a few years.

If willing to serve contact Chris Jarvis at cjretsf97@hotmail.com, Freddy Smith at ffsmith2000@sbcglobal.com, or Walt Pedersen at wolsalt@charter.net -

April membership meeting:
- Prospective Officers Introduction
May - Election of New Officers
June - Initiation of New Members
July - Swearing in of New Officers

AUXILIARY

At last, Spring is here! Hello to all our returning snowbirds. Welcome back, we missed you. You missed a great Post 28 Birthday Party and another fantastic performance by GoTac on St. Patrick's Day. The amazing volunteers of the Auxiliary prepared another scrumptious Chops meatloaf dinner in March and raised funds for our veterans programs.

The Auxiliary continues to collect donations to help us support twelve soldiers in twelve different deployments. There is a big blue bin, which has a list of items needed, in the front lobby. Just remember, no pork products or alcohol. We continue to support our local schools through our Give 10 for Education program. You can drop off school supplies in the Auxiliary room upstairs.

The last Chop's meatloaf dinner will be on April 17 - a fundraiser for Team Mabel & the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Our next Auxiliary meeting is on April 23. Hope to see many of you there.

Cheryl George, President



LEGION RIDERS

Spring must be here! The first Rider Hot dog night is Tuesday, April 23 from 5 PM until we run out. This could be your first picnic of the year! Hot dogs or brats, potato salad, and baked beans! It doesn't get any better!

B4V??? Save the date! **Bikers for Veterans will be September 7, 2024.** Ride a motorcycle or car and visit three American Legions. Enjoy a Poker Chip run, camaraderie, riding the back roads of West Michigan, and supporting our Veterans!

ALR has new officers for 2024. They are as follows: Director, Alan Smith; Assistant Director, Fred Smith; Treasurer, Larry Foose.

The new Grab and Run year has started. The group has taken two trips to the Holton and Battle Creek Legions for plaques. The Grand Haven Riders are currently in eighth place, but when the snowbirds return, hopefully they will be able to better their standings.

The GH Riders will be riding as a group and meeting the Department Riders for the PTSD ride. The Michigan Department will be riding from Hell to Paradise in the Upper Peninsula. We will be donating to the event. If you are interested in participating, send an email to alriderspost28@gmail.com or connect with a rider. Several local riders have made reservations in Sault Ste. Marie for Friday and Saturday night. The Riders are leaving on Friday and are making their own reservations at a hotel in the Sault.

Follow the Post 28 ALR Facebook page for event updates and information. Are you interested in becoming more involved as a volunteer or member? New faces are always welcome to help with events and activities at the Post. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Legion.

Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass; it's about learning to ride in the rain.
Alan Smith, Director

SAL

From National Day Calendar:

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day on April 9 honors the courageous men and women who have endured brutal treatment at the hands of their captors. As a result, they've also suffered separation from family and displayed incredible endurance and faith during their captivity.

On this day in 1942, the largest number of U.S. Forces were captured by Japanese troops in the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. After battling through extreme conditions and prolonged battles, the captured troops were forced to march 65 miles to the prison camp. Without medical attention, food or water thousands died. The mistreatment continued for those who survived the brutal journey. In the compounds, deep in the unfamiliar jungle, the hardships, brutality, and suffering lasted more than two years for those who could survive.

Since the Revolutionary War, over half a million service members have been captured. This number does not reflect those lost or never recovered. However, each POW endures conditions much like the ones described above. These heroes deserve a day of recognition.

In 1988, Congress approved legislation setting April 9 to commemorate the date the tragic number of captives were taken prisoner on Bataan. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed National Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day.

During our March SAL meeting we approved eight new members. Please join me in welcoming Ronald Kozal, William Strauss, Dave Shaw, Charlie Goode, Craig DeCan, Charles Miller, Scott Kemme and Daniel VanderHeide to our Squadron.

Final nominations and elections for 2024-2025 SAL officers will be held at our April 1 meeting, followed by installation of officers at our May 6 meeting.

The 22nd Annual Memorial Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday, May 25 this year. Don't forget to get your team signed up. And coming in June, our cornhole tournament on Saturday the 15th, held here in our parking lot.

Serving veterans and our community,

Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander

From the Post Manager Yale Pope

Although we were fortunate to have a mild winter, it is still great for spring to be upon us. Many people have asked when the deck and patio will be open and, as you know the unpredictability of Michigan weather, the only answer I can give is "soon."

In addition to trying to start up some new activities at the Post, we will be hosting a community Open House on May 11. The primary goal is to engage with the community and educate them regarding the purpose of the American Legion and how it functions in the community. Secondly we also hope that this assists with gaining new members. We will have a public license for that day.

Thanks again for all the continued support that we receive from our members and volunteers. See you in the lounge.

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Dewall, USAF
Ryan Vanderveen
Lucy Davis
Justin Judge
John Gall
Gloria Bullis

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Dennis Bauchan, USCG
Wayne Purchase, USN
Gary Usmial, USA



TRANSFERS

Louis Hall
Jason Schenkel
Thomas Heald
Jon Lauer

SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen Bob Smith
Denny Siron Saul Lopez
Ron Bauer Bob Wydeck

Legionnaires April 2024 Membership Update

As spring approaches, so does the reopening of the Post decks. You must have a 2024 card to attend monthly Legion Meetings as well as to purchase alcohol at our Post.

We continue to receive many duplicate payments for 2024, we return the checks via US Mail. Please check your current membership card to verify that you have already renewed, it will read 2024 at the top of your card. It can take National 3 or more weeks to process membership. Because of this delay, some members may receive dues notices even though they have paid and received a card from the Post.

Please note: Anyone applying for new membership, or that is transferring from the Michigan **at large** Post 0225, you must submit a copy of your DD-214. Feel free to black out or redact your Social Security number, we also will return it once your membership is approved. We cannot process or approve either without your DD-214.

Please remember to **write your membership number** on your **check**, or if renewing at the Post write it on the **membership renewal and/or application (print CLEARLY)**, you can always just print a copy of your card and include it. This is not necessary if you use the form sent to you in the mail as your card number is already printed on it.

As always should you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us: Linda Doublestein - lindadoublestein@gmail.com, Sue lonnee- suzanne.lonnee@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

HONOR GUARD

Since the last Post meeting, Honor Guard had three funeral services, participated in the Folds of Honor Program, the Four Chaplains Service, and setup & takedown for the Red Cross Blood Drive. Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In Service to God and Country, Gary L. Doublestein, Chaplain
By the time you read this we will have just completed the seasons of Lent and Easter. Lent is a time of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Not all who read this are Christian and may wonder what this is all about. It is basically a chance to review those things that are important to us and to exchange those things for greater adherence to the First Commandment. "You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

PRAYER: In our busy world many of us put aside God to pay attention to all of the things life throws at us. How often do we set aside even a few minutes each day to talk to God? Do we even thank God for letting us be alive each day? Lent is meant to draw our attention BACK to God in hopes that this will become a lifelong endeavor. So, the first attachment we try to get rid of is ourselves and our devotion to selfishness.

FASTING: We all eat, drink and seek pleasure in excess at one time or another. Our desire to indulge ourselves in the pleasures of life seem never ending. These desires are not all necessarily bad but they can quickly become obsessions...we become attached to these pleasures. During Lent we practice "self-denial" which we hope will turn our thoughts to gratitude and the love of God. The second attachment is pleasure.

ALMSGIVING: We are blessed in this country that most of us have "discretionary income". Rather than spend that on things that we think will make us happy, we are encouraged to give to those in need. The ultimate in almsgiving is when you give out of YOUR need. In our country we have the most generous people in the world...but God thinks we can do better. The third attachment is to money (or greed).

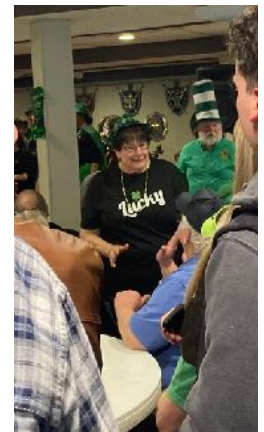
The common thread to all of these is that we create other "gods" that we put before our Creator. In many ways this could be the reason that our society seems to be in a tailspin. We are under the delusion that whatever we want we can have...not realizing that without God we have nothing. God can give us everlasting life...everything else is temporary.



Legion's 105th birthday celebration



St. Patrick's Day





2024

ATTENTION!



2024 Gene Rothi Scholarships
Scholarship Applications must be received
at Post 28 by April 19, 2024.

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications & instructions are available on the Post's website. Google "Gene Rothi Scholarship" to download the application. Awardees will be notified by mail in mid-May.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	April 1 7 pm SAL Meeting  	2 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	3 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion)	4 7 pm ALR Meeting 	5 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	6 
7 	8 	9 <u>1950</u> Bob Hope's first appearance on television.	10 5-7 PM ROAST PORK DINNER (SAL)	11 	12 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	13 5-7 PM LASAGNA DINNER Fundraiser for Bucs Pride
14 	15 	16 6 pm Legion Executive Committee	17 5-7 PM CHOPS' MEATLOAF DINNER (Auxiliary)	18 7 PM TRIVIA Night 	19 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS Last day to turn in Gene Rothi Scholarship applications	20 
21 <u>1962</u> The first human eye transplant is performed.	22 	23 5 PM - ? Hotdogs/Brats 7 PM Auxiliary Meeting	24 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK (Legion)	25 	26 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS (SAL)	27  <i>Yesterday's home runs do not win today's games.</i>
28 	29 	30 	May 1 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion)	2 	3 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	4 5-7 PM GOURMET TACO DINNER Fundraiser for the Poppy Fund
5 <u>1865</u> North Bend, OH is the site of the first US train robbery.	6 7 pm SAL Meeting	7 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	8 5-7 PM ROAST PORK DINNER (SAL)	9 7 pm ALR Meeting	10 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	11 