

Charles A. Conklin Post #28

P. O. Box 439
700 S. Harbor Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743



THE AMERICAN LEGION



HOURS:

Mon - Fri 1 pm - 10 pm

Saturday 12 pm - 10 pm

Sunday 1 pm - 7 pm

Janet E. Fonger, Post 28 Commander
jeflegion28@gmail.com

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February 2021

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 Stetts, Treasurer
Linda Gieske, Historian
Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain
Barb Kelly, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Ross Berens, Commander
salcmdrpost28@yahoo.com
Hans VanHorsen, 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
gerald.keen88@gmail.com
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



Congratulations to our Legionnaire membership team for winning the American Legion Department of Michigan's December FLASH membership Renewal challenge! With an outstanding effort of 170 renewals, Post 28 won the FLASH prize of \$1000.00. The membership team consists of Executive board members; Adjutant Julie Johnson, First Vice Commander Jay Stevens, Executive at Large Hoyt Fonger, and me. Other board members including Finance Officer Jeff Moody, Past Commanders Bob Wydeck and Mike Zeef, and Executives at Large Chuck Potter and Jerry Toogood continued the good work of the Post so we could focus on membership. We have an outstanding Leadership team of veterans working for the best interest of our post!

The Executive committee also voted and approved to apply the \$1000.00 towards the new air purification unit which was installed in our Post the week of January 10th. The air purification system is highly recommended for the bar and restaurant industry to ensure clean and safer air against impurities and possible Covid 19 virus strains.

The Executive Board along with Yale Pope, Post Manager, have been anticipating and planning for the re-opening of the Post, February 1, 2021. Accountability and integrity of the current leadership are key factors and priorities for all our members, and we are working diligently to ensure the safety of our members upon their return to our beloved Post. Restrictions will still be in place and capacity levels are being reduced to a 25% capacity. Also, Post hours will be changed to accommodate the new curfew guidelines. I ask that you continue to view Facebook for updates.

With the scheduling of the re-opening of our Post, Yale has been planning "To Go" meals from our Kitchen, which will keep our Post generating some revenue. We must be proactive in innovative ideas and implementation in generating income. We recently had a "To Go" Perch dinner on Friday, January 22nd, and I am happy to report it was a great success! We sold out within a short time frame. We will need to utilize our kitchen, to generate income for the Post, on a day-to-day basis because of the new capacity restrictions/limitations. Once we are open, Yale is preparing to have the kitchen open at least 5 days a week. We will have staff and volunteers helping in the kitchen and need to understand that with the constant threat of closing again due to Covid-19 positive cases, we will be prepared to continue to generate much needed revenue for our Post through the sale of dinners. Your support has never been more vital than now. Please support our post through volunteering and most of all, purchasing our meals. All "To Go" meals will be open to the public, and hopefully, once we are open to full capacity, the public will be invited to join us for inside dining too. I ask everyone to view our Facebook page for more announcements on "To Go" meals and the re-opening of the Post to include an update on the current Covid 19 restrictions/mandates and what will be necessary from all of us to remain compliant and safe.

With that being said, I am including the American Legion preamble and what our responsibilities are to our country, our Post and to each other...

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together 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 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations 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 good will 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."

Let us make 2021 a positive and memorable year, and on behalf of the Executive Board, we look forward to seeing everyone at the Post, doing what we do best, serving others and our community.

Commander Janet

From Your Post Manager

In the course of the Covid-19 shutdown we have continued to work on streamlining and improving the kitchen operation. As we move toward re-opening we ask that you be patient with us as we navigate through the state mandates (masking, signing in, social distancing, etc.) with hopefully returning to full operations without restriction within a few months.

I would like to thank all of you for enthusiastically supporting our Perch Fry on January 22, as it was a huge success. We would like to continue to offer these dining opportunities and appreciate the support you have all shown.

I look forward to seeing you all back in February.

Thank you

Yale C. Pope
Post Manager

New members for January:

Jamie Hauk, Marines, Global War

James Vyverberg, Navy, Korea.

Fisher House Program

A Fisher House™ is, "a home away from home" for families and Caregivers of Veterans and Active Duty Military receiving treatment at major military and VA medical facilities. VA Fisher House accommodations are provided at no cost to guests and located within walking distance of the treatment facility. VA Fisher Houses provide temporary accommodations at no cost for Veterans, Active Duty Military, their families and Caregivers while receiving treatment through a VA Medical Facility.

As of April 2020, there are 88 Fisher Houses internationally located on military installations and VA medical facilities. 46 of the Fisher Houses are located at VA medical facilities in Albany, New York; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Ann Arbor, Michigan; Augusta, Georgia; Bay Pines, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts; Bronx, New York (2 houses); Charleston, South Carolina; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio (2 houses); Dayton, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; Gainesville, Florida; Houston, Texas (3 houses); Las Vegas, Nevada; Long Beach, California; Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota (2 houses); Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Palo Alto, California (2 houses); Omaha, Nebraska; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Portland, Oregon (Vancouver, WA Campus); Richmond, Virginia; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Antonio, Texas; Tucson, Arizona; Seattle, Washington; St. Louis, Missouri; Tampa, Florida (2 houses); Togus, Maine; Washington, DC; and West Palm Beach, Florida.

Fisher House Name: VA Ann Arbor Fisher House
Fisher House Mailing Address: 2215 Fuller Rd. (FISHER)
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Fisher House Phone Number: (734) 845-3055
Fisher House Manager Contact info: April LaRock
(734) 845-3055; April.LaRock@va.gov
Fisher House Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday:
7:00am-4:15pm

Sick List as of December 30:

Sick List as of 21 Jan:

George Bryant, Jim "Jimbo" Land,
George Bennett, Charles Davis, Ken Kelly, Carl Kuzyk,
Darrel Meyers, Mike Rippa

Taps were played during the month of January for:

Norm Brown - Army and Marine Corp Reserve
Frederic Vandenberg - Army
Steve Oleszczu - US Coast Guard
Lawrence Reaume - US Army



In His and Your Service
Duane "Smitty" Smith
Chaplain, American Legion Post 28

The Chaplain's Corner

HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

In the late 70's the popular theologian Dr. Francis Schaeffer released a book and film project, titled, HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE? While it was a new approach to the age-old question, Dr Schaeffer asked this same question, one that has been asked for centuries. Now we are here in the 5 decades later still asking and looking for direction in our complex lives.

I think question is best answered in the Old Testament in the book of Micah, Chapter 6:8 - And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Focused and to the point and good marching orders for each of us...

In His and Your Service

Duane "Smitty" Smith
Chaplain, American Legion Post 28



Thank you to all who have renewed their Auxiliary membership for 2021! Please contact Kathleen Edwards (gkedwards25@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about membership renewal or becoming a new member of our Unit 28 Auxiliary.

Our Auxiliary Executive Board met January 12 via Zoom meeting. Several donations to veteran and community causes were approved, including Wilwin Lodge, Flyin' Heroes, Community Rebuilders (help for homeless veterans) and National Auxiliary Emergency Fund. We are blessed to be a blessing because of YOUR support (membership renewals), as well as our unique fundraising efforts this year!

Our National Auxiliary President, Nicole Clapp, encouraged all of us in the November 2020 American Legion Auxiliary Magazine (pg. 4). "As Auxiliary members look to 2021, let's renew our resolve to continue finding safe ways to serve and honor veterans, military, and their families. We know that life presents everyone with challenges...But ALA members have a long track record of turning obstacles into successful opportunities to serve."

THIS (serving, helping, supporting veterans...) is our ongoing challenge and duty as Auxiliary members, and we look forward to new ideas as we "think creatively outside the box" for 2021 and beyond!

Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chair

Founded in 1919, The American Legion Auxiliary has nearly 1 million members from all walks of life. The Auxiliary administers hundreds of volunteer programs, gives tens of thousands of hours to its communities and to veterans, and raises millions of dollars to support its own programs, as well as other worthwhile charities familiar to Americans. It is all accomplished with volunteers.

While originally organized to assist The American Legion, the Auxiliary has achieved its own unique identity while working side-by-side with the veterans who belong to The American Legion. Like the Legion, the Auxiliary's interests have broadened to encompass the entire community.

The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. Through its nearly 10,500 units located in every state and some foreign countries, the Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace. Along with The American Legion, it solidly stands behind America and her ideals

GENE ROTH SCHOLARSHIP - 2021

Gene Roth 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 Roth Scholarship Committee, 700 S. Harbor Dr. Grand Haven, MI 49417

Our January meeting was cancelled because of the Covid restrictions. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 1 and will start at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is once again being planned to be a ZOOM meeting with only the Executive Board.

Meeting agenda will include an opportunity to nominate SAL Officers for the 2021 - 2022 year. If you have interest in being an officer, or have someone you would like to nominate for a particular position, please email me at the address on the first page of this newsletter.

The last opportunity to nominate officers will be before our March 1 meeting. During our March 1 meeting, we will determine the potential candidates and vote on the 2021 - 2022 SAL officers during our April 5 meeting.

The SAL Volunteer of the Year award has been determined and will be announced at our next membership meeting so that the award can be presented. Stay tuned!

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

American Legion DSOs help secure nearly \$3.7B in benefits for veterans

American Legion Department Service Officers (DSOs) secured nearly \$3.7 billion in benefits for the nation's veterans during fiscal year 2020.

The claim payments amassed for veterans by The American Legion come in the form of dependency and indemnity compensation, death compensation and veteran pensions.

Nearly 7,400 new awards were issued during 2020, bringing the total number of claims being paid monthly to more than 880,000. Payments from these claims average nearly \$1,400 monthly for these veterans and surviving family members.

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed the way DSOs approach working with veterans on their claims. With safety measures in place, the service officers are continuing to push forward in providing assistance to those in need.

"A lot of what we do is planning with veterans and how to approach their claims," said Lucas Bruner, the assistant DSO for Washington state in an October interview.

"The difficult part," he added, "comes from the fact that our jobs are very hands-on and COVID has taken that approach to real-life situations and made it more complicated."

DSOs are trained by The American Legion to provide professional accredited American Legion representatives at the regional office, county and state levels with specialized training on issues affecting veterans and their families nationwide. These service officers are specially trained to provide expert VA claims and benefits assistance, free of charge, to any veterans and their families.

To find an accredited American Legion service officer in your area, please visit www.legion.org/serviceofficers.

For God and Country



FEBRUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	01	02 Groundhog Day Dollar Can Beers	03	04 World Cancer Day	05 Perch Fry 4p-7p	06
07 Super Bowl Tampa Bay vs Kansas City	08	09 National Pizza Day Dollar Can Beers	10 Spaghetti and Wine dinner	11 New Moon	12 Burger Night 4p-7p	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16 Fat Tuesday Dinner 4p-7p Dollar Can Beers	17 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins	18	19 Fish Dinner	20 National Love Your Pet Day
21	22	23 Dollar Can Beers	24	25 National Clam Chowder Day	26 Fish Dinner National Chili Day	27 Full Moon

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