

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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**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



**T**hank 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

**F**ounded 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**

**G**ene 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

**O**ur 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**

**A**merican 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](http://www.legion.org/serviceofficers).

*For God and Country*



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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