

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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May 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 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 VanHorssen, 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
(616) 842-5310



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Positive changes are in the air. We are looking forward to opening our beautiful deck and enjoying the sunset views and anticipating family unit dinners and burgers. Thank you for your continued patience while we still abide by capacity limitations while Yale continues to be diligent in maintaining all Covid protocols. We have an active calendar for May, and more information on some items will be forthcoming:

- May 4th deadline for Post 28 officer nominations. Please see newsletter information from Adjutant Julie Johnson.

- May 7th is the annual memorial for Charles A. Conklin at Lake Forest Cemetery at 11:00 am. The Honor Guard of Post 28 attends and conducts this annual memorial for Charles A. Conklin.
- May 12th a service will be held for Richard Boone at Lake Forrest Cemetery at 10:30 am by the American Legion and VFW Honor Guards. Richard Boone was a Vietnam Veteran who had no means for a proper burial until Ron Streng, Post 28 Legionnaire, stepped in and asked for and received donations for a burial. Richard Boone will now receive a proper send off due to Ron's compassion and efforts to organize his burial. Thank you, Ron Streng-more information forthcoming

- May 18th Post Legionnaire Elections from **9am-12 noon and 4pm-7pm** at the Post. Masks, photo ID and Legion membership card will be required. Any questions please contact, Adjutant Julie Johnson, memberpost28@gmail.com

- May 20 and 31st, Memorial Day Events. Flags will be placed on the 20th at Lake Forest cemetery. This Memorial Day will be very similar to last year's events and the schedule will be announced on FB when we get closer to the date

In the past two years, we all should be proud of the work that Post 28 has accomplished. Our Post Officers and Post Manager have worked through many challenges, including a pandemic, and have managed to keep our doors open by following many mandates, keeping our members safe and keeping our Post financially stable to the best of our ability.

Some of the past year and current accomplishments:

- Fundraising, and reaching all our goals to complete a newly renovated and up-to-code kitchen
- The creation of Standard Operating Procedures for the Kitchen, which were nonexistent and much needed to pass inspection for the re-opening of the kitchen
- A brand-new Website with more options for updating in real time, more photos, and more links with useful information for our veterans and members, access to ask questions and ability to receive quick responses
- Additional cameras installed in the lounge area to ensure safety of our Lounge staff and the integrity of operation assets
- A Point-of-Sale system installed in the lounge area and the kitchen to help in reporting, inventory, and the ability to see trends to better enable lounge and kitchen decisions
- The creation of a Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan which received high marks from Public Health
- A new ventilation system for the Post to ensure the air is cleaned and purified to keep our members and guests healthier during covid and virus seasons

Many Legionaries and members were instrumental in working towards getting our Post into the 21st century, and I can only hope that our Post continues to move forward with growth and inclusion for all veterans who wore the uniform honorably, with pride and dignity.

The current Executive board and Post manager have worked within this vision and I sincerely thank them for their dedication for our Post, even in perplexing times of a pandemic, by not quitting when times got tough, but rather walking towards the challenges in one of the most fascinating times of Post 28!

Thank you, Adjutant, Julie Johnson; Finance Officer, Jeff Moody; 1st Vice Commander Jay Stevens; Executives at Large Chuck Potter, Hoyt Fonger and Jerry Toogood; Past Commanders Mike Zeefe and Bob Wydeck; and Legionnaire Post Manager Yale Pope. Our year together has gone by quickly and the hard work you have accomplished has been beneficial for our Post, our members and hopefully, generations to come.

Next month I will be introducing new elected officers and will gladly be stepping down for others to "step up" and continue the fine work of Post 28. These past years have truly been a challenge and our Post has witnessed needed changes. My hopes are for some normalcy to be regained, and for Post 28 to be thriving again with the continuance of staying the course even stronger, doing what we do best: Veterans serving Veterans!

Commander Janet

2021-2022 Prospective Slate of Officers Post 28

More information on membership meeting forthcoming based on MDHHS Covid-19 mandates. Must be nominated in April. Nominations also accepted from the floor (if in-person meeting) during April.

Commander..... Jonathan (Jay) Stevens, Gary Doublestein

1st Vice..... Richard White

2nd Vice..... Courtney Thurber

Adjutant..... Julie Johnson, James O'Neal

Finance Officer... Jeff Moody

Service Officer... Garrett Veihl

Service Officer... VACANT

Historian..... Dennis Siron

Chaplain..... Duane Smith

Sergeant-at-Arms... Jim Porenta

Executive at Large... Chuck Potter

Executive at Large.... Hoyt Fonger

Executive at Large.... David Mackellar

Executive at Large.... Rick Chittenden

Executive at Large.... Freddy Smith

Executive at Large.... Mike Zeeff

Judge Advocate.....appointed by new Commander

Delegates needed 72 (36 + 36 alternates). If willing to serve, please contact: Past Commander Mike Zeeff, email the adjutant at: julieszymas765@gmail.com

April: Nominations for prospective Officers

May: Election of new Officers

June: Initiation of new members

July: Swearing in and installation of new Officers

New members (April 2021):

<i>New members:</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Conflict</i>
Bell, Robert C	USCG	Gulf War
Brookstra, William	Navy	VietNam
Bryant, Brandon C	USCG	Other
Cobb, Garry M	Army	VietNam
Demerest, James P	USCG	Global War
Johnson, Sean	Army	Other
Kenny, Donald R	Army	Korea
Lasko, Janet K	Army	VietNam
Pickens, Dennis R	Air Force	VietNam
Reider, Richard K	Marines	VietNam
Roon, Robert	Army	VietNam
Sabine, Robert A	USCG	VietNam
Sandberg, Steven A	USCG	Leb/Grenada
Vugteveen, Joel A	Air Force	Panama

Transfers

Corn Jr, William	Air Force	Other
Dykstra, John	Army	VietNam
Hudson, Kevin	Army	VietNam

The Chaplain's Corner

This month as Chaplain I am sharing two sections of verses from the Bible:

Our Organization relies on God first, then Country! As our Motto recites: "For God and Country"

As April is the month dedicated to Sacrifice and Holiness I am moved to share God's Word:

Lamentations 3:22-23

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness."

This is Our Good News: Your comfort is renewed over and over again, fresh and new like the rising sun!

Psalm 8

8 O Lord our God, the majesty and glory of your name fills all the earth and overflows the heavens. 2 You have taught the little children to praise you perfectly. May their example shame and silence your enemies!

3 When I look up into the night skies and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you have made— 4 I cannot understand how you can bother with mere puny man, to pay any attention to him!

5 And yet you have made him only a little lower than the angels, and placed a crown of glory and honor upon his head.

6 You have put him in charge of everything you made; everything is put under his authority: 7 all sheep and oxen, and wild animals too, 8 the birds and fish, and all the life in the sea. 9 O Jehovah, our Lord, the majesty and glory of your name fills the earth.

Let us remember for our Post that a Country without God is truly lacking in leadership. Let us be grateful for the sacrifice of life and love for one another as a child would share in truth.

In His Service,

Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain

Sick List:

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

Taps were played for:

Steven Paul Barnett - US Navy

Harry Kelly - US Air Force

Navy helped with 1, Air Force helped with 1



In His and Your Service

Duane "Smitty" Smith

Chaplain, American Legion Post 28

From Your Post Manager

Thank you for all of you have continued to utilize our lounge during the ongoing pandemic restrictions. We have extended our Friday and Saturday night hours till 10 pm and hope to soon extend our weekday and Sunday hours very soon. Our Patio has been open and people have begun to utilize the upstairs deck. We plan to begin staffing the upstairs bar Thursday thru Sunday beginning May 1st, weather permitting.

I would like to give a big thank you to all our individuals who have stepped up to volunteer their services in the kitchen for all our dinners.

Your help has been greatly appreciated. We have been building a new base of volunteers and hopefully we can get back to doing weekly dinners on a regular and consistent basis. If anyone is interested in volunteering, just ask one of our bartenders as we maintain a sign up sheet behind the bar or feel free to contact me at the post at your convenience.

We hope to soon have more events planned for the upcoming summer as restrictions permit. I look forward to seeing you all in the lounge.

Thank you. **Manager Yale**

AUXILIARY

On April 27, we had our first Auxiliary meeting with our Executive Committee and Program Chairwomen upstairs at the Post, (due to MDHHS restricted capacity of 25 people), combined with a Zoom meeting for all Members. We have not met since last February, 2020, and it felt SO good! Zoom is certainly not a preferred way to meet, but I would like to encourage you to participate in this way until we can get back to normal. We will keep the meetings as short as possible...typically 1 hour.

Your 2021-2022 Officers and Executive Board Members were elected on April 27, as follows:

President - Darlene DeHaan	1st Vice President - Melanie Riekels
2nd Vice President - Diane Janusch-Johnson	Secretary - Ginny Hebert
Treasurer - Michele Stetts	Chaplain - Pam Medendorp-Peck
Sergeant-at-Arms - Vicki Siron	Member-at-Large - Jean Harms
Member-at-Large - Pat Best	Member-at-Large - Becky Glockzin

Installation of our Officers will take place in our June meeting.

Poppy Day 2021 is approaching quickly - It is May 28! We want to invite our Post 28 American Legion Family to participate in a drive-through to donate to this important fund for our Veterans, and to pick up your poppy! We anticipate beginning at 2pm, but please check our Auxiliary FB page and signs at the Post for updates.

As promised last month, I am sharing the amazing and inspiring Americanism Essay of Ian De Los Santos, who won 1st place this year in his age group. (Last month I shared the essay of our other 1st place winner, DeAnna Grech.)

How Can We Address the Health and Well-Being of our Veterans, Military, and their Families (written by Ian De Los Santos, Corpus Christi Catholic School)

Veterans are people who are selfless. They gave themselves up for the good of the country. They made it possible for us to be safe and secure. The military is making all of this possible every day. They are protecting our country through their altruistic and generous sacrifice. It is because of them that we are living in this country. It is because of them that we have maintained our country. Unfortunately, many people forget this. Veterans are forgotten, the military is ignored, and the families of these heroes are neglected. That is why we have to find ways to support and care for these people, these heroes.

Many Veterans today are living with disabilities or injuries. A lot of them also suffer loneliness. One way to help a veteran is by donating them a dog. Dogs can aid them with their disabilities and injuries while also providing them with a loyal companion. Providing a veteran with a dog is a generous act of kindness that has a significant positive impact on them.

Another way to acknowledge our everyday heroes is to thank them for their tremendous service. I believe that sending thank-you cards to the military is a great way to show our appreciation for their devotion and to remind them that we care. These heroes ought not to be ignored, but instead recognized and be shown our infinite gratitude.

Finally, it is not only veterans and the military that we care for, but also all of their loved ones who give these people happiness and joy. We should also acknowledge all of the parents of these heroes who nurtured them into the brave and selfless people they are today. A great way to help them is to donate to organizations that aid families in need. One such organization is the Fisher House Foundation. This organization builds houses for these families to stay in and makes it possible to see their injured loved one.

These are all ways that we can help, support, address our modern-day heroes and their families. They have and are doing the best they can to ensure our safety and to protect our country. We owe them a substantial debt of gratitude. They are the brave that protect and defend the land and the free.

- Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chair



Left: Congressman Bill Huizenga presenting the Purple Heart, posthumously, to Post 28 namesake, Charles A. Conklin during the March 26 ceremony in Grand Haven

Below: SAL Squadron 28 member/Post 28 researcher, Dr. Chris Petras (r) and guest,

Keri (l) share a moment with Congressman Bill Huizenga who presented, posthumously, the Purple Heart to Post 28 namesake, Charles A. Conklin, on March 26



SAL

At the April SAL meeting at the Post, we approved 4 new members. Please help me welcome these new members to Post 28: William Bassow, Kirk Sherman, Phillip Wilson Jr., and transfer David Cox.

During the meeting our Squadron honored our previous Legion Advisor Carl Lori with a gift certificate and plaque in appreciation for all of his help and guidance over his tenure as our Liaison.

Congratulations goes out to Greg Meyers for being selected to receive our past year's SAL Volunteer of the Year Award. We greatly appreciate Greg's time and commitment to our Post.

The SAL Annual Golf Outing, is being held Saturday, May 29. Check in with the Post for a registration flyer and see if there are any spots available.

The list of nominations for the 2021 - 2022 SAL Officers are as follows:

Commander - Jeff Warner, 1st Vice Commander - Rocky Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander - Ron Ribbink, Chaplin - Marc DeHann, Finance Officer - TL Lowe, Sgt. At Arms - Steve VanderWall and Historian - Mike Brown. All nominees accepted to run and no additional nominations were received for any of the positions. The last opportunity to nominate will be at the May 3 meeting before we vote on the slate of officers. Installation of officers will follow the vote. 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.

Our next meeting at the Post is scheduled for May 3 and will start at 6:00 p.m.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!!

Serving Veterans and the Community
Ross Berens, SAL Commander



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						01 Kentucky Derby Day
02 \$1.00 domestic draft beers	03	04 Dollar Domestic Can Beers	05 Cinco de Mayo	06 National Day of Prayer	07 Annual memorial for Charles A. Conklin Burger Night 4p-7p	08
09 Mother's Day \$1.00 domestic draft beers	10	11 Dollar Domestic Can Beers	12 Richard Boone service Lake Forrest Cemetery at 10:30 am	13	14 Stars and Stripes Forever Day	15 Armed Forces Day
16 \$1.00 domestic draft beers	17 Tax Day	18 Post Legionnaire Elections from 9am-12 noon and 4pm-7pm Dollar Domestic Can Beers	19 Spaghetti Dinner 4p-7p	20 Memorial Day Events	21 Burger Night 4p-7p	22 National Maritime Day
23 \$1.00 domestic draft beers	24	25 Auxiliary meeting via Zoom Dollar Domestic Can Beers	26 Full Moon	27	28 Poppy Day 2021	29 SAL Annual Golf Outing
30 \$1.00 domestic draft beers	31 Memorial Day Memorial Day Events	National Pet Month	National Military Appreciation Month	National Family Month	National Family Reading Week (first week)	National Backyard Games Week (week before Memorial Day)