

Charles A. Conklin Post 28
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www.americanlegiongh.org



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Michael Thurber
Post 28 Commander
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Monday - Thursday 1pm - 10 pm
Friday 1pm - 12 am & Saturday 12 noon - 12 am
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

August 2023
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AMERICAN LEGION

Ron Streng, 1st Vice Commander
Catherine Buckley, 2nd Vice Commander
James O'Neal, Adjutant
Robert Kepner, Finance Officer
Gary Doublestein, Chaplain
John Bilski, Judge Advocate
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms
Saul Lopez, Historian
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Garrett Veihl, 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
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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

Steven Barnes, 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
Gerald Keen, Past Director

Yale Pope, Post Manager
(616) 842-5310



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Greetings Post 28! I can't tell you how excited and honored I am to be your post Commander. It is a privilege to have been voted in! I am truly humbled. We will have a great year ahead of us, starting off right away as usual with the Coast Guard festival.

For those of us who don't know me, I am a retired Chief Petty Officer of the US Navy. I served in multiple fighter squadrons aboard several aircraft carriers. I retired on July 13, 2017, then moved back here to Grand Haven with my family. Of whom, you may have seen my youngest son, Michael, running around here. Michael was just selected as the

Department of Michigan's junior SAL of the Year. I couldn't be a more proud dad if you can't tell! I also work full time for the Federal Aviation Administration as an Aircraft Safety Inspector. A job that my service in the Navy made me uniquely qualified for, as it did in preparing me to lead Post 28.

As I previously stated, jumping right in this year is Coast Guard. Which is ALWAYS a busy time for our post and community, but a fun time too! I don't want this year to be any different. Not many changes for our footprint during the festival, in fact, none that I can think of. We will of course be open to the public all week; we will have a dinner, or food of some sort, most nights; and the Scottville Clown band will be here to entertain as usual. I'm looking forward to a great time and a fun and safe Coast Guard Festival.

Also, I would like to point out, this year at the Department of Michigan convention our post won 1st place for community involvement. That is awesome! I want to thank every single person who volunteers their time to help this post complete our mission of veterans helping veterans. This place would fall flat on its face if it wasn't for the help and support of our volunteers. But, with that being said, we never have enough. I ask, please, if you can, lend a hand at the post. There is ALWAYS something you can do to help!! All the events we do are ultimately a fund raiser that allows us to raise money for various veterans' groups.

Well, I believe I will close with this: MEMBERSHIP is what keeps this post open. I charge every member of this post to look for the next, newest member. Without new members, young members coming in, this post will eventually shrivel. All organizations face this; it's not unique to us. Please, please be on the lookout for veterans who are not a member of our great post and have them stop by and check us out!!

For the good of Legion, Mike Thurber, Post 28 Commander #105
(PS...that's cool to say, #105....my last fleet going fighter squadron was VFA-105 Gunslingers!!!)



Post 28 New Officers Installation 2023

AUXILIARY

I hope you have been enjoying your summer so far. Let's make the most out of the last of it!

Just a reminder that your 2023 membership is good through December 31, 2023. You may have seen an email from National Auxiliary about renewing for 2024 online or by calling them. We really prefer that you pay locally, through our Post. See a bartender; pay with cash or check. You'll probably get your card quicker than National mails them out. Contact our Auxiliary Membership Chair, Kathleen Edwards (616) 604-4050 if you have questions.

I just returned from American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan Convention. It was very interesting and informative. I

was fortunate to have six Auxiliary members/delegates with me. The highlight was when Myrna Puse, current Parliamentarian and Music Chair, Past President and more, was awarded the *Department Unit Member of the Year*.



Myrna [3rd from right]; she was SO surprised!

Our next meeting is on Aug 22. Also, Save the Date, 9-23-23, for our Welcome Home Party for our Michigan National Guard Soldiers that were deployed to Syria. Let's show up and show our appreciation. Cheryl George, President

LEGION RIDERS

The Riders are currently in third place with the Grab and Run. We have accumulated points by going to different Legion Posts as a group and wearing our ALR vests. We have several more Grab and Runs planned. We are trying to make it to first place. Wish us luck!!!

August 1 the Scottville Clown Band will be performing at the American Legion. ALR will be selling hot dogs, chips, and water. Come join us for an enjoyable evening of music, laughter, and camaraderie.

2023 dues are \$12 and being collected. If you would like to join, complete the form available at the post or email alrriderspost28@gmail.com. You must be an active Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL member to join.

The Bikers for Veterans committee has scheduled September 9, 2023, for the second annual fundraiser. This year will also be a Memorial ride honoring service members and first responders who have given their all. Cars and motorcycles may participate in the event. They are conducting a raffle for a Cooler of Fun, \$250 scratch off tickets, and \$100 cash. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Raffle tickets may be purchased from any ALR member or at the Bar.

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, August 10 at 7:00 PM.

Race the rain, ride the wind, chase sunset. Only a Biker understands.

Steve Barnes, Director

SAL

From the website 22zero.org: **"At 22Zero we believe there is a better way to treat trauma, it's why we created the Tactical Resiliency Process [TRP]. We are challenging the status quo through research, all so we can get America's daughters and sons back from the ledge and end the suicide epidemic in the ranks and help them become the people they were meant to be. I am tired of losing buddies I served with, and I am asking you to join the movement to Heal our Heroes."** - Dan Jarvis, Founder/President.

More than 10,000 people have recovered from their PTSD symptoms using the 22Zero program. On June 17, we hosted our annual Cornhole Tournament at Post 28 solely to help support this program. Twenty-four teams participated on that sunny Saturday afternoon. The generous winning teams donated back their winnings, as did the 50/50 raffle winner. Adding in the hot dog sales and other donations, we were able to donate \$2,139 to the 22Zero cause. Thank you to everyone, participants and volunteers, who helped to make this event happen, and SAL Dave Ireland for organizing it.

This past month we accepted 21 new members to our Squadron. Please join me in welcoming Dan Adams, Andrew Beck, Owen Krizan, Richard Dean, Benjamin Genser, Robert Cooper, Randy Kuzawa, Steve Harnett, Derek Melcher, Doug Spooner, Kristopher Coleman, James Wood, Nicholas DeYoung, Michael Brecht, Christopher Wilbert, Mark Vanderhyde, Dennis Dirheimer, Austin Broemer, Dave Morris, Jordan Pittman and Payden Pittman. We look forward to seeing you around the Post and at our monthly meetings.

We are planning on hosting the annual Legion picnic on Sunday, September 10. Keep the date open and plan on a family fun day.

Serving our veterans and community,
Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander



Representatives of Squadron 28 attending the MI SAL convention were Finance Officer T.L. Lowe, 1st Vice Commander Bill Moss, Historian Scott Kelly, Jr SAL Michael Thurber, Chaplain Marc DeHaan, Commander Ronald Ribbink, and 5th District Commander Jeff VanSickle.



Post 28 parking lot is ready for the June 17 Cornhole Tournament.

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Philip Scheer, USAF
Michael Windemuller, USA
Timothy Start, USA
Anthony Norko, USN
Paula Shields, USA
Thomas Phares, USN
Emily Thompson, USCG
David Embory, USMC
Bernard Jettner III, USAF
Ronald Wade, USA
Dan DeHaan, USAF
Knut Klotz, USCG
Kitrina Vanpopering, USN
Leslie Lewis, USA
Emily Day-Cervenak, USN
Gerald Brower, USN
Brian Boyink, USA
Wayne Williams, USA
Sebastian Sieracki, USMC
Robert Woodward, USCG
John Lewis Jr., USN
Chad Betz, USN
Mercedes Betz, USN
Alfred Jackson, USA
David London Jr., USA
James Gilbert, USN
Constance Stormzand, USAF

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

James Muzyczuk, USAF
Ronald Ferrell, USN
C. Bruce Hinrichs, USA
Richard Novak, USA
James Doolittle, USA
Eric Wescott, USMC
Past Commander #96
Edward DeKoekkoek, USA
Col. Robert Whitelaw, WWII



HONOR GUARD

Honor Guard had six services since the last Post meeting. They also took part in two Flag Day Programs and the Boys State Flag Program at GVSU. Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar

Legionnaires August 2023 Membership Update

By the time this is published you should have received your 2024 renewal document. As you review your document, please ensure all the information is correct. Please make pen and ink corrections as needed and we will update your information during the renewal process. Also, by logging into MyLegion.org, you can renew and make your own corrections.

Larry Lambert has officially “retired” from the membership committee. We are currently seeking volunteer(s) to join the committee. The work is largely clerical in nature, usually would require a few hours of your time once a week. Please contact any Post 28 American Legion Officer, Linda Doublestein, Yale Pope, or myself (Phil Polyak) should you choose to help out. Thank you for your consideration.

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, 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.

Feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns. Linda Doublestein - lindadoublestein@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen Ken Kelly Bob Smith
Ron Bauer Carl Lori Catherine Buckley

Chaplain's Corner INSTITUTIONS

I can't tell you the number of times that I've heard people tell me that they “don't need any religion [i.e. institution] to talk to God!” My favorite is “I talk to God in the woods and nature!” Fair enough. I don't doubt the sincerity of their statements and I believe they are convinced they are right. However, I rarely see these people living in a vacuum in any other aspect of their lives. Let me give an example of “anti-institutionalism” that is near and dear to our hearts...The American Legion.

If we extrapolate the above attitude to our Post, you might see the following:

- There would be no Post 28 because all potential members would be patriotic in their own minds and would feel no need for getting together to accomplish all the charitable and ceremonial tasks that we are known for and that people depend on.
- There would be no memorial events to honor our fallen because we all remember them in our hearts. (I don't know about you, but with all the busy-ness of daily life, that would be a rare occasion!)
- There would be no dinners, parties or just socializing events because nobody would feel obliged to work at their success. I wonder if we would all have parties in our own minds... alone?...in the woods?

Here's the scoop...we are meant to be with other people! Even Jesus says that “when two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20) This is not to minimize deep, solitary reflection. We all need that. But together we accomplish things not possible to do alone. As well as those institutions that we support for fun, patriotism, and camaraderie we need to support our churches for the same reasons...only church attendance is commanded by the Creator of the Universe! Once a week we are commanded to come together to worship the God that made everything possible! But also, to support our fellow persons in their joy, struggle or pain. Regardless of your religion, please consider this the next time you are talking to God in the woods.

In the Lord's service, Gary Doublestein, Chaplain

BLOOD DRIVES APPROVED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The House Committee has approved dates for upcoming blood drives that we will be hosting with Red Cross at our Post #28. The first 3 Blood Drive dates are Thursday, August 31, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday, December 22, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will be looking for volunteers to help with setting up, helping with registration, helping with the refreshment table and helping with packing up at the end of the drive. If interested please contact Chris Jarvis at (616) 402-1598 or at cjretsf97@hotmail.com, But most importantly we need people to volunteer to give blood!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 JULY	31 1 pm Parade of Ships 11am-4pm Hotdogs/Chips 5-7 pm Marine Corps PRIME RIB DINNER	1 AUGUST 7 pm Scottville Clown Band 1-4 pm Pizza 5-7 pm ALR Hotdogs	2 1-4 pm Pizza 5-7 pm Marine Corps League Dinner Sloppy Joes	3 4-8 pm Arturo's	4 11am-4pm Beer Brats & Chips 5 PM CG Enlisted CHICKEN DINNER 5:45 PM CHICKEN DINNER Open to the public - \$12	5 Parade Day 12 noon-4pm Picnic Lunch Buffet 4-8 pm Arturo's
6 	7 7 pm SAL Meeting 7 pm CG Volunteer Meeting	8 5 pm Hot Dog Night (ALR) 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	9 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion)	10 7 pm ALR Meeting	11 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	12 
13 	14 	15 7 pm Executive Committee	16 5-7 PM PULLED PORK DINNER (SAL)	17 1969 Woodstock music festival ends.	18 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	19 
20 	21 	22 5 pm Hot Dog Night (ALR) 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting	23 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion)	24 1869 The waffle iron is patented by Cornelius Swarthout of Troy, New York.	25 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	26 
27 	28 1837 Pharmacists J. Lea & W. Perrins manufacture Worcestershire sauce.	29 1966 The Beatles hold their last public concert in Candlestick Park, San Francisco.	30 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (Legion)	31 9am-3pm at Post 28 	1 SEPTEMBER 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	2 1995 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame opens in Cleveland, OH.
3 1813 The image of "Uncle Sam," a symbol of America, was first used.	4 	5 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	6 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion)	7 1998 Google was founded by Sergey Brin & Larry Page.	8 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	9 