

**Charles A. Conklin Post 28**

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



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

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**HOURS:** Mon. – Fri. 2pm – 10pm Saturday Noon – 10pm Sunday 1pm – 8pm

Issue #1207

[www.americanlegiongh.org](http://www.americanlegiongh.org)

December 2021

#### AMERICAN LEGION

Rick White, 1st Vice Commander  
Courtney Thurber, 2nd Vice Commander  
James O'Neal, Adjutant  
Jeff Moody, Finance Officer  
Duane Smith, Chaplain  
Larry Lambert, Judge Advocate  
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Dennis Siron, Historian  
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer  
Rick Chittenden, Executive-at-Large  
Dave MacKellar, Executive-at-Large  
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large  
Janet Fonger, Past Commander  
John Bilski, Past Commander

#### AUXILIARY

Darlene DeHaan, President  
[marcdarlene@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Vicki Siron, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

#### SAL

Jeff Warner, Commander  
[jtwmetal01@yahoo.com](mailto:jtwmetal01@yahoo.com)  
Rocky Johnson, 1st Vice Commander  
Ron Robbink, 2nd Vice Commander  
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer  
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain  
Mike Brown, Historian  
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Scott Kelly, Membership  
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant  
Ross Berens, Past Commander

#### LEGION RIDERS

Gerald Keen, Director  
[gerald.keen88@gmail.com](mailto: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

The month of November was quite busy and often I met myself coming and going. The week of Veteran's Day was especially busy with our Dinner and at least five schools that allowed us to teach them about the military and our flag. A HUGE thumbs up to Dave MacKellar for coordinating these events. The smiles on the kid's faces made it all worthwhile and it is especially good to know that most of these kids, and their teachers, love and respect this country!

As Christmas gets closer, I am reminded of all the great gifts I have received...my wife, my children, my grandchildren, my parents, my brothers and their families and all of my wonderful friends (which I hope includes YOU as you read this)! The world is a tough place and most, if not all, of us have been on the down side of what the world throws at us at one time or another. God gives us special people in our lives to soften the blows. Of course, you sometimes have to search for those people or even break through their barriers to find their hidden gifts. But they're there! One of my New Year's resolutions is to look harder for the "special-ness" of those around me.

I recall a Glenn Campbell song from the 60's that goes like this:

"Let me be a little kinder, let me be a little blinder  
To the faults of those about me, let me praise a little more.  
Let me be when I am weary, just a little bit more cheery,  
Let me think a little more of others and a little less of me."

These words are sharp contrast with what the world wants us to do. "Get your piece of the pie," "sabotage your competitor," "the one who dies with the most "stuff" wins"!

And then I think about our Post. Our volunteers put in countless hours in support of veterans and our community. *Crusade for Toys, Goodfellows*, service officers and nearly any worthy charity that comes up...you are in the forefront. It is at this point that I realize that the "world" is wrong! Your banner has always flown under the idea of "Let me think a little more of others and a little less of me." It makes me proud to be a part of your continuing efforts!

The Christmas Season is upon us and I refuse to wish people Happy Holidays! Without a few uniquely Judeo-Christian events there would be no holidays to celebrate. So, I wish you a *Merry Christmas* or *Happy Hannukah*! May you all be blessed with the realization of what is most important during this season. Hold fast to your God, your family, your friends and your country.

In service to the American Legion, Doc

#### CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Post Constitution and By-laws changes will be reviewed at the December 7, 2021 Post membership meeting and submitted for approval at the January 4, 2022 membership meeting. You can review these proposed changes at [americanlegiongh.org](http://americanlegiongh.org) or on the Post bulletin board.

#### Four Chaplains Memorial

On 5 Feb 2022, Post 28 has the honor of hosting the Memorial of the Four Chaplains for the 5<sup>th</sup>



District. American Legion Posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial service that pays tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night.

## AUXILIARY

December is a fun month for Auxiliary...we will be marching in the Jingle Bell Parade, we are collecting and delivering Christmas gifts to the Veterans at GRHV, "Bags of Joy" will be assembled and delivered to our local Veterans in care facilities and our Auxiliary elves will be shopping and gift packing for Goodfellows.

Last month I briefly introduced our new Education Chairwoman, Mary Ade, and she has already been busy on behalf of our Auxiliary for the past several weeks. This led me to highlight our Education program this month. Mary did a great job celebrating and honoring our local school staff members for American Education Week (November 15-19), by personally delivering cookies and cards of appreciation to 28 local schools! The photos clearly show how much this was appreciated!



Mary Ade

In May we will celebrate teachers specifically during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-6). Making sure teachers feel appreciated, and having critical classroom supplies, is so important!

Mary also kicked off an initiative recently with our American Legion Family to purchase books for our local schools, which continues until December 10. **There is an Amazon link to easily make a purchase, (<https://bit.ly/Legionbooks>) or...Please check out the bulletin board in the Post 28 entryway for the list of wonderful patriotic books Mary would like to collect and donate to local schools in December!** We are getting a head start for "Read Across America Day" - March 2, 2022.

Our Auxiliary Education Program overlaps a little bit with the Americanism Program...a focus of both programs is teaching students about our Veteran heroes! Our Post 28 Veterans and Honor Guard support us faithfully every year by joining our Americanism and Poppy Chairwomen at local schools to perform the flag folding ceremony and share their experiences during their service to our country.

Another important focus is promoting Auxiliary-sponsored scholarships that are available to our local students every year. Some of the scholarships are awarded by the National Auxiliary organization, and others are awarded by the Department of Michigan, but it is important for school counselors to be aware and understand the qualification criteria and timing requirements. We are also working to build our own Unit 28 scholarship fund, with a goal of awarding local scholarships in the future!

Lastly, our Education Program strives to support the unique educational challenges experienced by children of active duty military personnel. There are websites to learn more about this: <https://www.militarychild.org/> and <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/homefront/home>.

As I reflect on the past 12 months (it went so fast!!!), I am grateful to our Auxiliary members, as well as our Post 28 Legion family for the friendships and support! I am so very grateful for all of our Auxiliary Officers, Program Chairwomen and Volunteers who make it possible and SO MUCH FUN accomplishing our programs and goals!

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas!

Darlene DeHaan, Auxiliary President & PR Chair

## SAL

Hello SAL Members!

At our November 1<sup>st</sup> SAL meeting, 12 new members were approved. Please help me welcome Dean Blauser, Jeffrey Burke, Ryan Butler, James Grooters, Josh Hintz, Jack Holman, Craig Johnson, Rodger Midkiff, Kent Scholtz, Richard Schrader, Jeffery Treat, and Kody Vis.



Paul Kubicek & Mike Brown

SAL Past Commanders Mike Brown and Paul Kubicek loaded food pantry items for the Salvation Army from items purchased by *Love In Action*. Our SAL provided a check of \$2,500.00 to purchase items for the local pantries. This is done twice a year, once before Thanksgiving and again before Easter. Cheryl Youngquist, purchaser for *Love in Action*, indicated that she likes receiving a check so she can purchase items in need at the present time. Items in need have changed due to Covid, with more staple items like flour, sugar, vegetable oil, etc. being requested. The SAL previously provided a onetime donation of food items around Christmas. We have found that the Community and schools are active givers of food around Christmas and the pantries appreciate our donations during the Thanksgiving and Easter holidays.

At the December meeting we will be taking nominations for Volunteer of the Year. If you have someone you would like to nominate, please send your nomination to me along with the reason/s you feel your nomination is worthy.

- Upcoming Events
  - Christmas Buffet – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Kids Christmas Party – Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>
  - New Years Eve Afternoon Party – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

The next meeting will be held December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. Hope to see you there!!!!

Serving Veterans, their Families and the Community

Jeff Warner, SAL Commander

## American Education Week November 15-19



## POST NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

Terry L. Lindstrom, USA  
John E. Schuitema, USN  
Steve Kuiper, Active USAF  
Michael J. Ashura, USA  
Bruce K. Elenbaas, USN  
John A. Sisto, USMC  
Daniel A. Tanis, USA  
Bruce Lannon, USA

### TRANSFERS

James P. Rushcamp, USA

### Sick Call

Jim "Jimbo" Land, Charles Davis, Ken Kelly, Jack Gardner, George "Skip" Schippers

### TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Samual George, USN  
Paul Meyer, USA  
Richard TenBrink, USA  
Harry Carl LaDronka, USN  
Dennis Muellersile, USA  
Howard Teasley, USA

The Navy helped with one service, and the Army helped with one service.



### From the Post Manager

As we move into the colder weather and Holiday season you have probably noticed our beer tap line going through some seasonal changes. We welcome your feedback on these new beers that we are slinging, so please give us your opinion on these, either good or bad.

We continue to be in need of Burger Crews to keep our Friday Burger Nights going consistently through the winter, so if you would like to put a crew together and pick a date please get with me ASAP so we can sign you up.

A Big thanks to our volunteers who continue to help out in the kitchen on a weekly basis, we couldn't do it without you.

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holiday season and I ask that we keep our service members, who will be unable to be home for the Holidays, in our thoughts and prayers.

Post Manager Yale



### AL Riders

Riders Billy Haynes, Larry Foose and Gerald Keen presented gifts to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home. We will take another trip to the Veterans Home on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please continue to donate at the Legion Post 28. Thank you.

Gerald Keen, ALR Director

### VEGAS NIGHT - Volunteers Needed

Vegas Night will be on Saturday, January 29, 2022 from 6 pm until midnight. Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted at the bar. We need people to sell poker chips, work as bar backs, help with trash, etc. Any questions please contact Chris Jarvis (616) 402-1598.



### AMERICAN LEGION GOODFELLOWS

Goodfellows time is rapidly approaching

If you would like to contribute to this program, Goodfellows: c/o American Legion Post #28  
700 S. Harbor Drive, Grand Haven MI 49417

#### UPDATE AND REMINDER

Shoppers will need to pick up their list between 6:00 and 8:00 pm on December 2, 2021 at the Post. Shopping must be completed and brought to the Post on or before December 11<sup>th</sup>. Packing will take place the week of December 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am daily.

Distribution of gifts will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from the Salvation Army between 10am to 6pm. Helpers are still needed at a few time slots to load boxes into cars. Contact Paul Kubicek at 616 240-7297 for sign-up.

Goodfellows is a 501c(3) non-profit organization and relies on the generosity of our community. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you everyone - The Goodfellows Committee  
Ray Ribbink, chairperson



### Chaplain's Corner

#### George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation

"May we all unite in rendering unto God our sincere and humble thanks— For His kind care and protection of the people of this country,

For the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have enjoyed,

For the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness,

For the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge, and in general for all the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And may we also unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him—

To pardon our national and other transgressions,

To enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually,

To render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed,

To protect and guide all nations and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord,

To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science,

And generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."

Submitted by Duane "Smitty" Smith, Post 28 Chaplain



GRAND RAPIDS HOME FOR VETERANS

# Veterans Holiday Wish List

## Items Needed:

### FOOD ITEMS

- Candy Bars: Full Size (NO NUTS)
- Snack Sized Package of Cookies (i.e. Oreos, Fig Bars, Soft Batch Cookies)
- Granola Bars, Pop-Tarts, Welch's Gummies
- Hostess Products (i.e. Mini Muffins, Twinkies, Cupcakes, Etc.)
- Crackers, Breadsticks or Pretzels with dippable cheese
- Soda Pop (All Varieties), Sunny D, Gatorade, V-8 Juice and other Juices
- Bottled Water, Flavored Water and Single Serving Powdered Drink Mixes



### PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Alcohol Free Mouthwash
- Power Stick Deodorant Body Spray from Dollar Store

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Boom Boxes/CD Players
- DVD's (New Movie Releases)
- Wallets, Watches
- Rechargeable Book Lights
- Sunglasses (Regular and Side Coverage Styles)
- Reading Glasses (2.5 strength or stronger)

### CLOTHING ITEMS

- New – Summer Sale Clothing Items
- Jeans – Size 34-40" Waist
- Men's Pocket T-shirts (S-4XL) Variety of Colors
- Men's Polo Shirts
- Men's Dress Shirts- – (S-2X) Long and Short Sleeved
- Men's Boots (Size 8-12)
- Men's Coats (All Sizes), Ladies Coats (All Sizes)
- Ladies Pajama's or Nightgowns (M-4X)

## Donations needed by December 10, 2021



**DONATE THROUGH AMAZON!** [HTTPS://AMZN.TO/3DALASZ](https://amzn.to/3DALASZ)



Grand Haven Unit 28 Junior Members are helping to collect Holiday wish list items for our veterans. Purchase through Amazon link above, donations will be brought to GRHV by ALA Junior Members.

Questions? Contact Pat Best (616) 842-0749 OR  
Nicole Goldberg (616) 638-9405



# DECEMBER 2021

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
|  |  <p><i>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i><br/>DECEMBER 7, 1941</p> |   | 01<br><br>5-7 PM<br>SUCCULENT<br>SWISS STEAK<br>DINNER                                      | 02<br><br>5-7 pm<br>Seafood Thurs.<br><br>6-8 pm<br>Goodfellows<br>Shoppers pick up<br>lists<br><br>7 pm<br>ALR Meeting            | 03<br><br>Burger Night   | 04<br><br>noon - 2 pm Early<br>Bird Special<br>\$1.00 Margaritas<br><br>6 pm<br> |
| 05<br><br>3-6 pm<br>RIBFEST<br>(by Sunder)<br><br>\$1 Domestic Drafts  | 06<br><br>7 pm<br>SAL Meeting<br><br>                                    | 07<br><br>6 pm<br>House<br>Committee<br><br>7 pm<br>Post Meeting<br><br>\$1 Domestic Cans | 08<br><br>5-7 PM<br>ZESTY<br>SPAGHETTI<br>DINNER<br><br>6 PM<br>Junior Auxiliary<br>Meeting | 09<br><br>5-7 pm<br>Seafood<br>Thursday<br><br> | 10<br><br>6 pm<br>Christmas<br>Buffet<br><br>                      | 11<br><br>12 noon<br>Kid's Christmas<br>Party<br><br>                           |
| 12<br><br>\$1 Domestic Drafts  | 13<br><br>  | 14<br><br>\$1 Domestic Cans   | 15<br><br>5-7 PM<br>GOURMET<br>TACO<br>DINNER   | 16<br><br>5-7 pm<br>Seafood<br>Thursday  | 17<br><br>1843<br>Charles Dickens<br>classic <i>A Christmas<br/>Carol</i> was<br>published.  | 18<br><br>noon - 2 pm<br>Early Bird<br>Special<br>\$1.00<br>Margaritas  |
| 19<br><br><br>\$1 Domestic Drafts                                    | 20<br><br>  | 21<br><br>6 pm<br>Executive<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br><br>\$1 Domestic Cans              | 22  | 23   | 24<br><br>  | 25<br><br>Post Closed<br><br>  |
| 26<br><br>National Candy<br>Cane Day<br><br><br>\$1 Domestic Drafts | 27<br><br>  | 28<br><br>NO AUXILIARY<br>MEETING<br><br>\$1 Domestic Cans                                | 29  | 30   | 31<br><br>New Year's Eve<br>(afternoon) Party<br>Time TBD<br><br> |   |