

Charles A. Conklin Post 28  
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[www.americanlegiongh.org](http://www.americanlegiongh.org)



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

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Monday - Friday 2pm - 10 pm  
Saturday 12 noon - 10 pm  
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

December 2023  
Issue #1231

## AMERICAN LEGION

Ron Streng, 1st Vice Commander  
Walt Pedersen, 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  
Mike Thurber, 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](mailto: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  
[rjribb@gmail.com](mailto:rjribb@gmail.com)  
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](mailto: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

Will somebody pinch me please? Is it seriously December??? Wow!!! Where did the year go? What a great year it has been for Post 28!! Four more weeks and we will be saying 2024!! Weird... well I hope everyone has had a good Thanksgiving, I hope your Christmas decorating is fun, unless you had it done the day after Halloween like a few people I know...Just kidding...or am I? No, I am!

Well, we had a fun and full November that's for sure! I would like to thank the Auxiliary for all their wonderful help during the Veterans Day dinner. That was a wonderfully prepared meal and I hope everyone who came to the dinner enjoyed it as much as I did. As usual, Veterans Day at the Post was a long day honoring all the Veterans that came before us, after us, and who are still serving on active duty.

This month won't be any different. Early on we will be leading the way for Grand Haven's annual Jingle Bell parade on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Followed the next weekend by our children's Christmas party on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Better believe Santa will be there as usual!! We will also have our usual Christmas buffet on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to follow the calendar for all the events the Post will be doing this month!

Well, I suppose that is all for now. As usual, always be on the look out for the next newest member. Don't forget about our Legionnaire general membership meetings. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend. It's your opportunity to make recommendations on how to make things better or express ideas you may have.

For the Good of the Legion, Mike Thurber, Commander #105



VETERANS  
DAY  
DINNER



## AUXILIARY

Not sure how it's December...I just got used to writing 2023. But I love December...the holidays, and the spirit of Christmas! When I think of the Christmas spirit, I think of giving, so I challenge you all to give just a little more.

Give to our *Take 10 For Education* drive and donate items needed in a classroom. Make a Poppy or Girls State donation through our online donation button (on the Post's website). Mail donations to help support our programs that fund food banks, Children & Youth, Veterans Rehabilitation, local First Responders and our community. Attend our dinners - the proceeds are designated for one or more of our many programs. Or simply



Auxiliary member Kathy Rich with Honey, her Registered Therapy Dog. Kathy & Honey volunteer their time at local Assisted Living Facilities.

renew your membership now, preferably through the mail to the Post. Our membership dues also support many of these excellent and badly needed programs. Things are tight for everyone this year, which means the spirit of giving is even more important.

Remember, there is no Auxiliary meeting in December. Hope to see many of you at the Kids Christmas Party on December 9.

Wishing you and yours a joyous, peaceful December.

Cheryl George, President

## LEGION RIDERS

The Riders are still in fourth place with the Grab and Run. We completed one more run to Battle Creek, this one was done in vehicles and ten Riders participated. November is the end of the program, and the first place Rider group will be putting on a dinner. Post 315 in Brooklyn is in first place and several members are planning to attend the event. Also, a special thanks to Tom Spelman for making a new shelf to hold the plaques acquired throughout the year. As we close out 2023, we look forward to increased success and contact with our fellow Legion Riders.

Several Riders presented their stories and were honored at St. Lutheran School for Veteran's Day. Thank you to John Kemme, Steve Barnes, Phil Polyak, Billy Haynes, John Boese, and many representatives from Post 28. Thanks to all for sharing their stories.

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, December 7 at 7:00 PM.

*Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery: Ride and live today.*

Steve Barnes, Director



Veterans attend church services at St. John's Lutheran Church for Veterans Day.

## SAL

The trivia contest this past month was won by the team Barflies and Pimps, who once again donated all of their winnings, this time to the Goodfellows / Crusade for Toys program.

The Post 28 Goodfellows program was started in 1939 through donations from industry, merchants, unions, lodges, clubs, veteran organizations and individuals. The American Legion and Auxiliary handled it through their Child Welfare programs. At that time there were about 25 families on the recipient list, and donated funds totaling \$309.35. It was and is a program to remember less fortunate children who might be otherwise forgotten at Christmas time. A gift of clothing, a game and a toy was provided for each child. The buying was done by the American Legion Auxiliary. During the week preceding Christmas, the boxes were wrapped at the Legion and delivered by its members in time for Christmas. In 1959 the Grand Haven City Firemen joined the program and began a "Crusade for Toys" effort to collect more toys and monetary donations. Their continued work - and the work of our neighboring fire departments - has helped the program become increasingly successful each year since. The lists of families in need are currently provided by the Salvation Army. This avoids duplications in distribution. At the time of this writing there are more than 150 families on the Goodfellows list for gift packages this year. There are "Crusade for Toys" collection boxes scattered around town, and your help in filling them is greatly appreciated!

From the website [communityrebuilders.org](http://communityrebuilders.org): *"Homelessness is a solvable problem. We have proven it - we have the solutions. Community Rebuilders leads the effort to end Veteran homelessness. We have achieved and are maintaining functional zero. What does that mean? We have a well coordinated and efficient community system that assures homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring and no Veteran is forced to live on the street. This means that every Veteran has access to the supports they need and want to avoid staying on the street and move quickly to permanent housing."* SAL Squadron 28 is pleased to have recently contributed \$820 to Community Rebuilders to provide four beds to help homeless veterans get permanently housed.

During our November meeting nine new members were approved. We welcome James A Coleman, Rick Ammeraal, Douglas Ammeraal, Earl F Ophoff Jr, Steven Weideman, John Mulder, Michael Taylor, Brian Ouillette, and John Savaan to Squadron 28.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoys a happy holiday season!

Serving veterans and our community,

Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander

### From the Post Manager - Yale Pope

Thank you to all our staff, board members, and volunteers who not only make our Post a success but my job easier as well. I would also like to thank all our customers who have been patient with our technical upgrades as we have had to work out the bugs.

Many of you have noticed the addition of a juke box to the lounge which we hope you are all enjoying and have had the chance to use.

We invite everyone to partake in all the Holiday activities that the Legion has to offer this Christmas season. Be safe and Happy Holidays.



## POST NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

Richard Triola USMC  
Shawn Vandenberg USCG  
David Hanna USA  
George Unwin USAF  
Linda Laswell USCG  
Karl Christensen USCG  
Kathleen Roberts USA  
Kenneth Roberts USA  
Randy Goldberg USN  
Gerald Smith USA

### TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Norm Spring, USA  
Ellis Person, USA  
Emil VanCura, USA  
Larry Fairbanks, MUSC  
Paul Meyers, USN



### SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen      Bob Smith  
Ron Bauer      Carl Lori  
Catherine Buckley

### HONOR GUARD

Honor Guard had seven services and one School Program (Pigeon Creek) since the last Post meeting.

Rifle Team Leader: David MacKellar

### Legionnaires December 2023 Membership Update

**Rumor Control:** Post 28 has voted **not to increase our annual dues for membership year 2025**. While National has voted to increase their take of annual dues, the State and our Post are absorbing the increase. This is only for Legionnaires, to the best of our knowledge there are no pending or proposed increases to SAL or Auxiliary dues.

Please note: Anyone applying for new membership, or that is transferring from the Michigan **at large** Post 0225, you must submit a copy of your DD-214. Feel free to black out or redact your Social Security number, we also will return it once your membership is approved. We cannot process or approve either without your DD-214.

The latest 2024 Renewal Notices were sent out, we continue to have members attempting to renew twice for the same membership year. Always check your card at the top to determine if you need to renew. If your current card states "2024", you are good for both 2023 and 2024. Thanks. 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 (print CLEARLY)**, 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.

As always should you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us: Linda Doublestein - lindadoublestein@gmail.com, Sue Lonnee- suzanne.lonnee@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

### 2024 Gene Rothi Scholarships

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications and instructions are now available. Google "Gene Rothi Scholarship" to download the application. Year 2024 high school graduating seniors who are descendants of Post 28 American Legionnaires (current or deceased) and will be incoming 2024-2025 college freshmen are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received at Post 28 by April 19, 2024! Awardees will be notified by mail in mid May.

### Chaplain's Corner

#### WHEN WE WERE BRAVE

I will caution all who are not Christian or become offended by the discussion of religion, to avoid this article and find whatever "safe space" that is available. This article is devoted to those who seek the Christian life and attempt to live it to the fullest extent possible. Those people do not do "politically correct," yet they go about their lives judging no one, helping those in need regardless of one's belief system, and trying to see good where evil tries to blot it out. Many of these people are Christian but all of them are BRAVE!

When we were brave, we celebrated Christmas, Hannukah and Ramadan proudly and never took offense due to our differences. How does one celebrate Christmas without acknowledging that the Holiday would not exist had it not been that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16)? How would the "Festival of Lights" be celebrated without the reaffirmation of the ideals of Judaism.

When we were brave, rather than the mention of God, Jesus, Allah, or Adonai be condemned or deemed "offensive," we would stand up for the peaceful practice of these religions and our God. When we were brave, governments and loud "squeaky wheels" would not silence us. We found truth in the saying, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but WORDS will never hurt me."

When we were brave, we realized that there is Someone bigger, better and caring for us always, and we turned to our Bibles and churches to find out more. We didn't depend on governments for handouts but came together as citizens of God's world to help each other in times of hardship and sorrow.

When we were brave, this season was called Christmas. It was a celebration of God's love and our salvation...and all Christians proclaimed it! Let us once again be brave in our faith and proclaim the birth of our Lord! Let us celebrate all that is good and righteous!

OR...we can all have "winter parties" and celebrate the shallowness of ourselves...without God.

In Service to God & Country, Gary (Doc) Doublestein, Chaplain

### American Legion Goodfellows

If you would like to contribute to this program, please send your check to:

Goodfellows

C/O American Legion Post 28

700 S. Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Shoppers will need to pick up their lists on November 30 at the Post. Shopping must be completed and brought to the Post on or before December 9. Packing will take place the week of December 4 starting at 9:00 am daily.

Distribution of gifts will be on December 19 & 20 from the Salvation Army between 9 am to 5 pm. Goodfellows is a 501(c)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



**Vegas Night** – It's that time of year to start planning and to start signing up to volunteer for the Vegas Night activities. This year Vegas Night will be on Saturday, January 27. Sign up sheets will be posted at the bar. Last year it took over 60 volunteers not including the bar staff and the Auxiliary food providers. All the volunteers last year had a great time helping out. It's a fun time and a great opportunity to help out the Legion. Any questions please contact Chris Jarvis (616) 402-1598 or email [cjretsfd97@hotmail.com](mailto:cjretsfd97@hotmail.com).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>TIME IS RUNNING OUT - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024 Please pay by December 31, 2023. Legion, Auxiliary &amp; SAL dues are \$50. Drop off or mail to the Post.</p>		<p><b>Coming Up</b> SAL Meeting - January 8, 2024 Goodfellows Follow-up Meeting - January 11, 2024 Vegas Night - January 27, 2024</p>			<p><b>December 1</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>6 PM</b> <b>Jingle Bell PARADE</b></p>
<p><b>3</b> <b>2016</b> Astronauts aboard the Int'l Space Station hold the first pizza party in space.</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>SAL Meeting</b></p> 	<p><b>5</b> <b>6 pm - House Committee</b> <b>7 pm - Post Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>HAM DINNER (SAL)</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>ALR Meeting</b></p> 	<p><b>8</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>12 noon - 2pm</b> <b>Kids Christmas Party</b></p> 
<p><b>10</b></p> 	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> 	<p><b>13</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> 	<p><b>15</b> <b>6-7:30 PM</b> <b>Legion Christmas Buffet (Bring a dish to pass)</b></p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> 
<p><b>17</b> <b>6 PM</b> <b>Post Closes (Employees Christmas Party)</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> 	<p><b>19</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>Legion Executive Committee</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>NO DINNER</b></p> 	<p><b>21</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>TRIVIA Night</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS (SAL)</b> 9am-3pm at the Post</p> 	<p><b>23</b> <b>1947</b> The transistor was invented by US physicists J. Bardeen, W. Britain &amp; Wm. Shockley.</p>
<p><b>24</b> <b>6 PM</b> <b>Post Closes</b></p> 	<p><b>25</b> <b>Post Closed</b></p> 	<p><b>26</b> <b>NO</b> <b>Auxiliary Meeting this month</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>NO DINNER</b></p> 	<p><b>28</b> <b>1869</b> Wm. F. Semple patented chewing gum.</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>1968</b> Frank Sinatra records My Way.</p>
<p><b>31</b> <b>12 PM - 6 PM</b> <b>Post Hours</b></p> 	<p><b>January 1</b> <b>Post Closed</b></p> 	<p><b>2</b> <b>6 pm - House Committee</b> <b>7 pm - Post Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>NO DINNER</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>ALR Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>