

Charles A. Conklin Post 28
P.O. Box 439
700 S. Harbor Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743
www.americanlegiongh.org



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Walt Pedersen
Post 28 Commander
wolsalt@charter.net

Monday - Friday 1pm - 10 pm
Saturday 12 pm - 10 pm
Sunday 12 pm - 9 pm

December 2025
Issue #1255

AMERICAN LEGION

Cyndy Wierenga, 1st Vice Commander
Nick Matiash, 2nd Vice Commander
James O'Neal, Adjutant
Robert Kepner, Finance Officer
Gary Doublestein, Chaplain
Larry Lambert, Judge Advocate
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dennis Siron, Historian
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Mike Thurber, Service Officer
Karl Christensen, Executive-at-Large
Linda Laswell, Executive-at-Large
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large
Ron Streng, Past Commander

AUXILIARY

Becky Glockzin, President
glockzinb@gmail.com
Darlene DeHaan, Vice President
Ginny Hebert, Secretary
Michele Stetts, Treasurer
Linda Gieske, Historian
Pam Medendorp, Chaplain
Laurie Koldyk, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Tim Deiters, Commander
deiterst@yahoo.com

Jeff Wierenga, 1st Vice Commander
Andrew Ruiters, 2nd Vice Commander
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
Gary Kerkstra, Historian
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dr. David Ireland, Membership
Mike Brown, Adjutant
Bill Moss, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Alan Smith, Director
alriderspost28@gmail.com
Fred Smith, Assistant Director
Jim Sacks, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
John Boese, Historian
Dave Feenstra, Sergeant-at-Arms
David Baldwin, Membership Chair
Al Smith, Road Captain
Tom Schultz, Safety Officer
Steven Barnes, Past Director
Yale Pope, Post Manager
(616) 842-5310



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

November has passed, and its departure seems to have seamlessly blended into recent history.

We hosted several excellent events, with our Veterans Day Dinner being especially successful. Sunder, his sous chef Dalton, as well as Michele, Connie May, Darlene, Norma, Marcie, Lori, and Nancy from our Auxiliary all contributed greatly. Thank you to everyone who helped make the dinner so memorable. Our Post manager, Yale Pope, served as guest speaker and did an outstanding job—thank you, Yale.

The DJ Music Bingo night was a great success again and there was quite a turnout for the third installment of that event, it looks like we'll keep that going everyone had a great time

Dave Ireland's burger crews RED Friday Burger night on the 7th sold out of burgers after going through four cases, that's 240 burgers...a great turnout for a November burger night.

There seems to be an increase in turnout for Arturo's Tacos on Thursdays. They do provide some great dishes. Thank you Art.

Our Marines celebrated their 250th Birthday and had their annual Birthday Breakfast here at the Legion a great time was had by all. I'm always proud to receive an invitation to their breakfast.

Christmas is just around the corner, so don't forget to volunteer for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing and help with gifts for Goodfellows, along with all our other fun December events.

Thank you to all our volunteers who put in so many hours each month for all the projects and events that Charles Conklin Post 28 carries out, we Legionnaires could not do it without our Auxiliary, SAL, And Legion Riders.

For the good of the Legion, Walt Pedersen Commander # 107

**Veterans Day Ceremony
at the Eternal Flame**



Veterans Day Dinner



AUXILIARY

In November, the Auxiliary made donations to three local food pantries. We also honored the First Responders of the Ferrysburg Fire Department with a cash donation and 26 stuffed teddy bears.

We continue to collect nonperishable food items & toiletries to fill care packages to send to deployed (overseas) soldiers. Your donations can help us pack 20+ boxes for shipment. Please drop off items in the blue bin located in the Post's front lobby.

December 3 - Chops' Meatloaf Dinner

December 6 - Jingle Bell Parade, 6 pm down Washington St.

December 12 - Legion Family Christmas Buffet

December 13 - Kids Christmas Party, Saturday from 12 noon to 2 pm.

December - No Auxiliary meeting this month

December - Volunteers needed for Goodfellows Shopping.

Please contact Barb Kelly at kellybj72@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is January 27 at 6:30 pm.

Becky Glockzin, President



Representing the Auxiliary, Michele Stetts & Laurie Koldyke, with Fire Chief Michael Olthof, honor the Ferrysburg Fire Department

RING THE BELLS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Please contact Chris Jarvis at (616) 402-1598 or cjretsf97@hotmail.com if you are interested in ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. A few slots are open at D&W or Fricano's.

VEGAS NIGHT VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Vegas Night is Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We are still searching for more help - especially dealers. You must be a member of Post 28 to deal or sell chips. The sign up sheets are at the bar along with the Dealer Information Forms. Any questions please contact Chris Jarvis at (616) 402-1598 or cjretsf97@hotmail.com.

From the Post Manager, Yale Pope Dalton Pope, Assistant Manager

The Holiday Season is upon us. This year for the Christmas Buffet on December 12, we will be offering the music of *Cool Yule*, a local musical ensemble who plays Christmas Music for Veterans Organizations.

We will be keeping with our same Holiday Hours throughout the season closing at 6 pm on Christmas Eve and 8 pm on New Year's Eve. We will be open on New Year's Day 12p-8p.

Let's have a safe and Happy Holiday.

SAL

This month the SAL members responded to the need for additional funds to help support local food endeavors. There seems to be a great need in the community because of recent uncertainty in funding programs and payroll at this time.

Also, Chris Petras has taken on a project of locating living and deceased eligible Purple Heart awards. He was granted \$1,800 for signage for the local cities and village that have declared they are Purple Heart Communities. Each sign will have to be placed where each community recommends. Thanks, Chris, for your hard work on this project!

We have entered into the Holiday season. Please consider volunteering for one of the many charities that need assistance. We, as your support group [SAL], PRAY FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY SEASON.

Tim Deiters, SAL Commander

LEGION RIDERS

As the holiday season is here, I want to thank all our members for their continued support and enthusiasm throughout the year. It's been wonderful to see everyone participate in our rides and events, making each gathering memorable and fun.

We've traveled across the state, visited the Upper Peninsula, escorted the Soldiers Memorial Wall, and made birthday and patient visits to elderly homes. We logged thousands of safe miles representing our Post at various events. Pick three raffle ticket sales went well, and I'm excited to see December's winners. Those living in the South for winter, please stay in touch and travel safely. I'll announce 2026 events as they get closer and look forward to making them enjoyable for everyone.

Tag Smith, Director/Road Captain



POST NEWS

WELCOME NEW LEGION MEMBERS

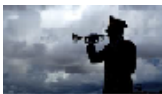
Raymond Dykema
Paul Erdmans
Robert Wassink
James Sawmiller
Arthur Bator
Gerald Moore
Michael Holmes
Tracy Riley
Jaime Peterson
George Cigler
Randel Root
Jacob Walker



SICK CALL

Denny Siron
Bob Wydeck
David MacKellar
Roman Marciniak
Oscar Ledesma
Karl Kuzyk
Robert Sanders
Rick White
Stefanie Marvin-Miller
Daniel Kiomento II

TAPS WAS SOUNDED FOR



Ell Simantz, USA
Howard Smith, USA
Al Yonker, USA
1st Lt. Gerald Missel, USMC

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dear Post 28 Members,

It is a PLEASURE to share time with all of you! Even those we don't personally buddy up with!

It is the GIFT of life that was given for us all that holds this planet together! As Jimmy Stewart yelled out, "Merry Christmas!", and hugged even those who weren't his favorite people! He learned that no matter what, "It is a Wonderful Life!" Don't take anyone for granted! Express your JOY of knowing our Lord, our true Commander in Chief! Remember sin makes none of us perfect. My mission and the mission of our Post is to fight the good fight, love everyone God puts in our path, take nothing for granted, and do our best to be the arms and legs of our Creator! May you be led the same way!

Merry Christmas and moving forward to the New Year...
In His Service, Auxiliary Chaplain Pam

HONOR GUARD

Since the last Post meeting, the Honor Guard had five Funerals and participated in one Buc's Pride Cancer Program.

Rifle Team Leader, Dave MacKellar

Legionnaires December 2025 Membership Update

Merry Christmas and thank you for your Service. Please pray for all those defending our Country and their families who will be separated during the Holidays.

2025 Membership cards expire on December 31.

Please consider renewing online at mylegion.org. This immediately registers your payment and reports your renewal to your Membership Committee. This saves you postage and us time. In addition by renewing on line it is easy to update your personal information (address, phone, email etc). Should you forget or lose your card to can access a copy on line at the same site, saving you time and providing access to American Legion Posts especially if you are out of town.

Please note: Anyone applying for **new** membership, or that is transferring from another Post, you must submit a copy of your DD-214. Active Duty applicants need to provide a proof of Active Duty. 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, current military ID or Leave and Earnings Statement. Should you need a DD214 or other proof of Service, you may request it at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>.

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, Linda Laswell - lindathemac@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

American Legion Goodfellows

American Legion Goodfellows

Goodfellows time is rapidly approaching

If you would like to contribute to this program,

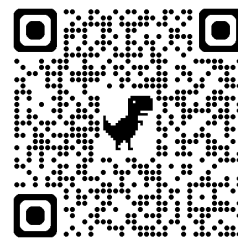
Please send your check to:

Goodfellows

C/O American Legion Post 28

700 S. Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Clothing shoppers will need to pick up their list between 5:30pm and 8:00pm on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at the Post. Shopping must be completed and brought to the Post on or before December 12. Early shopping and drop back off to the Legion is much appreciated. Packing will take place from Monday, December 8 through Monday, December 15, starting at 9:00am daily (No Sunday packing). Volunteers are encouraged to come help!



Scan to donate to
Goodfellows

We will transfer our boxes over to the Salvation Army on December 16th at 9:00am, again volunteers are encouraged to come help! Distribution of gifts will be on December 17 from the Salvation Army building between 9:00am to 5:00pm.

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

Ron Ribbink and Lisa Danicek

Co-Chairs of the Goodfellows Committee

2026 Gene Rothi Scholarship

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications and instructions are now available. Google "Gene Rothi Scholarship" to download the application. Year 2026 high school graduating seniors who are descendants of Post 28 American Legionnaires (current or deceased) and will be incoming 2026-2027 college freshmen are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received at Post 28 by April 2026! Awardees will be notified by mail in May.



2025
DECEMBER

Love In Action, Feed America, needs help handing out food at St. Patrick's parking lot on Friday, December 19. Report time is 9am. It takes about two hours to load all the vehicles that roll through. If you are interested, please contact Linda Laswell at lindathemac@gmail.com.

Visually impaired support group meets January 6, 2026, from 1-2 pm at the Post. Questions? Call Michelle at 269-370-4697.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	December 1 7 pm SAL Meeting	2 7 pm Post Meeting	3 5-7 PM CHOPS' MEATLOAF DINNER (Auxiliary)	4 7 pm ALR Meeting Pick up family cards for Goodfellows shopping	5 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	6 6 pm Jingle Bell PARADE <small>Presented by The Chamber of Commerce</small>
7	8	9 6 pm Legion House Committee	10 5-7 PM POTATO BAR & PAUL'S CHILI (SAL)	11 6-8 PM DJ Musical Bingo	12 Legion Family Christmas Buffet 	13 Noon - 2 pm Kids Christmas Party 
14 3-5 PM Jo Jo's Meatball Subs	15	16 7 pm Legion Executive Committee	17 5-7 PM SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion)	18 7 PM 	19 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	20
21	22	23 NO Auxiliary Meeting	24 1-6 PM POST OPEN NO DINNER	25 POST CLOSED 	26 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS Walt's Crew	27
28	29	30	31 1-8 PM POST OPEN NO DINNER	January 1 NOON-8 PM POST OPEN  Happy New Year!	2 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	3
4	5 7 pm SAL Meeting	6 7 pm Post Meeting	7 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI (Legion)	8 7 pm ALR Meeting	9 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	10