

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



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Michael Thurber
Post 28 Commander
michael.thurber76@gmail.com

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

February 2024
Issue #1233

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
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
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 again, Post 28! A new month upon us, a new letter. Well, it's safe to say winter has finally reared its nasty head. It's ok though, there are a few people around that do enjoy the wonders of winter. And for those who don't, they're probably reading this newsletter electronically while they bask in the warmth of Florida. Regardless, February is here!!

Before I get ahead of myself, HOW 'BOUT DEM WOLVERINES AND LIONS!!! WHOOOS GOT IT BETTER THAN US??? What a great month in

January for Michigan football teams!! Don't worry Spartan fans, we love you, too, and are looking forward to what the new coach can bring.

Other than the exciting football, things were kinda quiet around the Post. On the 27th we had our Vegas Night. ALWAYS a great time, and a great fundraiser for 22zero! I want to give a shout out to Past Commander #99 Chris Jarvis for all the hard work he put into this, as usual! As we say in the Navy, Bravo Zulu Chris!! Thanks for all you do!!

Busy month for February. Starting out on the Saturday the 3rd, we will be conducting our 1st annual Four Chaplains program. We decided as a collective group to conduct our own program separate from the 5th District. We will have a small ceremony and a luncheon following. This is, as always, open to everyone, and I encourage everyone to come and witness this significant ceremony and remembrance. The next weekend, February 9-11, Past Commander Garrett Veihl and I will be in Flint at Department's Winter Conference. I encourage everyone who is a Legionnaire to attend. Especially if you have hopes and ambitions to someday be a commander or in any other leadership position at our fine post. Any questions, please come see me or Garrett and we will get you pointed in the right direction and get the answers you seek. And finally, one more BIG activity, Saturday, February 17, we'll have our annual Chili Cook-off Event. This is a crowd and Grand Haven/Spring Lake favorite!! Open to the public, and another huge fundraiser for 22zero! Our chairperson this year is Garrett, and I know there has been some hard work put in and I know there are some great raffle prizes to win!!!

That being said, have a fun and safe mid-winter! Come on out and have some fun at the Post, and as always, be on the lookout for our next newest member!! Once again Post meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Come out and make your voice heard!!

For the good of the Legion,

Mike Thurber Commander #105

On 3 February 2024 at 1100 AM we will once again hold a ceremony in Honor of the Four Chaplains who went down with the USS Dorchester after being torpedoed by a Nazi Submarine during WWII. Honors will be given to the Methodist and Dutch Reformed ministers, Catholic priest and Jewish Rabbi who gave up their life jackets in sacrifice so that others would live.

Please join us for this solemn occasion. Luncheon will be provided at no charge after the ceremony. Because of the solemnity of this program, no alcohol will be served during the luncheon. All are welcome regardless of membership.

- Four Chaplains Day -



F E B R U A R Y 3

AUXILIARY

We're almost halfway through Winter, February 3 to be exact. So hang on, Spring is on its way. I hope many of you were able to attend Vegas Night. It's a fun event and raises money for a great cause. Winter means "Chops" meatloaf is Auxiliary's dinner of choice. The monies raised from the January 24 meatloaf dinner sponsored a high school student who will be studying abroad this summer in Spain.

Our Nomination Committee members are busy working on the 2024-25 Slate of Officers, with the election to be held at our April meeting. All offices are open for candidates. The new year begins with the August meeting. Please consider running for office to join our Auxiliary Leadership Team in some capacity! You will be supported by an experienced group of women who are passionate about serving Veterans!

We are still collecting 10 for 10 for Education through the end of the school year. Please bring in 10 (any amount really) of a school supply item and drop it in the blue bin in the Auxiliary room. We are also supporting several deployed soldiers and are collecting snacks, crackers, cookies, personal care items...no pork or alcohol allowed. If you'd like to help with this ongoing activity please feel free to bring in items to send or a donation toward postage. You can also volunteer, it's a great way to help out, to support the Auxiliary and Legion, to make friends, and have a feel-good time. Next meeting is March 27. Hope to see you there.

Cheryl George, President



LEGION RIDERS

Bikers for Vets is ramping up for 2024. Save the date for September 7! We will be holding our first \$250 Michigan Scratch Off raffle in January. Only fifty numbered squares will be sold for \$20 each. When all squares are sold, the winning number will be drawn. The winner will receive all the scratch-off tickets on the board.

The Riders provided security for Vegas Night in January. It was a great evening and fun was had by all. We look forward to doing security for it again next year!

A special ride is being planned in 2024 from Hell to Paradise raising awareness for PTSD. The ride is open to all and scheduled for July 26-28. The cost is \$35 per rider and \$20 rider, sponsored by the American Legion Department of Michigan Legion Riders. Registration is at www.alrhelltoparadise-ptsdride.com

The GH Riders are considering riding as a group and meeting the Department Riders in the Upper Peninsula. We will be donating to the event. If you are interested in participating, send an email to alriderspost28@gmail.com Details are being worked out on departure date, hotels, etc.

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, February 1, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

It's the ride of life; the journey from here to there; living and loving every moment like we have none to spare.

Steve Barnes, Director

SAL

Volunteering is a powerful force for good, rippling outwards to benefit individuals, communities, and society as a whole. It's not just about giving back, it's about building bridges. By sharing our time and talents, we tackle challenges too big for one person, filling gaps in essential services and enriching lives. Volunteers strengthen communities, fostering a sense of connection and belonging that empowers individuals and fuels collective progress. From mentoring a child to protecting the environment, each act of volunteerism contributes to a more just and vibrant world, reminding us that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves.

We are fortunate to have an amazing crew of volunteers serving our Post! This past month our Squadron's 2023 Volunteer of the Year was selected from several very qualified nominees. Mike Brown has helped at countless Post events, served in many positions in our Squadron, and is our current Adjutant. Thank you Mike for all of the time and effort you give.

Also this past month we approved 11 new members to Squadron 28. Please join me in welcoming Braydon Soule, Robert Jacobs, Jordan Brown, Steven Barnes, Rick Sluis, Lee Scott, Jacob DeGryse, Kaleb Kelly, Michael Kelly, Colt Casemeir and Bart Rizzo.

A very popular annual event is coming again this month — the Chili Cook-Off will be on Saturday, February 17. Good food and raffles galore! Come and get in on the fun!

If you haven't been to a 4 Chaplains service, I really recommend you check it out. Post 28 will host their service on Saturday, February 3.

Finally, The Vegas Night event was a huge undertaking, with many hours of planning and set-up, and the large number of volunteers required to make it happen. Thank you to all who helped with this project, as well as all of the other events that need many hands to succeed.

Serving veterans and our community,

Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander



SAL Adjutant Mike Brown receives his 2023 SAL Volunteer of the Year certificate from SAL Commander Ron Ribbink

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Nickels, USN
Gerald Sheltroun, USN
William Christensen, USN
Thomas Hawkins, USA
Terry Blakely, USA
Susan Martin, USAF
Greg Allen, USN

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Douglas Vanderlaan, USAF
Gerald Welbes, USA
Kenneth Westerhouse, USAF
Past District & Zone
Commander - Catherine Veihl
Buckley, USN
Marvin Taylor, USA



SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen	Bob Smith
Ron Bauer	Carl Lori
Denny Siron	Bob Wydeck

HONOR GUARD

Since the last Post meeting, Honor Guard had six funeral services, and participated in the Pearl Harbor Day Program and Red Cross Blood Drive (set up and takedown).

Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar

Legionnaires February 2024 Membership Update

The 2023 Membership Cards have expired. The bar staff are checking patrons for 2024 cards. You must have a 2024 card to attend monthly Legion Meetings as well as to purchase alcohol at our Post.

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership for 2024!

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.

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.

From the Post Manager Yale Pope

In January we saw some challenges with the weather and as a result we had to close the Lounge or delay opening. When the decision is made to close the Post, the primary concern is the safety of our members and employees and we apologize for any inconvenience. So, moving forward, let's have a safe and healthy February.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

GRATITUDE

How often during your day do you stop to give thanks for all that has been given to, or done for, you? If you are like me, it often seems like the "busy-ness" starts as soon as I hit the deck and trying to keep up takes all my thought and energy. It is well known that the most successful people have one thing in common...gratitude. They appreciate all that goes into our daily lives and give thanks to those around them...and especially to The One who created us and everything else! So, let's make a list.

Morning thank-yous:

- For a good night's sleep and for waking up.
- For electricity and heat that kept me comfortable. (Perhaps the recent snowstorm hammers that home a bit!)
- For the builders whose expertise made it possible to stay dry.
- For family and friends.
- For garbage collectors, mail persons, delivery truck drivers, snow plowers, police, public safety workers, soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coast guard and all who work in the public sector for our safety, convenience and comfort.
- And especially to God who makes it all come together!

Evening thank-yous:

- For a comfortable and warm bed.
 - For all the joy that others have brought me today.
 - For those that brought conflict and trouble into my life today...they will make me stronger.
 - For being allowed to live another day.
 - To our Lord, who watches over me every day.
- Of course, this is not a complete list, but it will get you started. Be successful...be grateful! And I am grateful for all of you who make our Post a warm and welcoming place. Say "thank you" to all of our volunteers who make everything work!

In the Service of Our Lord and country,
Gary L. Doublestein, Chaplain

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.



February 17



FEBRUARY 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>The next blood drive is scheduled for February 27, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can register on line at redcrossblood.org or call Chris Jarvis at 616 402-1598. We collected 32 units of blood at the December 22 blood drive which totals the amount collected for 2 blood drives held in 2023 at 47 units of blood.</p>			February 1 7 pm ALR Meeting 	2 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	3 11 am Four Chaplains Memorial 12:30-Lunch 
4 1949 Ruth Handler invents the Barbie Doll.	5 7 pm SAL Meeting	6 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	7 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion)	8 	9 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	10 4-8 PM Dover Karaoke
11 	12 	13 	14 5-7 PM HAM DINNER (SAL) 	15 7 PM 	16 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	17 
18 1913 A prize is inserted into a Crackerjacks box for the first time.	19 	20 6 pm Legion Executive Committee	21 5-7 PM CHOPS' MEATLOAF DINNER (Auxiliary)	22 	23 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS (SAL)	24 
25 1791 The 1st Bank of the United States is chartered.	26 	27 9 am - 3 pm Blood Drive 7 PM Auxiliary Meeting	28 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (Legion)	29 	March 1 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	2 1887 The first Ground Hog Day is observed in Punxsutawney, PA.
3 1931 The Star Spangled Banner becomes the National Anthem.	4 7 pm SAL Meeting	5 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	6 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion)	7 7 pm ALR Meeting	8 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	9 1862 The US government issues paper money for the first time.