

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

February 2026
Issue #1257

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



It's February, and there are 36 days until Daylight Savings on 03/08/2026, when clocks move forward an hour. Spring officially starts on 03/20/2026. January went well at Charles Conklin Post 28—our RED Friday burger nights were successful despite the winter, and Wednesday dinners remain popular thanks to dedicated AUX, SAL, and Legionnaire volunteers. We've received a new batch of Charles Conklin Post 28 challenge coins, now available for purchase and on display in the main entrance display case.

Vegas Night was a great success, allowing us to make another meaningful donation to Healing The Hero. This organization helps prevent our heroes from being lost to invisible wounds; learn more at healingthehero.org. Once again, thanks to Chris Jarvis for all his work putting on Vegas Night, ensuring not only that it all runs smoothly but also that we're in full compliance with the State.

This month, we are preparing for our annual Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony, which will take place on Saturday, the 7th. The Four Chaplains Ceremony is an important event that honors the selfless actions of four chaplains during World War II. Whether you are familiar with their story or learning about it for the first time, we invite you to attend this meaningful ceremony.

Also coming up and always one of the biggest events of the year, our annual Chili Cookoff on Saturday the 21st, doors opening at 1100 hours. Thanks to Tag and the Legion Riders for putting this together. The teams have been registered, and the participants are fine tuning their recipes, deciding how many Scovilles are too many or not enough. I'm really looking forward to checking out the various tastes that will be offered.

Until next month, I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who dedicates their time and effort to making Charles Conklin Post 28 an outstanding organization.

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



Above: (L-R) **American Flag** - Past Commander #90 Garrett Veihl; **American Legion Flag** - Harold Weaver; **Marine Flag** - Isabelle Swab; **Army Flag** - Hayden Howell; **Air Force Flag** - Past Commander #100 Jim Porenta; **Coast Guard Flag** - Emma Lynna; **Navy Flag** - Ron Ribbink; Commander Walt Pedersen.

Veterans Recognition Night Grand Haven High School

Commander Walt Petersen
plays the *National Anthem*.



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.

AUXILIARY

I hope many of you were able to attend Vegas Night. It was a fun event and raised money for a great cause - Healing the Hero. The monies raised from the January 21 Meatloaf Dinner were designated for our Girls State program. Our next Dinner is February 18. Because it's Ash Wednesday, we'll be offering two choices: Chops' Meatloaf or Baked Fish & Chips.

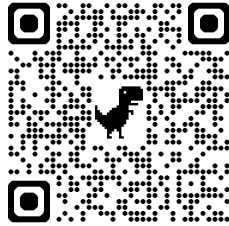
Our Nomination Committee members are busy working on the 2026-27 Slate of Officers, with the election to be held at our April meeting. All offices are open for candidates. The new officers' year begins with the August 2026 meeting. Please consider running for office to join our Auxiliary Leadership Team in some capacity! You will be supported by an experienced group of women who are passionate about serving Veterans! Contact Cheryl George (Chairperson), Pat Best, or Noreen Sayranian if you are interested.

Consider volunteering! It's a great way to help out, to support the Auxiliary and Legion, to make friends, and have a feel-good time. Our next meeting is February 24 at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there.

Becky Glockzin, President

GOODFELLOWS

We hope that in the future, the children we serve will become giving citizens and pass the good times forward. We are grateful for all the thoughtful donations that support our mission. You can make a contribution to the Goodfellows nonprofit at anytime by visiting the American Legion webpage (americanlegiongh.org) and click on the donation link, or scan the QR code here. Thank you.



Ron Ribbink & Lisa Danicek, Co-Chairs



American Legion Post #28

Detroit Tigers Vs Seattle Mariners

Saturday June 6

Bus Ride and Game Ticket \$120 per person

Food, Drink and Coolers Allowed on Bus, No Glass
21 and Over

Sign Up and Pay at the bar

Contact Bob Kepner with any questions:

Post28FinanceOfficer@gmail.com

SAL

This year's activities are already ramping up, with many projects being discussed and on going endeavors. Vegas night we could use crews for set up take down and help with running some of the areas. Please check with dates and times!

We had eight new members join this past month. Welcome to R. Rambow, T. Kuiper, M. Gerst, Z. Artibee, L. Artibee, K. Mesler, M. Welling and S. Paul Steck IV. As of this date we have 92 new members and 740 renewals, for a total to date of 832 members.

Next meeting is February 2 at 7pm.

Tim Deiters, SAL Commander



LEGION RIDERS

Looking forward, we anticipate upcoming rides and community events with enthusiasm. While weather conditions may occasionally result in delays, our commitment to service and collaborative strength remains unwavering. Each event, including the Chili Cook-Off on February 21 and the Kentucky Derby Party on May 1—provides meaningful opportunities for engagement and celebration. As we plan for future activities, we continue to emphasize friendship, service, and adventure.

We are pleased to announce donations of \$5,000.00 to Habitat for Humanity and \$5,000.00 to Community Rebuilders in recognition of their dedicated efforts to support homeless veterans.

Thank you all for your support.
Tag Smith, Director/Road Captain

CHILI COOK-OFF

SPONSORED BY

THE AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS POST 28

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 11 am
AMERICAN LEGION POST 28
700 HARBOR DRIVE
GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417



POST NEWS

WELCOME NEW LEGION MEMBERS

George McDonnell
Thomas Kubczak
Matthew Pifer
Greg Lundeborg
Robert McKay

TAPS WAS SOUNDED FOR

John Oren Snoek, USCG
Michael Osterberger, USAF
Jack Jansma, USA
Mike Kirby, USN
Richard Privetter, USA

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Wow! A New Year! I guess when you really are in your golden years you think, "Hmmm, there is nothing New under the sun..." Well, I am here to say there is always "something NEW!" A NEW YEAR!!

More daylight, New Experiences, and the list goes on!! It's the way we shed light on these New things, and the "Who" of where the Light is coming from.

The Light of God surrounds All Of Us

The Love of God enfolds me.

The Power of God protects me.

The Presence of God watches over me.

The Mind of God guides me.

The Life of God flows through me.

The Laws of God direct me.

The Strength of God abides within me.

The Joy of God uplifts me!

The Might of God Renews me!

The Beauty of God inspires me!

Wherever You Are.... God IS!

And you are the light in the New Year!

SICK CALL

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

HONOR GUARD

There were five funerals since the last Post meeting. In 2025, there were a total of 60 funerals, eight Buc's Pride programs, six school programs and a Veterans Day program at Heartwood Lodge. Rifle Team Leader, Dave MacKellar

Legionnaires February 2026 Membership Update

Remember that renewal notices are mailed out by National, there can be up to a delay of a month or more before they update their roster. This means it is possible to receive a notice after you have already renewed. Before you respond to a renewal notice, check your membership card. If it has a red **2026**, your card is valid through December 2026. Also, pay by check. This will allow us to return your dues payment if it is already paid. Paying by cash requires us to obtain a check to reimburse you. Thank you for your cooperation.

We ask that you consider renewing on line at mylegion.org. This immediately registers your payment and reports your renewal to your Membership Committee, and eliminates any risk of a duplicate renewal. 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 you 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.

The Four Chaplains were the light in a dark experience, and gave light and hope to the survivors of that day! Let your light shine into others' lives. Give up your service to those who need that life raft, like the Four Chaplains did to the survivors of the Dorchester, and see the light that is passed on!

In His Service, Pam Medendorp, Auxiliary Chaplain

Legion Reflection: Veteran's Day Dinner 2009

Veteran's Day Dinner 2009 was Veterans only, as the year before many vets couldn't get a ticket. Guest speakers were four WWII gentlemen: Kelly, Westra, Rose and Humble. They each spoke of their service. You could have heard a pin drop.

The Legion officers that night waited on a long table of WWII Vets, The Greatest Generation. Turkey dinner was prepared and served by our wonderful Auxiliary and SAL. It was a patriotic evening.

My son and I were one of the last ones to leave that night. Andy was locking up. Don "Chops" Rescorla, in his big voice said, "Nice job, Chittenden." I thanked him. He would pass a month later.

That's quite another reflection,
Past Commander Rick Chittenden #92, Past Adjutant,
Honor Guard/Rifle Squad, Kitchen Help

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

We are starting two new things in 2026. First, we will be offering breakfast the last Saturday of every month 10a-12p for \$10.00, but free for Veteran Legionnaires.

Second, we are starting the American Legion "Mug Club." Buy one of our designer mugs for \$45.00 and get \$1.00 off all beer on tap (unlimited) for the whole year when you bring in your mug.

Open Euchre Tournaments
2pm - 4pm
Every Sunday

FEBRUARY

2026

Arturo's Tacos
3:30pm - 8pm
Every Thursday

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 1	2 7 pm SAL Meeting 	3 7 pm Post Meeting	4 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (Legion)	5 7 PM ALR Meeting	6	7
8 	9 	10 6 pm Legion House Committee Meeting	11 5-7 PM POTATO BAR & PAUL'S CHILI (SAL)	12 7 PM DJ Musical Bingo 	13 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	14 
15 	16	17 7 pm Legion Executive Committee	18 Ash Wednesday 5-7 PM CHOPS' MEATLOAF or FISH & CHIPS DINNER (Auxiliary)	19 6 PM 	20 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	21 Post opens at 11 am. 
22	23	24 6:30 pm Auxiliary Meeting	25 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion)	26 7 PM DJ Musical Bingo	27 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	28 10am - noon Breakfast (Free for Veteran Legionnaires; Guests \$10)
March 1	2 7 pm SAL Meeting	3 7 pm Post Meeting	4 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (Legion) 	5 7 pm ALR Meeting	6 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	7
8 	9	10 6 pm Legion House Committee Meeting	11 5-7 PM POTATO BAR & PAUL'S CHILI (SAL)	12	13 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	14 