

Charles A. Conklin Post 28

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



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Gary Doublestein
Post 28 Commander
gary.doublestein@hotmail.com

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

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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
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
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
Dr. David Ireland, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Gerald Keen, Director
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



Dear Comrades:

It was a very busy December and good things were accomplished by our Post. Allow me to list just a few:

- * GoodFellows delivered TONS of toys and personal items to the Salvation Army for distribution.
- * Our Christmas Buffet was a huge success.
- * The Kids Christmas party was cancelled due to concerns about Covid, but will be rescheduled for Easter time.
- * Personal items were collected for the Grand Rapids VA home.
- * Volunteer bell ringers raised money for the Salvation Army.

* Dave MacKellar put together an impromptu December 7 ceremony that we hope will be an annual event.

* SAL contributed \$8,000 to our new pull-tab machine.

This is just a short list and does not reflect the number of volunteer hours given by many in this Post. To ALL volunteers, SAL, Legion Riders, and Auxiliary a big THANK YOU for all you do!!

At this time of year I think of New Year's Resolutions...and like most, I never quite live up to the ideal! But here are a few resolutions for our Post that I would like to put out for your consideration:

1. Look at the big picture when you think of the Post and be willing to forego personal desires for "the good of the Legion".
2. Volunteer your time, talent and treasure to serve our veterans.
3. Abandon the idea that if the game is not played your way, you will take your ball and go home...but bring your ball to each game and give it your best effort!
4. Don't waste time on the "small stuff". Instead of crossing T's and dotting I's, make grand sentences!
5. Praise more and criticize less.

We are all part of the Grand Adventure called the American Legion. All of us have the potential to make a difference. Look for the "special" in yourself and others and then put it to work for your brothers and sisters. May God bless you and your families this New Year!

At The Service of the Legion, Doc

PS: I have been informed that the number of aluminum tabs from pop-top cans has been decreasing. In the past the Post has earned up to \$400 per year on the collection and redemption of these small recyclables. Please remember to save these and donate them at the side door of the Post. Every little bit counts!

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 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 5th 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

"SERVICE, NOT SELF"! This is our Auxiliary motto; and it is what drives us to work hard. A huge component to service is volunteerism...hours and hours and hours of time invested to accomplish our programs, help our Veterans, active duty military, their families and our communities! Our Community Service Chairwoman is Michele Stetts, and this Auxiliary Program is the foundation of our Auxiliary house. Michele reminds our members in every meeting to log their volunteer hours, provides a form to do so, and she compiles everyone's volunteer sheets every year in preparation for her annual report.

In the 2019/20 fiscal year, Michele reported that we had **231 members who logged 10,461 hours** of volunteering! Last year was the "COVID-19" year, and despite that added challenge, **70 Auxiliary members volunteered for a total of 5,267 hours!** Here are several examples of the specific areas of volunteering that have impacted so many people:

- Caring for children (child care without pay)
- Putting flags on veterans' graves (Junior activity) for Memorial Day
- Grand Rapids Home for Veterans – Bingo, visitations, gift shop
- Sewing blankets & knitting hats & mittens for children in need
- Knitting/crocheting lap blankets for veterans
- Preparing, serving and cleaning up for Unit 28 dinner fundraisers and Post 28 events
- Preparing, serving and cleaning up for veterans' funeral luncheons
- Playing the piano at church service
- Teaching Sunday school
- Making meals for a disabled family member
- Cemetery projects – scrubbing and cleaning grave markers; beautifying the surroundings
- North Ottawa Community Hospital – hostess; greeting patients; delivering mail
- Community Pancake Breakfasts – planning & serving
- Grand Haven Community Center – volunteering where needed
- YMCA – volunteering where needed
- Blue Lake Campground – beautification (cleaning up the area)
- Blood Drives – donating blood; organizing; assisting in setup
- Girls Scouts – troop leader
- Make craft items to use for fundraising
- Area Food Banks – volunteering where needed
- Salvation Army – bell ringers collecting donations
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – organizing an annual Golf Tournament to raise funds; Great Strides Walk
- Four Pointes Senior Center – sorting mail, working the front desk, Bingo callers
- Goodfellows Program – shopping for clothes for children in need in our community
- Heartwood Lodge, Grand Pines Assisted Living Center & other nursing homes – visiting veterans, Auxiliary members; entertaining the residents (playing the piano, sing-a-longs)
- Packaging & mailing socks to veterans overseas
- Clipping coupons for sending to military bases
- Schools – teaching assistant; organizing a *Veterans in Schools* program.....**and there are many more examples not listed!**



SAL

Hello SAL Members!

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a Wonderful Holiday!

At our December meeting I did receive a few 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. We will take nominations through the month of January.

The SAL would like to thank Albert Willis from "That's a Wrap" for providing the shrink-wrapping of the Deck Furniture for the 2nd year in a row.

A big thank you to all the Volunteers over the last few months...if it weren't for you we wouldn't be able to support activities for the Veterans, their families or the community. Those activities included the Christmas Buffet, Winterizing the



deck, Goodfellows, Love in Action (food pantry), and Burger nights just to name a few. Keep up the great work!

Our next meeting will be held January 3rd @ 7pm. Hope to see you there!!!!

Thank you to the Auxiliary & SAL members who cooked & served the Christmas Buffet. (L-R): Noreen Sayranian, Paul Kubicek, Chuck Yonker, Pat Best, Phil Young, Joni Bennett, & Rocky Johnson.

Serving Veterans, their Families and the Community
Jeff Warner, SAL Commander

We are incredibly grateful for the work accomplished, and the gift of hundreds of hours per year from the lives of those who volunteer so faithfully.

My challenge to ALL of you for this year is to log EVERYTHING you are doing to help others in any capacity. Please email your list and number of hours per item to mlstetts44@gmail.com. Watch for specific opportunities to serve at Post 28 in the Auxiliary Newsletter - emailed to all members monthly!

I hope to see you at our January 25 Auxiliary meeting, and pray that you experience blessings, happiness and good health in the New Year!

Darlene DeHaan, Auxiliary President & PR Chair
←Over 300 **Bags of Joy** were compiled & delivered to veterans & veterans' wives in nursing/assisted living homes.

From the Post Manager

Hoping everyone has had a Merry Christmas and we look for a more positive 2022 going into the New Year.

Based on several mitigating factors, we have decided to close the Lounge on Sundays in January and February with the exception of Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th. We plan to return to our normal Sunday hours on March 6th (in time for "March Madness").

Again, I would like to put out the call for Volunteers. We are especially in need of Friday Night Burger Crews and individuals for our Seafood Thursdays.

Let's stay warm and have a great January.
Post Manager Yale

NEW MEMBERS

Timothy Kronemeyer, USAF
 Victoria Harthorn, USAF
 Conrad Bucholtz, USAF

TRANFERS

Stephen Hanway, USA
 Kim Harthorn, USA

Sick Call

Jim "Jimbo" Land, Charles Davis, Ken Kelly, Don Veeneman,
 George "Skip" Schippers

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Robert Halle, USMC
 Scott Rutzen, USA
 Jack Gardner, USAF



Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Pam Medendorp-Peck, Auxiliary Chaplain

I thank Almighty God for making it possible for us and our loved ones to witness the year, 2021. We are grateful to God for allowing us to be in the land of the living, as He will see us through the New Year of 2022! God in His infinite mercy permitted us to live to see this day because it pleased Him. For this grace, we are grateful. For God's blessings upon us, His goodness, good health and successes, we give Him thanks. We have reasons for thanking God for the year 2021. As the saying goes: "If there is life, there is hope". Let's celebrate life and keep hope alive. If Almighty God wills it, you will surely achieve whatever goals you set your mind on and diligently work towards achieving. You have absolutely amazing untapped talents and abilities that when properly unleashed and applied, can bring everything you could ever want in life. The real limits on what you can be, do or have are the limits you place on yourself by your own thinking.

The New Year offers us an opportunity to reach our goals and achieve our dreams. We should strive hard while making each day count as we seek to realize set goals. Today, therefore, marks the beginning of another year's journey that will cover for 365 days. Today is a good day as any to make a fresh start. As Chaplains, Legionnaires, SAL, and ALA may we be guided by the tenets of our calling, and lead exemplary lives in our various callings. May we continue to engage positively with other stakeholders to serve God and humanity. We should strive towards delivering the expected lives-touching programs. These are the ideals we must commit to attain at all times.

Finally, may this New Year be a joyous ride for you and your family. As we see the beginning of the year 2022, may God walk us through it, and prepare us for a better year ahead.

Welcome to 2022! Happy New Year!

VEGAS NIGHT - Volunteers Needed

Vegas Night is Saturday, January 29 from 6:00 p.m. to Midnight. We are open to the public for this event. If you are interested in volunteering for this event we still have some openings. Please contact Chris Jarvis at (616) 402-1598 or Paul Kubicek at (616) 240-7297.



(R) Commander Doc Doublestein presented Historian Denny Siron with a *Certificate of Appreciation for Americanism* for his extensive volunteer work at Musky Tale Resort in Hayward, Wisconsin.



(L) Auxiliary member Nancy (Sluiter) Law points to her grandfather's name, Orrie Sluiter. Mr. Sluiter was a Charter member of Post 28.



(R) Post 28, SAL & Auxiliary members rang the bells for the Salvation Army at Fortinos, D&W and SL Orchard Market.



AMERICAN LEGION GOODFELLOWS

The American Legion Goodfellows & Firefighters' Crusade for Toys wish to thank you for your time and effort to make this program a success. We have been able to maintain a very stable program because of your thoughtfulness and we are looking forward to next year.

With the help from the Salvation Army, we were able to serve 142 families and 324 children in the Northwest Ottawa County area. Each child received clothing, gloves, caps, toys, games and candy. We work with the Salvation Army for screening and to determine eligible families for our program. We also provided the Grand Haven and Spring Lake Special Education buses a stuffed animal for each child, to help make Christmas a happier time. With your generosity we were also able to help support our area "Back Pack Programs" which provides food for children and youth ministries that number approximately 600 children. We appreciate your help in these endeavors.

We hope that in the future, these children will become giving citizens and pass the good times forward.

May you have a Prosperous and Happy New Year!
Thank You - The American Legion Goodfellows Post #28



Goodfellows Annual Toy & Clothing Drive



Jingle Bell Parade



GRHV Wish List Drive



Craft Fair Fundraiser



December Rocked!

Salvation Army Bell Ringers



January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						01 
		 February 12 th		2022 MEMBERSHIP Keep your membership current. LEGION & SAL - \$50 AUXILIARY - \$40 Drop off at the Post or send via mail.		
02 Post Closed	03 7 pm SAL Meeting 	04 6 pm House Committee 7 pm Post Meeting \$1 Domestic Cans	05 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER	06 5-7 pm Wet Burritos Dinner 7 pm ALR Meeting	07 1610 Astronomer Galileo Galilei discovers four of Jupiter's moons.	08 
09 Post Closed	10 	11 1973 American League baseball adopts the "Designated Hitter" rule. \$1 Domestic Cans	12 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER	13 5-7 pm Seafood Thursday	14 	15 Celebrate National Hat Day  January 15 Every Year
16 Post Closed 	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 	18 6 pm Executive Committee Meeting \$1 Domestic Cans	19 5-7 PM CHOPS MEATLOAF DINNER	20 5-7 pm Seafood Thursday 7 pm 	21 Hug Everyone! It's National Hug Day! 	22 JANUARY 22 Blonde Brownie Day 
23 Post Closed	24 1935 Beer was first sold in cans.	25 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 Domestic Cans	26 DINNER TBD 1875 The dental drill was patented.	27 5-7 pm Seafood Thursday	28 National Kazoo Day  January 28	29 6 pm – Midnight VEGAS NIGHT 
30	31					