

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

January 2024
Issue #1232

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR POST 28!!! I hope everyone has had a great holiday season! Well, it's 2024 and the Earth has started its annual trek around the ol' big ball of fire in the sky. The same is with Post 28. We have a lot of great events happening in the next couple months. This month on the 27th, we are hosting our annual Vegas Night. This event is open to the public and is always a ton of fun. The proceeds from this event will be going to 22 zero, a veterans' awareness group dedicated to helping veterans suffering from PTSD and helping to curb the epidemic of veteran suicide. This event is always a lot of fun and could be a fun way to win some money without having to travel to Gun Lake. So if you think you're good at Black Jack, I challenge you to sit at my table and see if Lady Luck is on your side! Bring your friends and spread the word! Remember, ultimately this is a fun fundraiser for the benefit of veterans.

Wednesday dinners and Friday burgers are back on full throttle as usual after the little shut down through the holidays. Please be sure to check the calendar for Wednesday dinners. I'm also pleased to announce the member favorite Auxiliary Meatloaf dinners will be back on the 24th. Come on down for one of our great Wednesday dinners! Also, I would like to mention the SAL sponsored Trivia Night is back. Lots of fun to participate in. Opportunities exist to play trivia or read questions. See one of the SAL reps for more details.

Finally, put on your radar, coming up in February is our Annual Chili Cook-Off. Signup information is included later in this newsletter. This is also a fun fundraiser open to the public with lots of great lottery prizes. Some prizes in the past have included home theaters, Treager grills, Blackstone grills, just to name a few.

Well, that's all for now. It has been a pleasure serving as your Post Commander. Don't forget about our monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of the month and, as always, be on the lookout for next newest member.

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

RINGING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY



AUXILIARY

What a year! So many great things; Girls State back in-person, the Welcome Home party for the Michigan National Guard Soldiers, the funding and start of the Kate Olsen Scholarship, to name a few. There have also been struggles for many of our members and I'm glad we have the AEF to lift their spirits.



Kids Christmas Party Volunteers

Our membership continues to grow strong - over 1800 members! In my eight years as an Auxiliary member, I have

never seen so many new volunteers, which is wonderful...but we always want and need more. We have added to the ways we support our military, their families, and our local community. We continue to grow, improve, and add to our programs every year. I am in awe of the dedication, strength, and kindness of the members of Unit 28. You guys ROCKED 2023!

Thank you all for your support of the Auxiliary and its goals. I look forward to you helping to make 2024 even better.

Next meeting is January 23, 2024.

Cheryl George, President



Jingle Bell Parade

LEGION RIDERS

The Riders finished the Grab and Run in fourth place with 4,549. To accomplish this we made 42 runs to other Legions, with over 13,868 miles. This mileage does not include any other rides we completed. The Grab and Run starts again in January - we will be getting a much earlier start than 2023. Post 315 in Brooklyn is in first place, they will be putting on a dinner May 4 at their post. Several Post 28 Riders are planning on attending.

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 per rider, sponsored by the American Legion Department of Michigan Legion Riders.

Registration is at www.alrhelltoparadise-ptsdride.com

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, January 4, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

The hard work of the Riders through hot dog nights, raffles, and Bikers for Veterans allowed our group to donate a total \$14,750 in 2024 dedicated to Veteran's programs.

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

Steve Barnes, Director



ALR presents a donation to 92 for 22.

SAL

Welcome to 2024! Here are three important January dates in American history we should be aware of:

***1/17 Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) Began (1991)** - Early on 17 January 1991, Operation desert shield came to an end when the air campaign of Operation desert storm began.

Task Force Normandy, consisting of nine AH-64 Apache helicopters from the U.S. Army's 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st ABN DVN (Air Assault), accompanied by four Air Force MH-53 Pave Low special operations helicopters, flying fast and low, opened fire at 0236 Baghdad time, on 17 January.

***1/27 Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)** - Two months after the signing of the Vietnam peace agreement, the last U.S. combat troops leave South Vietnam as Hanoi frees many of the remaining American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam. America's direct eight-year intervention in the Vietnam War was at an end. In Saigon, some 7,000 U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees remained behind to aid South Vietnam in conducting what looked to be a fierce and ongoing war with communist North Vietnam.

***1/31 Panama Campaign Ended (1990)** - Operation Just Cause, U.S. military action (December 1989-January 1990) that centered on the invasion of Panama for the purposes of removing Gen. Manuel Noriega, the country's dictatorial de facto ruler, from power and extraditing him to the U.S. to face charges of drug trafficking and money laundering.

Wrapping up 2023, congratulations and a thank you are in order to trivia winners Camp Bear Paw, who donated their November contest winnings to our Goodfellows program.

Please welcome new SAL member Chad Haskins, who was approved at our December meeting. A HUGE thank you to everyone that helped with the Goodfellows/Crusade for Toys these past couple of months, as well as the Christmas Buffet, Kids party and other season's gatherings hosted at our Post. (There are a LOT of you!) It is the volunteers that make our Post's events and activities work, and keep Post 28 among the most admired in the state. Don't forget to thank a volunteer, and let's be willing to help out when we can. Together, let's make 2024 a year to remember in Grand Haven!

Serving veterans and our community,
Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander



SAL Past Commander Paul Kubicek, along with Jordan Brown & SAL Adjutant Mike Brown, delivering food to the Salvation Army Pantry.



January 15, 2024 - Team Signup
5 pm at the Post

February 17, 2024 - Chili Cook-Off

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Keith Bakker USA
Michael Ponce USA
Scott Anderson USN
Michael A Thurber USN
Joseph Puls Jr USN
Robert Boot USN
Jim Stuck USA
Michael Fuller USN
Glenn Humphreys USAF

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Donald Nelson USA
James Leet USA



SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen Bob Smith
Ron Bauer Carl Lori



HONOR GUARD

Since the last Post meeting, Honor Guard had two funeral services, four school programs, Veterans Day Programs at two Assisted Living homes, a Veterans Day Program at the Eternal Flame, and led the Jingle Bell Parade.

Rifle Team Leader,
David MacKellar

Legionnaires January 2024 Membership Update

The 2023 Membership Cards have expired. You must have a 2024 card to attend monthly Legion Meetings as well as to purchase alcohol at our Post.

National has initiated an option for members to renew **On Line** (legion.org) for up to three years at the current membership rate (\$50 per year). This only applies to **On Line** renewals (at legion.org), and only for years 2024, 2025, 2026. For members who have already renewed their 2024 membership, you will be able to participate in multiple year renewals beginning with your 2025 renewal. **This is not an option for anyone who pays at the Post, whether cash or check.**

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.

Chaplain's Corner

Pam Medendorp-Peck, Auxiliary Chaplain

As I ponder the coming in of the New Year the word that comes to mind is NEW.

As our Auxiliary and Legion leaders grow older, we have established knowledge to pass on. We NEED NEW youth, and fresh committed volunteers to keep this Post going. Every time you reNEW your membership think of ONE DAY out of the whole NEW YEAR that you and a friend that you share time with here might be able to volunteer!! If, with the thousands of members volunteering, we could unite to have fun sharing in events, this Post could continue on into the NEW future! Along with that, NEW ideas could flourish!! In the Chaplains workshop they encouraged a day with a Faith-based theme to support families and support loved ones far away. God brought this Post together, let's Honor Him by reviving leadership for years to come.

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.

American Legion Goodfellows

The American Legion Goodfellows & Firefighters' Crusade for Toys, wish to thank you for your time, effort, and donations to make this program such 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 130 families and 348 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 numbered 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. We are grateful for all the thoughtful donations that support our mission.

May you have a Prosperous and Happy New Year!













Thank you everyone – The Goodfellows Committee
Ray Ribbink, Chairperson



JANUARY 2024



This year's **Chili Cook-Off** will take place February 17, 2024, to be held at American Legion Post 28, Grand Haven. We will be signing up 12 teams; each team may have up to three (3) members. We will hold a signup for the Chili Cook-Off on January 15, 2024 at 1700 hours (that's 5pm). If there are more than 12 teams wanting to sign up on January 15, we will hold a drawing of the teams. Last year's winning team gets in, but must have a team member here to sign up. There will be a \$25.00 fee to enter the competition. More rules to the Cook-Off will be discussed on the 15th.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	January 1 Post Closed 	2 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	3 NO DINNER 	4 7 pm ALR Meeting	5 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	6 
7 1610 Astronomer Galileo Galilei discovers four of Jupiter's moons.	8 7 pm SAL Meeting 	9	10 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (LEGION)	11 1973 American League baseball adopts the "designated hitter" rule.	12 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	13 National Rubber Ducky Day 
14 1973 The Miami Dolphins defeat the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl VII, becoming the first undefeated team in NFL history.	15 5 PM Sign up today for the Chili Cook-Off on February 17.	16 7 pm Legion Executive Committee	17 5-7 PM HAM DINNER (SAL)	18 7 PM 	19 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 1883 Edison constructs the first electrical lighting system using overhead wires.	20 Penguin Awareness Day 
21 SQUIRREL APPRECIATION DAY! January 21 	22	23 7 PM Auxiliary Meeting	24 5-7 PM CHOPS' MEATLOAF DINNER (Auxiliary)	25 	26 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS (SAL)	27 4-10 PM Vegas Night 
28 National Kazoo Day  January 28	29 	30 1969 The Beatles held their last concert on the roof of their Apple Studio in London.	31 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (LEGION)	February 1 7 pm ALR Meeting	2 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	3
4	5 7 pm SAL Meeting	6 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	7 5-7 PM DINNER-TBD	8	9 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	10