

**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](mailto:gary.doublestein@hotmail.com)

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

Issue #1214

[www.americanlegiongh.org](http://www.americanlegiongh.org)

July 2022

#### **AMERICAN LEGION**

Rick White, 1st Vice Commander  
Courtney Thurber, 2nd Vice Commander  
James O'Neal, Adjutant  
Cyndy Neil-Wierenga, Finance Officer  
Duane Smith, Chaplain  
Larry Lambert, Judge Advocate  
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Dennis Siron, Historian  
Garrett Viehl, 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**

Cheryl George, President  
[cageorge4@gmail.com](mailto:cageorge4@gmail.com)  
Becky Glockzin, Vice President  
Ginny Hebert, Secretary  
Michele Stetts, Treasurer  
Linda Gieske, Historian  
Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain  
Vicki Siron, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

#### **SAL**

Paul Kubicek, Commander  
[pkubicek@hotmail.com](mailto:pkubicek@hotmail.com)  
Ron Ribbink, 1st Vice Commander  
Bill Moss, 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  
Jeff Warner, Past Commander

#### **LEGION RIDERS**

Steven Barnes, Director  
[Alriderspost28@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Tom Spelman, Road Captain  
Tom Schultz, Safety Officer  
Gerald Keen, Executive Committee

Yale Pope, Post Manager  
(616) 842-5310



#### **COMMANDER'S COMMENTS**

Gratitude 101.2  
Comrades:

We all have many people who have touched our lives, and our worlds would not be the same without them. But then there are those who go above and beyond and accomplish amazing feats with a smile on their face. They carry on without regard for their own personal challenges and heartbreak. This article is dedicated to those heroes.

Dave MacKellar is a part of nearly every ceremony at the post...as a matter of fact he KNOWS every ceremony and sees to it that we all adhere to the solemnity of every function. He reminds us of every event that is coming up and every funeral on the schedule. In spite of some very personal and painful tragedies in his life he manages a smile for everyone and is extremely approachable. If he has a grudge or animosity towards someone, he keeps it under wraps and continues to treat everyone with respect. One feels humbled by HIS humility. Yet, at every event, I breathe a sigh of relief when I see him there because I know that everything is under control! Our Post is extremely fortunate to have Mac...and when I grow up, I could do much worse than to be just like him!!

Garrett Viehl is always first to step up to the plate for just about anything that has to do with the American Legion or our Post. He loves his role as Santa Clause and, more recently, the Easter Bunny! You always know where you stand with "the Chief". If he disagrees with you, you know it right then and there. But I have found that if you are just as adamant about your view he will come to understand and grant you clemency! (But you'd better be right!) He is outspoken, but usually says what we all are thinking anyway! His laughter is contagious and you can hear it from miles away. And he never stops promoting our Post to our 'superiors' at Department. I especially appreciate his bluntness. He says what he means and means what he says. Yet, his heart is as big as this great country. Thank you, Chief, for all you have taught me.

And then there's the LTJG, (otherwise known as Linda, my wife). After a tough life growing up in NYC, she agreed to share the life of a 19-year-old Navy Corpsman who had big dreams. She gave up much to help him achieve all that he dreamed of, all the while raising 3 kids (2 Daughters and me). She supported all of my goals and endured the hardships that they entailed. She has never let my ego go unchecked and kept me grounded when I felt too big for my britches. For over 50 years she has shared her life with me...and there should be a medal out there for that! And for someone who deserves all the credit, she never takes it. But I know...and love her all the more for it!

There are many heroes in my life, but these are at the top of the list. I look forward to serving with our new Commander, Rick White, who I am sure will do an excellent job! But most of all I thank all of you for your patience and support this year. As a wise Past Commander predicted, "I had so much fun!"

In Service to the Legion, Doc



Gold Star Mother, Hilda Zimmerman,  
with Past Commander Dave MacKellar.

## AUXILIARY

Happy Fourth of July!

The Auxiliary installed our newly elected officers at our June 28th meeting. I am honored to be elected President and I look forward to working with such an amazing group of talented, dedicated, and caring women as we begin our next 100 years of "Service Not Self."

We celebrated our Post 28 Auxiliary Centennial with an open house. Committee Chairpersons shared informational displays highlighting the important work we do. There was an inspirational video about our members and their veterans, great food, and great music. I want to thank our Chairpersons for their informative poster boards and all the time and effort they put into doing the work of their committees.

Thank you to all who donated to our annual Poppy Fund Drive. The drive was quite successful, we've raised almost \$4,000 so far, and funds continue to come in via our online donation. We are also continuing to collect D&W receipts with the "Direct Your Dollars" designation on the bottom of the receipt. Please continue to drop these off at the Legion.

We have many volunteer opportunities and I encourage all our membership to get involved, help our veterans and families, and make some amazing new friends. It is truly a worthwhile and rewarding endeavor.

We look forward to Coast Guard Week and all the exciting events and activities. Summer is a great time to enjoy our post and our wonderful beaches. As usual, there is no Auxiliary meeting in July but we hope to see everyone at our meeting on August 23rd.

Cheryl George, President

## LEGION RIDERS

The Michigan Legacy Scholarship Fund Run made a stop in Grand Haven on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> during their annual ride. This annual event raises money for a scholarship fund that helps children of military veterans pay for higher education expenses. Thank you to all that helped make this event a huge success.

Post 28 ALR Poker Chip Run is right around the corner on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We would like to thank the Auxiliary and SAL for generously donating \$1,000 each toward the Poker Chip Run. If you know of a company that would like to participate through sponsorship or prize donation, please contact the Riders ([ALRidersPost28@gmail.com](mailto:ALRidersPost28@gmail.com)) as soon as possible. The more donations and sponsors we have for this event the more we can help Michigan veterans support groups. Volunteers for this event are also needed, please ask how you can help.

Don't forget about hot dogs and brats on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in July. Stop by and support the Riders and Post 28.

Follow the Post 28 ALR Facebook page for ride and event updates and information on any last-minute rides. Are you interested in becoming more involved as a volunteer? New faces are always welcome to help with events and activities at the Post. Ask how you can help. Don't forget to keep track of your miles.

*Great memories happen when you don't know where you are going.*

Steve Barnes, Director

## SAL

Summer has finally arrived, and we had wonderful weather for this past "Memorial Day." The Parade was well attended, and Dave "Mac" Mackellar looked great in his Marine Dress Blues as our "Grand Marshal." Thank you for all the volunteers who helped throughout the week.

The "Memorial Golf Outing" also had great weather. Our charity for the golf outing went to "Homeless Veterans." Our Auxiliary also likes to support "Homeless Veterans" and made a generous donation of \$1,000.00 to go along with the proceeds made from the golf outing. At the SAL Convention held June 3<sup>rd</sup> through the fifth our Squadron made a total donation of \$5,170.00 towards "Homeless Veterans". In total at convention, we gave \$12,415.00 supporting "The Child Welfare Fund, The Legion National Emergency Fund, Reconnect, The Grand Rapids Veteran's Home, along with Homeless Veterans". We feel blessed that we as a Squadron can provide this support. We received a certificate for meeting our 100% membership goal and received the State Award for activities and funding in the areas of "Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation. SAL members Scott Kelly and Jeff VanSickle had a lot to do with our Squadron receiving these awards and we give them a big thank you!

At our last SAL meeting we approved the following new members, please welcome; Henry Burke, Stanley R Johnson, Jacob Keevan, Andrew Kraker, Donald Morgan, James Nienhouse, Steven Olson, Ethan Pennington, Chris Protas, Thomas Ralston, Fredrick Smith, Kevin Sullivan, and Ivan Uren. As Commander of the SAL, I appointed Bill Moss to fill our vacant position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander. This was supported by our

membership's vote. Thank you, Bill, for stepping forward. This years "Volunteer of the Year Award" went to Steve VanderWall. Steve has been our Squadron Sgt. Of Arms for a number of years. He

frequently volunteers to take money on Burger nights as well as some Wednesday night dinners. He represents the SAL at many funerals, works security and marches in the Memorial Day Parade. Thank you for your dedication to our Post and Veterans activities.

In closing, I would like to remind all Legion family members about our upcoming "**Cornhole Tournament**" on **July 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**Please sign-up at the Lounge for a fun day of activities.**

Serving Veterans, Paul Kubicek – SAL Commander



1<sup>st</sup> Vice Ron Ribbink & Adjutant Mike Brown delivering food to pantries.



Scott Kelly  
100% Membership Goal



Jeff VanSickle  
Veteran Affairs &  
Rehabilitation



Steve Vanderwall  
Volunteer of the Year

### NEW MEMBERS

Peter Scott, USA  
 Carmelo Pinzon, Jr., USA  
 Barry Williams, USAF  
 Brian Rush, USMC  
 Michael Cook, USA  
 Donald Potter, USA  
 Daniel Hamilton, USA  
 Jeffrey Frankum, USN  
 Paul Petersen, USAF  
 Christopher Wilke, USMC  
 Raymond Harbin, USMC  
 Kenneth Scarbrough, USA  
 Roger Crawford, USAF  
 William Cliff, USA

### TRANSFERS

Roger Kern, USA  
 Kristin Bushouse, USA

### TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Harold Wershem, Jr., USA  
 Edward "Jack" Gardner, USAF  
 Robert Thomas, USN  
 Thomas Ward, USMC  
 Harry Parcheta, USA



## POST NEWS

### Sick Call

Jim "Jimbo" Land  
 Charles Davis  
 Ken Kelly  
 Don Veeneman  
 George "Skip"  
 Schippers  
 Dave MacKellar  
 Mel Nielsen

### 2022-2023 Officers Post 28

104<sup>th</sup> Commander.....Rick White  
 1st Vice.....Michael Thurber  
 2nd Vice.....Ron Streng  
 Adjutant.....Chris Jarvis  
 Finance Officer.....Cyndy Wierenga  
 Executive at Large.....Garrett Veihl  
 Executive at Large.....Freddy Smith  
 Executive at Large.....Jim Porenta  
 Historian.....Dennis Siron  
 Chaplain.....Duane Smith  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Jim Porenta

July – Swearing in of new officers

### From the Post Manager

Post Manager Yale Pope



### Legionnaires Membership Update

The calendar says that Summer is here, it also says that the 2023 Membership Renewal will begin this month. National will soon be mailing renewal notices to all current members. Those members renewing before Veterans' Day will have their cards annotated with "Earlybird Renewal".

The bank that the our Post uses has requested that our members renewing with a check please change the "Pay to the Order of" line to read as follows: **Charles A. Conklin Post 28**. Please make a note of this if you wish to pay by check.

Just as a reminder as we have close to two thousand members, the quickest way to renew and receive your 2023 membership card is to use the "online renewal"!

As always should you have any questions, feel free to contact any member of your Membership Committee:

Phil Polyak - [wattnot@me.com](mailto:wattnot@me.com),

Larry Lambert - [larry\\_lambert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:larry_lambert@sbcglobal.net),

Linda Doublestein - [lindadoublestein@gmail.com](mailto:lindadoublestein@gmail.com).

### Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Pam Medendorp-Peck, Unit 28 Chaplain

I am grateful for the opportunity to share – as a free individual in this wonderful God Blessed Country. As our Founder Thomas Jefferson penned, "never take the freedom to worship away from us, or the inalienable rights as the intent the founders of this Country had!" I would like to share this article I copied to share with you, my Dear Post:

"At the heart of his argument is the belief that the *Almighty God hath created the mind free, and manifested His Supreme Will that free it shall remain*. We could wonder why, in Jefferson's mind, God has created us free — free to form ideas about our world and to make moral choices. In part, Jefferson's answer is that people who aren't free cannot be held morally accountable for their thoughts and actions. For a religious person, this distinction is especially important, because redemption (and, for some, the afterlife) is only promised to the righteous. Every soul had to be left free to earn grace, not follow the conscience of another individual."

As Chaplain, I can share these thoughts of where freedom lies. July is a month where Freedom began! God Bless America!!

In Memory of Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams – may they rest in peace.



Memorial Day Events

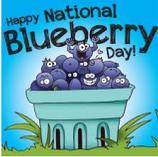


# JULY 2022

## Coast Guard Week Volunteer Meetings

The next Coast Guard Week planning meeting is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the back of the dining room. Volunteers can sign up for parking, bar backs and kitchen help, as well as get an overview of this most important week of Post #28. Coast Guard week defines our wonderful Post and we strive to put our best foot forward. See you there. Rick Chittenden, Past Commander #92



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<div style="background-color: #ADD8E6; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">                     Coast Guard Festival                      July 29 – August 7                      Events  <a href="https://tickets.coastguardfest.org">https://tickets.coastguardfest.org</a> </div>					01 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night 	02 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas 
03 <u>1806</u> The first cultivated strawberry is displayed by Michael Kent.	04 Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> of July 	05 6 pm <b>House Committee</b>  7 pm <b>Post Meeting</b>  \$1 Domestic Cans	06 5-7 PM FISH FRY DINNER  	07 7 pm <b>ALR Meeting</b>  	08 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night	09 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas  	
10 	11 7 pm <b>SAL Meeting</b>  9 am Bldg & Grds	12 5-7 pm ALR Hot dogs & Brats  \$1 Domestic Cans	13 5-7 PM SWISS STEAK DINNER	14 <u>1891</u> John T. Smith applies for a patent for corkboard.	15 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night 	16 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas	
17 	18 <u>1994</u> Crayola begins to market scented crayons.  9 am Bldg & Grds	19 6 pm <b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>  \$1 Domestic Cans	20 5-7 PM STEAK DINNER W/ POTATOES, ROLLS & SALAD	21 7 pm 	22 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night	23 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas  	
24 	25 9 am Bldg & Grds	26 5-7 pm ALR Hot dogs & Brats  <b>No Auxiliary Meeting</b>  \$1 Domestic Cans	27 5-7 PM CHILI/BAKED POTATO BAR/WINGS	28 <u>1914</u> World War I began.	29 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night	30 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas  	
31	9 am Bldg & Grds	\$1 Domestic Cans					