

Charles A. Conklin Post 28

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

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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
Cyndy Neil-Wierenga, 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 Ribbink, 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:

The Four Chaplains event was a tremendous success and it is my sincere hope that they all looked in and said, "it was good". Thanks to Mac and Smitty every detail went off without a hitch. Special thanks to Chef Cindy and the Auxiliary for a great dinner after the ceremony. I am so proud of our Post and I hope all of you are too!

Our first Chili Cook-off in two years had a huge crowd and I am told by Yale that our bar profit rivaled what we did at the Clown Band event this summer! Judging from the amount of heartburn I had the next day; the chilies were especially "creative"! Thanks to Mike Thurber and his crew for all their hard work!

We also had the first "Vegas Night" in two years and earned \$3,750.00 to donate to Fisher House to assist injured veterans' families. Great job Chris Jarvis and all volunteers!

Look around you, to your left and right, forward and back, and notice the people that are there. What do these people have in common with each other and with you? Every one of those people, including you, is dealing with SOMETHING in their life. Some have very large problems; others' problems are smaller...but every last one of them is struggling with a situation that upsets them.

When someone snaps at you or even acts like a jerk, take a pause to remember that it could be their LIFE that is lashing out at you, but not necessarily that person. As Legionnaires we are here to help other veterans and their families. Often the most important thing you can do is LISTEN...not offer advice, or condemnation, or attitude. The beauty of talking with other veterans is that we have all "been there, done that". Check on your buddies. Talk to them...but above all listen to them. They can get a "10,000 mile stare" from anyone. But they deserve much more from you.

I was talking to the LTJG (otherwise known as Linda, my wife!) the other day about our time at the Legion. She expressed to me how grateful she is that I decided to run the chairs. She pointed out that those at the Legion are much more than friends...they are FAMILY! As I pondered that, I realized how profound that observation was! All of us are different, but we are unified in a cause that is just. In the truest sense we are all brothers and sisters! We have our little squabbles like all families but we fight for each other when the chips are down. Of course, there is a price to be a part of this family...the pain of loss when one of our own has fallen or is injured. Yet we come together for strength and comfort. We come together to help out the injured. We truly LOVE the members of our family! And our family includes SAL, Auxiliary and Riders.



Four Chaplains Memorial

So, here's to you, my valiant brothers and sisters! Continue to run the good race, fight the good fight and recognize how lucky you are to have each other!

In Service to the Legion, Doc

AUXILIARY

Winter is (thankfully) speeding by, and if we work hard to imagine it, we can picture decreasing snow and improved temperatures! The skiers, snowboarders and winter lovers among us should enjoy what is left of our 2022 winter, because (and I apologize!) I am personally wishing for an early spring! (I feel a tiny bit better as I type the word "spring"!)

Friendly reminder...please save June 18 and 19 for our Auxiliary Centennial celebration! We promise that this will be a weekend to remember! We are aware that the 19th is Father's Day, and our goal is to honor our Veteran brothers, fathers and grandfathers (as well as those who are not Veterans!) with a special celebration that day! Invite the family...a fabulous meal will be available for a great price!

This month I would like to feature our Poppy Program, which simultaneously honors Veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice and teaches our students about the sacrifices made by our Veterans. The story of poppies is available at this link: <https://www.legion.org/poppyday/history>, and I encourage everyone to both read it and share it! Our Poppy Program Chairwoman, Diane Janusch-Johnson, has just completed the judging of 80 Poppy Posters submitted this year by six area schools. This is a fun and educational contest that our area students are invited to participate in every year. A lot of work goes into visiting schools, talking to teachers, following up with all contest participants and then judging all of the posters.

We are blessed each year with amazing posters that demonstrate the students' creativity and talent, as well as their depth of understanding about the harsh reality of war and sacrifice. In addition to winning locally, several of our students' posters are so good that they have won at the District, State and National level! We cannot wait to announce the winners this year, as well as share the awesome posters with everyone!

National Poppy Day 2022 is May 27, and Diane will be announcing detailed plans for Poppy Day in the next month or two. It is a significant day to raise money for the Poppy Fund, although donations are accepted throughout the entire year. It is important to note that every dollar in the Poppy Fund must be used *directly* for a cause that helps Veterans. We offer a link on the Post 28 website to donate, but Diane coordinates several Auxiliary volunteers each year to be at the Post on Poppy Day to personally hand out the little crepe paper poppies and accept donations from our Legion Family.



These poppies are assembled by disabled Veterans to make a small wage to help support themselves, so even the creation of the poppies helps our Veterans. Last year Diane coordinated

our first community "Poppy Drive-through \$1 Challenge" to get our Grand Haven community involved with this important program. The generosity of our Auxiliary members, our Legion Family and our community enabled us to give a lot of money away this year to many Veteran organizations!

SAL

Hello SAL Members!

At our Feb 7th SAL meeting, six new members were approved. Please help me welcome Maxwell Brondyke, Grant Guthrie, Jeff Kielinen, Steve Miller, Dave Nykamp, James Ryan, Richard Sckodack, and Mark Shirey. Membership Chair Scott Kelly indicated he had also renewed 127 Members. Remember, our membership goal is 1,033.

I would like to thank all the SAL Members who volunteered and attended the Vegas Night and Chili Cook-off. Both fundraisers were a success because of your help!!! Upcoming March & April events....Legion Birthday Party, March 12th, St. Patrick's Day, March 17th and the Kids Easter Egg Hunt - TBD. Hope to see you there!!!!

Our next meeting will be held March 7th @ 7pm.....grab a SAL member and come on down!!!!

Serving Veterans, their Families and the Community

Jeff Warner, SAL Commander

VEGAS NIGHT

I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for signing up to volunteer to help with Vegas Night. It was nice to see everyone having fun again at the Legion. Your efforts helped raise just over \$3,000 plus \$750 from the 50/50 drawings for a total of \$3,750. There were 52 volunteers who signed in, and that didn't count the Riders who did the security, the volunteers who helped as bar backs, and the wonderful Auxiliary who provided us with food. It was truly a family affair.

Once again, from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!

Chris Jarvis



Valentines For Veterans

Auxiliary members made cards, and assembled & delivered bags of Valentine cheer to veterans/veterans' wives.



Thank you and WELCOME to our new Auxiliary members, as well as to our faithful members who renewed their 2022 membership! Please check our bi-monthly email for Auxiliary news, and contact Volunteer Chairwoman, Noreen Sayranian, at briannoreen@outlook.com if you would like to be added to our Auxiliary Volunteer List.

Please note that elections for our Unit 28 Auxiliary Officers (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Secretary, Historian, and Sergeant-at-Arms) for the 2022-23 fiscal year will take place during our April 26 meeting. We will announce the slate of officers as soon as it is complete. If you are interested in running for any of these offices, please contact Kathleen Edwards at gkedwards25@yahoo.com.

Stay warm and stay safe!

Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chairwoman

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Evan Hege, USMC
Kenneth Breuker, USA
Ronald Kuiper, USA
Joe Jaime, USN

Sick Call

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

TRANSFERS

Joanne Flemming, USN

2022 Gene Rothi Scholarships

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications and instructions are now available. Google "Gene Rothi Scholarship" to download the application. Year 2022 high school graduating seniors who are descendants of Post 28 American Legionnaires (current or deceased) and will be incoming 2022-2023 college freshmen are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received at Post 28 by April 15, 2022! Awardees will be notified by mail in mid May. Questions? Contact Jim Porenta at jim.porenta@hotmail.com.

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Charles Mike Stone, USA
William "Bill" Michels, USA
Jacob Korving, USA
Charles Sedgewick, USA



From the Post Manager

Post Manager Yale Pope

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help with Vegas Night and the Chili Cook-off. Both events were a huge success. As we move into the spring, we will be in need of kitchen volunteers for Thursday evenings as well as Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Anyone interested can sign up at the bar. We now have Post License Plates available for sale at the bar for \$3.00.

This month we will be celebrating Post 28's 103rd Birthday Party on Saturday, March 12th. Tickets are on sale at the bar for \$10.00, which includes dinner.

Let's welcome the return of our "snowbirds" from their southern hiatus as we look forward to a warmer March.

Membership Update

St. Patrick's Day is coming.... a sure sign of Spring! This time of year your Membership Committee tends to see more new members and Transfers. We as the Membership Committee are tasked with verifying that all prospective members meet the service requirements of the American Legion. There are three typical categories: Transfers from the State Post 225, transfers from another Post other than 225, and of course new Membership Applications. New Membership Applications and Transfer Applications from State Post 225 must be accompanied by a copy of your DD 214 or a copy of a current Military Active Duty ID. Transfers from other Posts do not have this requirement. It is also helpful to us if any New Member, Transfer, or Renewal can update their personal information: current address, preferred phone contact number and email address. This can speed up the process regardless of category in case of issues or discrepancies. Once again your Membership Committee members are: Linda Doublestein (lindadoublestein@gmail.com); Phil Polyak (wattnot@me.com); and Larry Lambert (larry_lambert@sbcglobal.com). Feel free to contact any one of us should you have a concern, issue or question. Think Spring!

Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Pam Medendorp-Peck, Auxiliary Chaplain

So many things to take care of, and it seems so little time to do it!! Reports, Special Services, Meals, and Fundraising to fund our Post Programs.

We are asked to Honor those who went on before us, and we have! In the Service of the Four Chaplains, Poppy Day, and Memorial of our Auxiliary we are honoring God! We love our connection with God and Country, after all He is the One who gifted us with this Country, and the Loved Ones who served and gave their lives under it!! How special it is to be a part of it all! I realize we have over 1,600 members to reach out to, and you need to know we need you more now than ever! Please gift us with your God-given talents to serve Him and our Post! Maybe our welcome sounds like work, but the Call is Real. We are praying for you to know we care, we appreciate you, and want to welcome you, the Auxiliary must go on!!! Our Legionnaires have a planned yearly turnover of command. Our Auxiliary has enough members to do the same. Most of all, I just want to thank you for joining this special Post!!



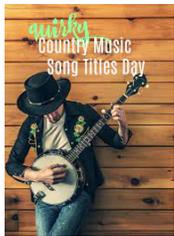
Four Chaplains Memorial



MARCH 2022

POST 28 LEGION BIRTHDAY
 March 12, 2022
 5 pm – Cocktails
 6 pm – Dinner
 \$10 Tickets at the Bar

Come celebrate with us!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Time to Spring Ahead</p>	<p>March 13</p>	<p>01 6 pm House Committee 7 pm Post Meeting \$1 Domestic Cans</p>	<p>02 DINNER TBD 6 pm Aux. Juniors & Young SAL meeting</p>	<p>03 7 pm ALR Meeting 5p-7p Wet Burritos</p>	<p>04 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night HUG A GI DAY</p>	<p>05 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas 1868 C. H. Gould patents the stapler in England.</p>
<p>06</p>  <p>DENTIST DAY</p>	<p>07 7 pm SAL Meeting 1857 Baseball determines that nine innings constitutes a full game, not nine runs.</p>	<p>08 National Peanut Cluster Day  \$1 Domestic Cans</p>	<p>09 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER</p>	<p>10 5p-7p Shrimp Dinner</p>	<p>11 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night 7:30p-9:45p Live Music <i>Murphy's Law</i></p>	<p>12 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas Post 28 Birthday 5 pm-Cocktails 6 pm-Dinner</p>
<p>13 2p-5p March Madness Tipoff Party Food Buffet </p>	<p>14 HAPPY π DAY!</p>	<p>15 6 pm Executive Committee Meeting \$1 Domestic Cans</p>	<p>16 5-7 PM CHOPS MEATLOAF DINNER</p>	<p>17 5p-7p St. Patrick's Day Dinner </p>	<p>18 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night </p>	<p>19 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas  Let's Laugh Day</p>
<p>20  hello Spring</p>	<p>21 2006 Twitter was created. Social Media will never be the same.</p>	<p>22 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 Domestic Cans</p>	<p>23 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER</p>	<p>24 5p-7p Jumbalaya</p>	<p>25 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night </p>	<p>26 Noon-2p \$1 Margaritas </p>
<p>27  Country Music Song Titles Day</p>	<p>28 1866 The first ambulance goes into service.</p>	<p>29  NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY 29 MARCH \$1 Domestic Cans</p>	<p>30 DINNER TBD Happy National Doctor's Day! </p>	<p>31 5p-7p Wet Burritos</p>		