

Charles A. Conklin Post 28
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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Rick White
Post 28 Commander
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Monday - Friday 2pm - 10 pm
Saturday 12 noon - 10pm
Sunday 1pm - 7pm

March 2023
Issue #1222

AMERICAN LEGION

Michael Thurber, 1st Vice Commander
Ron Streng, 2nd Vice Commander
Chris Jarvis, 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
Garrett Veihl, Executive-at-Large
Jim Porenta, Executive-at-Large
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large
Gary Doublestein, 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
Vicki Siron, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Paul Kubicek, Commander
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
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, Past Director

Yale Pope, Post Manager
(616) 842-5310



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

These past couple of weeks have been heartbreaking for Post 28. We lost our Chaplain, Duane Smith (Smitty) and Doug VanderWall. Doug was a member of the perch team. Doug was a faithful member of the team, always showing up with his wife, Tina, ready to make perch. We're going to miss him. Smitty was faithful, also. Besides our in-house services he tended to, he handled all graveside services for veterans. He was truly a wonderful man. We will miss him also. I usually write a little more in my column but enough is said. Bless all of you.

Rick White, Commander #104

Post 28 Slate of Officers

It is that time of year again, nomination of positions and voting in May for the election of all Post Officers. If you would like to help this great organization please consider volunteering for the following positions that still need to be filled:

Finance Officer
Historian

If you are interested please reach out to John Bilski at mjbilski@att.net or Chris Jarvis at cjretsfd97@hotmail.com or call (616) 402-1598



Four Chaplains
Memorial Service



Vegas Night



AUXILIARY

It's March! Auxiliary has its own kind of March Madness going on with all the upcoming March activities. Our Unit Report is due, it is the Post's Birthday, the St Patrick's Day celebration, finally the first day of spring, and our Unit is hosting the 5th District Dinner meeting on March 21. Looks like lots of volunteering opportunities coming up. I hope that you will make the effort to attend our dinner meeting, meet our District leaders, and show them that Unit 28 is the most enthusiastic, dedicated, actively involved Unit in all of Michigan.



Thank you Vegas Night volunteers. Our menu was a hit, we were able to raise \$775.00 which we donated to the Fisher House of Michigan. Thank you Four Chaplains volunteers, especially our

Chaplain Pam Mendendorp-Peck, you do so much to help us and the Legion. What a dedicated crew working with Chef Cindy to prepare and serve a delicious luncheon after the ceremony. Special shout out to volunteer coordinator extraordinaire, Noreen Sayranian. I love the way you pair experienced volunteers with new so they can be successful.



Valentine Treats for Veterans

Our gourmet Taco Dinner was also a great success! Shout out to those dedicated volunteers as well.

I hope that many of you will join us for the 5th District Dinner Meeting on March 21st. Chef Cindy will be cooking dinner. Let's show 5th District what makes Auxiliary Unit 28 so special.

Cheryl George, President

FROM THE POST MANAGER

YALE POPE

Thank you everyone who made the Four Chaplains ceremony and the Chili Cook-off huge successes, as they were very well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Also, kudos to the continuance of our burger crews and the new volunteers who keep stepping up.

We have two big events coming in March: 1) Legion Birthday Party on March 11th - dinner tickets are now on sale at the bar for \$10.00 and 2) St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 17th. We'll see the return of the GO-TOC Celtic Orchestra performance, along with a traditional Irish Dinner by our favorite culinary specialist Cindy and her crew.

March will see the departure of our bartender Jennifer Unger as she will be moving to Traverse City, so be sure to wish her well as she will be missed.

Let's look forward to warmer days as we move into spring, and begin to welcome the return of our snowbirds.

SAL

March is here and our snowbird members and the robins are beginning to return to Michigan. Last month the "Bar Flies and Pimps" obtained a three-peat in Trivia. This time they donated the prize money to "Fisher House" to go along with the proceeds from our huge Vegas Night. Trivia this month is on March 16th, the day before St. Patrick's Day.

I am delighted to announce that the 2022 "SAL Volunteer of

the Year" was awarded to Jeffrey Vansickle. Jeff volunteers on average 35 hours a month at the Wyoming Veterans Clinic. He is also an officer in our SAL 5th District and has been for several years. Jeff is quick to help with burgers and other Post activities. Congratulations Jeff.

At our last meeting we also approved the following new SAL members. Please welcome; Brian Cain, Tyler Harms, Brian Harms, James Root, Brett Tompkins, John Glessner, Brenden Kemme, Alexander Monroe, and Todd Tenbrink.

Nomination of Officers will happen this month at our SAL meeting on March 13th. The "Chili Cook-Off" was a blast. Congratulations to the winning teams and all the lucky prize winners.

Serving Veterans and our Community
Paul Kubicek – SAL Commander

LEGION RIDERS

We are all counting the days. I am sure some of ALR members will be riding in March. Hopefully all the salt will be off the roads, the riders will have warm clothing to wear, and heated grips on their cycle.

Other Michigan ALR groups have started to Grab and Run with other's plaques. We are making plans for our own Plaque run to other participating ALR groups.

2023 dues are currently being collected and are \$12. If you would like to join, complete the form available at the post or email alrriderspost28@gmail.com. You must be an active Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL member to join.

The Bikers for Veterans committee has scheduled September 9, 2023 for the second annual fundraiser. We are currently soliciting sponsorships from local businesses. If you would like to assist, email ALR. All help is appreciated. This year will also be a Memorial ride for those service people and first responders who have given their all.

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, March 2 at 7:00 PM.

Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass, it's about learning how to ride in the rain.
Steve Barnes, Director

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Richard Brink, USA
Jerry Buell, USAF
Joshua Hannan, USN
Robert Keener, USAF
Michael Bramer, USN
Melissa Bramer, USN
Spencer Wiley, USAF
Stefanie Marvin, USA
Kenneth Cook, USA
John Woods, USA

TRANSFERS

Saul Lopez, USA

SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen
Ken Kelly
Ed DeKoekkoek
Ron Bauer
Oscar Ledesma
Sandra Custodeso



TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Charles Davis, USA Korea
Don Veeneman, USAF Vietnam Era
Arnold Reenders, USA Korea
Thomas Happel, USN Vietnam Era
George Carey, USAF
William Mitchell, USN Vietnam Era
Bruce Rundquist, USA Vietnam Era
George Schippers, USN Korea Era
Duane "Smitty" Smith, USAF Vietnam Era



HONOR GUARD

Honor Guard had eight services and three Bucs Pride Color Guard Programs since the last Post meeting.

Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar

Legionnaires March 2023 Membership Update

"In like a Lion, out like a Lamb!" Welcome to March.

In mid-February, National sent another batch of renewal notices/forms. As National does not update the mailing as of the sent date, it is always possible that some of the members are receiving the notices after they have already renewed. There are three ways to verify if your renewal has been processed:

- 1) Check your membership card, the year at the top of your card should say 2023.
- 2) Log into mylegion.org and look under "My Account".
- 3) Email one of us and we can check for you.

As always, please write your membership number on your check, or if renewing at the Post write it on the membership application, or 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, please feel free to contact any one of us. Larry Lambert - larry_lambert@sbcglobal.net; Linda Doublestein - lindadoublestein@gmail.com; Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

VEGAS NIGHT

Once again thank you to all the volunteers who worked the Vegas Night; we had 73 volunteers who showed up to work. We were able to raise \$6,737.50 thanks to the profits from that evening and the generous donation of the Auxiliary. This will be donated to the Fisher House of Michigan.

Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Gary Doublestein, Post 28 Chaplain (Pro tem)

On 2 February 2023 our Lord saw fit to take our beloved Chaplain, Duane (Smitty) Smith home. He was the cornerstone of our Post and the Honor Guard. His most recent project was the 4 Chaplains Memorial on 4 Feb. Due to his meticulous planning and hard work the event has been considered one of the best ever.



Smitty could easily converse in most Protestant denominations as well as Catholicism and Judaism. He was a wealth of knowledge and always seemed to have time to field questions or just talk about whatever was on your mind. His slow speech and quiet demeanor put you immediately at ease. He was the first to welcome me into our Post 28 family and was a source of encouragement to me through the years.

The last few years have been fraught with medical issues for Smitty, but he soldiered on and barely skipped a beat. We all thought he had beaten his last stroke until his sudden death last week. We were all shocked and deeply saddened...not that we doubted our Lord's mercy, but that we would no longer share in the gifts he brought to our Post on a daily basis. I had talked with Smitty months ago about learning his job because I wanted to serve our Post in a spiritual way. I thought I would have more time to shadow him and learn what it takes to be a great Chaplain...because he was the greatest! But our Lord had other plans.

I have volunteered to try to fill Smitty's exceptionally large shoes...at least until the next round of elections. (Then you can decide whether I deserve the title!) I am comforted by the knowledge that God has a plan; and whether I prove worthy or fall flat on my face, it will be His will.

My primary mission is to serve YOU, our American Legion family. And so, I offer my time and whatever talents I have to the service of God and our Post. I will try my best to maintain the fine Honor Guard tradition that Smitty helped to establish. I will pray for us all (living or deceased). I will pray that God will watch over us and guide us in the decisions our Post must make. I will pray for humility in success and courage in failure. I will pray that we keep focused on God and Country. As John Adams once said: "our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." As we swear to uphold our constitution let us also pledge our allegiance to our God.

And for Smitty I offer the following:

Receive, O Father, the soul of our comrade Duane Smith and grant him entrance into your heavenly kingdom, where he may know the joy of everlasting life according to the promise of our savior Jesus Christ.

MARCH 2023

2023 Gene Rothi Scholarships

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications and instructions are now available. Google "Gene Rothi Scholarship" to download the application. Year 2023 high school graduating seniors who are descendants of Post 28 American Legionnaires (current or deceased) and will be incoming 2023-2024 college freshmen are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received at Post 28 by April 14, 2023! Awardees will be notified by mail in mid May.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 ARTURO'S TACOS Fresh Mexican Grill • Taqueria Thursdays 3p-9p Saturdays 2p-9p Sundays 1p-6p			1 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK	2 7 pm ALR Meeting	3 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	4 
5 	6 	7 6 pm House Committee 7 pm Post Meeting	8 5-7 PM DELICIOUS HAM DINNER (SAL)	9 	10 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	11 5 pm-Cocktails 6 pm-Dinner Post 28 Birthday Party Pot Roast Dinner \$10 (presale)
12 	13 7 pm SAL Meeting 1969 Disney releases the movie <i>The Love Bug</i> .	14 HAPPY π DAY!	15 5-7PM CHOPS MEATLOAF (AUXILIARY)	16 7 PM 	17 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Music by Go-Toc	18 1931 Shick introduces the first electric shaver to the marketplace.
19 1911 First International Women's Day. Over 1 million men & women attend rallies around the world	20  International Earth Day	21 6 pm Executive Committee 6:30 pm 5th District Dinner Meeting (Auxiliary)	22 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER	23 1775 Patrick Henry declares "Give me liberty, or give me death!"	24 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	25 1954 RCA manufactures the first color television.
26 "A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life." ~ Charles Darwin	27 	28 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting	29 DINNER TBD 1886 Coca Cola is invented.	30 	31 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	
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