

Charles A. Conklin Post 28  
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[www.americanlegiongh.org](http://www.americanlegiongh.org)



**THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Michael Thurber  
Post 28 Commander  
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Monday - Friday 2pm - 10 pm  
Saturday 12 noon - 10 pm  
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

March 2024  
Issue #1234

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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  
Al Smith, Road Captain  
Tom Schultz, Safety Officer  
Gerald Keen, Past Director  
**Yale Pope, Post Manager**  
(616) 842-5310



### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Hello Post 28! Well, according to Punxsutawney Phil, spring is right around the corner, but as I write this newsletter entry, we're getting 4-5 inches of snow!! Not real springy to me. Not a whole lot to discuss, just business as usual. I hope everyone who attended our annual Chili cook-off had a great time. Thank you to past Commander Garrett Veihl for taking the reins on that big event for us! It is always a great time and a huge fundraiser for us. As you know, all the proceeds earned from the chili cook-off are going to the PTSD awareness and treatment organization 22Zero. At the end of January, we held our other big fundraiser, our annual Vegas Night, and we were able to raise nearly \$6,000.00 for 22Zero. What a great job putting that together by Past Commander Chris Jarvis. Thank you to EVERYONE for making both events a huge success for our Post!!

In March, we will be celebrating the Post's birthday with a dinner on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. I left the menu to be decided by our event caterer. She always comes up with some great meals, so I'm sure this will be no different. Tickets will be on sale at the bar. Also, on the 17<sup>th</sup> the Post will be hosting GOTAK again for our St. Patrick's Day celebration. If you haven't heard or seen GOTAK, they are a small string group out of Grand Haven High School's orchestra. They feature traditional Irish music and have been a Post 28 tradition on St. Patrick's Day for many, many years!! This place gets packed!! Be sure to get here early!!! We will also be serving a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal. Be sure to look at the March event calendar on the back of the newsletter for dates and times for all our dinners and events.

Well, I suppose that is all for now. Be sure to attend our monthly membership meetings. These are your opportunity to make your voice heard in what Post 28 is doing. Meetings are ALWAYS held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM upstairs in the Commander's room. And as always, be on the lookout for the next newest member. YOU the MEMBERS of this organization are the life blood of our great organization. Without YOU we wouldn't be here! Continue doing the great things this Post does for our veterans and our community. This place is run on VOLUNTEER support. Thank you to EVERYONE who volunteers!! If you would like to find out how you can help. Please come see me, our post manager Yale and his bar staff and we can point you in the right direction!

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

### CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS



1st Place  
Gold Medal  
Chicken Chili

2nd Place & Best Booth  
Rock Out With Your  
Crock Out



3rd Place  
Buffalo Posse

## AUXILIARY

March already? This year is passing quickly. Many exciting things will be going on at the Post this month. The Post's Birthday will be celebrated on the 9th with a dinner. The St. Patrick's Day dinner will be on Sunday, March 17. The Auxiliary will be serving Chop's Meatloaf Dinner on March 20. And lastly, our monthly Auxiliary meeting is on Tuesday, March 26 at 7pm.

We have been given the names of more deployed soldiers. We are collecting items to send in care packages to these deployed soldiers. We need personal care items, snack items, nuts, and wipes. No items containing alcohol or pork please. Items can be placed in the large blue bin, upstairs in the Auxiliary's room.



Please consider signing up to volunteer to help with our events. We are trying to build a large group of volunteers to rotate through so we don't overwork anyone. If interested please email Noreen Sayranian at [briannoreen@outlook.com](mailto:briannoreen@outlook.com).

Cheryl George, President



Linda Gieske putting together Valentine treats for local veterans.

## LEGION RIDERS

The American Legion Department of Michigan Legion Riders is planning a ride July 26-28 from Hell to Paradise raising awareness for PTSD. The cost is \$35 per driver and \$20 rider. Registration is at [www.alrhelltoparadise-ptsdride.com](http://www.alrhelltoparadise-ptsdride.com).

The GH Riders are considering riding as a group and meeting the Department Riders in the Upper Peninsula. We will be donating to the event. If you are interested in participating, send an email to [alriderspost28@gmail.com](mailto:alriderspost28@gmail.com). Several local riders have made reservations in Sault Ste. Marie for Friday and Saturday night. The Riders are leaving on Friday and are making their own reservations at a hotel in the Sault.

The winner of the first Scratch-off board was Jim Fegley. We will be selling squares for \$20 again on a Wednesday and Friday soon. As soon as all 50 squares are sold, we will draw for the winner.

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 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

*It's the ride of life; the journey from here to there; living and loving every moment like we have none to spare.*

Steve Barnes, Director



## SAL

The Commander of Squadron 28 has specific funds available for donating to causes he chooses to support. At our February meeting I agreed to send 50% of this money to Operation Comfort Warriors.

From the website [legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors](http://legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors): As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home where they join other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these service members have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has said that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI. Even as the wars conclude, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other dangerous duties. While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

Also during our last Squadron meeting, eleven new SAL members were approved. We are happy to welcome Tom Gallagher, W Bruce Chase III, Jeremy Duval, Scott L Rusche, Michael L Rusche, Daniel Robinson, Kevin Westrate, Bob Brady, Mark DeVries, Tim Secen and Christopher R Webb to our group. Membership Chairman Dave Ireland noted that we have reached 79% of our membership goal, and had a gift for new members attending their first SAL meeting!

During our March meeting, on Monday the 4th, nominations for 2024-2025 SAL officers will be taken. If you or someone you know might like to run for a position, please come to the 7:00 pm meeting to get on the ballot. Elections will be held during our April 1st meeting (no fooling).

The Trivia winners in January were, once again, the Barflies and Pimps, who once again donated all of their winnings back, this time to the Wilwin Lodge!

Many thanks to all who were able to attend the February Chili Cook-Off! Whether you were an entrant, volunteer worker or came to taste the different chilis, it's great that you could come and support our Legion and 22Zero. Don't forget, the 22nd Annual Memorial Golf Scramble will be held on May 25th this year. Mark your calendars!!

Serving veterans and our community,

Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander



At the Legion's February meeting, Auxiliary President, Cheryl George, presented donations to the Post for Four Chaplains, Bikers for Veterans, Honor Guard, Service Officers, Memorial Day Association, 22Zero, Boys State, & Goodfellows.



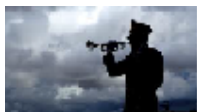
## POST NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Dewall, USAF  
Jacob Klemm, USA  
Roy Hofmeister, USAF  
Theodore Lincicum, USA  
Steven Betzer, USMC  
Chad Miller, USN

### TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Daniel Berg, USN  
Richard Budzynski, USN



### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Pam Medendorp, Auxiliary Chaplain

We are Marching into March! A month that brings to some a celebration of Easter, signifying life, death, and life hereafter; to others, a bunny. Death is a time where Our hearts are so tender. Tender animals and the promise of a new season of life makes our hearts so tender as well, with Hope of new life and light!

All our emotions so tender are right at the surface. Laughter, tears, closer than ever. Should we avoid dark places out of fear, or should we be light to them? Night and darkness have passed away, and we have limited time until light overtakes the darkness. As long as our Savior is in the world, there is light in the world. Whatever is said in the dark will be heard in the light. We were blind, but with God's help let us help each other see. The Four Chaplains story rang true of the light in the world during a dark time in history. It brought life to the Survivors that were Saved. We share this story to educate us that religion wasn't a debate at the time of the Dorchester Sinking. It was shared Faith that at the time of death brought life and light to those being saved! Let's share their faith! Praise God!

### SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen      Bob Smith      Denny Siron  
Ron Bauer      Bob Wydeck

### HONOR GUARD

Since the last Post meeting, Honor Guard had two funeral services, participated in the Bucs Pride Program (Cancer Awareness) and participated in the Four Chaplains Service. Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar

### From the Post Manager Yale Pope

Even though we experienced a pretty mild winter by Michigan standards, we are still looking forward to spring. We have a lot of exciting events this month. Thank you to all the Burger crews and prep volunteers who have continued to make our Friday nights a big success.

As we move into spring, there will be a lot of much needed cleanup and setup chores. The Building and Grounds crew, as well as SAL volunteers who take care of our outside deck and patio, are always in need of extra hands and volunteers to lighten the load so any additional help is welcome.

We will also be hosting an Open House on May 11 to assist our membership in recruitment as well as to educate the community on the mission of the American Legion. We will have a public license for this day and anyone interested in assisting with the event can contact the Post Manager.

Let's have a great March as we transition to the spring.

### Legionnaires March 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.

We continue to receive many duplicate payments for 2024, we return the checks via US Mail. Please check your current membership card to verify that you have already renewed, it will read 2024 at the top of your card. It can take National 3 or more weeks to process membership. Because of this delay, some members may receive dues notices even though they have paid and received a card from the Post.

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](mailto:lindadoublestein@gmail.com), Sue Lonnee- [suzanne.lonnee@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.lonnee@gmail.com), or Phil Polyak - [wattnot@me.com](mailto:wattnot@me.com).

### 2024-2025 Prospective Officers Post 28

106<sup>th</sup> Commander: Ron Streng

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Walt Pedersen

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: (Open)

Adjutant: (Open)

Finance Officer: (Open)

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Porenta

Executive at Large: Freddy Smith

Executive at Large: (Open)

Executive at Large: Phillip Polyak

Service Officer: Garrett Viehl

Service Officer: Mike Thurber

Historian: (Open)

Chaplain: Gary Doublestein

Delegates needed 72 (36 + 36 Alternates)

**ELECTION TIME**

For the Finance Officer we are looking for someone with bookkeeping or accounting experience and would be willing to stay in this position for a few years.

If willing to serve contact Chris Jarvis at [cjretsfd97@hotmail.com](mailto:cjretsfd97@hotmail.com), Freddy Smith at [fsmith2000@sbcglobal.com](mailto:fsmith2000@sbcglobal.com), or Walt Pedersen at [wolsalt@charter.net](mailto:wolsalt@charter.net) -

April membership meeting:

- Prospective Officers Introduction  
May – Election of New Officers  
June – Initiation of New Members  
July – Swearing in of New Officers

# 2024 March

## 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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>National Hug a G.I. Day www.NationalDayCalendar.com March 4</p>					<b>March 1</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b> <b>(SAL)</b>	<b>2</b> 
<b>3</b>  <p>Happy National Anthem Day Do you have a favorite rendition?</p>	<b>4</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>SAL Meeting</b> 1924 <i>Happy Birthday to You</i> is published by Claydon Sunny.	<b>5</b> <b>6 pm - House Committee</b> <b>7 pm - Post Meeting</b>  <b>Homemade Potato Chips</b>	<b>6</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER</b> <b>(Legion)</b>	<b>7</b>  <p>NATIONAL CEREAL DAY 7 MARCH</p>	<b>8</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Post 28 Birthday</b> <b>5 pm Cocktails</b> <b>6 pm Dinner</b> 
<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>CHICKEN MARSALA DINNER</b> <b>(Legion)</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b> 	<b>16</b> 
<b>17</b> <b>5 pm</b> <b>IRISH DINNER &amp; GHHS Gotak Performers</b> 	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> <b>6 pm</b> <b>Legion Executive Committee</b>	<b>20</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>CHOPS' MEATLOAF DINNER</b> <b>(Auxiliary)</b>	<b>21</b> <b>7 PM</b> 	<b>22</b> <b>5:00p-8:00p</b> <b>Gene Rothi Scholarship FISH FRY Fundraiser</b>	<b>23</b> <u>1775</u> Patrick Henry declares "Give me liberty, or give me death!"
<b>24</b> <u>Today's Birthdays</u> 1874 Harry Houdini 1930 Steve McQueen 1976 Peyton Manning	<b>25</b> <u>1954</u> RCA manufactures the first color television.	<b>26</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>Auxiliary Meeting</b>	<b>27</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER</b> <b>(Legion)</b>	<b>28</b> <u>1963</u> The AFL's NY titans become the NY Jets.	<b>29</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b> <u>1848</u> Ice jams stop the flow of water over Niagara Falls.	<b>30</b> 
<b>31</b> 	<b>April 1</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>SAL Meeting</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>6 pm - House Committee</b> <b>7 pm - Post Meeting</b>	<b>3</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>PERCH DINNER</b> <b>(Legion)</b>	<b>4</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>ALR Meeting</b>	<b>5</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b>	<b>6</b>