

Charles A. Conklin Post 28
P.O. Box 439
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www.americanlegiongh.org



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Walt Pedersen
Post 28 Commander
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Monday - Friday 1pm - 10 pm
Saturday 12 pm - 10 pm
Sunday 12 pm - 9 pm

March 2026
Issue #1258

AMERICAN LEGION

Cyndy Wierenga, 1st Vice Commander
Nick Matiash, 2nd Vice Commander
James O'Neal, Adjutant
Robert Kepner, Finance Officer
Gary Doublestein, Chaplain
Larry Lambert, Judge Advocate
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dennis Siron, Historian
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Mike Thurber, Service Officer
Karl Christensen, Executive-at-Large
Linda Laswell, Executive-at-Large
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large
Ron Streng, Past Commander

AUXILIARY

Becky Glockzin, President
glockzinb@gmail.com
Darlene DeHaan, Vice President
Ginny Hebert, Secretary
Michele Stetts, Treasurer
Linda Gieske, Historian
Pam Medendorp, Chaplain
Laurie Koldyk, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Tim Deiters, Commander
deiterst@yahoo.com
Jeff Wierenga, 1st Vice Commander
Andrew Ruitter, 2nd Vice Commander
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
Gary Kerkstra, Historian
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dr. David Ireland, Membership
Mike Brown, Adjutant
Bill Moss, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Alan Smith, Director
alriderspost28@gmail.com
Fred Smith, Assistant Director
Jim Sacks, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
John Boese, Historian
Dave Feenstra, Sergeant-at-Arms
David Baldwin, Membership Chair
Al Smith, Road Captain
Tom Schultz, Safety Officer
Steven Barnes, Past Director

Yale Pope, Post Manager
(616) 842-5310

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Well, March is upon us and February sure proved to be quite the roller coaster ride in the range of temperatures we experienced. From below zero to topping out at around 50 degrees keeping us changing our fashion of the day pretty frequently. Let's see what March has in store weather wise; hopefully it's a gradual change to milder weather.

Once again, thank you to ALR Director "Tag" Smith and crew for another great successful Chili Cook-Off. It's always interesting to taste so many terrific variations of a simple combination of meat and beans.

The Sunday Euchre Tournaments and the Trivia Night have a great bunch of people participating in both of those fun events. The

Wednesday Meals, Arturo's Tacos and our R.E.D. Friday Burger Nights continue to have their diehard fans showing up regardless of weather conditions. Thank you all for supporting the Post while enjoying those meals.

March has a few events to note, in particular on the 4th, the Red Cross will be having a Blood Drive upstairs. Let's all give a little more to help support the Red Cross in providing blood to those in desperate need. The 17th is St. Patrick's Day, looking forward to seeing and hearing those great young musicians from Grand Haven High School entertaining us in the Celtic Ensemble GOTAK.

In closing let's not forget the Charles Conklin Post 28 Birthday Dinner on March 14 - cocktails at 5:00 dinner at 6:00.

Until next month, I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who dedicates their time and efforts to making Charles Conklin Post 28 an outstanding organization.

For the good of the Legion - Walt Pedersen, Commander #107.

Vegas Night

I would like to thank all the 50+ volunteers who made this night a huge success. Thanks to the Auxiliary who provided the food, and to the great bar staff we have. With all the entire family of the Legion we were able to raise \$17,000 for *Healing the Hero*. Again, Thanks to all of You!

Chris Jarvis



2026 Gene Rothi Scholarship

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications and instructions are now available. Google "Gene Rothi Scholarship" to download the application. Year 2026 high school graduating seniors who are descendants of Post 28 American Legionnaires (current or deceased) and will be incoming 2026-2027 college freshmen are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received at Post 28 by April 2026! Awardees will be notified by mail in May.

AUXILIARY

The January 21 Meatloaf Dinner was cancelled due to inclement weather. Therefore, proceeds from the February 18 dinner (Meatloaf or Fish) were designated for our Girls State Program. The March 18 dinner features Chops' Meatloaf, with proceeds earmarked for our Veterans Admin & Rehab Program.

Our Nomination Committee members continue to work on the 2026-27 Slate of Officers, with the election to be held at our April meeting. All offices are open for candidates. The new officers' year begins with the August 2026 meeting. Please consider running for office to join our Auxiliary Leadership Team in some capacity! You will be supported by an experienced group of women who are passionate about serving Veterans! Contact Cheryl George (Chairperson), Pat Best, or Noreen Sayranian if you are interested.

Consider volunteering! It's a great way to help out, to support the Auxiliary and Legion, to make friends, and have a feel-good time. Our next meeting is March 24 at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there.

Becky Glockzin, President



Honor Guard Meeting at the Pine Street Cafe.

Best Cookie
Michele Stetts

Judges
Freddie Smith
Garrett Veihl

Best Cookie Display
Pat Best

January Cookie Contest & Exchange



Four Chaplains Service



SAL

We are working on this year's Golf Outing, which is May 23. We are in desperate need of help to pull this off. Please contact myself directly 616-298-9054 (Tim Deiters). The SAL group does so much for this Legion. We are proud of the fact they appreciate the work and funds we generate. The Golf Outing is just one of our many projects.

Tim Deiters, SAL Commander

American Legion Post 28 Memorial **GOLF** Outing

Calling all golfers and those who want to have fun!! It is time for the American Legion Memorial Golf Outing on Saturday, May 23, 2026. We will be back at Three Fires Golf Course in West Olive. Stop down to the American Legion Post 28 and pick up a brochure at the bar to sign up for a fun and great time. Sign up early to reserve your spot.

Ted Rescorla

Tickets Still Available!

American Legion Post #28
Detroit Tigers Vs Seattle Mariners
Saturday, June 6
Bus Ride and Game Ticket \$120 per person
Food, Drink and Coolers Allowed on Bus, No Glass
21 and Over
Sign Up and Pay at the bar
Contact Bob Kepner with any questions:
Post28FinanceOfficer@gmail.com



LEGION RIDERS

Well, February has dumped a lot of snow on us and put some frigid days for us to push through. I want to thank everyone for their help with the Chili Cook-off. It was a fun time and a remarkable success.

We made two \$5000.00 Donations to help with homeless Veterans. These Donations came from our Bikers for Vets ride.



One was to Habitat for Humanity and the other was to Community Rebuilders. These two groups are dedicated to helping build a better future for the Homeless Veterans.



As the weather breaks, the snow melts, and we start thinking about the riding season coming up, remembering the great rides we had last year, start thinking about the Adventures coming up.

If anyone is interested in joining the Legion Riders, ask a vested Rider or the bartender and they will tell you what to do. This group is dedicated to helping veterans and promoting safety through motorcycling.

Thank you all for your support.
Tag Smith, Director/Road Captain

POST NEWS

WELCOME NEW LEGION MEMBERS

Edward Rumsey
Archie Warhurst
Lynn Phipps
Paula Podein
Andrew Dela Cruz
Lance Vanderbrand
William Miller, Jr.
Harry Mohney
David Phipps
Ryan Zolman
Jack Weber

SICK CALL

Denny Siron
Bob Wydeck
David MacKellar
Rick White
Roman Marciniak
Oscar Ledesma
Karl Kuzyk
Robert Sanders
Stefanie Marvin-Miller
Daniel Kiomento II

TAPS WAS SOUNDED FOR

Ret. Col. Dr. Richard Poel, USAF
Brian Heyer, USAF
Duane Burkhardt, USN
Kenneth Simon, USA
Samuel Hammond, Jr., USAF



HONOR GUARD

There were five funerals since the last Post meeting, three Buc's Pride programs, and an Honor Guard meeting.
Rifle Team Leader
Dave MacKellar

Legionnaires March 2026 Membership Update

Remember that renewal notices are mailed out by National, there can be up to a delay of a month or more before they update their roster. This means it is possible to receive a notice after you have already renewed. Before you respond to a renewal notice, check your membership card. If it has a red **2026**, your card is valid through December 2026. Also, pay by check. This will allow us to return your dues payment if it is already paid. Paying by cash requires us to obtain a check to reimburse you. Thank you for your cooperation.

We ask that you consider renewing on line at mylegion.org. Believe it or not, the weather will warm up and the decks will be open! Make sure that your Membership Card has a 2026 printed in Red at the top of your card. Our bar staff are checking for members for valid 2026 Membership Cards.

Please note: Anyone applying for **new** membership, or that is **transferring from another Post**, you must submit a copy of your DD-214. Active Duty applicants need to provide a proof of Active Duty. 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, current military ID or Leave and Earnings Statement. Should you need a DD214 or other proof of Service, you may request it at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>.

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, Linda Laswell - lindathemac@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Four Chaplains

On 7 February our Post hosted a memorial service for four Chaplains who died during World War II when their troop ship, USAT Dorchester, went down with over 600 soldiers after a torpedo attack. They assisted numerous men to board life boats and gave up their own life jackets so that others could live. They linked arms and sang hymns as the ship went down. One could consider that this was the first Ecumenical council since they were of different denominations. A Jewish Rabbi, a Catholic priest, a Dutch Reformed minister and a Methodist Minister, all set aside their differences to do the will of God. They deserve our admiration and honor.

When I look around me, I am amazed and honored to be working with such dedicated people at our Post! People who work hard and give of their time to keep tradition and respect for our veterans alive. Please say "thank you" to these people and honor their service.



Linda Laswell kept the program flowing smoothly as the Master of Ceremonies. Garrett Veihl and Chris Jarvis performed the POW/MIA ceremony to honor those who have not come home. Walt Pedersen and Jeff McClain gave stirring renditions of "Eternal Father" and "Mansions of the Lord".

Walt Pedersen read the Chaplain's story and, as I watched, there were few dry eyes in the audience. Emotions also ran high as Larry Lambert, John Bilski, Karl Christiansen, and Pam Medendorp read the individual biographies of each Chaplain.

Everyone was inspired by our guest speaker, Mike Derienzo, as he pointed out the lessons of the Chaplains' sacrifice.

Of course, the Honor Guard's salute and three volley rifle team gave a fitting closure to the event as did the inspired songs by the A-Capella Bellas.

Cindy Scheele and the volunteers from our Auxiliary provided a wonderful luncheon after many hours of hard work.

May God Bless these volunteers and, if you see them, thank them for their service and dedication!!
In Service to God and Country, Gary Doublestein, Chaplain













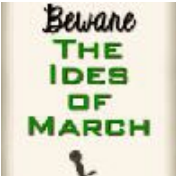





From the Post Manager, Yale Pope Dalton Pope, Assistant Manager

Ok, let's hope spring is nearly upon us after a very tough winter. Let's get ready for March Madness as Michigan and Michigan State can hopefully make deep runs into the tournament this year.

For you craft beer drinkers, keep your eyes open for the arrival of our Mugs to join our Legion Mug club.

Thank you to all the volunteers that made our Chili Cookoff successful again this year. It was enjoyed by all.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
GOODFELLOWS You can make a contribution to the Goodfellows nonprofit at anytime by visiting the American Legion webpage (americanlegiongh.org) and clicking on the donation link, or scan the QR code here. Thank you. Ron Ribbink & Lisa Danicek, Co-Chairs			 Wednesday March 4 9am - 2:45pm	Open Euchre Tournaments 2pm - 4pm Every Sunday		Arturo's Tacos 3:30pm - 8pm Every Thursday
March 1 	2 7 pm SAL Meeting	3 7 pm Post Meeting 	4 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (Legion) 9am - 2:45pm Blood Drive	5 7 PM ALR Meeting	6 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	7 
8 	9 1562 Kissing is banned in Naples, Italy... punishable by death.	10 6 pm Legion House Committee Meeting	11 5-7 PM POTATO BAR & PAUL'S CHILI (SAL)	12 	13 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	14 Post 28 Birthday 5 pm Cocktails 6 pm Dinner 
15 	16 	17 7 pm AL Executive Committee 	18 5-7 PM CHOPS' MEATLOAF DINNER (Auxiliary)	19 6 PM 	20 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	21 2006 Twitter is created. Social media will never be the same.
22 	23 1775 Patrick Henry declares "Give me liberty, or give me death!"	24 6:30 pm Auxiliary Meeting	25 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion)	26 1945 US Marines raise the American flag at Iwo Jima.	27 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	28 9am - 11am Breakfast (Free for Veteran Legionnaires; Guests \$10)
29 1848 Ice jams stop the flow of water over Niagara Falls.	30 1858 A pencil with an attached eraser is patented by Hyman Lipman.	31 1918 Daylight Savings Time goes into effect for the first time.	April 1 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion)	2 7 pm ALR Meeting	3	4