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

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

Issue #1212 www.americanlegiongh.org May 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 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
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, Executive Committee

Yale Pope, Post Manager
(616) 842-5310

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Comrades:

It was interesting the other day when I heard a story about someone who joined our Post after leaving another because "nobody was volunteering and nothing was being done." When asked which committees this person volunteered for…deafening silence! This is far too common, not only here but also in virtually any other noble endeavor.

Our Post is noted for the fun and relaxation we provide for members and our community. We love to see it! We love to provide it! But how do these things happen? Unfortunately, there is no "event fairy" that magically puts these things together. It boils down to a handful of very dedicated volunteers that feel the services our Post provides for veterans is worth a few hours of their time. None of these are "experts" or have any experience in helping with events and dinners other than their willingness to show up and do what needs to be done. And their compensation is the satisfaction of working with friends, making new friends, and a job well done! These people do not have "I can't", "I won't", or "I don't have time" in their vocabularies. They participate when they can or when they are needed, they pitch in where they are needed, and they find time when they are able.

As is always the case, we all tend to take these people for granted and count on somebody else to step up to the plate to continue our wonderful events and dinners. But here's a reality check…our present volunteers are being over utilized and under-appreciated. They need help! I haven't seen anyone quit, but I can see that many are displaying signs of frustration and fatigue. One could even say they would welcome new volunteers with energy and even new ideas!

I am sure that this newsletter will generate inquiries like "how do I volunteer?" The answer is simple and will always be the same…TAKE THE FIRST STEP. A good place to start is to show up an hour early before any dinner or event and announce that you would like to help. The only thing required is a hat. (Health Department requirement.) Our volunteers will show you how things work and give you ideas on how to organize your own "burger crew" (for example). If you have a special skill, let it be known! (Probably, drinking beer is not a special skill.) Ask questions and get involved in planning if you think something should change. Be open and not offended by the wisdom of those who have done this before. Think of ways to make your time more fun!

Volunteerism is open to Legionnaires, SAL, Legion Riders and Auxiliary. Any member of our Legion family can volunteer for any event, any time! But like any journey, it involves TAKING THE FIRST STEP! I look forward to getting to know more of you as you take that step. And, by the way, take a few seconds to say "THANK YOU" to the volunteers that you encounter!

In Service to the Legion, Doc

Now's your chance to "take that first step." Volunteers are needed for Wednesday night dinners – for prep work, serving, and/or kitchen cleanup. Sign up at the bar. Whether it's once a month or once a year, volunteers are always welcome.

AUXILIARY

May 27 is National Poppy Day, which is very significant for Veterans and for our Auxiliary. It is a somber day, because the poppy is a national symbol to honor the men and women who served in war and made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our precious freedoms. It is also a time to raise money for our Auxiliary Poppy fund, which is specifically and exclusively dedicated to causes that directly help Veterans.

The "external" causes we donated to in 2021 include:
* Wilwin Lodge (A relaxing place for Veterans who are dealing with PTSD to relax and enjoy time with their families free of charge)
* Grand Haven Silkies (Veteran Suicide Prevention)
* Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids (Home for Veterans who need care / a place to call home and don't have other resources to help them)
* Flyin' Heroes (An organization who provides a fun and relaxing experience for veterans to enjoy and learn fly fishing)
* GVSU Student Veterans (a program to help Veterans going to college after serving)

We support our own Post 28 Veterans, led by our amazing VA&R Chairwoman Pat Best, which includes:
"Bags of Joy for Veterans" (Christmas)
"Valentines for Veterans" (Valentine's Day)
"Bunnie Butts for Veterans" (Easter – This is Pat's newest cookie creation, and exemplifies dedication to bring smiles to the faces of our Veterans!)

Poppy Day enables us to help our Post 28 Veterans, and also allows us to support the Veterans who live at the Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids, especially at Christmas time. We also show lots of love and care for our Veterans who live in local care facilities. Our mission is to serve and help Veterans!

Diane Janusch-Johnson has been our Poppy Chairwoman since 2006, and has been instrumental in ensuring that we evolve in our approach to Poppy Day and fundraising. This is such a huge part of our mission, and we are extremely thankful each year for the generosity of our Legion Family. Last year we were limited in our activities due to the pandemic, but we held our 1st annual Community Drive-through $1 Challenge! The drive-through was awesome last year (despite the crazy weather), so this year we are planning our 2nd annual Community Challenge...going for a $5 minimum donation. As we did last year, we will also be inside Post 28 all afternoon and evening to engage with our Post 28 Legion family.

Please watch the Post 28 Website / Auxiliary Facebook site for all of the Memorial Day ceremonies and events. This is an emotional and amazing day of ceremonies and honors that are so important to participate in and to pass on to future generations!

Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chairwoman

SAL

Hello SAL Members!

At our April 4th SAL meeting, 12 new members were approved. Please help me welcome Gregory Crawford, Patrick Dickinson, Alex Izokaitis, David Karpin, David Layman, Jeffrey Miller, Michael Podein, William Rock, Justin Stevens Jr, Jacob Thayer, Bruce Visser, and Reid Warber. Membership Chair Scott Kelly indicated with the current renewal rate we should have no issue meeting our membership goal of 1,033 established by the Department.

Nomination & voting of Officers will be performed at our May 2nd meeting, we must have 2022/23 Officers installed prior to Convention.

Upcoming Events

* Memorial Golf Outing will be held on May 28th. Only the 1st twenty-seven teams to register will be allowed to play. Sign-up before it is too late!!!!!
* SAL State Convention will be June 3rd through 5th at the Best Western in Okemos. You can register anytime between now and May 12th. If interested, please contact Past Commander Phil Young.
*The Cornhole Tourney will be held on July 9th. Look for more details over the next few months.

Our next meeting with be held May 2nd @ 7pm……grab a SAL Member and come on down as we will be nominating & voting on your 2022/23 Officers!!!!

Serving Veterans, their Families and the Community
Jeff Warner, SAL Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Riding weather is here! Don't forget to keep track of your miles. The Riders will once again be serving hot dogs and brats on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month throughout the summer. Stop by and support the Riders and Post 28.

Mark your calendars for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 30th. All motorcycle enthusiasts are welcome to join the Riders for this event. If you would like to participate in the parade, please plan on meeting at Post 28 between 8:00 and 8:30 am. We hope to see you there.

Post 28 ALR is hosting a Poker Chip Run on Saturday July 23rd to raise funds for Michigan veterans support groups. The Poker Chip Run Committee is actively looking for sponsors and door prize donations for this event. If you know of a company that would like to participate through sponsorship or prize donation, please contact the Riders (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.

The ALR were truly honored to receive a certificate of appreciation from the 4 Chaplains Committee during the Post Birthday Dinner in March. The 4 Chaplains service was a wonderful experience for all who attended thanks to the hard work and dedication of the committee and all the volunteers. Thank you!

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.

You are never lost when you are on a bike, life's a journey, enjoy the ride and stay safe!

Steven Barnes, Director

NEW MEMBERS
Issac Adkins, Active USMC
Richard Johnson, USMC
Eugene Murin, USN
James Root, Active USN
Michael Macdonald, Active USN
Adam Gauthier, USN
Thomas Fitzgerald, USN
Nicholas Tsironis, Active USMC
Clyde Westra, USMC

TRANSFERS
Oscar Ledesma, USMC
Matthew Donselar, USN
Ronald Perkins, USAF
William Bedford, USN
Dale Bates, USA

Sick Call

Jim "Jimbo" Land

Charles Davis

Ken Kelly

Don Veeneman

George "Skip" Schippers

Dave MacKellar

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:
William Drake
William Palermo
Cornelius Louis

The Army helped with two services.

Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Pam Medendorp-Peck Unit 28 Chaplain

April Showers brought the Mayflower (Chaplain humor) and, also, our annual May Poppy Day!!

Be sure to mark your calendars May 27, as we Honor those who gave their lives in Flanders Field, adorned in glory and eternity with God's glorifying creation of the rebirthing seeds of the Poppy. Red symbolizing the bloodshed for our salvation from the ravages of war and fallen life! Never to be forgotten we annually donate back to our Veterans with our monetary contributions. Please join us for a drive-thru in the morning at the Post, and in the evening our volunteers at the Post will be led by our Poppy Lady, Diane Janusch-Johnson, in telling the story and asking you for your help. Please thank "our" Diane for all these years of service organizing, visiting the schools, and collaborating committees to move this Poppy Program forward through these last 16 years! God has Blessed us, please Bless Her!!

Veterans Benefits Corner

Burn Pit Registry Enrollment

We encourage all veterans (including those in Naval operations) who served in Operations: Desert Storm, Desert Shield, New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom, or Enduring Freedom to join the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

To register, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp.

The VA recognizes several presumptive conditions to airborne exposures that include: Asthma, Rhinitis, and Sinusitis. Other conditions such as Emphysema, Chronic Bronchitis, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disorder (COPD) have been associated with burn pits as well.

If you have not filed a claim for these conditions, you may wish to contact an accredited service officer for assistance. Our Post Service Officers can direct you to one of many service officer resources.

POST NEWS

2022-2023
Prospective Officers Post 28

104th Commander……Rick White
1st Vice……Courtney 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

May – Election of new officers
June – Initiation of new members
July – Swearing in of new officers

From the Post Manager

Post Manager Yale Pope

It's been a long time coming, but May is finally here. As we move into the warmer weather, we will be moving to some of our more citrus-type beer on our tap line. Also, as many of you may know, a new position of Assistant Post Manager has been created. Dalton Pope has been accepted into this position and, in addition to bartending his regular hours, will be doing a number of administrative and management tasks and function as the Post Manager in my absence.

I ask that everyone honor the importance and significance of this Memorial Day, as we will be observing the Holiday with several activities here at the Post.

Membership Update

April showers bring May flowers, or so they say? Hopefully we are not speaking of snow showers?

We are another month closer to the mailing of renewal forms sent out by the National American Legion. As previously mentioned this will occur in July.

Importantly, if you have not paid your dues for two consecutive years, you most likely have been removed from our Post 28 Roster, and will not receive your renewal documents.

For those who receive their July renewal documents please keep the following in mind: 1) The most secure way to renew, is to perform an "on-line" renewal using a credit card. 2) The second most secure way is to return your renewal document along with a check. We do ask that you write your Membership number on the check Memo. 3) The least secure method to pay is to use cash. We have no way of matching cash to a particular renewal document. Although we are happy with all methods of renewal, we ask that you use cash as a last resort.

As always should you have any issues, concerns or questions please feel free to contact any one of us. Larry Lambert (larry_lambert@sbcglobal.net), Linda Doublestein (lindadoublestein@gmail.com), and Phil Polyak (wattnot@me.com).

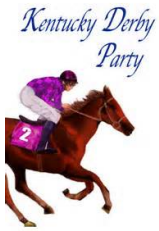
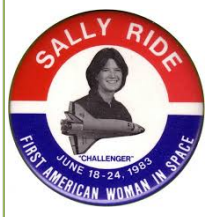
Program Chairwomen prepare posters that summarize the essence of the Auxiliary's many programs (e.g. Poppy Program, Children & Youth Program, VA&R Program). Come see what we do for veterans & the community. Save the date for our Charter Centennial Celebration on June 18 – 19.

Preparing "Bunny Butt" cookies for veterans' Easter treat bags. Auxiliary volunteers delivered over 320 bags.

The Legion Easter Egg Hunt!

National Poppy Day Drive-Through
$5 Community Challenge – May 27

From Auxiliary President Darlene "It is time to raise money for our Auxiliary Poppy fund, which is specifically and exclusively dedicated to causes that ***directly help Veterans***." Volunteers will be outside at the Post to happily accept your donations from 10 am until 1 pm on Friday, May 27. Volunteers will also be inside the Post from 2 pm until close. Please support our veterans. Thank you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 	02 9 am Bldg & Grds **7 pm** **SAL Meeting**	03 **6 pm** **House Committee** **7 pm** **Post Meeting** $1 Domestic Cans	04 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER	05 **5-7 PM** **GOURMET TACO DINNER** (Auxiliary) **7 pm** **ALR Meeting**	06 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night **1915** Babe Ruth hits his first home run.	07  Time TBA
08 	09 9 am Bldg & Grds	10 5-7 pm Hot dogs & Brats $1 Domestic Cans	11 5-7 PM LASAGNA DINNER	12 **Legion 5th District Meeting** POT ROAST DINNER [served to the public after 7]	13 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night 	14 Noon-2p $1 Margaritas
15 	16 9 am Bldg & Grds **1866** Charles Hires invents Root Beer.	17 **6 pm** **Executive Committee Meeting** $1 Domestic Cans	18 5-7 PM COMMANDER'S CHICKEN DINNER	19 5-7 pm SUMMER MENU KICKOFF	20 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night 7:30p-9:45p Live Music ***Entourage***	21 Noon-2p $1 Margaritas
22 	. 23 9 am Bldg & Grds **1785** Benjamin Franklin invents bifocals.	24 5-7 pm Hot dogs & Brats **7 pm** **Auxiliary meeting** $1 Domestic Cans	25 5-7 PM SAL'S SWISS STEAK DINNER	26  	27 5:30p-7:30p Burger Night 7:30p-9:45p DJ Music ***DJ Jamal*** **National Poppy Day**	28 Noon-2p $1 Margaritas
29 **1916** Official flag of the President of the United States is adopted.	30 	31 **1969** John Lennon & Yoko Ono record the song *Give Peace a Chance.* $1 Domestic Cans	May 29 Sunday Memorial Service Check the Legion FB page for place & time.		May 30 Memorial Day Service at the Waterfront following the Memorial Day Parade	