

Charles A. Conklin Post 28  
P.O. Box 439  
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[www.americanlegiongh.org](http://www.americanlegiongh.org)



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

Rick White  
Post 28 Commander  
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Monday - Thursday 1pm - 10 pm  
Friday 1pm - 12 am & Saturday 12 noon - 12 am  
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

May 2023  
Issue #1224

## AMERICAN LEGION

Michael Thurber, 1st Vice Commander  
Ron Streng, 2nd Vice Commander  
Chris Jarvis, Adjutant  
Cyndy Neil-Wierenga, Finance Officer  
Gary Doublestein, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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  
Tom Spelman, Road Captain  
Tom Schultz, Safety Officer  
Gerald Keen, Past Director

Yale Pope, Post Manager  
(616) 842-5310



## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

I don't mind saying it's been a tough year for me personally. I had my stroke in May of 2021 and about seven hospital visits for a variety of medical issues since then. I am being rebuilt for a reason. The point of this is, when doctors tell you that they won't do surgery, because they can't guarantee the switch will come back on, that puts all matters at attention right now.

If not for the help I'd received from my wife and family and friends, I don't know if I would have had the mental strength to carry on. Thank-you all for your help.

I have not been the greatest Legion commander this past year, but I did my best with lots of help from you. If you find yourself in trouble with health issues, remember family, friends and the Lord are there to help you along. God bless everyone.  
Rick White, Commander #104

## Post 28 Slate of Officers

The election of Post Officers is going to be at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Nominated members for the 2023-2024 Officers that we currently have are:

Commander – Mike Thurber  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Ron Streng  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – Catherine Buckley  
Adjutant - James O'Neil  
Finance Officer – Robert Kepner  
Historian – Saul Lopez  
Chaplain – Gary Doublestein  
Sergeant at Arms – Jim Porenta  
Executive at Large – Phil Polyak  
Executive at Large – Freddy Smith  
Executive at Large – Garrett Veihl

If you are interested in being an Officer, please reach out to John Bilski at [mjbilski@att.net](mailto:mjbilski@att.net) or Chris Jarvis at [cjretsf97@hotmail.com](mailto:cjretsf97@hotmail.com) or call (616) 402-1598



## American Legion & VFW Honor Vietnam Vets



## AUXILIARY

It's Poppy time. May is the month we focus on fundraising for our Poppy Fund. These funds can only be used to benefit Veterans, Active Duty personnel and their families. We will be hosting our drive-thru donation challenge on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Post 28. The Drive-Thru Challenge runs from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., but donations will continue to be accepted inside when the Post opens at 2 p.m. and continue until 8 p.m.



If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time to take care of it. You can renew online, although it takes longer to receive your card, or you can renew at the Post or with our Membership Chairperson Kathleen Edwards via her email: [gkedwards25@yahoo.com](mailto:gkedwards25@yahoo.com).

Get ready for Cinco de Mayo (May 5). The Auxiliary is planning an amazing Gourmet Taco Dinner from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

3 Taco Dinner - \$10

2 Taco Dinner - \$8

Kids Dinner (10 & under only)

2 Tacos, Chips & Salsa - \$6

Both the \$10 & \$8 Taco Dinners include your choice of: chicken or ground beef, flour or corn tortillas or hard shells, all the fixings (cheese, sour cream, etc.), chips & salsa, homemade guacamole, homemade Spanish Rice, and refried beans. The Kids Dinner is 2 tacos and chips & salsa only.

We are supporting at least 18 National Guardsmen from the West Michigan area, five of whom are from the Grand Haven and Spring Lake area. We are asking for help in keeping these brave men stocked with needed items from home. Your donation of cash or items will help us make sure they have the items they need and want while they serve in Syria. There is a large blue bin located upstairs in the Auxiliary room to place your donated items in. There is also a spreadsheet of

suggested items posted on the Auxiliary room door. Think: "easily heated or cooked, individual servings, high protein." \*NO pork products, candy that melts, or home baked items.\* We are planning a welcome home party for them later this year and more information will be forthcoming.

Hope to see you at our April 25th meeting. AL Riders will be serving hot dogs if you want to come earlier.

Cheryl George, President

## LEGION RIDERS

WATCH FOR MOTORCYCLES! With the warmer weather we are all actively riding our bikes. Please be cautious and be extra careful.

The first Plaque Run was successful. The Riders went to the Kentwood Post and were able to acquire the Grand Blanc —>

## SAL

Well, the "Bar Flies and Pimps" won Trivia this past month. They donated their winnings to the Grand Haven High School "GoTAK" performers. Those fine young artist, did an amazing job providing entertainment for our St. Patrick's Day dinner. I hope they are back again next year.

At our last SAL meeting the following SAL Officers were elected:

Commander – Ron Ribbink

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Bill Moss

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – Tim Deiters

Chaplin – Marc DeHann Historian – Scott Kelly

Finance Officer – TL Lowe Sgt. At Arms – Steve Vanderwall.

We also approved the following new members; Brian Evans, Samuel DeYoung, John Theisen, Joseph Madden, Bruce Bradford-Royle, William Olzack, Ken Cook, John Siemion, Sean Moeggenborg, William Kangas, Kurt Koella, Erich Heger, Ryan Martinus, Keith Rop, Brad Fett, and Matthew Keevan. Welcome to Squadron #28.

The state SAL convention will be held in Dundee, MI. If you are a paid-up SAL member and would like to attend, please contact me. The SAL will pay for your registration and hotel room for the convention.

**The Annual Memorial Golf Outing will be May 27<sup>th</sup>, at the "Three Fires" Golf Course.** This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year for this golf outing. This is the last year for TL Lowe and me to put this event on. We hope someone will come forward to run this event next year, to keep the tradition that Rich Kelly started years ago. All the profits from this event go to Veterans' causes. This year it will go to "Homeless Veterans." Registration forms are at the Post.

In closing, please thank all our mothers on "Mother's Day" and remember our Veterans on "Memorial Day."

Serving Veterans and our Community

Paul Kubicek – SAL Commander

(Legion Riders cont'd)

plaque. For every three riders wearing a patch on a vest, they can take one plaque. Plans are in the works to visit other Legions.

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](mailto: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. Thank you to the Auxiliary and SAL for co-sponsoring the event. Their generosity and willingness to help is greatly appreciated. We are also soliciting sponsorships from local businesses. If you would like to assist, email ALR. This year will also be a Memorial ride honoring service members 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, May 4 at 7:00 PM.

*Take a journey, soar like an eagle. There are so many roads to explore, so little time.* Steve Barnes, Director



## POST NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

Mike Verhulst, USA  
John Gappa, USA  
Gregory Carlson, USN  
Andrew Wicke, USN  
James Koats, USMC  
Allen Gardner, USN  
Goris Passchier, USN  
Richard Siersma, USCG

### TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Kenneth Cook, USA Korea  
Richard Loeper, USA Vietnam  
Michael Fuqua, USA Gulf  
Thomas Fricano, USN WWII



Past Commanders Chris Jarvis (#99) & David MacKellar (#93) presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous service in the America Legion to Korean War Veteran William Wolniakowski, father-in-law to Auxiliary member Jean Wolniakowski.

### TRANSFERS

Melissa Bultman, USCG  
Louis Prieskorn, USN

### SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen  
Ken Kelly  
Ed DeKoekkoek  
Ron Bauer  
Catherine Buckley  
Sandra Custodeso  
Rick White



### HONOR GUARD

Honor Guard had two services since the last Post meeting. They also took part in the Vietnam War Veterans Day Program at the Post. Thank you, 2nd Vice Commander Ron Streng. Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar



The Post 28 Honor Guard participated in the funeral service for Post 28 Chaplain Duane "Smitty" Smith.

## Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Gary (Doc) Doublestein, Post 28 Chaplain

### TOO MUCH!

You and I have heard (and have probably said), "I have been giving too much!" While I cannot disagree that it seems like the requests for help and/or money never ends. Thankfully, our Lord is a master of all things and He is involved in everything we do. All he needs from us is our cooperation to further His plan. It doesn't take massive effort or earth-shattering ideas to make a difference. We all have other important things to do in our lives but most of us have a few hours in any week or day where we can ask God what HE wants.

Choosing a few projects that we can get involved in is good, but often it takes more than a one-time effort to achieve the goal or maintain it. We have many members at our Post but the number of consistent volunteers seems to be dwindling. All of our projects benefit our veterans one way or another and no job is unimportant. I am reminded of a certain man that shows up to wash dishes. He is proud of his work and it helps the kitchen crew immensely. As Mother Theresa once said, he is "doing small things with great love." One does not have to change the world, just our little part of it (including yourself!)

Our Lord is generous with ALL of His gifts. Even the air you breath is a gift. Volunteering does not just apply to our Post. Your church, your school, a multitude of charitable organizations and your family are all included in the opportunities to do small things with great love! The change in yourself will be noted when, rather than saying, "I'm doing too much!" you will admit that, "I haven't done enough!"

May the Lord bless you and yours. Gratitude is never inappropriate. Say "THANK YOU" to your Creator and show gratitude by the way you treat others.

### Legionnaires May 2023 Membership Update

Spring has sprung.....! The decks are now open, don't lose your ability to enjoy the view and the warmer weather with a beverage of your choice. Check your membership card for the 2023 at the top center of your card!

We are still expecting one more batch of renewal notices from National. Again please check before you pay with cash or check, 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](mailto:larry_lambert@sbcglobal.net); Linda Doublestein - [lindadoublestein@gmail.com](mailto:lindadoublestein@gmail.com); Phil Polyak - [wattnot@me.com](mailto:wattnot@me.com).

### From the Post Manager Yale Pope

As we enter May and the warmer weather arrives, we welcome back our winter Floridians and will be beginning to enjoy our outdoor deck and patio. Because of the success of the event last fall, we are doing a Spring beer and wine tasting event on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> so come and enjoy new beer and wine as well as Dalton's awesome Charcuterie Board.

As we transition to warmer weather, take note that our beer tap line will be transitioning to some seasonal beers as we will be attempting to add more local breweries to support Grand Haven based businesses.

Please take a moment to remember the true purpose of the Memorial Day Holiday as we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and have a safe Holiday weekend.

# MAY 2023

It's time to raise money for our Auxiliary Poppy Fund, which is specifically and exclusively dedicated to causes that directly help Veterans & Active-Duty Personnel & their families. Volunteers will be outside at the Post to happily accept your donations from 10 am until 1 pm on Friday, May 26, which is **NATIONAL POPPY DAY**. Volunteers will also be inside the Post from 2 pm until 8 pm.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>SAL Meeting</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>6 pm</b> <b>House Committee</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>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>5:30-7:30 PM</b> <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> <b>Gourmet Taco Dinner</b> <b>(Auxiliary)</b>	<b>6</b> 
<b>7</b> <b>1941</b> Big band leader Glenn Miller records the Chattanooga Choo Choo.	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> <b>5 pm</b> <b>Hot Dog Night</b> <b>(ALR)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>HAM DINNER</b> <b>(SAL)</b>	<b>11</b> <b>1916</b> Einstein presents his Theory of General Relativity.	<b>12</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b>	<b>13</b> <b>2 pm - 4 pm</b> <b>International Beer &amp; Wine Tasting</b>
<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>17</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER</b> <b>(Legion)</b>	<b>18</b> <b>7 PM</b> 	<b>19</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b>	<b>20</b> 
<b>21</b> <b>1881</b> The American Red Cross is formed.	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b> <b>5 pm</b> <b>Hot Dog Night</b> <b>(ALR)</b>  <b>7 pm</b> <b>Auxiliary Meeting</b>	<b>24</b> <b>5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER</b> <b>(Legion)</b>	<b>25</b> <b>1968</b> The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is dedicated.	<b>26</b> <b>5:30p-7:30p</b> <b>BURGERS</b> <b>National Poppy Day</b>  <b>WE REMEMBER</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Legion Memorial Golf Outing</b> @ Three Fires Golf Course
<b>28</b> <b>1930</b> Dodge Brothers, Inc. & Chrysler Corp. merge.	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b> <b>5-7 PM</b> <b>JAY'S COAST GUARD CHICKEN DINNER</b> <b>(Auxiliary)</b>	Upcoming SAL Fundraisers <u>June 1</u> Great Lakes Chili Dogs <u>June 17</u> Corn Hole Tournament	 Thursdays 3p-9p Saturdays 2p-9p Sundays 1p-6p	
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