

Charles A. Conklin Post 28
P.O. Box 439
700 S. Harbor Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743

www.americanlegiongh.org



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Michael Thurber
Post 28 Commander
michael.thurber76@gmail.com

Monday - Friday 2pm - 10 pm
Saturday 12 noon - 10 pm
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

May 2024
Issue #1236

AMERICAN LEGION

Ron Streng, 1st Vice Commander
Walt Pedersen, 2nd Vice Commander
Chris Jarvis, Adjutant
Robert Kepner, Finance Officer
Gary Doublestein, Chaplain
John Bilski, Judge Advocate
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms
Saul Lopez, Historian
Garrett Viehl, Service Officer
Mike Thurber, Service Officer
Garrett Viehl, Executive-at-Large
Phil Polyak, Executive-at-Large
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large
Richard White, 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
Laurie Koldyk, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Ron Ribbink, Commander
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

Alan Smith, Director
alriderspost28@gmail.com
Fred Smith, Assistant Director
OPEN, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
Wes Spyke, 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

Greetings Post 28! Well, spring is officially here! I'd like to hope we're done with old man winter until November or December, but we do live in Michigan so only time can tell. We had a great month in April! Navy Chief Petty Officers celebrated their 131st birthday. I know all my fellow CPOs in this Post celebrated! I celebrated going around the sun one more year, and we had a great birthday bash and fund raiser for Sharon Yonkers' 80th Birthday and Bucs Pride put on by the Purple Gang. We had a delicious lasagna dinner prepared by our one and only Past Commander Garrett Viehl. The Post was able to raise

\$2,750.00 for this great cause. Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy such a great meal and celebrate such a neat lady and a pillar of our community.

May is ramping up to be a busy month as well, particularly the last weekend of May, Memorial Day weekend. As usual we have a full plate. Saturday, May 25, the SAL is hosting their annual golf outing. Please look for details in the newsletter. Monday, May 27, of course, is Memorial Day. It's our National Day of Remembrance for all who fell in battle in defense of this great nation. The city will have a Parade and a Remembrance Program held down at the waterfront stadium. To me, it is the most solemn holiday this country celebrates, and one we should never forget. It's more than just the beginning of summer and backyard BBQs. It's a time for remembering and honoring all the men and women who cashed in their blank check to this country and gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Also in May, it is election month for both the Post and 5th District. We are still in need for a few positions. If you feel you want to contribute to the operation of our post, please see myself, our adjunct Chris, or any member on the Executive or Nomination committees and we will get you on the ballot. The election will take place during our May Membership meeting May 7. The 5th District meeting is also being held at our Post on May 9. We will be conducting elections for District officers as well. This meeting is always open to Legion members in good standing. I encourage everyone to attend both meetings and make your voice heard through the election process.

As always, our Wednesday dinners are in full swing, as well as our Friday burger nights. These are always open to the public, so bring your friends and family who aren't Legion members. You never know, you might strike an interest in membership to our fine Post.

Have a great month of May...
For the good of the Legion,
Mike Thurber, Commander #105

2024-2025 Prospective Officers Post 28

106th Commander: Ron Streng
1st Vice Commander: Walt Pedersen
2nd Vice Commander: Cyndy Wierenga

Adjutant: (Open)

Finance Officer: Ron Perkins
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Porenta
Executive at Large: Freddy Smith
Executive at Large: Mark Littell
Executive at Large: Phillip Polyak
Service Officer: Garrett Viehl
Service Officer: Mike Thurber
Historian: Courtney Thurber
Chaplain: Gary Doublestein
Delegates needed 66 (33 + 33 Alternates)

ELECTION TIME

If willing to serve contact Chris Jarvis at cjretsf97@hotmail.com, Freddy Smith at ffsmith2000@sbcglobal.com, or Walt Pedersen at wolsalt@charter.net -

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

AUXILIARY

YEAH SPRING! It's May and, as the weather warms, more things will start happening around the Post. May is Poppy month. Our fundraising this month concentrates on raising funds for our Poppy Program, which can only be used to support Veterans & their families and active-duty military & their families.

To jumpstart our Poppy fundraising, we will be hosting a Pre-Cinco de Mayo dinner on Saturday, May 4 from 5 - 7 pm. We'll be serving Tacos, Spanish rice, Refried beans and Chips with guacamole; a smorgasbord of taco toppings are included with the meal. Two menu options are available: \$12 for a 3-Taco Meal and \$10 for a 2-Taco Meal.

Friday, May 24 is National Poppy Day. We will again host our drive-thru challenge in the Post parking lot. Drive over between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, say hello to our beautiful Auxiliary volunteers, make a donation, and receive a small token of appreciation. Rest easy knowing your donation will directly benefit veterans. We will also be taking pop cans and bottle returns as donations. So, clean your garages and basements, hang on to your cans, and drop them off to us at the Post on May 24. Our dedicated volunteers will do the yucky part of returning them and all proceeds will go to the Poppy Fund.

May 27 is Memorial Day, with the annual parade and waterfront ceremony that honor those who gave their lives in service to their country. Please check the calendar, FB pages and GH Tribune for exact time and dates as we close in on May.

Hope to see you at the next Auxiliary meeting on May 22.

Cheryl George, President



LEGION RIDERS

I would like to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Alan Smith, but I also have a nickname, Tag. I will answer with either name. I hope I can do as well as Steve in this new position as Director/Road captain.

The Hot Dog dinners have started and we will be selling chances to win \$250.00 worth of scratch off tickets. It's \$20.00 for a square and when the squares are all filled, we will draw a winner.

I want to thank those who made it to the Vietnam Vets welcome in Muskegon. It is nice to have Post 28 represented at these events.

We sure could have some warm weather for the Grab and Run. From now on we will ride on motorcycles and cold weather just makes it a lot harder.

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 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Legion.

If you own a motorcycle and would like to join the Legion Riders, just approach a patched rider and they will help get you an application.

KEEP THE WIND IN YOUR FACE & RIDE SAFE

Alan Smith, Director/Road Captain

SAL

Calling all SAL members! The 2024 state convention is happening in Okemos this year, from June 7 to June 9. Interested in attending? Contact Scott Kelly or myself to reserve your spot.

During our April meeting elections were held for 2024-25 officer positions. Congratulations to newly elected officers: Commander - Bill Moss, 1st Vice Commander - Tim Deiters, 2nd Vice Commander - Jeff Wierenga, Finance Officer - T.L. Lowe, Chaplain - Marc DeHaan, Historian - Ron Ribbink, Sgt at Arms - Steve VanderWall. They will all be installed during our May 6 SAL meeting.

Also during our April meeting, the SAL's voted to approve four new members. Please say hello and welcome Ronald Baugh, Eric Kipling, Bernard Place and Jeff Ritchie to our Squadron.

The May 25 Golf Outing promises to be HUGE this year! There is a 30 team cap on entries. If you want to get in on it, get to the bar and sign your team up. The cost is \$360 per 4-person team. There will be hole-in-one prizes at all four par 3 holes, raffles, silent auctions and a 50/50 drawing. All proceeds will go to benefit the Michigan Fund for Homeless Veterans.

Calling all trivia buffs! The next Trivia Night is May 16. Put your knowledge to the test and join the fun! Last month's Trivia champions, the Welston Rowdy's, showed true community spirit by donating their winnings to the Grand Haven Boardwalk Improvement Fund! Thanks to their generosity and an additional \$100 from Roann Beebe, the fund is now \$200 richer.

Gear up for some summer fun in June! June 13: Mark your calendars for Chili Dog Night! It's going to be a delicious way to kick off the summer. June 15: Calling all cornhole champions! Join us for our 4th Annual Cornhole Tournament right here in our parking lot. We'll have more details about both events coming soon!

Take a moment this Memorial Day to reflect on the courage and dedication of our Veterans who gave all.

Serving veterans and our community,

Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander



SAL Past Commander Jeff Warner is recognized and presented with an Honorary Lifetime Member Certificate by Commander Ron Ribbink.

Cornhole Tournament

Hey, all you cornholers! The Cornhole Tournament is back, on June 15, starting at noon in the Legion parking lot. Please sign up at the Legion. Cost is \$50, which will benefit veterans. We also have a set of cornhole boards we'll be raffling off! They're on display at the Legion and you can purchase tickets at the bar. Hope to see you there!

Great Lakes Chili Dog Night!!!

We are bringing back the famous chili dogs again this year!! Steve is ready to make up his homemade chili sauce on June 13! Come down and get a "special " and help support our veterans! We may even be auctioning off some of his chili throughout the night! The time is 4 to 7. Hope to see you there!

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Sciolino
David Parks
Richard Burmeister II
Ezekiel Kinney
Renz Verbeek

TRANSFERS

William Berns
Kory Mace
James Rickle
Charles Steen
Roy Kiddly

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Sidney Semmens, USCG
Don Armstrong, USA
Stuart Smith, USN
Raymond Neuman, USA
Roger Czamowski, USMC



SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen Bob Smith
Denny Siron Saul Lopez
Ron Bauer Bob Wydeck

Legionnaires May 2024 Membership Update

As spring approaches, so does the reopening of the Post decks. You must have a 2024 card to attend monthly Legion Meetings as well as to purchase alcohol at our Post.

The 2025 Legion Membership renewals will begin in July this year. All 2024 Cards will expire as of Dec, 31,2024. Should you choose not to renew your membership for 2025, your Continuous Years will reset to "1".

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, Sue Lonnee - suzanne.lonnee@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

HONOR GUARD

Since the last Post meeting, Honor Guard had five funeral services, and participated in the Vietnam Veterans Day Program. Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar



Rifle Team and Honor Guard



**April 13, 2024
Lasagna Dinner
Fundraiser for Bucs Pride.**



From the Post Manager, Yale Pope

Warmer weather is upon us and our deck and patio is open. As we get into May, I would like to encourage our members to inform and/or bring friends and family members to our Open House on Saturday, May 11 from 2 pm to 5 pm, so they can see firsthand the benefits of becoming members of the American Legion. We will have representatives from all our family units to answer questions about membership. In addition we will be offering historic tours of the Post and serving hot dogs. We have acquired a public license for that day.

Most importantly, I ask that as members of the Legion that we reflect on the true significance of Memorial Day and encourage others to do the same.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Pam Medendorp, Auxiliary Chaplain

Preparedness For The Future

How do we look at verses like: Psalm 63:1?
"....Early will I seek you...." It could mean in the morning, or does " Early " mean we must prepare for the things life is planning to challenge us with? As with Pearl Harbor, we thought we were prepared to protect ourselves from our enemies, but we were not prepared for the surprise attack from Japan. We then ask ourselves, when is the best time to prepare? It is during peace.... We need to position ourselves for future leadership! It is not preparedness that says "we can't " to new ideas! Let's put out a request for the intelligence of the members to share ways that inspire them to get involved in this Post! We can use a suggestion box (you can use the prayer box in the entry). We need fresh innovative ideas that start and prepare us moving forward. What do you think? Burnout happens when the same people volunteering never change up, and our leadership foundation crumbles! Garrett, during his speech at the Post Birthday event, shared the fact that we need new blood in leadership. The Auxiliary is looking for a new President to step in. At the Post birthday dinner we were prepared for 130 to attend, but only around 60 attended! We pray and prepare everyday for new blessings from our members. May God tug on your heart to step forward to share and get involved for the good of this Post!! We have seen other Posts fall. It is all good to enjoy our social time, libations, and the view, BUT the Post cannot survive without leadership. Respond to God's tugging!!

MAY 2024



May is Poppy Month. Friday, May 24 is National Poppy Day. Please support veterans, active-duty military and their families with a contribution to the Auxiliary's Poppy Fund. Our Annual Drive-thru runs from 10 am to 1 pm on May 24 in the Post's parking lot. Donations also accepted inside during business hours, via mail, or via the DONATE button on the Post's website. Thank you for your support!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, May 28 9 am to 3 pm At Post 28 Set up an appointment online at redcrossblood.org & enter sponsor code: post28</p> 	<p><u>Chess Club</u> Join us every Monday from 4pm to 8pm at the Post. All experience levels are welcome.</p>	<p>May 1 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion)</p>	<p>2 7 pm ALR Meeting</p> 	<p>3 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS</p> 	<p>4 5-7 PM GOURMET TACO DINNER Fundraiser for the Poppy Fund</p>	
<p>5 1971 Alan Shepard rides Freedom 7 to become first American in space.</p>	<p>6 7 pm SAL Meeting 7 pm Memorial Day Association Meeting</p>	<p>7 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting Charles A. Conklin May 7, 1918</p>	<p>8 5-7 PM ROAST PORK DINNER (SAL)</p>	<p>9 7 pm District Meeting (Legion)</p>	<p>10 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS</p> 	<p>11 2 pm - 5 pm Legion Family Open House</p> 
<p>12  Mothers Day</p>	<p>13 7 pm Memorial Day Association Meeting</p>	<p>14 5 PM - 7 PM Hotdogs/Brats</p> 	<p>15 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK (Legion)</p>	<p>16 7 PM TRIVIA Night</p>	<p>17 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS</p>	<p>18  Armed Forces Day</p>
<p>19 1884 Ringling Brothers circus premieres.</p>	<p>20 7 pm Memorial Day Association Meeting</p>	<p>21 6 pm Legion Executive Committee</p>	<p>22 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI (Legion)</p>	<p>23  Lucky Penny Day</p>	<p>24 10am-1pm National Poppy Day Drive-Thru 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS (SAL)</p>	<p>25 SAL Annual Golf Outing</p>
<p>26 Memorial Day Church Service</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day Parade & Waterfront Service</p>	<p>28 5 PM - 7 PM Hotdogs/Brats 7 PM Auxiliary Meeting</p>	<p>29 5-7 PM JAY'S USCG CHICKEN DINNER (Auxiliary)</p>	<p>30  International JAZZ DAY</p>	<p>31 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS</p>	<p>June 1 1927 Peace Bridge between the United States & Canada opens.</p>
<p>2 2004 Ken Jennings begins his 74-day winning streak on Jeopardy.</p>	<p>3 7 pm SAL Meeting</p>	<p>4 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting</p>	<p>5 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (SAL)</p>	<p>6 7 pm ALR Meeting</p>	<p>7 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS</p>	<p>8 1872 Congress approves the penny postcard.</p>