



The American Legion

Charles A. Conklin Post #28

HOURS: Mon. – Fri. 1pm – 10pm Saturday 12pm – 10pm Sunday 1pm – 7pm

Newsletter published monthly by Charles A. Conklin Post #28 of the American Legion
P. O. Box 439 ~ 700 S. Harbor Avenue ~ Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743 ~ www.grandhavenlegion.org

LEGION

Janet E. Fonger, Post 28 Commander
jeflegion28@gmail.com
Jay Stevens, 1st Vice Commander
TBD, 2nd Vice Commander
Julie Johnson, Adjutant
Jeff Moody, Finance Officer
Duane Smith, Chaplain
Jack VanWeelden, Judge Advocate
Hoyt Fonger (interim), Sergeant-at-Arms
Dennis Siron, Historian
Hoyt Fonger, Service Officer
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Chuck Potter, Executive-at-Large
Jerry Toogood, Executive-at-Large
Hoyt Fonger, Executive-at-Large
Bob Wydeck, Past Commander
Mike Zeef, Past Commander

AUXILIARY

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Diane Janusch-Johnson 2nd Vice Pres.
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Linda Gieske, Historian
Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain
Barb Kelly, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

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salcmdrpost28@yahoo.com
Hans VanHorsen, 1st Vice Commander
TBD, 2nd Vice Commander
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
TBD, Historian
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms
Scott Kelly, Membership
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant
Jeff Warner, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Gerald Keen, Director
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Steve Barnes, Assistant Director
Chase Kamhout, Sergeant-at-Arms
Michelle Lucas, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
TBD, Chaplain
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair

Yale Pope, Post Manager
Dawn Stevens, Kitchen Manager
(616) 842-5310

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



For many, Thanksgiving is a time where friends and family gather in love and gratitude over good food and company. November is also a time to recognize men and women veterans who serve and have served our country, honorably. Veterans raised their right hand, without knowing where they would be assigned, nor situations they would be placed in, and swore to defend our Nation's Constitution and freedoms. On November 11, please take a moment to recognize and honor those who serve and have served our country.

At Post 28, we strive to uphold the Four Pillars (Defense, Americanism, Veterans, and Youth) of the American Legion and to continuously recognize our Post's Legionnaires for their military service. This year, our Veterans Day activities are restricted due to the COVID-19 context. However, a brief Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the Eternal Flame (corner of Harbor Avenue and Y Street Grand Haven), starting at 11:00 AM.

In addition, I am honored to announce that the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 will serve complimentary dinners to our Post's veterans, on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 starting at 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM. A complimentary dinner will be served to the first 75 Post 28 Legionnaire members, who are veterans, and who either dine-in or order "to-go." Just show your valid Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 Legionnaire membership card, and a valid picture ID to receive your complimentary dinner. Guests of our complimentary dinner recipients may purchase food from our new menu, which includes salads, soups, sandwiches, pizzas, and more. Seating capacity, gathering, and social distancing mandates will be enforced to ensure the safest and most enjoyable experience possible. We will keep you updated as best we can and are blessed for the individuals who made our Veterans Day Dinner possible, through their donations, in gratitude to our veterans.

Our Post continues "Forward for Tomorrow" with the addition of a new Post Manager. Yale Pope has years of restaurant/bar and event experience, having owned his own pub. Yale is an Army Veteran and Legionnaire who understands the mission of the American Legion and what is needed in transitioning our Post into the future. Yale will help keep our programs and services for veterans, veterans' families, and the community, thriving.

The Post 28 kitchen is far exceeding expectations. Our new menu has broadened and increased business for the Post. However, we still need volunteers. Without enough volunteers, we may need to hire two additional staff. If you are interested in volunteering in the kitchen, training is provided. Members of our Post 28 family are encouraged to volunteer and help their Units in supporting Legion programs. Revenues from our kitchen/lounge operations help pay the bills and fund our programs and services for veterans, veterans' families, and the community.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and relaxed Thanksgiving holiday and respectfully asking everyone to take a moment on Veterans Day to recognize and thank our military veterans who honorably serve and have served our country.

Commander Janet

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP - 2021
Please pay by December 31, 2020. Legion & SAL - \$50; Auxiliary - \$40. Drop off at the Post or send via mail.

AUXILIARY



As we head into November, I am very thankful for all of you! Membership renewals are coming in steadily, and this is how we are able to continue to accomplish our Mission! We cannot do it without you!

November is a busy month...first and foremost Election Day is almost here. Voting is a right and a privilege that we have as US citizens. It is also our duty!

Veteran's Day is a day set aside to honor all Veterans. To "honor" is to regard or treat [someone] with admiration and respect. Please take extra time this Veteran's Day to call or visit the special Veterans in your life, and express your admiration and respect for their service to this great country! If you know a Veteran who is suffering from PTSD, reach out and let them know how much you care. If there is a Veteran who struggles with physical disability, help them!

Please pray for Sarah Brooks, who is our beloved Hospital Representative - Department of Michigan. She is an amazing lady, (90 years young!!!), who has dedicated many years to our Veterans, especially those at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Sarah is currently in the hospital with COVID, and is very ill. Please pray that she will fully recover, and be able to get back to what she loves - SERVING VETERANS!

NOVEMBER KEY DATES

- **November 3:** Election Day
- **November 11:** Veteran's Day
- **November 14:** National ALA Read Your Constitution & Bylaws Day
- **November 21:** Chaplain's Workshop at the Michigan National Guard - Belmont Armory
- **November 26:** Thanksgiving Day

Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chair

FROM THE KITCHEN . . .

Try one of our tasty Post 28 sandwiches!



American Legion Post #28

Enjoy a delicious Post 28 Classic Pizza!

Post 28 now serving delicious salads!



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SAL



Hi all We were able to meet on October 12 as an Executive Board. Certainly, the hope is to have regular membership meetings as soon possible. Please stay tuned to Post news on the website and also SAL emails.

A donation was recently made to Love in Action in the amount of \$2,500 toward the food drive for the upcoming holiday season. This donation will provide specific needed food for the Love in Action Pantry as well as the Salvation Army.

As a result of the golf outing in August, we were able to donate \$1,500 to the Grand Haven VFW Post.

Our next meeting is November 2 and will start @ 7:00 p.m. Due to restrictions, our meeting will once again be an Executive Board Meeting since we are limited to 10 participants.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!!

Serving Veterans and the Community

Ross Berens, SAL Commander

LEGION RIDERS



Stay safe & healthy.

Post 28 Legion Riders Director Gerald Keen.

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

- Ruth Chmura, USA**
- Larry Rozeck, USAF**
- Charles Winter III, USN**
- Vinny Keway, USA**
- Edward Keway, USA**
- Byron Chapman, USN**
- US Army assisted with 3 Services**



If you know of anyone who should be added to this list, or would benefit from a call from me as their Chaplain, please let me know @ dstirlingsmith70@gmail.com, or 616.502.1555.

SICK CALL



In His and Your Service, Duane "Smitty" Smith, Chaplain

George Bryant, Jim "Jimbo" Land, George Bennett, Charles Davis, Ken Kelly, Carl Kuzyk, Jim Vette, Darrel Myers, and Mike Rippa, and all of our Legion family who are mourning the passing of loved ones.

The Chaplain's Corner

By Pam Medendorp, Chaplain of Post 28 Auxiliary

As your Chaplain of Post 28 Auxiliary, I ask: "What is our vision for our American Legion Post 28?"

As Chaplain Smitty, I too am drawn to Proverbs 29:18- "Without a vision the people perish"

It drew me to search myself, and the four pillars of this organization, as Chaplain Smitty pointed out we are here to support :

1. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
2. Nation Security
3. Americanism
4. Children and Youth

And we have a vision!! There are plans I am proud to say to continue our volunteerism. Then came the thought of volunteerism, and so I collaborated what it means by definition:

Definition of military

Noun: a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.

Verb: freely offer to do something.

Definition of Horticulture

N: a plant that has not been deliberately planted.

Definitions of Law

N: a person offering a voluntary conveyance or need for deposition as made (this coincides with our 2nd Pillar causing Security =checks and balances for truth within our Nation/organization)

We define volunteering as any activity that involves spending time, unpaid, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone as individuals or groups (3rd Pillar- Americanism) other than, or in addition to, close relatives.

What is the meaning of volunteer in English?

It is a person who does something, especially for other people or for an organization (our schools, our scouts, Girls State - 4th Pillar-our Youth), willingly and without being forced or paid to do it

Why is it important to be a volunteer?

The more we give, the happier we feel. Volunteering increases self-confidence. You are doing good for others (what we do for our Veterans, fulfills the 1st Pillar) and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity

Whatever the motivation, most Christians and Jewish faith volunteer because they are appreciative and want to give back to God through serving others. ... What keeps us volunteering is the emotional, psychological, social, and spiritual "payoffs" from doing the work and seeing good results.

Conclusion: where do we fit with all the changes at our Post, and what is our vision. Do you see yourself Volunteering (key words from definitions)...

1. Freely
2. Not deliberately - as to grow where planted
3. Offering
4. Benefiting (of Family)- as Myrna pointed out in the Documentary as a word to describe our Post.

American Legion Post #28

AMERICAN LEGION GOODFELLOWS

Goodfellows time is rapidly approaching.
If you would like to contribute to this program:

Goodfellows
c/o American Legion Post #28,
700 S. Harbor Dr.
Grand Haven, MI 49417

We are anticipating a great need again this year for toys and clothing for the needy children who are referred to us by the Salvation Army, which serves as our clearinghouse.

The Goodfellows - What Do They Do? For over 80 years, the American Legion Post #28 Goodfellows program has worked to make sure that the needy children of the area have a good Christmas. We furnish each child with new clothes, along with toys, games and candy. The Goodfellows Committee is made up of Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members. Packing will take place the week of December 7 at 9:00 daily.

Shoppers will need to pick up their list between 6:00 and 8:00 pm on December 3rd at the Post, and shopping must be completed by December 12th.

There will be no wrapping party this year due to Covid. Distribution on Saturday, December 21st. Distribution will be done from the Salvation Army on December 17 & 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Helpers are needed at these times to load boxes into cars. Contact Paul Kubicek, (616) 240-7297 for signup.

The Goodfellows is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of our community. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thank you everyone - The Goodfellows Committee; Ray Ribbink, Chairman



5. Not forced
6. With Pride and Identity
7. Combating Personality conflicts
8. As giving back to God -A vision of Mutual Helpfulness.

This is what motivated Moina Michael, our Poppy Lady. Our Auxiliary's caring leadership is beginning to fuel these qualities of volunteerism that built the foundation of The Four Pillars of our American Legion.

The Answer to what to do is: At this time, YOU must find vision in yourself. Shalom must be found.

My Personal Vision has been since becoming Chaplain: The Post that Cares (it is a blanket message that means for all, even the ones that challenge us). Does one ever think, "God may be jiggling the mountain to make it possible to care beyond selfishness" It is what we do with it!! Realize that if it wasn't for war, we wouldn't have Veterans, and if it wasn't for caring for Veterans we wouldn't be here!! We all grow through adversity not complacency!

Our Motto: to God and Country

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Please refer to the Post's Facebook page
for calendar updates @

https://www.facebook.com/pg/veteranswithacause.org/posts/?ref=page_internal

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29	30	1: Daylight Savings Ends 3: Election Day 11: Veterans Day 26: Thanksgiving Day				