

Charles A. Conklin Post 28
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www.americanlegiongh.org



THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Michael Thurber
Post 28 Commander
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Monday - Friday 2pm - 10 pm
Saturday 12 noon - 10 pm
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

November 2023
Issue #1230

AMERICAN LEGION

Ron Streng, 1st Vice Commander
Walt Pedersen, 2nd Vice Commander
James O'Neal, Adjutant
Robert Kepner, Finance Officer
Gary Doublestein, Chaplain
John Bilski, Judge Advocate
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms
Saul Lopez, Historian
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Mike Thurber, Service Officer
Garrett Veihl, 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

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
Al Smith, Road Captain
Tom Schultz, Safety Officer
Gerald Keen, Past Director

Yale Pope, Post Manager
(616) 842-5310



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Greetings again, Post 28! Hard to believe fall is half over. Soon we will be getting ready for the holidays and winter. But, there is still tons of fun to be had during those times at the Post for sure!! Speaking of fun, as I write this, we have just finished up our 2nd annual Oktoberfest. I know I had a great time, and it was a pleasure to plan and put on this event. I think this will just continue to grow every year. I have already booked Rudi for our entertainer for next year!! He loves our Post and loves doing the entertainment for our Oktoberfest. I want to thank EVERYONE who contributed to this great night, especially Cindy our caterer, the Auxiliary, and SAL for the help they were in putting this event on! We couldn't have pulled this off without them.

I'd like to point out a few upcoming dates for the rest of October and early November. On Saturday the 21st of October, the post will be hosting a Michigan VS Michigan State football gathering. Come celebrate the fun with us as we (I) root for the Champions of the West (I'm not biased...and I would like to state my annual bet with "Doc" Doublestein has already been cancelled at his request...GO BLUE!!!). Regardless of which team you root for, it will be a great time. I hope to see everyone out in their respective school colors!! The Auxiliary will be putting on their annual SPOOKTACULAR taco dinner on Wednesday, October 25. On Halloween, we will be sponsoring a table along with the VFW at Central Park Place for some trick or treating for the children. Be sure to stop by with your kids and/or grandkids for some safe, fun trick or treating! And finally, as usual we will be hosting our annual Veterans Day dinner. This dinner will be free for all veterans and ten dollars for guests attending with the veterans.

Well, I think this all for now. Again, the success of this Post lies in its membership. Please. Please, please, be on the lookout for our next newest member. If you would like to help with anything we do, please ask!! There is always something to do to keep this Post running. Don't forget about our monthly membership meetings. That is your opportunity to make your voice heard.

For the Good of the Legion, Mike Thurber, Commander #105



Recently, Past Commander #103 & Chaplain Gary (Doc) Doublestein had the great honor to meet Ed Lyttle and Gene White from Sidingrus. To help the Legion mission of helping veterans, they presented Chaplain Doublestein over \$3,400 raised from a Cornhole Tournament held on August 26, 2023. The moneys will be going to 22 Zero (Healing The Hero), a program to help with PTSD awareness.

AUXILIARY

November is the season of Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed our Terrifying Taco Dinner. It was a great dinner, and the funds raised will go to support Benjamin Bator and the KAT6 Foundation.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers. Without you, we would not be able to make and serve our delicious dinners or work our fabulous events. Thank you to all our amazing crafters who will be donating their items to be sold at the St. Patrick's - St Anthony's Parish Arts and Craft Show on November 3-4. Please come out and support them. All proceeds go to veterans' programs.

Our first "Chops' Meatloaf" dinner of the season is November 15 at the Post from 5-7 pm. I'm always thankful when meatloaf is back on the menu. Our regular Auxiliary meeting is November 28 at 7:00 pm and I hope to see you all there.

Finally, I'm thankful for the Goodfellows Program. If you are interested in shopping for children of families struggling at Christmas time, contact Barb Kelly at kellybj72@gmail.com. If you are lucky enough to be a shopper, November 30 is the date to pick up your shopping cards.

Cheryl George, President



Auxiliary Junior member, Olivia Stetts, traveled to Canada with her parents to witness the red & teal illumination of Niagara Falls in support of KAT6 Awareness.

LEGION RIDERS

Bikers for Veterans fundraiser is allowing the Riders to add three new Veterans organizations to our donations. They will be making donations to 92 for 22 to help prevent Veteran suicide; West Michigan Veteran's Assistance Program to help Veterans and their families with funds, goods, and services; and Camp Liberty which provides outdoor recreation programs aiding the reintegration of our veterans and their families with an emphasis on assisting those with post traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries, and mobility disabilities. The addition of these the organizations will help continue our mission to serve our Veterans.

The Riders are still in fourth place with the Grab and Run. We will continue to join up and go to Legions. If the weather is not conducive to motorcycles, we can now ride in our vehicles. Not our first choice, but we are determined to continue our quest! 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, 2 at 7:00 PM.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery: Ride and live today.

Steve Barnes, Director

SAL

From the website <http://www.cwf-inc.org>: *Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Our foremost philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth. Not all American children grow up inside the comfortable definition of normal childhood development. For thousands, each day is a challenge marked by pain, prayer and perseverance. Many of these children require specialized care. To overcome their obstacles, they need help from you and The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. This year our Squadron 28 was able to donate \$1000 directly to this foundation. It is our honor to have received recognition from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in the form of a Children First plaque.*

During our October SAL meeting we approved 16 new members to our Squadron. Please join me in welcoming Mark Buckland, Glen Brower, Jeffery Marcus, Jefferee Widener, Ryan Bergers, David Brockman, Marcus Tober, Kevin Johnson, Jarl Brey, Nathan Deiters, Rob Walkowiak, Richard Oliver Bonney, Greg Meller, Joseph Suchecki, Arnie T Beringer, and Greg Svoboda. Thank you Dave Ireland for the time and effort given to keep our memberships in order.

September marked the revival of Thursday Trivia, which had the summer months off. The team "Barflies and Pimps" won and generously donated their winnings to the Grand Rapids Veteran Homes. Thank you! November Trivia will be held on Wednesday the 22nd.

In closing, remember to THANK volunteers, VOTE on Nov. 7th, Veteran's Day is on the 11th, try not to overeat on Thanksgiving and get working on your Christmas lists!

Serving veterans and our community,
Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander



On a trip up north, Auxiliary members Laurie Koldyke & Noreen Sayranian recruited some locals, seen here **working their fingers to the bone** sewing crafts for our next craft show on November 3 & 4.

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Eva Parker USAF
Raymond Bazan USA
Jacob O'Neal USMC
Gregory Babbitt USA
Richard Dierolf USAF
Travis Cronk USN
Dylan Henshaw USA
Christian Fricke USA
Christopher Gifford USA
Mark Jones USA
Donald Laman USN

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Jeffrey Riddell USN
Gerald Batka USAF
Jack Okkonen USAF



HONOR GUARD

Honor Guard had two services since the last Post meeting. They also took part in five school programs (Bucs Pride), the ALR Poker Chip Run program, Patriot Day program, Pow-MIA program, and the Auxiliary's 125th Infantry Homecoming program.

Rifle Team Leader, David MacKellar

American Legion Goodfellows

Goodfellows time is rapidly approaching.

If you would like to contribute to this program,

Please send your check to:

Goodfellows

C/O American Legion Post 28

700 S. Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417

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

The Goodfellows – What Do They Do? For over eighty years, the American Legion Post #28 Goodfellows program has worked to make sure that the needy children in 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 from Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary members, along with support from the local Fire Departments (Firefighters Crusade for Toys) and the Grand Haven Eagles. The Goodfellows also sponsors the Blessings in a Backpack Program, a food program for local families with children.

Shoppers will need to pick up their lists between 6:00 and 8:00 pm on November 30 at the Post. Shopping will need to be completed and brought to the Post on or before December 9. Packing will take place the week of December 4 starting at 9:00 am daily.

Distribution of gifts will be in mid-December from the Salvation Army building. Helpers are needed at these times to load boxes into cars. Contact Paul Kubicek at 616.240.7297 for sign-up.

Goodfellows is a 501(c)3 non-profit 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, Chairperson

SICK CALL

Mel Nielsen Bob Smith
Ron Bauer Carl Lori Catherine Buckley

Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Pam Medendorp-Peck, Auxiliary Chaplain
Veterans Day is heralded in this month. And stands for Virtue!

Definition of Veteran: a person who has had long experience in a particular field.

Character of a Veteran: Veterans live by a strict warrior ethos bound by VIRTUES -such as honor, courage, commitment, loyalty and integrity. These fundamentals become part of their DNA. Most employers know that character is the foundation on which all else is built.

Connecting God's intended Virtue in us: These virtues are prudence (wisdom), temperance (moderation of desires), fortitude (courage) and justice (righteousness). There are three Theological Virtues of three of the Four Chaplains we honor as Veterans from out Post that do not arise with humans but are given to us by Christ from God. They are faith, hope and love. The Fourth Chaplain in all humility would Honor Our God by "love the LORD God with all your heart, soul, and mind"

Let US bear in mind Personal qualities of our Post Veterans and Leader's Virtues that were derived from the trials and experience unique to each individual. Especially our Four Chaplains. Truly if God had not put all of us on our path in life we would not have been granted the tests in life that help us know what we truly believe in!

Let's thank our Veterans whose Virtues were to protect us, gave us the selfless love that is Faithful, Hopeful, and the sacrifice of True Selfless love.

Legionnaires November 2023 Membership Update

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.

On occasion we have members attempting to renew twice for the same membership year. This usually occurs after National sends out renewal notices. Always check your card at the top to determine if you need to renew. If your current card states "2024," you are good for both 2023 and 2024. Thanks.



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.

Sue Lonnee has volunteered to join the Membership Committee, thanks Sue! Feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns. Linda Doublestein - lindadoublestein@gmail.com, Sue Lonnee- suzanne.lonnee@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

NOVEMBER 2023

Coming Up

Red Cross Blood Drive - December 22 at the Post
 Children's Christmas Party - December Date TBD
 Post 28 Christmas Buffet - December Date TBD
 Goodfellows Follow-up Meeting - January 11, 2024
 Vegas Night - January 27, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Vegas Night - It's that time of year to start planning and to start signing up to volunteer for the Vegas Night activities. This year Vegas Night will be on Saturday, January 27. Sign up sheets will be posted at the bar. Last year it took over 60 volunteers not including the bar staff and the Auxiliary food providers. All the volunteers last year had a great time helping out. It's a fun time and a great opportunity to help out the Legion. Any questions please contact Chris Jarvis (616) 402-1598 or email cjretsf97@hotmail.com .			November 1 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion) Last for the season	2 7 pm ALR Meeting	3 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS Shop the Auxiliary crafts booth at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Arts & Crafts Show: Friday Nov. 3; 11 am - 6 pm & Saturday Nov. 4; 10 am - 3 pm	4
5 	6 7 pm SAL Meeting	7 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting 	8 5-7 PM PULLED PORK DINNER (SAL)	9 6:30 PM Goodfellows Meeting	10 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS 	11 
12	13 	14 	15 5-7 PM CHOPS MEATLOAF DINNER (Auxiliary)	16 	17 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	18 3pm - 5pm Wine & Beer Tasting
19 	20	21 7 pm Legion Executive Committee	22 7 PM  NO DINNER	23 Post Closed 	24 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS (SAL)	25
26 	27	28 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting	29 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion)	30 6 PM-8 PM Goodfellows Shoppers pick up cards Bring all clothes items to the Post no later than December 9	December 1 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	2 6 PM Jingle Bell PARADE 
3	4 7 pm SAL Meeting	5 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting	6 5-7 PM PULLED PORK DINNER (SAL)	7 7 pm ALR Meeting	8 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS	9