

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



**THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Walt Pedersen  
Post 28 Commander  
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Monday - Friday 1pm - 10 pm  
Saturday 12 pm - 10 pm  
Sunday 12 pm - 9 pm

November 2025  
Issue #1254

### AMERICAN LEGION

Cyndy Wierenga, 1st Vice Commander  
Nick Matiash, 2nd Vice Commander  
James O'Neal, Adjutant  
Robert Kepner, Finance Officer  
Gary Doublestein, Chaplain  
Larry Lambert, Judge Advocate  
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Dennis Siron, Historian  
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer  
Mike Thurber, Service Officer  
Karl Christensen, Executive-at-Large  
Linda Laswell, Executive-at-Large  
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large  
Ron Streng, Past Commander

### AUXILIARY

Becky Glockzin, President  
[glockzin@gmail.com](mailto:glockzin@gmail.com)  
Darlene DeHaan, Vice President  
Ginny Hebert, Secretary  
Michele Stetts, Treasurer  
Linda Gieske, Historian  
Pam Medendorp, Chaplain  
Laurie Koldyk, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

### SAL

Tim Deiters, Commander  
[deiterst@yahoo.com](mailto:deiterst@yahoo.com)  
Jeff Wierenga, 1st Vice Commander  
Andrew Ruiters, 2nd Vice Commander  
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer  
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain  
Gary Kerkstra, Historian  
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Dr. David Ireland, Membership  
Mike Brown, Adjutant  
Bill Moss, Past Commander

### LEGION RIDERS

Alan Smith, Director  
[alriderspost28@gmail.com](mailto:alriderspost28@gmail.com)  
Fred Smith, Assistant Director  
Jim Sacks, Secretary  
Larry Foose, Treasurer  
Marc DeHaan, 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

**au-tumn** ['ɔ:təm] noun autumn (noun) autumns (plural noun)

#### 1. BRITISH ENGLISH

The season after summer and before winter, in the northern hemisphere from September to November and in the southern hemisphere from March to May: "the countryside is ablaze with colour in autumn" "Europe can expect warmer summers and wetter autumns" "autumn leaves" "he was in the autumn of his life."

The change of the seasons, that's one of the things I love about living here in MI as well as what I loved about living in upstate NY. Walking through the woods with the fall smells, crisp air, burning leaves, I love it. The fall season somehow causes me to look back and

reflect on more than just the past year. Some recent memories from the past several years bring somber thoughts and tears missing that lost loved one. Many of us here at the Legion can relate to that.

We've added a new event to our calendar, "DJ Musical Bingo," with around 30 participating, all appeared to have a great time. As expected with the temperatures dropping attendance to our RED Friday burger nights is also down but we keep it at "All Ahead Full." (Happy 250th Navy)

Ma had a cast iron trivet on our kitchen wall, it had a Poem on it entitled FRIENDS: True friends are like diamonds, precious and rare, false friends are like autumn leaves, found everywhere. Okay shipmates, get ready for the Veterans Day Dinner, Dress Uniforms of your branch are the Uniform of The Day; if you can fit in them, wear them. "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go." For the Good of the Legion, Walt Pedersen Commander #107

### WELCOME NEW LEGION MEMBERS

Wyatt Szymas  
Stephen Purtell  
Frank Spitters, Jr.  
Matthew Frizzle  
Daniel Deitrick  
George Cooper  
Carl Opalewski  
Frederick DeVries  
Ralph Moss  
Richard Dethloff  
Robert Baatz  
Russel Helmforth  
Raymond Klein  
Chris Ashford  
Gary Carpenter  
Andrew Contreras  
Albert Hoffman  
Michael Dombrowski  
Andrew Silva  
Lucas Houghton

### VEGAS NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Vegas Night will be on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. It is with saddened heart, with the loss of our friend Paul, we are asking for assistance in running the raffle. If you have any experience in filling out the Gaming Commission paperwork, we are requesting that you let us know.

As always we are in need of dealers. You must be a member in good standing to sign up for the chip sales and to cashier.

The volunteer sign-up sheets will be hanging up at the bar. If you are signing up for a dealer, **the background check sheet and a copy of your driver's license will be required.**

Looking forward to another successful year. Any questions please contact Chris Jarvis (616) 402-1598 call or text or email to [cjretsf97@hotmail.com](mailto:cjretsf97@hotmail.com).



## AUXILIARY

We are collecting nonperishable food items & toiletries to fill care packages to send to deployed (overseas) soldiers. Your donations can help us pack 32+ boxes for shipment. Please drop off items in the blue bin located in the Post's front lobby.

November 11 - Veterans Day - Prime Rib

November 27 - Happy Thanksgiving! (Post is closed)

December 3 - Chops' Meatloaf Dinner

December 6 - Jingle Bell Parade, 6 pm down Washington St.

December 13 - Kids Christmas Party, Saturday from 12 noon to 2 pm.

December - No Auxiliary meeting this month

November & December - Volunteers needed for Goodfellows Shopping. Please contact Barb Kelly at [kellybj72@gmail.com](mailto:kellybj72@gmail.com).

Our next meeting is January 27 at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

Becky Glockzin, President

### American Legion Goodfellows

The Goodfellows – What Do We 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, blankets, and personal care items. The Goodfellows Committee is made up of Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary members, along with support from the local Fire Departments (Firefighters Crusade for Toys), The Grand Haven Eagles, and many businesses within the tri-city area. The Goodfellows also sponsors the Blessings in a Backpack Program, a food program that supports local families with children.

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 Salvation Army expressed at our meeting, that they are seeing a big uptick in families requesting help this holiday season. We have committed to providing Christmas gifts to 350 local children this year.

This year's program is being co-chaired by Ron Ribbink and Lisa Danicek, and we would ask you to consider making a donation to help with this great program. 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. Donation checks can be made out to the American Legion Post #28 Goodfellows and mailed to the Legion at 700 S Harbor Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417. We will also be collecting toys, with boxes placed out in community businesses mid-November. There will also be a collection box in the bar area of the Legion as well as a money canister on the bar.

Clothing shoppers will need to pick up their lists between 5:30 pm and 8:00 pm on Thursday, December 4 at the Post. Shopping will need to be completed and brought to the Post on or before December 12. Early shopping is appreciated.

Packing will take place the week of December 8 starting at 9:00 am daily. We are looking for volunteers to move the packed boxes from the Legion over to the Salvation Army on December 16 at 9:00am. The gift distribution will be made from the Salvation Army building. Thank you everyone for your past support and for any future donations!

- The Goodfellows Committee, Ron Ribbink & Lisa Danicek

## SAL

This month's meeting we accepted 18 new members: J Kersman, B Slinkman, C Jager, T Czerney, M Jaracz, R Bohn, B Sipe, M Pontius, G Day, S Liggett, M Prelesnik, J Russell, C Seehase, T Bosma, B Hartman, J Cach, S Smith and R Arterburn. Welcome to all.

The house committee reported that they are trying a MUSIC BINGO NIGHT on Thursdays, every other week, 6-8 pm with 10-9-25 being the first night (my wife and I attended the first night). This is a fun couple of hours, so please try it out!!!

We are still hoping for more SAL members to attend our monthly meetings, which are the first Monday of each month at 7 pm.

With the upcoming Holidays, we can use a little more muscle and bodies to help with the Legion's activities in the community. PLEASE VOLUNTEER !

Tim Deiters, SAL Commander

## LEGION RIDERS

### Get Your Pick 3 Raffle Ticket Now!!



Don't wait—tickets are selling fast, and quantities are limited! By participating in the Pick 3 Raffle, you're not only getting a chance to win cash prizes, but also supporting our veterans. Gather your friends and family and make this December extra exciting with the thrill of daily drawings and special holiday rewards.

#### Pick 3 Rules

1. Each ticket costs \$10.00.
2. The ticket contains two sets of three numbers.
3. These numbers are valid throughout December. If a set matches the midday Draw 3 lottery number in December, the payout is \$25.00 from Monday to Friday, \$100.00 on Saturday or Sunday, and \$250.00 on Christmas Day.
4. Tickets are available for purchase at the Post during evenings and weekends.
5. Winners will receive a check by mail.

Don't miss your chance to participate in this exciting raffle and increase your odds of winning by purchasing multiple tickets. Each ticket gives you two chances to win every day in December, so make sure to get yours early and join in the fun! The Rider's group will be hosting a Chili Cookoff on February 21, 2026. Teams of four can participate.

For information about joining Legion Riders, eligible individuals—such as members of the Legion or Auxiliary who own motorcycles—may inquire with a vested member or the Commander for further guidance.

Thank you for your attention.

Tag Smith, Director/Road Captain

## POST NEWS

### TAPS WAS SOUNDED FOR



Ronald Maka, USAF  
Robert McNergney, USN  
John Ennenga, USA  
Raymond Wiersema, USN  
Edward Skorupski, USMC  
Louis Wallinga, USA

### SICK CALL

Denny Siron  
Bob Wydeck  
David MacKellar  
Roman Marciniak  
Oscar Ledesma  
Karl Kuzyk  
Robert Sanders  
Rick White  
Stefanie Marvin-Miller  
Daniel Kiemento II

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In Service to God & Country, Gary Doublestein, Post 28 Chaplain  
**CHANGE IS THE ONLY THING THAT IS CERTAIN**

Have you ever wished that things would stay the same? Happy times would never end, love would always run hot, success would be everlasting? Me too!

But what would life be like if there was never change? Sickness would never find relief, relationships would never mend (or even start), children would never grow up, there would be no seasons, people would never surprise us with their kindness and overall life would be quite boring.

Recently I have witnessed many changes that I wish would not change at all. Friends and family have gotten sick and some have died. My dog recently was killed. Friends have changed to where I don't recognize them. Sometimes I'm left with the hope that things will change soon!

Instead of being in dread of change we should be grateful that nothing on earth lasts forever. Even pain usually goes away. Change is a mercy. It often allows a chance to take a deep breath, search our souls and even start over. It's hard to see this when the changes hurt, but it's true all the same...you just have to dig deeper.

The good news is that our God NEVER changes. He is always there, always does what is best for us (even when we can't see that at the time) and He is always faithful. Turn to Him in gratitude or sorrow for His help through the good and the bad times. Be open to what He has in store for you. Know that He wants you to be with Him through eternity and loves you more than anyone else can! Sometimes He makes the greatest changes in ourselves.

### HONOR GUARD

Since the last Post meeting, the Honor Guard had six Funerals and participated in three Bucs Pride Cancer Programs, the 9-11 Program, the ALR Poker Chip Run, the POW/MIA Program, and the H4HH Program at the American Dunes.

Rifle Team Leader, Dave MacKellar

### Legionnaires November 2025 Membership Update

November 11, is Veterans Day. It is also the last day we award the coveted "Early Bird" stickers! Thank you to all Veterans for your Service!

Please consider renewing on line at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org). This immediately registers your payment and reports your renewal to your Membership Committee. This saves you postage and us time. In addition by renewing on line it is easy to update your personal information (address, phone, email etc). Should you forget or lose your card to can access a copy on line at the same site, saving you time and providing access to American Legion Posts especially if you are out of town.

Please note: Anyone applying for **new** membership, or that is transferring from another Post, you must submit a copy of your DD-214. Active Duty applicants need to provide a proof of Active Duty. 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, current military ID or Leave and Earnings Statement. Should you need a DD214 or other proof of Service, you may request it at [https:// www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/](https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/).

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](mailto:lindadoublestein@gmail.com), Linda Laswell - [lindathemac@gmail.com](mailto:lindathemac@gmail.com), or Phil Polyak - [wattnot@me.com](mailto:wattnot@me.com).

### From the Post Manager, Yale Pope Dalton Pope, Assistant Manager

We have some great events coming up in November as we transition into the winter. In addition to Veterans Day Dinner, we will also be hosting Musical Bingo on the 13th, and our always popular fall wine tasting event on the 15th. Tickets will be on sale at the bar. These tend to go very fast so don't wait.

We will be opening early on Saturday, November 29 at 11:30 am for the Michigan/Ohio St. kickoff at noon so everyone can get settled in and get a seat.

Just a reminder, our upstairs will not be available for rental after Thanksgiving until after the Christmas Holiday as it will be utilized by Goodfellows for storage of their charitable donations.

Thanks again to all our volunteers and committee members who make my job easier. Let's have a great November.

### 2026 Gene Rothi Scholarship

Gene Rothi Scholarship applications and instructions are now available. Google "Gene Rothi Scholarship" to download the application. Year 2026 high school graduating seniors who are descendants of Post 28 American Legionnaires (current or deceased) and will be incoming 2026-2027 college freshmen are encouraged to apply. All applications must be received at Post 28 by April 2026! Awardees will be notified by mail in May.



2025

# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Coming In December</p> <p>Goodfellows Shoppers: pick up clothes cards - December 4</p> <p>Goodfellows Shoppers: return clothes by December 12</p> <p>Jingle Bell Parade - December 6</p> <p>Children's Christmas Party - December 13</p> <p>Post 28 Christmas Buffet - December Date TBD</p> <p>Salvation Army Bell Ringing - dates TBD</p>				<p>ARTURO'S TACOS</p> <p>4pm - 8pm</p> <p>Thursdays</p>	<p><b>November 1</b></p> 	
<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p><b>SAL Meeting</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p><b>Post Meeting</b></p> 	<p>5</p> <p>5-7 PM</p> <p><b>SWISS STEAK DINNER</b></p> <p>(Legion)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p><b>ALR Meeting</b></p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30p-7:30p</p> <p><b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p>8</p> <p>8 AM</p> <p><b>Marine Corps Birthday Breakfast</b></p>
<p>9</p> 	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> <p><b>Veterans Day</b></p> <p>5-6 PM Social</p> <p>6 PM</p> <p><b>Dinner</b></p> 	<p>12</p> <p>5-7 PM</p> <p><b>POTATO BAR &amp; PAUL'S CHILI</b></p> <p>(SAL)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6-8 PM</p> <p><b>DJ Musical Bingo</b></p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30p-7:30p</p> <p><b>BURGERS</b></p> 	<p>15</p> <p>3-5PM</p> <p><b>Holiday Wine Tasting &amp; Food Pairing</b></p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p><b>Legion Executive Committee</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p>5-7 PM</p> <p><b>ZESTY SPAGHETTI</b></p> <p>(Legion)</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>5:30p-7:30p</p> <p><b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>1889</p> <p>The jukebox is first displayed, becoming an instant success.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1954</p> <p>Air Force One, the first presidential airplane, is christened.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Auxiliary Meeting</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>NO DINNER</b></p> <p>7 PM</p> 	<p>27</p> <p><b>POST IS CLOSED</b></p> 	<p>28</p> <p>5:30p-7:30p</p> <p><b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p>29</p> <p>1972</p> <p>Atari launches the video Pong.</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>December 1</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p><b>SAL Meeting</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p><b>Post Meeting</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>5-7 PM</p> <p><b>CHOPS' MEATLOAF DINNER</b></p> <p>(Auxiliary)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 pm</p> <p><b>ALR Meeting</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30p-7:30p</p> <p><b>BURGERS</b></p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 PM</p> 