

Charles A. Conklin Post #28

P. O. Box 439
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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Gary Doublestein

Post 28 Commander

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HOURS:

Mon - Fri 2 pm - 10 pm

Saturday Noon - 10 pm

Sunday 1 pm - 8 pm

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AMERICAN LEGION

Rick White, 1st Vice Commander
Courtney Thurber, 2nd Vice Commander
James O'Neal, Adjutant
Jeff Moody, Finance Officer
Duane Smith, Chaplain
Larry Lambert, Judge Advocate
Jim Porenta, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dennis Siron, Historian
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Rick Chittenden, Executive-at-Large
Dave MacKellar, Executive-at-Large
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large
Janet Fonger, Past Commander
John Bilski, Past Commander

AUXILIARY

Darlene DeHaan, President
marcdarlene@gmail.com
Melanie Riekels, 1st Vice Pres.
Diane Janusch-Johnson 2nd Vice Pres.
Ginny Hebert, Secretary
Michele Stetts, Treasurer
Linda Gieske, Historian
Pam Medendorp-Peck, Chaplain
Vicki Siron, Sergeant-at-Arms
Kathleen Edwards, Membership

SAL

Jeff Warner, Commander
jtwmetal01@yahoo.com
Rocky Johnson, 1st Vice Commander
Ron Robbink, 2nd Vice Commander
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer
Marc DeHaan, Chaplain
Mike Brown, Historian
Steve VanderWall, Sergeant-at-Arms
Scott Kelly, Membership
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant
Ross Berens, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS

Gerald Keen, Director
gerald.keen88@gmail.com
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
(616) 842-5310



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

In September we had a well-attended 9/11 memorial with guests that included Bill Huizenga, 2nd district Representative, Bob Monetza, mayor of Grand Haven, Rebecca Hopp, Mayor of Ferrysburg, and Jeffrey Hawke, Public Safety Director for Grand Haven. It is always impressive to see the attendance and solemnity of our

Post during this memorial event.

We had our legion picnic on 12 September. Although the crowd was on the lighter side, a good time was had by all. Special thanks to SAL for their hard work!

Someone said to me last month that the only reason we are successful and flourishing is because we have great real estate. Although we are blessed with a great location, I disagree that location makes our Post the largest in Michigan. It is the volunteerism and selflessness of our MEMBERS OF ALL FAMILY UNITS that makes our Post special. It is our attention to detail and preservation of good traditions that shines through to our members and patrons. It is our dedication to Veterans' causes and Community service that keeps our Post vibrant. We have the greatest American Legion Post in Michigan because we have the greatest PEOPLE working tirelessly to meet the needs of Veterans in our community and around the nation! THAT, my friends, is why most people want to be part of our Post!

To further my point, I would like to highlight a few things that make me proud of our volunteers:

- We are sought out for Military Honors with our Honor Guard.
- Our Membership Committee cleared a backlog of 500-600 new Member and Member renewal applications in a period of 2 weeks.
- A Kitchen Committee has been formed and will begin formulating procedures and protocols for coordinating events and ensuring food safety.
- Our Coast Guard Committee served over 200 free chicken dinners to Active-Duty Coast Guard and their families during our Coast Guard Festival.
- Our volunteers assist the Salvation Army and Goodfellows at Christmas time to ensure gifts for those that cannot afford gifts for their children.
- Our Service Officers perform miracles every month.

These are just a few of many projects our volunteers participate in on a daily basis! To our Volunteers...I salute you! To those who wish to volunteer, please step up to the plate! Our building and our location can do NOTHING on their own. And whenever someone comes up with another worthy cause, I am proud to say, "WE'VE GOT THIS!"

At the Service of our Post and the American Legion,

Doc

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the Charitable Gaming Committee. If interested, or you have questions, please contact Gary Doublestein at (616) 402-6741. Thank you!



Just a few weeks ago Post 28 held a somber remembrance service for the first responders and for the victims who experienced the horrific devastation because of the actions of a few terrorists. As I watched the replays of the newscasts from that day it was as if it had just happened...I thought "but it's been 20 years, enough!"

Yes! We still should remember how the world responded, supporting us and even declaring us one people, the headlines even from those days, read "Today we are All Americans!" Hopefully some of the sentiment will continue as we move into this third decade since that tragedy. May our values, our beliefs, our actions - both individually and as a nation help make the world a better and safer place for all of mankind.

May we continue to heal as a nation, and may we never forget those who gave their lives in that noble cause and the 20 year war that ensued. May the 13 families of our service members, and those freedom seeking people, who were killed and wounded from the recent bombing in Afghanistan never be forgotten.

May we as American Legion Members face the future with hope and a new level of commitment and focus our efforts on fulfilling what Abraham Lincoln wrote in his second inaugural address,

"With malice toward none with charity for all with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right let us strive on to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan ~ to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

In His and Your Service

Duane "Smitty" Smith
Chaplain American Legion Post 28
Grand Haven MI

Taps were played for:

Don Pringnitz Army
Don Peterson - Navy
Ray Mieras - Navy
Marvin Satter - Navy
Robert Dougall, US Navy
Ron Johnson - Army

Navy helped with 3.



In His and Your Service

Duane "Smitty" Smith
Chaplain, American Legion Post 28

"To bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan"

Sick List:

Jim "Jimbo" Land, Charles Davis, Ken Kelly, Darrel Meyers,
Jack Gardner, George "Skip" Schippers

As we head into fall, the green leaves will turn into beautiful colors, pumpkins and corn stalks will decorate our yards, and children are settling into their school routines. I have enjoyed summer VERY much, but each season brings its own joy and purpose! For us, the focus to accomplish our various Program goals ramps up as we head into the next season. It is a top priority to connect with students to teach them about the rights and freedoms that we enjoy as Americans. We accomplish this with two specific Programs - Americanism and Poppy. I want to feature our Americanism program this month, and how critical it is to help students better understand the sacrifices that our Veterans made during their service, as well as the permanent impact that their service has on their lives. The responsibilities for this program (as with Poppy) is shared by two wonderful women, Pam Medendorp-Peck and Diane Janusch-Johnson, who have already begun to connect with area schools. Our Post 28 Past Commanders, Officers and the Honor Guard often join Pam and Diane at the schools to speak from their own experiences about our Veterans.

The Americanism Essay is an annual competition for students, and is a way for them to express their own views on "Americanism". The competition includes students across our nation, and our Unit 28 winners have an opportunity to compete at each level if their essay is selected. The essay theme this year is "How can we support families who provide care to their Veterans". Many of our Veterans have significant health issues due to their service, and caring for them at home is a daunting task. Not only is the Veteran's life difficult, the caregiver (spouse, child, etc.) is forever impacted. I cannot wait to see what the students will write this year, but I definitely anticipate that we will have some amazing and winning essays.

Several of us had a unique opportunity on September 15 when the new National Auxiliary President, Kathy Daudistel, asked to visit Post 28 during her visit to Michigan! She is from Kentucky, but camped in Michigan when she was a little girl, so she has some wonderful memories of West Michigan. She was able to experience the view from our deck, meet Commander "Doc" Doublestein, and tour our wonderful Post. Most importantly, her dedication to Veterans, to Auxiliary and to her new role was very evident to us.

Key Dates:

- October 26: Junior Auxiliary Meeting @ the Post, 6-8pm (upstairs in the Aux. Room)
- October 26: Auxiliary Meeting @ the Post, 7pm (upstairs) and via Zoom
- October 27: The 2nd Annual Auxiliary Halloween Fest @ the Post, dinner served from 5-7 pm, costume contest and lots of fun guaranteed (2019 Photo included!)

- Darlene DeHaan, President & PR Chair





Slopfest Photo Booth



2019-20 Veteran's Day at Local Schools 2



Photo with National President



FROM THE POST MANAGER

Once again, I would like to thank all our volunteers who come out to help in the kitchen on a weekly basis. As we move into the fall and football season is upon us, we are seeking volunteers especially for Saturday and Sunday afternoons so we can keep our food selections going on game days.

Also, most of you have noticed a changing and rotating draft beer selection as the seasons change so I encourage everyone to try something new on occasion. Our bartenders are more than happy to help you make selections based on your own personal tastes and interests.

It is our intent to keep our outdoor seating areas open as long as possible, weather permitting and through October will leave it to our members as when they want to use it based on the weather that particular day.

Let's have a great October.

Post Manager Yale

The Great Pumpkin is back! During the month of October, the Auxiliary's Children & Youth Committee is collecting donations to assist in the prevention & control of all lung and respiratory diseases in children. Look for the Great Pumpkin display at the Post, drop a donation in the canister & put your name on a smiling paper jack-o-lantern.

SAL

Hello SAL Members!

We would like to thank all Volunteers and participants of the Legion Picnic on Sept 12th, even though numbers were down from previous years, a good time was had by all.

The new Handicapped Door Project is complete! Next time you're at the Legion check out the west entrance.....it looks really nice! The SAL was happy to provide financial support for the project.

The next meeting will be held Monday, October 4th @ 7pm. Attendance has been low...grab another SAL Member and come on down. Hope to see you there!!!!

Serving Veterans, their Families and the Community
Jeff Warner, SAL Commander



O C T O B E R 2 0 2 1

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01 Burger Night 5-7 pm	02 Early Bird Special \$1.00 margaritas noon - 2 pm
03 \$1.00 domestic drafts	04 SAL meeting 7 PM	05 House Committee meeting 6 pm Post mtg 7 pm \$1.00 domestic Cans	06 Junior Auxiliary Meeting @ the Post, 6-8pm (upstairs in the Aux. Room) Succulent Swiss steak dinner 5-7 pm	07 "Seafood Thursday" 5-7pm \$10	08 Burger Night 5-7 pm	09 Early Bird Special \$1.00 margaritas noon - 2 pm
10 \$1.00 domestic drafts	11	12 \$1.00 domestic Cans	13	14 "Seafood Thursday" 5-7pm \$10	15 Chef's Choice TBA	16 Early Bird Special \$1.00 margaritas noon - 2 pm
17 \$1.00 domestic drafts	18	19 Executive Committee Mtg 7 PM \$1.00 domestic Cans	20 Zesty Spaghetti dinner 5p-7p	21 "Seafood Thursday" 5-7pm \$10	22 SAL burger night 6-8 pm	23 Early Bird Special \$1.00 margaritas noon - 2 pm
24 \$1.00 domestic drafts	25	26 Auxiliary meeting @ 7pm via Zoom \$1.00 domestic Cans	27 The 2nd Annual Auxiliary Hal- loween Fest @ the Post, dinner served from 5-7 pm, costume contest and lots of fun guaranteed	28	29	30 Early Bird Special \$1.00 margaritas noon - 2 pm
31 Halloween \$1.00 domestic drafts						