

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

www.americanlegiongh.org



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

Michael Thurber
Post 28 Commander
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Monday - Thursday 1pm - 10 pm
Friday 1pm - 12 am & Saturday 12 noon - 12 am
Sunday 12pm - 8pm

September 2023
Issue #1228

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 Post 28! WOW, all I can say is WOW!! What a great month July was, cumulating with the Coast Guard Festival. What a fun way (and BUSY) way to start off as your Commander. I had the most fun I have EVER had here at our Post, especially during the clown band when they allowed me to play sousaphone with them. I want to thank all the supports and volunteers that came out and made that weeklong event such a huge success. A special shout out to our Coast Guard committee chair Rick Chittenden. Once again, another bang-up job by you and your team! In the language of the Navy, *Bravo Zulu shipmate!!* As you may or not know, all proceeds made during Coast Guard will be donated to the group 22 Zero, a group designed to help make aware and prevent veteran suicide deaths. A noble group making a huge impact on the mental well-being of our brothers and sisters who served.

Well, it's sad to say summer is almost over (well for some it might be sad to say, I'm a fall kind of guy). Ready for college football!! September is going to be a fairly busy month. Be sure to watch the newsletter calendar for coming events. We will have a family picnic, our Auxiliary will be hosting a homecoming for local troops, and I will be putting on a dinner for ALL the past commanders at the end of the month. Not to mention our weekly dinners will still be going each and every Wednesday and of course burger nights on Fridays. Arturo's will be here providing their delicious Mexican food on most Thursdays and Saturdays.

As you can see, we always have things going on here at YOUR post. That is what makes Post 28 special and sets us apart from most other American Legion posts throughout Michigan. With that being said, we ALWAYS need help. Volunteers are the life blood of the American Legion. If you have been lurking in the shadows wondering how to help or get involved, please let our Post manager Yale, his bar staff, or me know. We will find a way to help you get involved in a way you're most comfortable.

In closing, let us all continue to make Charles A Conklin Post 28 the best American Legion we can. It is my pleasure serving you all! I hope to see everyone around the Post! Let's have a great month!!

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

2023 Coast Guard Week



L: Honoring Mike Smith

C: USCG Rear Admiral Jon Hickey and
Commander #105 Michael Thurber

R: Chicken Dinner for the Coasties!



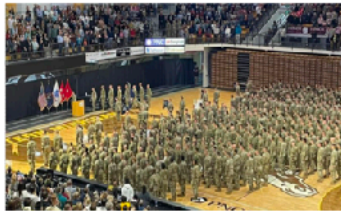
AUXILIARY

Hello September! Summer went so fast. Hope it was filled with fun, sun and family.

SAVE THE DATE. The Auxiliary is hosting a Welcome Home Open House for our Michigan National Guard troops returning from Syria on September 23. This event will be open to the public so everyone can come and say welcome home. Dinner will be from 2pm-6pm. We will be serving burgers and brats. Look for more detailed information at the Post and on our Facebook page. Please come and help thank them for their service.

Our meeting is September 26 at 7pm. I hope to see many of you there.
Cheryl George, President

**CHARLES CONKLIN
AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY UNIT #28
GRAND HAVEN**



125th Infantry Welcome Home Celebration

September 23, 2023

Food served 2-6 p.m. music until 9 p.m.

Bring friends and family and join us to celebrate the return of the Michigan National Guard 125th Infantry Regiment after their year-long deployment.



Let's celebrate the return of this group of soldiers and also raise awareness of what the Auxiliary does to support all veterans.

Open to the public

Enjoy Food, Music and 50/50 Raffles

700 S. Harbor Dr., Grand Haven

LEGION RIDERS

August was a very busy month for the Riders. Starting with serving over 400 people for the Clown Band concert, two other hot dog nights, selling raffle tickets for the September 9 Bikers for Veterans Fundraiser, and several bike rides. We were busy!!!

The Riders are currently in fourth place with the Grab and Run. We have accumulated points by going to different Legion Posts as a group and wearing our ALR vests. We have several more Grab and Runs planned including one to Southeast Michigan. We are trying to make it to first place. We are determined to keep trying to move up and meeting the challenge. Everyone is helping in the quest.

The Bikers for Veterans second annual Poker Chip Run is scheduled for September 9, 2023. This year will also be a Memorial ride honoring service members and first responders who have given their all. Cars and motorcycles may participate in the event. Registration of \$25 includes lunch, dinner, scorecard, and a raffle ticket. Stops include the following American Legions: Kent City, Croton, and Holton. We are

SAL

In September 1932 at the National Convention in Portland, Oregon, the delegates officially recognized "The Sons of The American Legion" as a part of the Legion organization. Members include sons and grandsons of those who served in the US military and are eligible for Legion membership. The Sons were formed to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

During our August meeting 26 new members were approved! Please join me in welcoming Chad Veldhouse, Alex Kapala, David Cammenga, Scott McKeller, Brian Nicholson, Matthew Gradisher, Ron McDermed, Timothy O'Brien, Todd Giant, Jerod Schoenborn, Garry Sredzinski, Gordon Julius III, John Wade, John Wade Jr, Justin Wade, Robert Hallada, Steve Kemme, Douglas Lansky, Thomas Mynsberge, John Sartor, Glenn Ver Murlen, Mike Boelens, Gerard Strach, Chad Baarman, Daniel Kerska, and Aaron Zuelke. I am looking forward to seeing you all at our post and monthly meetings.

Regarding our golf outing earlier this summer, we were privileged to have had the following Tee Sponsors: Lee's Auto Repair, Stan's Bar, Boulevard Used Cars, Pronto Pops (4 Tees), Harbor Psychological Associates, M-45 Auto Parts, West Shore Sports & Apparel, Floyd's Tire & Auto Repair (2 Tees), Mattson's Landscaping, State Farm - Mike Heck, BuhlerPrince, Bekins Auto, Grand Haven Chiropractic Clinic-Dave Ireland, Sideline Sports, and That's A Wrap. We also would like to thank Betten Chevrolet Buick Coopersville and Rick Chittenden for providing a car for the Hole-in-One Contest. Again, we had no winner for the Hole-in-One. A big thank you goes to Allies Beverage for their donations to our event this year of the Raffle Prizes. Finally, we would like to thank Paul Kubicek and TL Lowe for making the pudding shots, which have become a yearly hit to enjoy during the round of golf.

Sunday, September 10 is the date of our annual Legion picnic. All of the fun begins at 12 noon.

**Serving our veterans and community,
Ronald Ribbink - SAL Commander**

Jr SAL Michael Thurber Jr. presenting earnings of \$350 from CG festival pop and water sales, which will be forwarded to the 22Zero mission, to SAL Commander Ribbink, as Post 28 Commander Michael Thurber looks on.



Riders cont'd

conducting a raffle for a Cooler of Fun, \$250 scratch off tickets, and \$100 cash. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Raffle tickets may be purchased from any ALR member.

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, September 7 at 7:00 PM.

No road is too long if you have good company,

Steve Barnes, Director

POST NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Janna Ercole USA
Scott Wescott USN
Philip Carpenter USA
David Van Wiernen USA
Jeffrey Bouma USAF
Donald Galloway USA
Joel Mihovich USA
Phillip Lamirande USA
Martin Ruiter USA
James Smith USN
Nicholas Scovill USA
Colton Forfinski USCG

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:

Edwin L. Kott, USA
David C. Allen, USA
Wayne Hascall, USMC
Harold Pierson, USA
Past Commander #69
Ken Kelly, USN Seabees



SICK CALL

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Mel Nielsen | Bob Smith | |
| Ron Bauer | Carl Lori | Catherine Buckley |

Chaplain's Corner

I hope you follow Gary's message from last month. Not only is he our new Chaplain, but he was one of our many esteemed Commanders. I pay attention to clear comparisons to institutions and our dedication to our Creator who, by the way, just granted you the breath, sight, and comprehension to read these articles. We are created for community, and our Post supports those activities that bring us together! It would be a shame to watch it all fade away with members that expect it to be there and carry on with no intention to invest in the future! I have heard members share their concerns with the Post, but MORE IMPORTANTLY share life together. The camaraderie is healing — we care! There are events and times that test us all. Endurance and attitude are perfected in life's trials. Anything under God's control is never out of control... we do know that evil combats our peace. Without each other for support (and to add to it a good Irish song) where would we be! Your Chaplains are put here to share our faith, hope, inspiration and relationship. Remember our prayer box is there in the entry to take confidentially to the Lord your concerns, and keep them in private to trust Him to care for you, and also to thank Him with respect as we set apart His day to worship and glorify Him for as It is written in His words in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster; to give you a future and a hope.

Pam Medendorp-Peck, Auxiliary Chaplain

HONOR GUARD

Honor Guard had six services since the last Post meeting. They also took part in one Flag Day Program "Folds of Honor" and the Boys/Girls State Program.

Rifle Team Leader: David MacKellar

2023 Coast Guard Week



From The Post Manager Yale Pope

I would like to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with operations during the Coast Guard Festival. Not only were you a great help to myself and the bar staff, but you allowed the Post to surpass the last two years revenue totals. I also appreciate the understanding shown by our members as we have had to do some slight price increases.

As we transition into fall with cooler weather, some of our beer tap line will obviously change to meet demands as our focus will be on football season and enjoying the activities surrounding game days.

Also, we are looking for pizza volunteers to make and serve pizzas on designated days. Anyone interested please feel free to contact me directly.

Let's look forward to a great September.

Legionnaires September 2023 Membership Update

The 2024 Membership Renewal documents were mailed last month. Additional notices will be mailed out throughout the next ten months. As you review your document, please ensure all the information is correct. Please make pen and ink corrections as needed and we will update your information during the renewal process. Also, by logging into MyLegion.org, you can renew and make your own corrections. You can also eliminate those repetitive mail renewal notices. \



We continue to seek volunteer(s) to join the membership committee. The work is largely clerical in nature, usually would require a few hours of your time once a week. Please contact any Post 28 American Legion Officer, Linda Doublestein, Yale Pope, or myself (Phil Polyak) should you choose to help out. Thank you for your consideration.

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**, 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.

Feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns. Linda Doublestein - lindadoublestein@gmail.com, or Phil Polyak - wattnot@me.com.

September 2023

Auxiliary 2024 renewal reminders will be mailed in mid-September. Please send a check to the Post, or stop in and pay cash.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | August 30 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (Legion) | August 31 9am-3pm at Post 28  | September 1 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS | 2 |
| 3 | 4  | 5 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting | 6 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion) | 7 7 pm ALR Meeting | 8 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS | 9 ALR Bikers for Veterans Poker Chip Run 9:30 AM Registration |
| 10 12 noon Legion Family PICNIC | 11 10 am 9/11 Program at the Post 7 pm SAL Meeting | 12 | 13 5-7 PM PULLED PORK DINNER (SAL) | 14 | 15 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS | 16  |
| 17  | 18 | 19 7 pm Legion Executive Committee | 20 5-7 PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER (Legion) | 21 7 PM TRIVIA Night | 22 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS | 23 125th Infantry Welcome Home Celebration Open to the Public |
| 24 | 25 | 26 7 pm Auxiliary Meeting | 27 5-7 PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER (Legion) | 28 | 29 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS | 30 Past Commanders 5 PM Social Hour 6 PM Dinner |
| October 1 | 2 7 pm SAL Meeting | 3 6 pm - House Committee 7 pm - Post Meeting | 4 5-7 PM PERCH DINNER (Legion) | 5 7 pm ALR Meeting | 6 5:30p-7:30p BURGERS | 7 |