American Legion Post #28

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

LEGEN
Bob Wydeck, Post 28 Commander bwydeck@sbcglobal.net
Chris Jarvis, 1st Vice Commander
Jim Porenta, 2nd Vice Commander
Rick Chittenden, Adjutant
Jim Thayer, Finance Officer
Duane Smith, Chaplain
Harry Dyck, Judge Advocate
Freddy Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dave MacKellar, Historian
Garrett Veihl, Service Officer
Larry Lambert, Service Officer
Ray Ribbink, Executive-at-Large
Freddy Smith, Executive-at-Large
Jim Vette, Executive-at-Large
Dave Carlson, Past Commander

AUXILIARY
Michele Stetts, President mlstetts44@gmail.com
Kathleen Edwards, 1st VP/Membership
Linda Gieske, 2nd Vice President
Ginny Hebert, Secretary
Romayne Althaus, Treasurer
Brenda Woodman, Historian
Judy Fischer, Chaplain
Barb Kelly, Sergeant-at-Arms
Ann Kammeraad, Past President

SAL
Mike Zolik, Commander mzoilik@hotmail.com
Tom Shultz, 1st Vice Commander
Jack DeMarr, 2nd Vice Commander
T.L. Lowe, Finance Officer
Al VanDam, Chaplain
Brock Rogers, Historian
Carl Lori, Legion Advisor
Scott Kelly, Membership
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant
Tom Greenberg, Past Commander

LEGION RIDERS
Freddy Smith, Director ffsmith2000@sbcglobal.net
Bob Wydeck, Assistant Director
Chase Kamhout, Sergeant-at-Arms
Diana Arens, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
Ryan Atkins, Chaplain
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair

CLUB MANAGER
Tina Davis tina-d@att.net

NEWS
May is here and it is a busy month for Post 28. The Kentucky Derby party will be held. SAL will be putting on their Golf Outing. The 5th District will be holding their meeting at our Post. May 29th Sunday Memorial Service will be held at the Covenant Life Church. Monday May 30th we will meet at the Legion at 8:00 am for breakfast for those marching in the parade, then line up for the parade at 9:00 am, followed by a service at the Waterfront. We will then have a short ceremony at the Eternal flame. There will be a ceremony at Lake Forest Cemetery at the Veterans Monument at the GAR lot.

Remember, Memorial Day is a day to remember those who gave their lives to keep us safe and free. This is the month the Riders start their hot dogs and brats the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. I would like to thank the Auxiliary and 8840 for their contributions to the Post. Thank all of you that volunteer - you are the people that make this Post succeed. Remember, when you see a veteran thank them for their service.

During the April Post 28 meeting, 1st Vice Commander Chris Jarvis (right) was the acting Commander for the meeting.

The MacKellar family, in Memory of Charlene MacKellar, donated Service, POW and Legion Flags to Post 28.

Please remember the following members in your prayers and thoughts, and perhaps make an encouraging call or visit if you can. 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 @ dss@stirlingimpressions.com, or 616.502.1555.

In His and Your Service, Duane “Smitty” Smith, Chaplain
Chris Whalen  VINCE ANTONICH  Dewie Jordan
Ron Holland  Charles Davis  Bob Dougall
Carl Kuzyk  Todd Vantwick

TRANSFERS
James Paling, Vietnam USA
Larry Clodfelter, Vietnam USA
Walter Pedersen, Vietnam USN
Wayne Criddle, Panama USN
Roger L. Vanderlaan, Vietnam USAF
Dennis Siron, Vietnam USN
Ronald Baker, Vietnam USA

TAPS WERE PLAYED FOR:
Clifton Albers, WWII Merchant Marines
Peter Bol, Korea USN
Milan “Bill” Melinn, WWII USN

SICK CALL

American Legion Post #28

Bob Wydeck, Post 28 98th Commander

Issue #1141 May 2016
AUXILIARY

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” ~ Harry S. Truman

The Fifth District Joint Memorial Banquet is at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 14th at Glenn Hill Post 287 in Cedar Springs. Tickets are $15 and must be purchased in advance. Poppy Days are May 13, 14, & 15. Support our veterans – 100% of monies collected are used to help veterans and active duty members and their families within our community. Mail your donation to the Post, ATTN: Poppy Program. Unit 28 has five Poppy Poster winners at the Department level. Congratulations to all.

Show your support for our Girls State delegates and alternates at the Fifth District’s Orientation program, hosted by Unit 28, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 22nd. Enjoy & celebrate the Memorial Day weekend activities. The Auxiliary will serve lunch for a nominal fee after the raising of the colors at the Post at noon. Continue to participate and volunteer at the Post & in the community.

Michele Stetts, President

Officers
Linda Quaine, Chapeau
Myrna Puse, Demi Chapeau Premier
Barb Herron, Demi Chapeau Deuxieme
Ann Kammeraad, La Secrétaire
Michele Stetts, La Cassière
Kathleen Edwards, L’Archiviste
Velocey Hansen, L’Aumonier
Cleo Phipps, L’Avocate
Louise Svoboda, La Concierge
Ann Kammeraad, Le Pouvoir
Char MacKellar, Past Chapeau

Congratulations Partners on hosting a very successful Spring Pouvoir. Our guests appreciated all of your efforts. We send our wishes for a speedy recovery to Ann Kammeraad and hope to see her at our next meeting on May 10th.

Linda Quaine, Chapeau

SAL

It doesn’t take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who go into battle.

~ Norman Schwarzkopf

At the April SAL meeting 2nd Vice Commander James Porenta addressed the membership regarding Boys State. This year over 50 HS juniors have expressed interest in attending. Also, American Legion’s 5th District Commander Garrett Veihl gave us an update on Wilwin Lodge.

Upon the recommendations of our Donations and Expenditures Committee, the SAL will sponsor six boys for Boys State, two girls for Girls State, and $500.00 towards the Grand River Clean Up. In addition, the committee has received a request and will make a presentation to Wilwin Lodge at the SAL convention in June.

We welcome these new members to the SAL: Greg A. Borta, James Bredin, Kevin Gray, Scott A. Ledger, Richard Martinus, Lucas Meeusen, Colin P. Quiney, Tom Sherwood, William L. Streng, and Richard R. Waters.

We welcome and congratulate our newly elected officers for 2016-2017.

Past Commander: Mike Zolik
Commander: Tom Schultz
1st Vice Commander: Dave Ireland
2nd Vice Commander: Jeff Warner
Finance Officer: T.L. Lowe
Historian: Brock Rodgers
Chaplin: Al VanDam
Sergeant-at-Arms: Ross Berens

Appointments of Adjutant and Membership Chairperson will be made by the new Commander upon taking office.

FYI. Post Commander Bob Wydeck thanked the SAL for all of its support, financial assistance, and volunteerism over his tenure. The SAL thanks Bob for his leadership over the past year and wishes him well as he continues his commitment to the American Legion and to Post 28.

FYI. Post 28 SAL was mentioned in the National Update for its pantry fillings over the holidays.

FYI. The natural gas grill has been cleaned, sandblasted, and repainted. Thanks to Garret, Carl, and Paul.

FYI. Wow! Over 900 SAL members. Enjoy the Post. Volunteer and enjoy it even more!

Dates to Remember:
May 5th...Game Night at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Volunteers needed to help.
May 7th...Grand River Clean Up. Meet at Harbor Island at 8am. Volunteers needed.
May 28th...Legion Golf Outing.
May 30th...Memorial Day.

Mike Zolik, SAL Commander

SAL & 40

LEGION RIDERS

As I write this, the sun is out, the sky is blue and it is finally warming up. So, please be careful when you are driving. WATCH OUT FOR MOTORCYCLES, and JUST DRIVE. These are more than cute slogans. They are meant to save lives. And bikers, ride defensively, be careful and watch out for the other guy because he may not be watching out for you.

With the warm weather comes hot dog night at the Legion. The 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month ALR will be serving hot dogs (¼-pounders), brats, potato salad and baked beans. Come on down and let the bikers cook and serve you dinner. This month we have hot dogs on the 10th and 24th and our delicious pulled pork on Wednesday the 18th. Hope to see you then. Come on down and support the Legion and your veterans. Freddy Smith, ALR Director

American Legion Post #28

Grand Haven Salmon Festival
Captures Inaugural Pure Award

“The first-ever Pure Award, recognizing innovative tourism industry efforts to keep Michigan’s resources and environment in pristine condition, was presented this afternoon (April 19, 2016) to the organizers of the Grand Haven Salmon Festival.” ~ Maia Turek. For the complete news release visit www.michigan.gov.

Issue #1141 May 2016
Eligibility and Enrollment

For more information, Veterans can contact the Health Eligibility Center Enrollment and Eligibility Division toll free at 1-855-488-8440.

American Legion Post #28

2016/2017
PROSPECTIVE OFFICERS POST 28

99th Commander..................... Chris Jarvis
1st Vice Commander............... Jim Porenta
2nd Vice Commander............. John Bilski
Adjutant............................. Rick Chittenden
Finance Officer..................... Jim Thayer
Service Officer..................... Garrett Veihl
Service Officer..................... Larry Lambert
Historian............................. Dave MacKellar
Chaplain.............................. Duane Smith
Sergeant at Arms............... Freddy Smith
Executive at Large.............. Ray Ribbink
Executive at Large............... Freddy Smith
Executive at Large............... Jim Vette
Judge Advocate.................... Harry Dyck

April membership meeting:
Prospective Officers Introduction
May – Election of new officers
June – Initiation of new members
July – Swearing in of new officers

BOYS STATE PROGRAM

No matter what your political persuasion, it is difficult to ignore the level of the current political dysfunction in this country. Seventy-eight years ago the American Legion Boys State Program began. Its purpose was to introduce young men with leadership potential to the American political and governmental process. For a number of years Post 28 has recruited and sponsored the largest delegation to Boys State of any Legion Post in Michigan. In 2015, Post 28 sponsored a record thirty-six delegates from Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Coopersville High Schools. This year we've added Allendale HS and received an application from a student in Grand Rapids. We have a dozen more applicants than last year. At $325 per delegate (plus transportation costs), we will need in excess of $18,000. This presents a daunting fundraising challenge. As you plan your tax-deductible charitable donations for 2016, please remember the Boys State Program at Post 28. Even if you can’t sponsor a delegate, small donations do add up and are greatly appreciated. Donations envelopes are available in the lounge and dining area. While you watch the election hoopla on TV, keep the long game in mind. If we expect to have a competent leadership cadre to run the functions of local, state and federal governments in the future, we must inspire and mentor a new generation of leaders. I know of no other current program that is as qualified for this task as American Legion Boys State!

PS: Don’t forget the 2016 Girls State Program
Jim Porenta, 2016 Boys State Chairman

ATTENTION LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Facsimiles (digital or printed copies) of your American Legion membership cards are not an acceptable means of identification. You must have your original membership card to be served alcohol.

Tina’s Tidbits

Spring has arrived! Our “snow birds” have returned and business is picking up! Please remember the popcorn is by donation. Also if you move tables and chairs around please put them back. We have had a few issues with membership cards. Be proud to show your card and be kind to the person asking. They are doing their job. Ok, on to the fun stuff!

May 5th we are having our first ever Cinco de Mayo party! (Our translation: another party.) We will have Margaritas and Corona specials with a taco bar. (Maybe homemade tamales - if I have the time.)

May 7th is the Kentucky Derby. Bring your favorite hat and bet on our own Conklin Stakes. This is a dish-to-pass event and begins at 2 pm.

May 14th is Karaoke 6-10 pm.

May 21st is the Lakeshore Big Band 7-10 pm.

May 28th is the Legion golf outing. Forms are available at the bar.

May 30th is the Memorial Day Parade. The Post opens at 8 am, serving breakfast for those participating in the parade. Hope to see you there.

Thanks, Tina

HONOR GUARD

Honor Guard had three funerals from last post meeting. Navy helped with two funerals and Grand Haven Coast Guard helped with one funeral. Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett

VETS’ BENEFITS CORNER

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has amended its enrollment regulations to allow Veterans to complete applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. The change is effective immediately for Combat Veterans and will be effective July 5, 2016 for all Veterans.

When Veterans choose to enroll, VA offers an enhancement to their enrollment experience through “Welcome to VA” (W2VA). W2VA enhances communication by reaching out to newly enrolled Veterans through personal phone calls upon enrollment, providing assistance with health care inquiries and assisting with their initial appointment at their preferred VA healthcare facility.

For more information, Veterans can contact the Health Eligibility Center Enrollment and Eligibility Division toll free at 1-855-488-8440.

American Legion Post #28

Issue #1141 May 2016
**May 2016**

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**Drink Special**

$2.50 Margaritas

**Editor**

Newsletter Submissions
Dave MacKellar
mackeda1@aol.com

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American Legion Post #28

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**14th Annual American Legion Memorial Golf Scramble**

Saturday, May 28, 2016
West Ottawa Golf Club
Flyers available at the Post lounge

**The American Legion Post #28**

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**Issue #1141 May 2016**

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**COMMUNITY WIDE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

Sunday * May 29, 2016 * 6:00 PM

Covenant Life Church * 101 Columbus * Grand Haven

Join Us for Our Annual Memorial Day Parade

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[Memorial Golf Scramble]

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[Communion and Trivia Night]

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[International Nurses Day]

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[Memorial Golf Scramble]

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[Sally Ride Day]

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[Memorial Golf Scramble]

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[Communion and Trivia Night]

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[International Nurses Day]

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[Memorial Golf Scramble]

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[Sally Ride Day]

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[Memorial Golf Scramble]

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[Sally Ride Day]