

The American Legion Post #28 Newsletter

Post Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 2pm - 10pm+
Sat. 12pm - 10pm+

Published monthly by Charles Conklin Post #28 of the American Legion
P.O. Box 439 ~ 700 Harbor Avenue ~ Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743 ~ www.grandhavenlegion.org

Issue #1104



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

As I write this on March 21st, there actually are a few signs of spring. Yesterday I saw a tug bucking a bitter cold

headwind and pulling a dredge up Lake Michigan to start clearing Lake Michigan harbor mouths of winter-deposits of sand and silt. Its services are especially needed this year because of our historically low Lake Michigan water levels. And, the Coast Guard vessel, Katmai, has been dispatched to the Mackinaw Straits to break up the ice to enable the start of the shipping season. I heard Canadian geese flying north this morning above the fog. And a few well-tanned-but-most-welcome "snowbirds" have been spotted roosting in our lounge lately, recuperating (and refueling) after their long migration north. These are all sure signs of spring. But, unfortunately, Mother Nature apparently didn't get the word, for another major winter storm front is sweeping down from Canada bringing more cold winds and snow. Hopefully, when you read this, we will be enjoying warm days and spring will have truly arrived.

Phase II of our Post Improvement Project -- the renovation of our new lounge and dining area and entrances -- is well underway and progressing on schedule. We anticipate a grand opening in early May, if not before. Thanks to the dozens of Post volunteers who, in preparation for the February 25th arrival of the contractors, helped clear and prepare the construction area, including dismantling the bar, moving refrigeration equipment, and taking lounge furniture and supplies up on the veranda where Andy and his crew have established a nice temporary lounge which will be open throughout the construction period. Weather permitting, the outer deck will be open too. We appreciate our patrons who have adjusted and put up with any inconveniences, including the suspension of our Legion Dinner and Burger Nights. But we believe when the project is completed all will be pleased and find the wait to have been well worthwhile.

Regardless of construction, we cleaned up the Post and pressed ahead and held our traditional Legion Birthday Dinner. But not without further hard work by our B&G volunteers, including Darrel M, Ray R, Paul K, TL L, John K (from Seattle!), Mack McK, Carl L, Harold W, Ed DeK, Bob W, Dave C and Rocky J, who moved furniture, utensils and supplies and setup a beautiful dining area upstairs for the evening. And special thanks to those Veteran- and Auxiliary-member volunteers who cleaned the kitchen cupboards, refrigerator, and all their contents, of the inevitable dust created from destruction and construction work. And sincere thanks to our chef, Cindy C, and our wonderful SAL and Auxiliary members, including Paul K, Phil Y, TL L, Mike B, Bill K, Kay D, Linda G, Pat B, Ginny H, Norma L, Melodie S, and Kathy S), who prepared a wonderful prime-rib dinner, carted it upstairs and served it hot and on time in our Post ballroom. And thanks to our Auxiliary Past Presidents who donated a delicious and beautiful birthday cake, and to our Auxiliary and 8&40 Ottawa County Salon No. 499 for their generous birthday gift-donations to the Post. Our Honor Guard Leader, George Bennett, was our well-deserving 50/50 drawing winner.

We also wish to thank our Dinner Guest Speaker, Dr. Gary Doublestein, one of our newest Post 28 Legion members. His thoughtful comments and observations--drawn from his years of service with our Navy, Marines, Air Force and Army in Vietnam, Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan, and here at home, plus his talents as a guitarist and singer, were well appreciated. Thank you Gary, and again welcome to the Legion and Post 28.

We have several April activities detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter you may wish to attend, plus a May 7th Post meeting with the election of our 2013-14 officers. So check your calendar and plan on joining us. You can also have fun (truly) volunteering at the Post. The Honor Guard and Building & Grounds crews, for example, need additional volunteers. Come join us! Take care, Happy Spring, and see you at the Post! -- Ron Bauer, Commander

American Legion Officers

Ron Bauer, Commander
Ed DeKoekkoek, 1st Vice Commander
David Carlson, 2nd Vice Commander
Rick Chittenden, Adjutant
Jim Thayer, Finance Officer
Chris Tanke, Chaplain
Hugh Hyde, Judge Advocate
Sue Metzler, Sergeant-At-Arms
Ken Kelly, Adam Shumaker, Service Officers
Nathan VanKampen, Historian
Butch Balk and Bill Kaufman
Executive at Large
Phil Smith, Past Commander

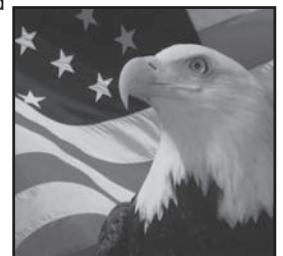
Gene Rothi Scholarship

Applications for the American Legion Gene Rothi Scholarship for 2013 are now available at the counseling offices of Grand Haven and Spring Lake High Schools. Applications can also be picked up at Post #28 on Harbor Ave.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Members Robert Byers, Gary Doublestein, Kenneth Fall, Richard Peters, Edward Ricklefs, Raymond Ricklefs, and Rebecca Scharlow, and Transfer, John Zelenka (from Post 205). Taps were played for: Robert Casemier, Jack Voshel, Edwin Jacobs, and William 'Bill' DeVette.





AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Last year at this time we were navigating road construction past the Post. Now the Post itself is going through renovation. We are looking forward to seeing the Legion in it's new finery. In the meantime our meetings continue on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Spring is here according to the calendar, but is arriving in it's usual Michigan fashion---keeping us guessing. I hope everyone had a Happy Easter. At our meeting this month the slate of officers will be read and voting will take place. They will be installed in June.

Ann Kammeraad, President

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Ann Kammeraad, President
 Michele Stetts, 1st Vice President
 Diane Kirk, 2nd Vice President
 Gloria Honey, Secretary
 Romayne Althaus, Treasurer
 Molly Pippis, Historian
 Peggy Vermeer, Chaplain
 Sgt. at Arms; Barb Kelly
 Cleo Phipps, Past President



Ladies Auxiliary members serve the Prime Rib Dinner at the 94th American Legion Birthday Dinner.



The American Legion Birthday cakes were provided by the Ladies Auxiliary Past Presidents.

Andy's Draught

Progress is being made to the new bar. They are still on track to finish the end of this month. I have been posting pics on our Facebook page if you would like to follow the progress.

We are in the planning stages of a program for the new barstools. For a donation of \$250 you can have a name engraved on a small plaque that will be mounted to the back of one of the new barstools. It could be to memorialize a loved one or you could have your own name engraved. No, this does not mean that you are guaranteed that seat every time you come in. It just shows that you are an extremely generous member and you support your Post. There are a limited number of stools available so don't wait.

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, send me an email to andyvpst28@yahoo.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line and your name in the body. Other paperless options would be to check out our website at www.grandhavenlegion.org or look us up on Facebook (Charles A Conklin American Legion Post 28).

The first Saturday in May is the Kentucky Derby. Saturday, May 4th come down for great food (bring a dish to pass), great hats (Ladies crazy hat contest), mint juleps and K.D. raffles. Come down for the race & stay for karaoke. April's drink specials: \$2 Blue Popsicles & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday.

Cheers Andy

Proposed Nominees 2013/2014

Post 28 Officers

96th Commander.....Ed DekoekKoek
 First Vice.....Dave Carlson
 Second Vice.....Bob Wydeck
 Adjutant.....Rick Chittenden
 Finance Officer.....Jim Thayer
 Service Officers.....Ken Kelly / Adam Shumaker
 Historian.....Dave "Mack" MacKellar
 Chaplain.....George Bennett
 Sergeant At Arms.....Susan Metzler or
 Nathan VanKampen
 Executive At Large....Chris Whalen
 Executive At Large....Garrett Veihl
 Judge Advocate.....
 Past Commander.....Ron Bauer

If you are a Legion member in good standing and would like to inquire about any of these positions contact Rick Chittenden, Dave MacKellar, or Phil Smith. For the good of the Legion.



American Legion's Birthday Dinner, Guest Speaker "Dr. Gary Doublestein" also sang "The Impossible Dream" to all the guests at the Birthday Dinner.



SAL COMMENTS

As I write this, Winter still has us in its icy grip, even though the calendar says it is officially Spring. Big things are happening at the Post, as the entire bar and office area has been totally demolished in preparation for the new construction to come. A number of SAL members were part of the work party that moved the office to the back bar area; toted tables and stools upstairs for the temporary bar on the porch; and removed TVs, speakers, coolers, sinks, cabinets, and more.

I don't know about you, but I am so excited for this renovation! It has been over 40 years since the bar was remodeled, and even though it was comfortable and familiar, the remodel was long overdue. The new bar will be much more comfortable and functional with expanded seating, better storage and all new plumbing and tap system. I'm sure our bartenders can't wait for the new bar to be up and running, and there is no question that this will be the crown jewel of our Post once it's completed.

The bar renovation is scheduled to be done around the end of April, and should see a ton of use over the Memorial Day holiday. Shortly after Memorial Day, the Post 28 SAL will host the Michigan SAL State Convention. We are very excited to have SAL members and officers visiting from Posts all over the state. I hope you will join me in welcoming them to our beautiful post, and show them what a great Legion "family" we have at Post 28.

Spring also is the time that we select new officers for the coming year. Many of our current officers have agreed to serve for another year, but we do have a few openings to fill. Our Chaplain, Tom "Cap'm" Glockzin passed away during the year, so we need to find a new Chaplain. This position involves saying a prayer at the beginning and end of our monthly meeting, and representing the Post 28 SAL at memorial services and funerals. We also desperately need an Adjutant. The Adjutant is the secretary of the SAL and is responsible for taking the minutes at meetings, sending letters and thank you notes, and preparing the agenda for meetings. Paul Kubicek has done an outstanding job as our temporary Adjutant, and I want to thank him profusely for his loyal service to our organization. Unfortunately, Paul has so many other obligations that he can't continue on in this role. If you would like to serve in either of these capacities and get involved with a great organization that does done a ton of good for the Post, veterans' organizations and causes, and the community, please come to our next meeting on Monday, April 1. Or please feel free to call me personally at 248-980-6382 or email me at tom.g@compass.edu.

Special thanks to all our volunteers and the core members (you know who you are) who always show up and pitch in to make our SAL chapter run so smoothly...let's work hard to make it another great year!
Tom Greenberg, SAL Commander

Post 28 has assembled a team "Mudders For Our Brothers" to compete in a "Tough Mudder" challenge Sunday June 30th at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan to support the "Wounded Warrior Project" & "Operation Comfort Warriors." The Tough Mudder is a 10-12 mile course that involves 20-25 military style obstacles and lots of mud.

Donations can be made at the American Legion Post 28. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks can be made payable to American Legion Post 28 – memo line "Tough Mudder". For more information visit www.toughmudder.com or call Adam Shumaker at (616)617-2722. Thank you for your support.



LEGION RIDERS

April.... Spring has been here now for about a week and I think we can call this month the start of the riding season. It should be getting warmer and the daylight will be longer, too. Many of our members will be coming home from warmer climates and I know they are looking forward to getting back to the nice cool Grand Haven weather.

By the time you get this newsletter we will have had our first Ride Committee meeting. We have 15 destinations to look at from the Riders survey we took. There are also other rides both around the State and outside the State that some of us may like to do. If you like to go on the rides we should have plenty of places to go this year.

As of now the Post bar makeover should be at the halfway point. When I wrote this newsletter everything was going well and the new bar should be done by May 1st which means we can start the ALR Hotdog and Brat nights. They will run from May thru September on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month and we will be selling the hotdog or brat meals for \$5.00 which includes a drink ticket.

As we dust off the bikes and take those first few rides of the season let's be safe and have some fun. I'm looking forward to this coming season and to seeing some new faces on our rides.

Ride safe. Toby Ross (ALR Director)

SAL OFFICERS

Tom Greenberg, Commander
Mike Zolik, 1st Vice Commander
Tom Shultz, 2nd Vice Commander
Rich Kelly, Finance Officer
Tom Glockzin, Chaplain
Brock Rodger, Sergeant-At-Arms
Paul Kubicek, Historian
Carl Lori, Legion Advisor
Mike Brown, Membership
Chuck Yonker, Adjutant
TL Lowe, Past Commander

8&40 Salon 499

Glad spring is here, as much as we all enjoy the beautiful white stuff, nice to have warmer weather. Our next meeting will be on April 9th at 7 PM. We will be discussing what fund raisers we can do in the upcoming year. Our donations go to assist in the prevention and to control lung and respiratory diseases in children. Chapeau, Char MacKellar

8 & 40 OFFICERS

Char MacKellar, Chapeau
Barb Kelly, Demi Chapeau Premier
Michele Stetts, Demi Chapeau Deuxieme
Ann Kammeraad, La Secretaire
Peggy Vermeer, La Cassiere
Cleo Phipps, L'Archiviste
Veloce Hansen, L'Aumonier
Pat Vadas, L'Concierge
Cleo Phipps, L'Avocate
Ann Kammeraad, Le Pouvoir

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 7 funerals. Army National Guard Honor Guard helped with 4 funerals, Navy Honor Guard helped with 2 funerals. Members of the Honor Guard and the Navy also attended a Memorial Service for one of our members, William DeVette at American Legion, Fonger Post #179. A special thanks to Post #179 for letting us have the Memorial service at their Post.

The Honor Guard is in need of new members. If you would like to help out with Honor Guard activities please contact George Bennett (geoabsr@comcast.net) or Dave MacKellar (mackeda1@aol.com). Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett

LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

Toby Ross, Riders Director
Mike Stressman, Sergeant-at-Arms
John Kemme, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
Bob Wydeck, Assistant Director
Pastor Wes Spyke, Chaplain
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair
Burl Newbill, Ride Captain



Auxiliary President Ann Kammeraad, 8 & 40 Chapeau Char MacKellar and Past Auxiliary President Cleo Phipps present Commander Ron Bauer with Birthday gifts to the American Legion from their organizations.

APRIL DRINK SPECIALS: \$2.00 BLUE POPSICLE		APRIL 2013					May ~ Memorial Day, Kentucky Derby Party, Legion Memorial Golf Outing June ~ Flag Day
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	2 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	3 NO DINNER	4	5 NO BURGERS	6	
7	8 \$2 U-Call Tall	9 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	10 NO DINNER	11 7pm Legion Riders Meeting	12 NO BURGERS	13	
14	15 \$2 U-Call Tall	16 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	17 NO DINNER	18 7pm Trivia	19 NO BURGERS	20	
21	22 \$2 U-Call Tall	23 7pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	24 NO DINNER	25	26 NO BURGERS	27	
28	29 \$2 U-Call Tall	30 \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	MAY 1 5PM PERCH DINNER (MAYBE)	2	3 6PM BURGERS	4  Noon Derby 6pm Karaoke	