

# The American Legion

## Post #28 Newsletter

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

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P.O. Box 439 ~ 700 Harbor Avenue ~ Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743 ~ [www.grandhavenlegion.org](http://www.grandhavenlegion.org)

Issue #1116

### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



MIA/POW What does it stand for?  
In 1971, Mrs. Mary Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of American Prisoners and Missing in Southwest Asia, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. You will notice the table set up in our downstairs. Props: 1 small round table, 1 chair leaning against the table, White table cloth, table set for one, salt shaker, 1 lemon slice, black vase with yellow ribbon, black napkin, red rose, and a water glass inverted on the table. Go to the navy web site and read what each item stands for. [WWW.goatlocker.org/resources/nav/powmia.htm](http://WWW.goatlocker.org/resources/nav/powmia.htm) Our government could do more to obtain the release of our POW/MIAs by using our Special Forces to do all that they can to infiltrate the terrorist group and bring home our POW/MIAs.

### American Legion Officers

Ed DeKoekkoek, Commander  
David Carlson, 1st Vice Commander  
Bob Wydeck, 2nd Vice Commander  
Rick Chittenden, Adjutant  
Jim Thayer, Finance Officer  
George Bennett, Chaplain  
Garrett Veihl, Judge Advocate  
Nathan VanKampen, Sergeant-At-Arms  
Adam Shumaker, Service Officers  
David MacKellar, Historian  
Butch Balk and Chris Whalen  
Executive at Large  
Ron Bauer, Past Commander

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members and transfers voted on at our March Meeting were Wayne G. Boes, Robert L. Goding, Patrick W. Grantsynn, Chase J. Kamhout, Alex N. Spear, Curtis L. Ellsworth, Harold G. Warp, Gregory W. Maxwell. Transfers were Scott A. Alexander, Byron A. Buitendorp, William J. Goryl, Gerald L. Nelson, Gerald L. Wing, and Robert J. Andresiak. WELCOME ABOARD

Taps were played at the March Meeting for Eugene Van Dyke, Navy, WWII, James Rosa, Army, Vietnam Earl Vieau, Army Air Corps, WWII, Stuart Vander Lee, JR., Army, and Richard Westerhoff, Air Force, Korea. REST IN PEACE!



Pictured: Honor Guard Leader George Bennett, Chris Jarvis, Past Commander Dave MacKellar and Commander Ed DeKoekkoek. New member for the Rifle Team, Chris Jarvis received his Rifle Team pins and Cord.

### Gene Rothi Scholarship

Applications for the American Legion Gene Rothi Scholarship for 2014 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 Avenue.



Past Commander and Post Adjutant Rick Chittenden and Commander Ed DeKoekkoek present Post Manager Andy VanderHoek with "Certificate of Appreciation" for all of his work with the new design of the post bar and dining area.



## AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Greetings Auxiliary Members, Happy Easter and (do I dare say it?) Happy Spring! I hope you were able to attend the Legion's Birthday celebration in March...fantastic food and camaraderie. Happening this month: A slate of officers for 2014-2015 was presented at our March 25th meeting, but there is still time to add your name to the list. If you are interested in running for office – President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, Historian, Sgt-At-Arms - please notify Ann Kammeraad or Cleo Phipps (see the hostess booklet - received with your dues renewal - for phone numbers). Voting will take place at our April 22th meeting & the new officers will be installed in June. With over 1,000 members, we should have 2 or 3 running for each office. But if holding an office isn't your thing, perhaps you would consider being a chairperson for one of our Auxiliary programs or a dessert hostess for one of our meetings. Get involved! We are hosting the ladies from the VFW on Thursday, April 24th at 5:30 p.m. We start with a light dinner and dessert, followed by a rousing game of Crazy Bunko with prizes. Come join us for a night of food, fun and friendship. The Auxiliary is coordinating the Wednesday night chicken dinner on April 30th. If you can volunteer to work this event, please let me know. Our Girls State program is in full swing. We're hoping to send at least 15 girls this year. As always, I encourage our members to continue participating and volunteering, whether for events at the Post, within our community, or at the Veterans' Home. Keep track of your volunteer hours and any personal monetary donations. Attend a meeting to give a list of your hours and donations to our Community Service chairman, Camille Crapsey, or put it in the Auxiliary mailbox at the Post. Like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/unit28ALA](http://facebook.com/unit28ALA)); you can check for upcoming events & meetings & view photos of activities.

Respectfully, Michele Stetts, President

### AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Michele Stetts, President  
 Charlene MacKeller, 1st Vice President  
 Diane Kirk, 2nd Vice President  
 Gloria Honey, Secretary  
 Romayne Althaus, Treasurer  
 Barbara Herron, Historian  
 Peggy Vermeer, Chaplain  
 Sgt. at Arms; Barb Kelly  
 Ann Kammeraad, Past President



## WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU

### APRIL 2ND

**PERCH DINNER** Fries, slaw and roll.  
 Ray's Gang.

### APRIL 9TH

**ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI**

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Boys)

### APRIL 16TH

**COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER**

Mashed, veggies, corn bread. (Legion Riders)

### APRIL 23RD

**Succulent Swiss Steak**

Mashed, green bean casserole, roll.  
The "A" Team

### APRIL 30TH

**CHARCOAL GRILLED HALF CHICKEN DINNER**

Potato, veggie, roll. Ladies Aux.

### MAY 7TH

**PERCH DINNER**

Fries, slaw and roll. Ray's Gang.

Dinner with a view. "For the Good of the Legion" Thank You.

## Andy's Draught

Congratulations to Post #28! We were voted the winner of the People's Choice award for best Fish Fry four years in a row. Thank you to everyone who voted. This is a big deal for us because this is our first People's Choice award. Thank you to Ray and your hard working crew for putting this dinner on.

For those of you that have not seen inside the kitchen during a perch dinner, I'm going to give you a little insight. This is our most labor intensive dinner. It requires 15-20 volunteers in two shifts. The first crew comes in early to clean and prep the filets. Then during the dinner the kitchen is a flurry of hot fries and steaming perch. I was able to help once breading the fish. It was back breaking labor. I have a new found respect for those volunteers. Everyone had their job to do and that kitchen ran like a finely tuned machine.

We are still taking names and email addresses if you would like to receive your newsletter via email. Just email me at

[andyvpost28@yahoo.com](mailto:andyvpost28@yahoo.com) with "Newsletter" in the subject line. Other paperless options would be to check out our website at [www.grandhavenlegion.org](http://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 3rd 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. This month's wine feature is a Pinot Noir from Trinity Oaks. This deep red wine has bright strawberry and black cherry flavors with hints of green tea and mint. A smooth silky texture and mild tannins makes this wine a savory pairing with perch or any of our Wednesday night dinners for \$3 per glass or \$10 for the bottle. April's drink specials: \$3.00 Dream Cruise, \$1 Sunday Drafts, \$2 U-Call tall Mondays & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday.

Cheers Andy



1st Vice Commander Dave Carlson, Chaplain George Bennett, Commander Ed DeKoekkoek, 5th District Commander Catharine Buckley, Past Commander Dave MacKellar, Past Commander Garrett Veihl, Past Commander Jack Van Weelden and Past Commander Ron Bauer were at 5th District meeting where Past Commander MacKellar was presented with the "Legionnaire of the Year 2014" Award for the 5th District. Also Commander Buckley presented the "American Legion Riders, Post #28 Dept of Michigan, The American Legion Legacy Run" Award.



## SAL COMMENTS

Well, the coldest, snowiest Winter in a long time is finally starting to show some signs of ending! I'm sure we are all looking forward to some warm, sunny Spring days and being able to spend time on the Legion deck enjoying a cold beverage. While it's a great place to hang out with friends, it's important to remember that the real purpose of the American Legion is to celebrate and honor our Veterans who have done so much to keep us all safe and free. The SAL isn't just a drinking club (although we've been known to do our share), it is a way for us to give back to Veterans, Veteran's causes and charities, and the

Grand Haven community. As a non-profit organization, we conduct a lot of fund-raising events throughout the year, and the proceeds of those events are all donated to those in need.

Some of the things we donated in the past month - sound deadening panels for the Legion Bar, fishing rods and reels for the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, sending 2 boys to Boys State along with transportation costs, the Grand River Green-Up (river clean up), a wireless microphone system for the Post, Operation Comfort Warriors, and more.

Coming up soon, the Grand River Green-Up (April 19th - clean up volunteers needed - contact Brock Rodgers for details) and the Memorial Day weekend golf outing (people needed to cook, serve, play golf, and find tee sponsors...contact Rich Kelly, Paul Kubicek or TL Lowe for more info). Please consider helping out at an SAL event or two during the year!

This is the time of year that we nominate our new officers for the coming year, which begins in June. My term as Commander is coming to an end, and I will not be repeating. Also, our long-time Finance Officer (18 years!!!), Rich Kelly, has decided to step down. Many, many thanks to Rich for all his hours and incredible dedication to the SAL...he will be very hard to replace!

Our nominated slate of new officers for 2014-2015 is: Tom Greenberg - Past Commander, Mike Zolik - Commander, Tom Schultz - 1st Vice Commander, Jack DeMarr - 2nd Vice Commander, TL Lowe - Finance Officer, Al VanDam - Chaplain, Brock Rodgers - Historian, Ross Rigoli - Sergeant at Arms. We will be voting on this slate of officers at our next meeting - Monday, April 7 at 7:30pm. Hope to see you there!

Tom Greenberg, SAL Commander

## SAL OFFICERS

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

## 8&40 Salon 499

Our Salon is hosting the Spring Pouvoir of the 8 & 40 at our post on April 11 & 12. We plan on preparing for this event at our next meeting on April 8th at 7pm. We will discuss the final details and will have a rehearsal for the "Fashion Show" we are presenting at the Spring Pouvoir. The goal of our Salon is to donate to research to find a cure for respiratory lung diseases in children. Chapeau, Char MacKellar

## 8 & 40 OFFICERS

Char MacKellar, Chapeau  
Barb Kelly, Demi Chapeau Premier  
Barbara Herron, Demi Chapeau Deuxieme  
Ann Kammeraad, La Secretaire  
Peggy Vermeer, La Cassiere  
Cleo Phipps, L'Archiviste  
Veloyce Hansen, L'Aumonier  
Cleo Phipps, L'Avocate  
Ann Kammeraad, Le Pouvoir

## LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

Bob Wydeck, Riders Director  
Fred Smith, Assistant Director  
Mike Stressman, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Diana Arens, Secretary  
Larry Foose, Treasurer  
Ryan Atkins, Chaplain  
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair  
Burl Newbill, SR. Road Captain  
Larry Lambert, Grab-an-Run

## NOMINEES FOR OFFICE 2014/2015

97th Commander....Dave Carlson  
1st Vice.....Bob Wydeck  
2nd Vice.....Carl Lori  
Chris Jarvis  
Adjutant.....Rick Chittenden  
Finance Officer.....Jim Thayer  
Service Officer.....Ken Kelly  
Service Officer.....  
Historian.....  
Chaplain.....George Bennett  
Sergeant at Arms.....Nathan VanKampen  
Executive at Large...Butch Balk  
Executive at Large...Ray Ribbink  
Judge Advocate.....Ron Bauer  
Past Commander.....Ed DeKoekKoek

Election of the 2014/2015 Officers will take place at the May 6th Post meeting.

As of March 12th Post 28 1517 members. 105% of goal.

## LEGION RIDERS



I would like to thank Toby Ross for his two years of being Director of our ALR post 28 chapter along with all the other elected and appointed chairs as we all feel they did a great job. I also would like to thank all the other members for doing such a great job of volunteering when needed. April we have our Pulled Pork Dinner on Weds. the 16th, and we will be doing Hot Dogs on April 22. This will be our last hot dog and chips night. Starting May we will begin our 2nd and 4th tues. Bike nights, with the potato salad and beans and a drink tickets. Stay warm!!!!

Bob ALR Director

The following members and friends of the Legion have had to face medical issues or deaths since we last met. Please reach out to them and their families if you feel so lead and keep all of them in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chaplain: George Bennett  
Vince Antonich  
Charles Davis  
Doug Telgenhof  
Jim "Jimbo" Land



## HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 5 funerals. Honor Guard from the Army National Guard helped with 2 funerals, Honor Guard from the Navy helped with 1 funeral and Honor Guard the Air Force helped with one funeral.

We would like to thank the "Richard Westhoff" family for donating Richards flag back to the post after the funeral. The family was at the Legion when we installed and raised Richard's flag on the Legion Flag pole. We also have a new member for the Rifle Team, Chris Jarvis. Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett

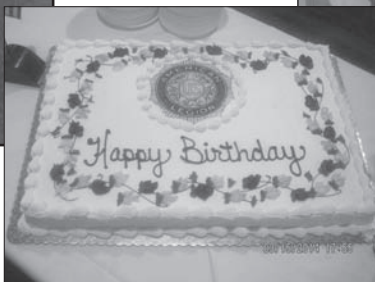


C. Robert Secrist  
Brigadier General,  
Retired, was the  
Guest Speaker at the  
95th American Legion  
Birthday party.





Members for the Ladies Auxiliary and SAL helped prepare the dinner for the American Legion Birthday Party.

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



1st Vice Commander Dave Carlson and Commander Ed DeKoekoek presented 60 Years Award to Paul Rose and 50 Years Award to Cliff Pfaff.



APRIL DRINK SPECIALS: \$3.00 DREAM CRUISE		<b>APRIL 2014</b>					May ~ Memorial Day, Kentucky Derby Party, Legion Memorial Golf Outing June ~ Flag Day
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		1 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	2 <b>5PM PERCH DINNER</b>	3 7pm ALR Meet	4 <b>6PM BURGERS AND FISHWICH</b>	5 6pm Karaoke	
6 OPEN 1PM - 7PM \$1 Draft	7 8am Building and Grounds 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	8 7PM 8 & 40 MEETING 6pm Legion Hot Dogs \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	9 <b>5PM ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI</b>	10	11 <b>6PM BURGERS AND FISHWICH</b>	12	
13 OPEN 1PM - 7PM \$1 Draft	14 8am Building and Grounds \$2 U-Call Tall	15 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	16 <b>5PM ROAST PORK DINNER</b>	17 7pm Trivia	18 <b>6PM BURGERS AND FISHWICH</b>	19	
20  CLOSED	21 8am Building and Grounds \$2 U-Call Tall	22 7pm Auxiliary Meeting 6pm Legion Hot Dogs \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	23 <b>5PM SWISS STEAK DINNER</b>	24	25 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	26 <b>6PM VIETNAM VETERANS DINNER</b>	
27 OPEN 1PM - 7PM \$1 Draft	28 8am Building and Grounds \$2 U-Call Tall	29 \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	30 <b>5PM CHARCOAL GRILLED HALF CHICKEN</b>	MAY 1 7pm ALR Meet	2 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	3  <b>12PM KENTUCKY DERBY</b>	