

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 #1088



COMMANDERS COMMENTS

My fellow Legionaries: A great big cheer, the side walks are done, the curbs are in, and the first layer of asphalt is down. If you were staying away from the Post because of the poor road conditions, you'll have no trouble coming down now. Veterans day was a very busy time at the Post. The ceremony at the Eternal Flame was very moving and the dinner was just fantastic. Our guest speaker Lt. Commander Sean Brady, Commander of U. S. Coast Guard Sector Field Office Grand Haven was outstanding. I can not thank our Auxiliary, and SAL

enough for such a great meal. All of you do a fantastic job. I would also like to thank Legion members that attended the two schools on Wednesday and Thursday the the 9th and 10th of November to tell our stories about serving our country to the students. They come up with some great questions. Right around the corner is the kids Christmas party, so please get down to the Post and get your kids signed up. Chili Cook off is creeping up also. Sign up for next years event will be January 2, 2012, and the cook off takes place on February 11, 2012. Don't forget that the old wooden nickels will no longer be honored after December 31, 2011. One last thing, four Post members, Nathan VanKampen, Historian, Ron Bauer, 1st Vice Commander, Chris Wahlen, Chairman of Charitable Games, and my self Commander Phil Smith, attended a plant tour at RI Miller in Grand Haven on November 10th to receive gifts to be shipped to our troops in Afghanistan as part of Adapt-A-Platoon, that was started by Chris. So until next month, I'll see you at the Post Phil Smith Commander Post # 28

American Legion Officers

Phil Smith, Commander
Ron Bauer, 1st Vice Commander
Ed DeKoekkoek, 2nd Vice Commander
Butch Balk, 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
Hugh Hyde and Bill Kaufman
Executive Board at Large
David L. MacKeller "Mack", Past Commander

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to our new members and transfers: Danny Gunn, Robert Meconis, Lawerence Klunder, Gerald Nelson, Harold Nelson, Jon Swartz, David VanderWall, Gilbert Rodriguez Sr., Edward Zachar Jr., Max Baauw, George Kotkovic, and Melvin Meyer. Taps were played for, Daniel Cosmann, Barnard Karri Sr., Marine Staff Sergenat Sprovtsoff of Davison, Mi., KIA Afghanistan, Army Capt. Drew Russell of Scotts, Mi., KIA Afghanistan, Police Officer Trevor Slot, of Walker, MI., Killed in the line of Duty.



Honor Guard Leader George Bennett a WWII Army Air Corps Veteran and 1st Vice Commander Ron Bauer were part of Legion Flight 311. On October 19 they went to Washington, D.C. with 47 other Michigan Veterans. They visited the National WWII, Korean, Vietnam War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Iwo Jima and SEABEE monuments.

WOODEN NICKLES

The wooden nickels that Post 28 has used for 93 years are being retired. If you currently have one of these little beauties please use it by the end of the year. (January 1st, 2012) New and exciting wooden nickels will go into circulation at that time. So get a delicious libation from Andy and his crew while you can.

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Executive Committee



WEDNESDAY'S MENU

DECEMBER 7TH

MEATLOAF (Serving before and after the dedication of the Fallen Heroes Monument)

DECEMBER 14TH

ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER

DECEMBER 21ST

PULLED PORK DINNER

DECEMBER 28TH

SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK

Open to the public N/A Alcoholic Beverages.
Serving from 5-7pm. \$7

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 3 funerals. Army National Guard helped with one funeral. Honor Guard members Ed DeKoekkoek, Dave MacKellar, Rick Chittenden, Dewie Jordan, Hugh Hyde & George Bryant helped stand guard at visitation for Honor Guard member Bernard Kraai.

Members Ron Bauer, George Bennett, Carl Lori & Dave MacKellar. Attended 4-H Club meeting in Norton Shores. Showed how to fold Flag, talked about Flag Etiquette. Presented awards to Leader Kim Rathsburg and 9 members.

Honor Guard members went to Glerum Elementary School in Holland and White Pines Middle School in Grand Haven for Veterans Day programs along with the VFW. Members also attended Veterans Day program at the Eternal Flame on 11-11-11. Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Cleo Phipps, President
Ruth Kelly, 1st Vice President
Diane Kirk, 2nd Vice President
Ann Kammeraad, Secretary
Romayne Althaus, Treasurer
Michele Stetts, Historian
Peggy Vermeer, Chaplain
Barb Kelly, Sgt. At Arms
Molly Pippis, Char MacKellar,
Sharron MacConnack, Executive Board
Peggy Vermeer, Ruth Kelly, Kay Dougall,
Lisa Davis, Parliamentarian
Jean Koehs, Past President



AUXILIARY COMMENTS

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. It is raining but snow is on the way. Many thanks to Melanie for her work on membership. New Membership Chairman is Myrna Puse at 733 Summer St., Spring Lake MI 49456, phone (616) 607-8008. The Veteran's Turkey Dinner was a great success. Special thanks to Jack for taking the turkeys out of the oven and his crew for carving them, the S.A.L. crew for all the cooking and cleaning, the Auxiliary for serving and cleaning. We love our Veterans. We had initiation in October. We had the honor of having Christine Merlington, 5th District President, and her husband, a member of S.A.L. for dinner and our meeting. We appreciate her coming to our post. We are helping out in the Grand Rapids Veterans Home on November 30 to help with their Christmas Gift Shop. Fruit plates will be assembled to go to Veterans and their surviving spouses at nursing homes on December 12, at 2:00. Shopping for the Goodfellows will start on December 1. You can pick up your slips from 6-8pm at the Legion. Call Barb Kelly at 846-1649 if you would like to shop for the children. Wrapping party is on Thursday December 15 at 7:00pm, with delivery on Saturday, December 17. Breakfast for Delivery Personal will be at 8:30. We will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting is January 24, 2012. Merry Christmas to all!

Cleo Phipps President

8&40 Salon 499

As we approach the holiday season, I want to remind all our partners that we do not meet in December or January. If you have not paid your dues, it is time to get your money in. They are still \$11.00 and you need to send them to Charlene Mac Kellar, 330 De Witt Ln, SL 49456 or leave them at the Post for her. She has the Partnership cards. Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year. I hope you will enjoy the many events going on at the Post during that time.
Ann Kammeraad, Chapeau.

Andy's Draught

Road construction update: we have asphalt! We have access to the Post with little to no obstructions what so ever. No more driving through the Coast Guards lawn. Sorry Commander Brady and thank you for your patience.

Just incase you didn't know already the existing wooden nickels will no longer be accepted after the first of the year. We will be instituting a new drink token program starting 2012. They will still have the same value as the old nickels, but they will change on an annual basis. So check your junk drawers, ashtrays and the bottom of your purses for any wooden nickels and use them before the end of the year.

The Kid's Christmas party will be Saturday the 10th. It will be similar to our party last year with games, crafts and cookie decorating for the kids. Santa and Mrs. Clause will be here for picture. There will be Christmas cards to be signed and decorated for our troops as well as a light lunch being served. The party will be from noon - 2pm. We ask that each child bring a new unwrapped toy for the Crusade for Toys campaign.

Some things I'm working on for 2012 are hosting a Wild Game Dinner, another fly fishing trip with our Wounded Warriors and probably another bourbon tasting. Our first bourbon tasting filled up so fast I didn't have time to advertise it.

Keep your eye on the calendar for our dinners, dances and events.

December drink specials: \$3 Christmas Martini, \$2 U-Call-Tall Monday & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday. Merry Christmas!
Andy



Past Commander Ray Ribbink presented Past Commander Mike Zeeff with Life Membership Awards.



Commander Phil Smith presented Special Commendation Award to E-4 Spec. Joseph MacKeller for his tour of duty in Kuwait while serving as a Medic with the US Army.



SAL COMMENTS

The weather will be quickly changing now that Winter is almost upon us. The beauty of the snow helps the work of shoveling and driving through it. Be careful and give yourself plenty of extra time to arrive safely at your destination.

Tickets will be available shortly at the bar for the New Year's Eve party. Tickets are \$17.50 per person or \$35.00 for a pair of tickets. The band will be Sweet Justice. Party favors, appetizers, and Clover Bar Pizza will be served. This is a great way to bring in the New Year with friends and family. Hope to see you there.

Vegas Night is on January 28th. We are always looking for dealers or workers to assist on this great night of fun. Please contact Mike Brown if you are interested in helping. A sign-up sheet will be posted at the bar, if you prefer to sign-up in that manner.

The following 11 new members were approved at the November SAL meeting: James Wilson, Jr, Daniel Stevenson, Daniel Ocharzak, Patrick Ocharzak, David Ocharzak, Bruce Siskonen, Lance Lamar, Gary Vanhall, Kevin Gilde, Matt Krolewicz, and Gilbert Rodriguez, Jr.

It is time to renew your membership. Please send your check for \$25.00 to Mike Brown at the Post or bring down an envelope and leave it in the SAL mail slot. Help us remain the largest SAL group in the state.

May you have a joyous holiday season.

TL Lowe - SAL Commander

SAL OFFICERS

*TL Lowe, Commander
Tom Greenberg, 1st Vice Commander
Jack DeMaar, 2nd Vice Commander
Rich Kelly, Finance Officer
Tom Glockzin, Chaplain
Mike Zolik, Sergeant-At-Arms
Tom Greenberg, Historian
Carl Lori, Legion Advisor
Mike Brown, Membership
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant
Brad Chittenden, Past Commander*



Nathan VanKampen, Dave MacKellar, Commander Phil Smith and Past Commander Rick Chittenden present US Marine L/Cpl. Matt Pelak with Special Commendation Award for his 2 tours of duty in Afghanistan.



During Veterans Day program at the Eternal Flame, Bugler Perry Delille played taps.



LEGION RIDERS

The winter months are here and the bikes are put up for a well deserved rest.

Its always an emotional time of year for a rider as we realize we wont be riding for the next five months or so.

This years riding season was a successful one as we were able to help our veterans and their family's both locally and nationally.

We were active in working with the old warriors camp in Curtis Michigan, traveled to Texas to attend the national riders cook off and some of the riders road the national legacy run with the national commander just to name a few.

Thank you riders for making this another successful year helping our veterans.. our membership now stands at 53 members and is climbing.

We will be planning our events for this next season during the winter months so bring your ideas to the meetings and lets get prepared for another summer of riding in support of the men and women who fight and have fought for our freedom

Thank you for riding safe and responsibly and remember dues are due in December for 2012.

God bless those wonderful men and women who sacrifice so much to keep us free.

Billy, Riders director post 28

LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

*Billy Haynes, Commander
Freddy Smith, Assistant Director
Ed Mc Donald, Secretary
Larry Culbertson, Treasurer
Rev. Wesley Spyke, Chaplain
Michael Capman, Historian
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair
Glen Bullock, Past Director*



The American Legion
 Charles Conklin Post #28
 700 Harbor Ave
 PO Box 439
 Grand Haven MI 49417-1743
 (616) 842-5310

NON-PROFIT
 ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 129
 GRAND HAVEN
 MI 49417

**NEW YEARS
 EVE PARTY**
6:30PM - 1:00AM
BAND
SWEET JUSTICE
COST \$17.50 SINGLE
\$35 A PAIR OF
TICKETS

DEC. DRINK SPECIALS: \$3 Christmas Martini							DECEMBER 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January ~ Happy New Year!, Las Vegas Night February ~ Chili Cook-Off, Hawaiian Luau March ~ American Legion Birthday Party, Annual Food Drive, St. Patrick's Day Party											1	2	3
					6PM BURGERS	6pm Karaoke							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
	7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	5PM PERCH DINNER	7pm Legion Riders Meeting	6PM BURGERS								
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
	\$2 U-Call Tall	\$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	5PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER		6PM BURGERS 8pm Silverado								
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
	\$2 U-Call Tall	7pm Exec. Comm. \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	7pm TRIVIA 5PM COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER		6PM BURGERS								
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
Merry Christmas	\$2 U-Call Tall	\$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	5PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER		6PM BURGERS	NEW YEARS EVE PARTY							