

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 #1112

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Our Veteran's Day Banquet was a huge success and we went away stuffed. We thank the many hands that prepared the delicious meal. Thank you Catherine Buckley for your challenging talk. Congratulations to Dale Chittenden, Dave MacKeller and Darrel Myers who were awarded life membership.

Veterans: Last month we celebrated Veterans Day and the weather was cold and wet. The decision was made to hold the 11:00am program inside the legion post instead of out in the elements. I reflected on how many veterans spent their days and nights on end without a cover over their head and many gave their lives cold and alone. We stood here inside the legion with the heat on and with all the comforts of home. We can choose not to take the time to remember the sacrifices these men and women gave to make this freedom available or we can pause daily and reflect on their great sacrifices. I hope each one of us choose the better way. Commander Ed DeKoekoek

American Legion Officers

Ed DeKoekoek, 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

Taps were played for the following veterans; Emil Lach, Duane Koshork, Past Commander Hugh Hyde, Harold Balkema, Marvin Meyers, Edward Nieuwenhuis, Raymond DuPuis, and Robert Thomas.

New members were voted into post 28: Bobbi J. Davis, Hugh Eisen, William Pennington, Kenneth L. Sutton, Gerry J. Van Oeffelen, Robert E. Whitelaw, David B. George, William A. Rowell, Scott M. Suchecki, John T. Voshel, Richard M. Lebel, Gary S. Vukovich, and Douglas A. Dougherty. Transfers were Brian S. Davis, Leonard C. Lieffers, Earl F. Slovinski, and Ronald H. Sutter.



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
Dave Meints
Sue Metzler
Vince Antonich
"Jimbo" Jim Land
Ed DeKoekoek
Dewie Jordan



5th District
Commander
Catherine
Buckley was
the Guest
Speaker for
the Veterans
Day Dinner.

AMERICAN LEGION GOODFELLOWS

Goodfellows time is rapidly approaching. If you don't have a chance to give to the Firefighters "Crusade for Toys" on December 7th you may send your donation to:
Goodfellows: c/o American Legion Post #28, 700 Harbor Ave. Grand Haven, MI 49417

We are anticipating a great need again this year for toys and clothing for the needy children who are referred to us by the Salvation Army, which serves as our clearing house.

The Goodfellows, What Do They Do?

For over 60 years, the American Legion Post #28 Goodfellows program has worked to make sure that the needy children of the area have a good Christmas. We furnish each child with new clothes, along with toys, games and candy. The Goodfellows Committee is made up of Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members. We shop for clothes and specialty items, then pack all items in a family box, wrap and deliver to their homes.

Shoppers will need to pick up their list between 6:00 and 8:00 pm on December 5, 2013, at the Post and shopping must be completed by December 14, 2013.

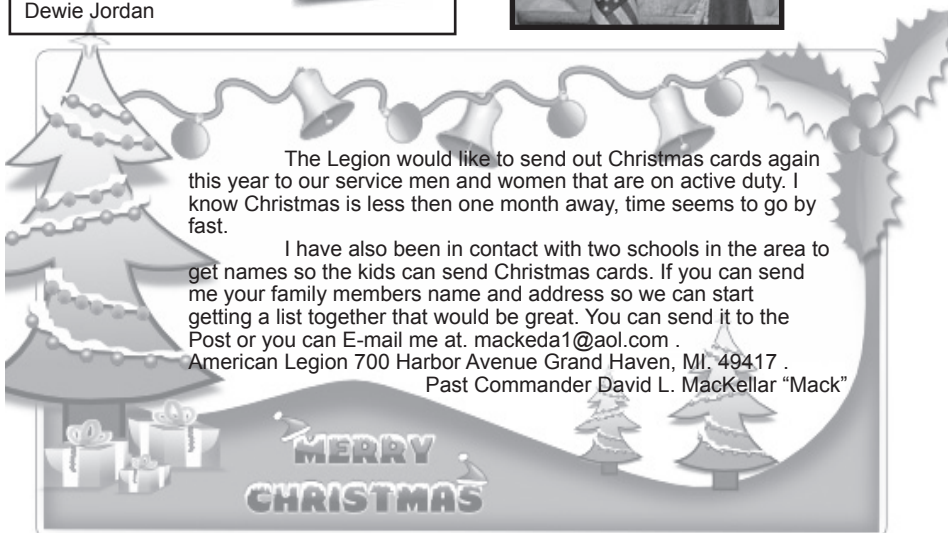
Wrapping party is on Thursday, December 19th, at 7:00 pm, with delivery on Saturday, December 21 with breakfast for Delivery Personnel at 8:30 am. Delivery will start at 9:30 am.

Thank you everyone – The Goodfellows Committee Please sign up for delivery in the Lounge. Thanks, Ray

The Legion would like to send out Christmas cards again this year to our service men and women that are on active duty. I know Christmas is less than one month away, time seems to go by fast.

I have also been in contact with two schools in the area to get names so the kids can send Christmas cards. If you can send me your family members name and address so we can start getting a list together that would be great. You can send it to the Post or you can E-mail me at mackeda1@aol.com.
American Legion 700 Harbor Avenue Grand Haven, MI. 49417 .
Past Commander David L. MacKellar "Mack"

All Legionnaires On December 3 at our regular post meeting we will be voting on the sound abatement proposal presented at the November meeting by the Building And Grounds Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. Please attend this important meeting.





AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Your Auxiliary Unit 28 is now on Facebook. Check us out and "like" us at facebook.com/unit28ALA. Keep informed on Unit activities, events, volunteer opportunities, and meeting dates. We also have a new Unit 28 email address: ala28publicity@gmail.com.

Send us your suggestions, pictures, etc. for our Facebook page; or let us know if you have concerns or questions about our activities or if you want to volunteer for an event.

At our November 26th meeting, Department Poppy Chairman, Margot Forrester, was our special guest. It was an educational delight as Margot presented her Poppy Museum, a collection of poppy designs used by Legion organizations around the world.

Come join us at the Post on Monday, December 16th at 2 p.m. to help us put together fruit plates for veterans in local assisted-living centers. The Christmas Gift Shop at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is on December 5th. We will meet at the Spring Lake Front Porch at 7:30 a.m. as we must be at the Vet's Home by 8 a.m. Please contact VA&R Chairman Pat Best at (616) 842-0749 if you can help.

Goodfellows Children's Clothes Shopping: Barb Kelly is passing out shopper cards & instructions on Thursday, December 5th at the Post from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Clothes must be purchased & dropped off at the Post (upstairs) by Saturday, December 14th. Please volunteer to help.

2014 Membership Renewal: Your 2013 membership card will expire on December 31, 2013. Kathy Edwards (Membership Chair) and I will be collecting dues & passing out membership cards at the Post on Tuesday, December 3rd and Friday, December 5th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Or you can mail your \$25 dues to the Auxiliary c/o Post 28. Reminder: if you leave your dues (without a renewal notice) at the bar, please print your name, address, & phone number on an envelope with your dues sealed inside.

FYI: A Leadership College class is coming to Post 28 on Saturday, January 11th, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lunch is provided. Check your Legionnaire newspaper for the registration form or sign up online at Michiganlegion.org.

Happy Holidays to everyone and remember there is no meeting in December. I hope to see you at some of the activities at the Post.

Respectfully, Michele Stetts, President
mstetts@charter.net (616) 901-8331

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



DECEMBER (HO HO HO) DINNER MENU

DECEMBER 4TH

SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK

Dinner, mashed, green bean casserole, roll
The "A" Team

DECEMBER 7TH

SATURDAY NIGHT

Wild Game Dinner. See your newsletter.

DECEMBER 11TH

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY

SPAGHETTI

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Boys)

DECEMBER 18TH

COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, cornbread. (Legion Riders)

DECEMBER 20TH

FRIDAY NIGHT

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

See your newsletter

DECEMBER 25TH

MERRY CHRISTMAS. GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS.

Andy's Draught

Your dues are due. If you haven't renewed already it is time to do so.

Our 2nd Annual Wild Game dinner is Saturday December 7th. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the bar. The Post will be providing a couple main dishes, but will be asking those that are coming to also bring a dish of something they have shot, snared or reeled in themselves. The band Backseat Driver will be playing from 8pm-11:30pm. Proceeds from this dinner will go to our Healing Heroes program. Flyin' Heroes will also be here promoting their program with raffles and live auctions.

The Kid's Christmas party will be Saturday the 14th. 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.

Karaoke this month will be on December 21st from 6-11 and will be a special White Elephant Christmas Karaoke. Please bring a

wrapped white elephant gift.

Saturday January 11th we will be hosting the American Legion Leadership College. The Leadership College will provide you with how the Legion works as an organization. Classes include leadership, duties of office & form importance, protocol and parliamentary procedures, public relations, flow of resolutions, post development and revitalization. This is a free program to all Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Rider members. The class will go from 9am to 4:30pm with a one hour lunch provided by the Post with registration starting at 8am. If you are interested please preregister at www.legion.org/college

This month's wine special is Jargon's Pinot Noir. This pinot offers bright and seductive flavors of black cherry with a hint of strawberry, cola and dark tobacco... Really? "dark tobacco"? I'm just typing what I'm reading. Anyway... for only \$3 per glass or \$10 for the bottle I will try it anyway.

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



Members of the Ladies Auxiliary and SAL, team up to help prepare the Veterans Day Dinner.



SAL COMMENTS

As I write this, November's weather can't decide if it wants to be Fall or Winter, but the holidays are rushing toward us at breakneck speed and snow will soon cover the ground. Thanksgiving comes extra late this year, so I'll take advantage of that to remind everyone to come to Trivia Night on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 27). This is our biggest Trivia Night of the year and is always a blast!

December kicks off with the Wild Game Dinner on Dec. 7 (Pearl Harbor Day). This event was incredible last year, and I'm really looking forward to it again this year. The SAL crew will prepare side dishes and serve food, and we ask everyone attending to bring a wild game dish to pass of something they caught or shot. The cost is \$10 per person and is well worth it...the variety and quality of the food was amazing. Dinner is served from 6:00pm-8:00pm. We will have a band this year, "Back Seat Driver", playing from 8:00pm - 11:30pm, so come on out and join us for a great time. After the Wild Game Dinner, the Christmas season gets into full swing. The SAL is involved in a number of Christmas events at the Post, including the Goodfellows gift delivery, as well as the Legion kid's Christmas party, and many other holiday events.

After Christmas it's time to welcome in 2014 with the SAL New Years Eve Party, one of our bigger events of the year. We serve appetizers from 6pm - 9pm and then it's time for Clover Bar pizza at 10pm. Dancing will be to the sounds of the ever-popular "Amalgamated Sound", as we welcome in the New Year with sparkling wine. Tickets are limited and only \$20/person, so make sure you purchase yours early... this event is always sold-out!! On January 25th, we'll host Las Vegas Night, a great time to hang out with friends at the Legion and play a little blackjack, poker, or take some spins on the popular Money Wheel.

In February, we are launching a brand-new event, the SAL Member's Open House. We want to welcome all of our new (and existing) members to the SAL, fill you in about all the great Veteran's and local groups and charities we support, and give you a chance to meet the SAL leadership team. There will be FREE BEER AND PIZZA for all SAL Members, so plan on coming out, learning more about your SAL, and finding out all the different ways you can get involved. The SAL does a lot to honor and support Veteran's and it feels great to be able to give back to those who have given us so much! We'd like all of our members to experience that feeling! As a non-profit group, all the money we raise from our various events throughout the year gets donated to various charities, or gets spent on operation and improvements for Post 28. The SAL is all about service and honoring Veteran's and we'd like more of you to participate! The Open House is tentatively scheduled for February 15, so stay tuned for more details as the date gets closer. Oh and did I mention, FREE BEER AND PIZZA?

In the meantime, I hope you all have a blessed and joyous Holiday season with friends, family and the Legion family! 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

May you have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. A reminder, if you haven't paid your dues, they are \$15.00, you can send them to the post, attention of Ann Kammeraad. Our next meeting will be on February 11, 2014 at the post. Looking forward to seeing you then. Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. 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
Veloce Hansen, L'Aumonier
Cleo Phipps, L'Avocate
Ann Kammeraad, Le Pouvoir

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 8 funerals. Army National Guard helped with 3 funerals and the Navy helped with 4 funerals

Honor Guard Members, Post Officers, Legion Riders and 5th District Officers went to Grand Rapids Veterans Home for the Grand Opening of the Bowling Lanes. Thanks to Legion member Carl Kuzyk for setting this up for our post. Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett



Commander Ed DeKoekoek and Past Commander MacKellar, Welcome Chris Jarvis and 2nd Vice Commander Bob Wydeck to the Honor Guard.

LEGION RIDERS



Another year has gone by. I want to thank our Post 28 Riders for all their donations they were able to give this past year.

As we face the cold winter months to come we can remember the rides and good friends that shared them with us. Thanks for another safe year. I want to leave you with a poem from a Marine stationed in Okinawa. (See the back page for the poem)

Chili cook-off is fast approaching. Our 13th Annual cook-off is Feb 8, 2014. Sign up is Jan. 7th at 2:00 PM at the post, see Phil Smith. There's a \$25.00 entry fee to the first 10 teams. Remember this is an adult function only, no one under 21 please.



LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

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

The Soldier's Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give. And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see, No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand, On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind. A sober thought came through my mind. For this house was different, so dark and dreary, I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more, So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door, And there he lay sleeping silent alone, Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home.

His face so gentle, his room in such disorder, Not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan, I soon understood this was more than a man. For I realized the families that I saw that night Owed their lives to these men who were willing to fight.

Soon around the world, children would play, And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, Because of soldiers like this one lying here.

I can't help wonder how many lay alone. On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home. Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, My life is my God, my country, my corps."

With that he rolled over and drifted off to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep, I watched him for hours, so silent and still, I noticed he shivered from the cold nights chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red, And covered this soldier from his toes to his head. And put on his T-shirt of gray and black, With a eagle and a Army patch embroidered on back.

And although it barley fit me, I began to swell with pride, And for a shining moment, I was United States Army deep inside. I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night, This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so clean and pure, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night!

Merry Christmas to all our American Legion members and all our soldiers wherever they may sleep tonight.

DECEMBER DRINK SPECIALS:
\$3.00 CHRISTMAS MARTINI

DECEMBER 2013

January ~ Happy New Year!, Las Vegas Night
February ~ Chili Cook-Off, Hawaiian Luau

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 \$1 Drafts	2 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	3 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	4 5PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK	5 7pm ALR Meet	6 6PM BURGERS	7 Pearl Harbor 1941 6pm - 12pm WILD GAME DINNER
8 1pm Lions @ Eagles \$1 Drafts	9 \$2 U-Call Tall	10 \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	11 5PM ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI	12	13 6PM BURGERS	14 Noon - 2pm Kids Party
15 \$1 Drafts	16 Battle of the Bugle 1944 8:30pm Lions vs Ravens \$2 U-Call Tall	17 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	18 5PM COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER 7PM TRIVIA	19 7pm Goodfellows Wrap	20 5pm Christmas Buffet	21 9am Goodfellows Toys Delivery 6pm-11pm Karaoke (White Elephant)
22 4pm Lions vs Giants \$1 Drafts	23 \$2 U-Call Tall	24 Christmas Eve Post Closed \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	25 POST CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS. GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS.	26	27 6PM BURGERS	28
29 1pm Lions @ Vikings \$1 Drafts	30 \$2 U-Call Tall	31 6pm New Years Eve Party \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	JAN. 1 POST CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY	2 7pm ALR Meet	3 6PM BURGERS	4