

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 #1102



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

As I write (late January), Post's year-end activities are winding down, interior Holiday decorations

are stowed away, and the beautiful lighted garlands and ribbons decorating the front of our Post will soon come down. One might think we are slipping into the mid-winter doldrums (or "blahs") at Post 28, but our Calendar (see last page) shows this is not the case, for we have much to "fill our sails" and keep our spirits up. We will have our 12th Annual Chili Cook-Off (Saturday, the 9th) and our Annual SAL Hawaiian Luau (Saturday, the 23rd), with good food and live music on both occasions. And we have our friendly bar staff and volunteer kitchen crews providing us Wednesday Legion Dinners (except February 27th) and Friday Burger Nights to provide us a warm place with good food, libations and company to help beat off those Winter Blahs. So, come on down and join us!

Plus, we have another exciting major event to keep us busy, one of the largest Post improvement projects we have undertaken in many years. As most of you are aware if you have attended recent Post meetings and briefings, at our January meeting,

pursuant to the unanimous recommendation of the Executive Committee, our Veteran Members unanimously approved going forward with the second phase of our Post Improvement Project (PIP). The PIP was borne out of a Strategic Planning initiative, including a Post membership survey, designed to identify major needs or issues facing the Post in the foreseeable future. The survey findings focused primarily on key issues related to the physical structure and functioning of the Post's main floor. Phase I of the Project, completed last month, included implementation of new security measures, including installation of a 24-hr video-surveillance system. Phase II will focus on making major improvements in the lounge, dining and main entrance areas. In addition to periodic reports at Post meetings (starting last August), in January, to help further ensure member understanding and support of the PIP and the actions required, (1) a floor plan for the upgraded main entrances, lounge and dining areas was displayed at the Post, and (2) formal and informal briefings were given by the Post Improvement Team to all interested Veteran, Auxiliary and SAL members.

To ease professional contractor work and availability of bar services during Phase II, volunteer members have already begun work in preparation for the arrival of the contractors. Members wishing to volunteer their help should contact Darrel (see notice in this issue). The contractors will start work on Monday, February 25th and continue through early April. During this period, dining services, including Legion Dinners and Burger Nights, will be necessarily suspended. Bar services and a temporary

lounge area will be available in the veranda on the second floor. All large meetings will be held in the adjacent Post Meeting Room. Access to the second floor will be via the elevator or the back stairway. The Main (northeast) entrance and stairway will be closed. We regret any inconveniences, but everything is being done to help ensure we have a smooth and safe completion of the project with as little disruption as possible to Post activities. It will be worth it for, in the end, we will have a welcoming, new, enlarged, more efficiently served and safer lounge/dining environment for all of us to enjoy for many years to come. Thanks to all of our members and patrons for making this possible, and especially to the Post Improvement Team (Darrel Myers, Andy VanderHoek, Dave MacKellar, Bill Kaufman), the Strategic Planning team (Phil Slater, Rev. Dan Anderson, Tina Davis, Mike Ripka, Ron Bauer), and the members of the Executive Committee, whose input and efforts have made getting this major effort underway possible. Going forward, we will appreciate your understanding, cooperation, support, plus any assistance you may give, to help us accomplish this important project.

- Ron Bauer, Commander, Post 28

SERVICE OFFICERS

As always we are here to assist you with your VA claims process and questions but increased demand in our services are leaving us a little short of time. We fear that quality of help may be impacted and we are making a plea to you for help assisting your fellow veterans. If you are interested in donating a few hours a month for the betterment of your fellow vets please let me know.

Thanks Adam
post28serviceofficer@Gmail.com

The following members and friends of the

Legion have had to face medical issues or deaths since we last meet. Please reach out to them and their families and keep all of them in your prayers.



Respectfully submitted,
Chaplain Chris Rob

Mietz – recovering, Hugh Hyde – recovering, T.J. Thompson - ill, Roman Marciniak – in hospital, Vince Antonich – recovering, Leonard Kanouse – recovering, Mack – nearing end of treatments

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



AUXILIARY COMMENTS

As I write, it looks like Spring, but by the time you read this I imagine Winter will have set in. I hope you are all healthy. Don't forget to hug your Valentine. The Post will be undergoing some changes, but our meetings will continue on the 4th Tuesday of each month. They are at 7:00 pm & will be upstairs at the Post. Also if your dues are not paid, you are delinquent and your bar privileges are suspended. I hope to see you at some of the other Post events.

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



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to new and transferred members:

New - Gregory S.

Carlson, Gulf, Navy, (Active); Kevin M.

Kraynak, Gulf, Coast Guard (Active); Lynn

E. Lang, Gulf, Coast Guard (Active);

Duane L. Quigg, WW II, Army; Allyson N.

Raby, Gulf, Coast Guard (Active); Travis

A. Russell, Gulf, Coast Guard (Active),

Dakota L. Silvey, Gulf, Coast Guard (Active);

Michael A. Stark, Gulf, Coast Guard (Active);

Transfers - Thomas Mayernik, Korea, Navy;

John E. Plowman, Vietnam, Air Force; Duane S. Rose, Vietnam, Army.

Taps were played for: Joe Ziegler; U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, Medal of Honor Recipient/WW II.



Andy's Draught

This month we are having are our 12th Annual Chili Cook Off (Saturday the 9th) and our SAL Hawaiian Luau (Saturday the 23rd). Dig out your favorite tropical apparel and warm up with good food, good friends and a great band. Both events are open to the public. The Luau is a ticketed event. Get your tickets early because it will sell out.

Next month, we will be celebrating the Legion's birthday on Saturday the 16th. We are not quite sure if the dinner will be held upstairs or down. Tickets will be available at the bar. This is not a public event, but all Post members are invited.

Now for the BIG news.

The main bar will be closed due to construction starting February 25th. We will be serving from the bar upstairs during the construction. Our weekly dinners, burgers and bands will be cancelled until after the project is complete. The bar will be closed Tuesday March 5th and Tuesday April 2nd during the Legion's Post meetings (7-8pm).

Without taking up 3 pages of this newsletter with specific details of the remodel, I'll just touch on the basics. Our plan is to unify the two disjointed rooms we have downstairs and create one great space. To do this we will be removing a few walls, replacing all the flooring and extending the bar closer to the dining room. In doing this we will be adding about 20 more floor seats and another 10 around the bar.

We will also be doing work to both the front and west entrances. We will have signs posted outside to let you know what entrances are to be used. Access to the elevator will be hit or miss. The back "Employee Entrance" will be open.

Please be patient during this construction project. It will be well worth the wait!

Keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming dinners, dates & dancing.

February drink specials: \$3 Love Potion # 28 & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday.

Cheers Andy

February 9th
 2013.
 Doors
 open at
 12:00 noon.



WEDNESDAY'S MENU

FEBRUARY 6TH

CHOP'S MEATLOAF

Mashed, green bean casserole, roll (The "A" Team)

FEBRUARY 13TH

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Gang)

FEBRUARY 20TH

PULLED PORK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, roll (Legion Riders)

FEBRUARY 27TH

TBD

If all goes as planned, the Post will be closed as of the 25th of February for a much needed total remodel of the lounge. We are very excited to get this underway. Stay tuned for more information. For the Good of the Legion, see you in the Spring, Dinner Committee.

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 3 funerals. Honor Guard from the Army National Guard helped with 1 funeral. Members attended funeral for Auxiliary Past President Mary Lou Zysk.

Honor Guard for the 2012 year did 55 funerals, Rifle Team attended 42 of the funerals with 5 special events. This last year we lost two of our Honor Guard members Robert Van Burgel, Lino Martinez and Past Commander Vernon Rowan.

Members of Legion and VFW did programs "Patriot Hall" at Ferry School, Veterans Day program at 7th grade class at Lakeshore Middle School, in G.H. and 3 programs with Hospice of Michigan.

Legion members attended Memorial Services for SAL Past Commanders Bradley Chittenden and Tom Glockzin (Chaplain).

Members of Legion Honor Guard and Legion Riders attended funerals for Air Force S/Sgt. Joseph Weems, who died in Germany, USMC G/Sgt. Daniel Price and SWO 2nd Class (Seal) David Warsen KIA Afghanistan.

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

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Help needed:

As everyone is aware, the Post Improvement Project was approved. The B&G Committee/Volunteer Work Crew will need extra help to do pre-work prior to the Project start date, Monday, February 25, 2013. We meet weekly on Mondays between 8 & 9 AM weekly.

We will especially need help on the Sunday before (February 24) when a special work detail will be needed to clear areas that are going to be renovated. We will meet at 1 PM that day.

Anyone who can help will be appreciated (wives, friends, etc.). When done, Pizza will be served. Thank you. For the good of the Legion, Post 28, Darrel Myers, Chairman, Building & Grounds Committee



2nd Vice Commander Dave Carlson and wife Nikki and Commander Ron Bauer and wife Nancy enjoyed the evening during the wonderful New Years Eve Party.



SAL COMMENTS

Winter finally arrived in full force in January, and the cold weather meant it's time for some of the SAL's largest events of the year...New Year's Eve, Las Vegas Night and the Hawaiian Luau. New Year's Eve was a great party (as usual) with lots of appetizers, Clover Bar pizza, champagne, and music from the Sweet Justice band. We all had a great time as we welcomed in 2013 in a big way. Special thanks to Capt. Willis for his leadership (while fighting the flu) and to Chuck, Tom G, Rocky, Carl, TL, Phil, Mack, and all the others who helped us put on this great party. As soon as New Year's Eve was behind us, things began to ramp up for Vegas Night. Vegas Night takes a lot of planning and preparation, so big thanks to TL, Paul, Phil, Tom S, Mike B, Rich K and everyone else who helped with the organizational phase of this event. And thanks to all those who volunteered as dealers, pit bosses, chip and ticket sellers, etc...we couldn't do it without your help! Always one of the most popular events of the year, Vegas Night means blackjack, poker, the money wheel, 50/50 raffles, and a ton of fun and socializing! Both of these great events allow us to raise money that we donate to the Post and to numerous charitable organizations and veterans's groups throughout the year, so thank you very much to all who attended!

February means it's Hawaiian Luau time once again, this year on Saturday, Feb. 23. This will be the 20th Annual Luau...it was started way back in 1993 by Willis Kerridge, Tom "Cap'm" Glockzin, Rich Kelly, Paul Kubicek, Phil Young, Louis Meyer, and Dutch VanderVeen. Since then, the Luau has become the SAL's largest single event of the year, with a fantastic pig roast dinner, fun decorations and costumes, and music & dancing courtesy of the Beach Bashers. It always sells out, so make sure you get your tickets early...they are available at the Legion bar and Fish-On Bait & Tackle on M-104. It takes a ton of work to put on these events, and we can always use new volunteers to help with cooking, decorations, cleanup or whatever, so I really hope to see some new faces there!

The SAL is very excited about the upcoming renovations to the Legion Bar and Lounge area. On Sunday, Feb 24th at 1:00 pm, the Legion is going to need all our help for a work party. We will be moving things and taking things upstairs in order to prepare for the bar remodeling project. The contractor begins work on Monday, Feb. 25, so we have a lot to move and pack away before that can happen. Anyone who is available, please come...your help will be much appreciated! The Post will serve pizza and the first round of beer when we are done. Please mark your calendar!

Last, but not least, I'd like to welcome our new members for January...Cliff Burgess, Michael Pellegrom, James Stringer, Bruce Flindlay, John Stevenson, David Vallier, and our transfer members, David Brown and John Pitsch. I hope to see each of you guys at one of our meetings (first Monday of each month), and please come out and lend a hand on some of these fun events.

And remember, visit our new SAL Post 28 page on Facebook, and make sure to "Like" it to get all the latest SAL news.

Happy New Year to everyone!

Tom Greenberg, SAL Commander

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

Happy Valentine's Day, it is coming soon. Our winter break is over, we have a meeting on Tuesday, February 12th at 7:00PM at our Post. If you haven't paid your 2013 dues yet, please be sure to do that soon. You can pay to Ann Kammeraad. The amount is \$15.00. 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*

WOUNDED WARRIORS PROJECT

The Wounded Warrior Project is an organization made up of veterans whose mission statement is to help returning men and women with physical and mental issues. This organization sponsors "The Tough Mudder" around the world and raises millions for veterans. Several of Post 28's members are signed up to take part in the Michigan Tough Mudder on June 30th at MIS in Brooklyn, Mi. We are looking for donations. For a \$20 donation or more you will receive a black and silver WWP wristband to wear knowing you did a little bit to help. Checks should be made out to American Legion attn: WWP. See Andy for your wristband. Thanks for your support. Rick Chittenden Past Commander.



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

LEGION RIDERS

February..... While I am writing this newsletter there's no snow and this past week was warm for the middle of January. I did see two motorcycles yesterday, but I think we will be getting back to winter this coming week.

I am starting to think about rides for the 2013 season. I think we will be going to the Vintage Motorcycle Show at the Gilmore Car Museum at Hickory Corners on June 9th. We went last year and everyone had a good time. You can Google it. If you haven't been there you won't believe how nice it is.

Remember the Chili Cook Off on February 9th. There is a lot of chili to taste and it's a fun time.

Starting next year we will take the Riders dues at our February meeting so we can check Legion membership cards to make sure you are current. We will also be taking nominations for the 2013 Riders officers in February which is earlier than it's been in the past. That way we can get the new officers in place before the riding season starts.

We have the new bar makeover starting on February 25th which might run through April. We may need to find a place for our meetings and there won't be any dinners going on during that time.

Linda Gaddy has made out a survey which we will hand out at the next meeting about rides for this year. How long should rides be? Would you like overnights? etc. It will help in coming up with the 2013 rides so please fill it out and hand it back in. Think Spring. Ride Safe. Toby Ross (ALR Director)





When the honor guard and the service officers heard that deployed Army Natl guards woman Angela Drennan's home burnt down a week before Christmas we sent a call out for donations. I am proud to report that the members of Post 28 came together and showed exactly what we are here to do, help take care of one another. Because of your donations we were able to provide the family a Christmas party with gifts of clothing, shoes, toys, money to help in rebuilding and a visit by the best Santa this side of Coopersville.... "Thanks Senior Chief Veihl" Good fellows , S.A.L., Legion Riders, Auxillary , and Legion members you make me proud to be a part of Post 28 and I thank you. Adam



Everyone had a great time at the 2012 New Years Eve party put on by our Post 28 SAL. Another "Great Job" by our SAL Members.



During the Christmas buffet we had a great turn out of our Past, Present Commanders, Presidents and Directors of the Legion, Auxillary, SAL and Riders.

FEBRUARY DRINK SPECIALS: \$3.00 LOVE POTION #28							FEBRUARY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March ~ American Legion Birthday Party, Annual Food Drive, St. Patrick's Day Party April ~ IRS Party, Armed Forces Day May ~ Memorial Day, Kentucky Derby Party, Legion Memorial Golf Outing												1 6PM BURGERS 8pm Lakeshore Big Band	2 6pm Karaoke
3	4 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	5 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	6 5PM MEATLOAF DINNER	7	8 6PM BURGERS	9 							
10	11 \$2 U-Call Tall	12 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	13 5PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER	14 7pm Legion Riders Meeting	 15 6PM BURGERS & FISH 8pm Steve Edge	16							
17	18 \$2 U-Call Tall	19 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	20 5PM COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER	21 7pm Trivia	22 6PM BURGERS & FISH	23 6pm Hawaiian Luau							
24	25 \$2 U-Call Tall	26 7pm Auxillary Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	27 NO DINNER	28	MAR. 1 NO DINNER	2 6pm Karaoke							