

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
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Issue #1106



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

May was an extraordinarily busy month at the Post. Our Post Improvement Project --

the renovation of our new lounge and dining area and entrances -- was completed on schedule. The contractors finished their work and thanks to the follow-up volunteer help of many of our members, finishing touches were completed, furniture was moved in, the Post was cleaned, the new bar was stocked, appliances (including new draft beer taps) were made operational, and we were ready to celebrate the Grand Opening of our new Club Room on May 3rd as planned. Early the following day, we welcomed visitors from the 5th District Derby Day Bus Tour, including the Michigan Department Commander, Tom Brown, followed by our own very-well attended and fun annual Derby Day celebration and party that afternoon. We immediately started (and continue) to receive compliments about our "Club Room", testimony to the planning and hard work put in by our volunteer-members and the contractors to meet our goals.

Throughout May, the various elements of our Post elected their Officers for 2013-14. We are grateful to all the nominees who ran for office and are so willing to serve. Congratulations to those elected! And special thanks to our outgoing Legion Officers, Hugh Hyde, Bill Kaufman, Mack MacKellar, Sue Metzler, Chris Tanke and Nathan VanKampen. We also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Dewie Jordan for his years of outstanding service to the Boy Scouts of America and to the Post as our Boy Scout Liaison Officer.

Also in early May, as promised, we resumed serving our Wednesday Dinners and Friday Burgers Nights, and our Riders began again serving brats and hot dogs on the second and fourth

Tuesdays of the month. On May 9th, we hosted the Legion Dept. of Michigan 5th District Meeting at which the Post was recognized by The American Legion 5th District Association for our ongoing participation in the Tabs for Tots program. As I write this, we look forward to finishing May by holding our 11th Annual American Legion Memorial Golf Tournament, and to our annual participation in our community annual Memorial Day parade and observances. I hope you were able to attend these events, especially those in which we celebrated and honored those who have served our Nation. Special thanks to those members of the Legion, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders who worked with the community leaders and the VFW to help plan, organize and who participated in these events.

In June, we have many more events and activities scheduled (detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter), most notably our June 4th Post meeting at which we will hold our Initiation of New Members ceremony, and our June 14th observance of Flag Day at the Waterfront stadium (held under the auspices of the Elks), followed by our own solemn 'Retiring the Flags' ceremony held here at the Post. Also our 2013 Department Convention will be held at the Kewadin Casino and Convention Center in Sault Ste. Marie from June 26 - 30, at which Post 28 will be recognized at the Department and National levels for our outstanding recruitment performance. Hope you can attend some if not all of these meetings to help guide the Post and the Legion in the months ahead.

After a long winter's wait and a short spring (the latter occurred on a Wednesday this year), June is 'busting out all over!' Hope you can get out there and enjoy it. Take care, be safe, and we look forward to seeing you at the Post where you can enjoy good food, good friends, our friendly professional bar staff and volunteer kitchen crews, our new Club Room, and our fine view! -- Ron Bauer, Commander

American Legion Officers

Ron Bauer, Commander
Ed DeKoeckoeck, 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



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 led and keep all of them in your prayers. Respectfully submitted, Chaplain Chris. Hugh Hyde, Roman Marciniak, Vince Antonich, Dewie Jordan, TJ Thompson, Jim Land, David Meints, "JW" James Wayne, Garrett Veihl

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Members: Patton E. Addington, Nathaniel D. Burnside, Peter D. Carlstedt, Robert C. Carlton, Jr., Robert H. Held, Sean J. Kittredge, II, David J. Maitner, David S. Ridders, William J. Szotko, Michael A. Wilson, Thomas F. Holtz, Ross P. Martin.

Taps were played for: Duane Bowditch, Orvil Richardson, Herman Nuismer, Jack Olthof, Sr., Glenn Hinkle, Jr.



On May 3 during the Post Grand Opening, Commander Ron Bauer presented award to Darrel Myers for all his work with the Post Improvement Team (PIT). Also pictured PIT members Post Manager Andy VanderHoek, Past Commanders Bill Kaufman and Dave MacKellar.



AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Welcome to the new members initiated at the May meeting. This month we will be installing new officers for 2013-2014. Please join us for this occasion. All current officers are asked to bring their pins and handbooks even if they are continuing in the office. Tickets are selling for the quilt raffle. They are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Proceeds will be divided between the Quilts of Valor and Wounded Warriors organizations. They are available at the bar or many Auxiliary members. The winner will be drawn on July 4. If you haven't paid your 2013 dues they must be paid by June 30, or you will lose your continuous years and you have been delinquent since Jan. 31, 2013. When any dues are paid they must have your membership number, name and address with them. Officers are requested to pay their dues by our July meeting.
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



WEDNESDAY'S MENU

JUNE 5TH

PERCH DINNER

Fries, cole slaw and dinner roll
(Ray & Company)

JUNE 12TH

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Gang)

JUNE 19TH

COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, dinner roll (Legion Riders)

JUNE 26TH

SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, dinner roll The "A" Team

In the Summer months we try to keep up with demand. If you can find a place to park, we'll try to put a hot meal in front of you. For the Good of the Legion, Dinner Committee

Andy's Draught

Our Friday night burgers have become quite the event. Our burgers are so good that it has even attracted a few celebrities. Darth Vader, Frank Sinatra, Elvis, Willie Wonka, & Mr. Snuuleupagus are just a few. If you don't know the routine, you fill out a burger slip with your name on it. When it's done the kitchen will call out your name. Some other good ones are "Oh my God". Oh my God... your burgers are ready or "If you're hungry". If you're hungry... your burgers are ready.

Burgers are served from 6pm to 8pm (unless we run out). We average about 220 per night. Our record is 447... 447! That's more than 3 burgers being served every minute for 2 hours! Impressive! We have a very good chance of seeing a 500 burger night this summer.

We are always looking for crews to cook burgers. A crew should consist of about 8 people, maybe a couple more during the summer. We have experienced crews that will help train any new crew interested in helping.

It's a great time, a great way to help the Post & a great way to get involved.

The single burgers are \$3 & the doubles are \$4. They are served with a bag of chips, a plate & a smile. The condiments are for the burgers only. They are not for making salads. Any complaints can be brought to the bar. We'll put you to work in the kitchen.

As for our Summer hours the only thing that we are changing will be that we are open Sundays from 1-7pm. We will continue to open at 2pm during the week and noon on Saturdays.

Watch for our new monthly wine specials. This month's special is a Pinot Grigio from Beach House. It is \$3 per glass or \$10 for the bottle. This Pinot is a bright pale gold with deliciously inviting fleshy peach gusto, fresh citrus zeal and succulent pineapple appeal and a riveting fresh finish... I don't write this stuff.

June drink specials: \$3 Angry Apple Pie, \$2 U-Call-Tall every Monday & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday
Cheers! Andy



Members from the American Legion and VFW attended a "Patriot Hall Program" at Ferry School

WW II Veterans

We are planning a day to honor all WWII veterans. The VFW and the American Legion together with Hospice of Michigan would like all WWII veterans to meet at the Grand Haven Senior Center (Four Pointes) on June 28, 2013 at 2PM, for a pinning ceremony to honor all of our WWII Veterans.

Please help us Honor our WWII veterans, we need a list of all that will attend this program. Contact Past Commander David MacKellar at 616-402-2206 or e-mail mackeda1@aol.com.

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 6 funerals. Army National Guard helped with 2 funerals, Navy Honor Guard helped with 1 funeral and Marine Corps helped with 2 funerals.

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



SAL COMMENTS

Well, the new Bar project is finally finished...and the results are truly fantastic! The Grand Re-Opening took place on May 3, and it was absolutely packed! 425 burgers were served that night, which I believe is a Post record. I'm sure that many of you have seen the bar already, but if you haven't, please plan a visit to the Legion to check it out. You will be amazed at how spacious, comfortable and open the new bar is compared to the old. I guess a "little" facelift every 40 or so years is well worth it! I want to thank Commander Ron Bauer, Post Manager Andy VanderHoek, the Renovation Committee, and all the other Legion members who were involved for their hard work and vision. It is an amazing transformation and you should be very proud to have this as part of your legacy at Post 28!

The Post 28 SAL was proud to host the 5th District SAL meeting and installation of officers in May. There were representatives from Grandville, Cedar Springs, Grand Rapids, and of course, Grand Haven, in attendance. As a result of the Post 28 SAL hosting the meeting, the 5th District officers are planning to march in the Grand Haven Memorial Day parade. Thanks very much to Zone 2 Commander Jeff Meulendyk, and the other 5th District officers for this courtesy to our community and veterans!

The Memorial Day Golf Outing sold out once again...a testimonial to the hard work that Rick Kelly, Paul Kubicek, TL Lowe, Al Vandam and many others put into this event (and many others) each year. Events like the Golf Outing allow the Post 28 SAL to raise funds that we donate to Veteran's causes, community organizations and to our Post throughout the year. We'd love to see some new faces turn out to help, so come to one of our monthly meetings (first Monday of the month at 7:30) and get involved!

The State SAL Convention is coming up the weekend of June 8. Post 28 SAL is proud to be hosting the State Convention again, and we are looking forward to meeting SAL members and officers from the State organization and from Posts all over Michigan. We have a number of fun festivities planned including a boat ride & bar-b-que into Spring Lake. Come out to the State Convention and support your Post!

The Post 28 SAL has ordered a complete new set of high-top tables and chairs for the Legion deck. The old deck furniture had served us well, but was showing it's age and it was definitely time for a replacement. The new commercial-grade deck furniture is made from recycled plastic materials (milk jugs and water bottles) and should stand up well to both the high traffic and weather exposure that the deck furniture gets. Special thanks to Phil Young and Paul Kubicek for all their research and legwork in finding the perfect new furniture for our deck! It should arrive in a couple of weeks, just in time for the all the summer visitors.

And now that Summer has finally arrived in full force, I hope to have a chance to meet many of our members at the Post, in the new bar, or out on the deck!

Tom Greenberg, SAL Commander

Tuesday night, June 4th at 7pm will be the annual initiation of new members. There are probably hundreds of Post 28 members that have not been initiated. It is the swearing in process that makes the veteran a member in good standing. This past year's new members have been mailed invitations. If you have been a member for some time and would like to attend the initiation, by all means we'd love to get you sworn in. Be in the beautifully remodeled main floor by 6:30pm Tuesday. I will greet you and give you a heads up. Your significant other is also welcome to attend. The ceremony takes about 20 minutes, is very respectful, and steeped in American Legion tradition. Hope to see you there, Rick Chittenden Adjutant



LEGION RIDERS

June is here already and at the time I'm writing this the weather has been very nice. I'm sure you are all spending some time in the saddle.

Everyone seems to be enjoying the new bar at our Post. We have had two Bike Nights so far and everyone is having a good time in the kitchen making it work. A big "Thank You" to all of you who helped and all the Riders that came down to support it.

Our first ALR Ride is on June 9th to the Gilmore Vintage Motorcycle Show. We will be dropping the women off at the Casino in Gun Lake and picking up the winners on the way back. On June 22nd we have another ALR Ride to Thunder at the River. (Check your 2013 Ride Schedule.)

Another ride this month is the ALR Romp at Hannibal, New York June 13th thru June 17th. If you are planning on going you will need to get your hotel set up. As of right now we have six Riders going. If you need hotel and route information please contact Larry Lambert.

Also keep your ears open. We could be going on a Grab and Run at any time to steal or get our plaque back.

Let's all keep safety in mind as we enjoy our time in the saddle this season. 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

The ladies of our 8 & 40 Salon #499 say, wonderful job on the new bar renovations, it looks terrific. At our next meeting on June 11, 7 pm we will be reading our slate of officers for 2013-2014 and voting on them. We will be planning our August, annual dinner out at one of our local restaurants. Come and enjoy our beautiful post, inside at the gorgeous new bar, or outside, on the deck or on the patio. 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



Commander Ron Bauer presented Dewie Jordan with "Certificate of Appreciation" for all his work with the Boy Scouts, while Dewie was the Boy Scouts Liaison.

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

