

Published monthly by
Charles Conklin
Post #28 of the
American Legion

Post #28 Newsletter

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

P.O. Box 439 ~ 700 Harbor Avenue ~ Grand Haven, MI 49417-1743 ~ www.grandhavenlegion.org Issue #1065

Post #28 American Legion Officers

Dale "Rick" Chittenden, Commander
David MacKellar, 1st Vice Commander
Phil Smith, 2nd Vice Commander
Butch Balk, Adjutant

Jim Thayer, Finance Officer
Chris Tanke, Chaplain
Hugh Hyde, Judge Advocate
Ed DeKoekKoek, Sergeant-At-Arms

Jim Walton, Ken Kelly, Service Officers
George Bryant, Historian
Ray Ribbink & Jack VanWeelden
Executive Board at Large

Dick VanderStel,
Past
Commander



POST #28 COMMANDERS COMMENTS



I'm drafting this March newsletter during a mid-February snow storm. I love Michigan. The only way to stay warm is to attend events like the S.A.L.'s New Year's Eve and Las Vegas Night parties. Had a blast at both of them. I said it once, and I'll say it again, those guys know how to have a good time! Thanks to T.L. Lowe and his Gang.

The February Post meeting lured 35 members out into the cold night. Our meeting was short and sweet with 2nd Vice Commander Phil Smith donating his 50/50 winnings to the Fallen Heroes Monument Fund. Thanks Phil. Our next meeting is March 2nd. We want a huge turnout as 1st Vice Commander Dave MacKellar is going to chair his first Post meeting. I'll be the heckler in the back of the room. We do this every Winter to show how easy it is to stand up in front of WWII guys and pretend to "be in charge". :) Good luck Mack. The March meeting could also involve voting on a new roof and parking lot repair.

The upcoming May meeting will feature the swearing in of new members. This is an old American Legion ceremony steeped in tradition. It rarely leaves any marks. I urge all members to attend if you have not yet been sworn in. It's for the "good of the Legion". It's come as you are. Be down by the bar "relaxing" by 6:45. See you then.

New members voted in include: Joseph Skendzel, Gerald Mastaw, Don Board, Mike Bertschinger, Arnold Dreher, Richard Bonney, and David Heimbuch.

Taps were played for: Lyle Ray Dobberstein, Robert Rositch, and Army Sergeant Lucas T. Beachnaw of Lowell who died January 13th in Afghanistan protecting his country. Thank you gentleman. We salute you.

Stay warm and safe everyone, Commander Rick Chittenden



Amalgamated Sound

New Years Eve Party at the Legion

Rick Sierecki, Andy Bogner, Craig Lozo, {drums} Bruce Bowditch, Fred Elkins, Phil Slater

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 2 funerals, one was a Flag presentation and one Full military. This month our Honor Guard will be having "Training" with S/Sgt. Jason Abbott and Sgt. Scott Kinney from the Army National Guard-Honor Guard. Honor Guard Leader George Bennett

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Applications for the 2010 American Legion Post 28 Gene Rothi Scholarship are available at the Grand Haven and Spring Lake High School Guidance Offices and also at Legion Post 28 office. Applications are due April 16th, 2010. Thank You Scholarship Committee



CHAPLAINS CORNER

As a former Air Force Chaplain it pains me to recount this story, but the message is so good that I'll put aside "service rivalry" just this once!

Four military recruiters showed up to address high school seniors at a school assembly. Each recruiter representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps - was to have fifteen minutes to speak. Unfortunately the Army, Navy, and Air Force recruiters got a little long winded, so when it came time for the Marine to speak he had but two minutes to deliver his talk. Curiously, the Marine walked up to the podium, stared at the audience, and remained completely silent for his first ninety seconds. With 15 seconds left on the clock he calmly said: "I doubt whether there are two or three of you in this room who could even cut it in the Marine Corps. But I want to see those two or three immediately in the dining hall when we are dismissed." He then turned smartly and sat down. Not a very eloquent pitch was it? Yet, when he arrived at the dining hall he was greeted by several dozen eager recruits standing in line waiting to speak with him. The other three branches . . . not so much. You see, this recruiter had come to learn that true commitment is best fanned into flame by appealing to the heroic, sacrificial dimension of the human heart.

So what's the takeaway from this story for you and me as members and friends of this Post? How about fanning into flame one or all of these attitudes within your own heart; "service before self", "find a need and fill it", "make a difference while you can".

Blessings, Chaplain Chris



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Jean Wolniakowski, President
Cleo Phipps, 1st Vice President
Linda Gieske, 2nd Vice President

Ann Kammeraad & Cleo Phipps, Historian
Char Mac Keller, Sergeant-At-Arms
Jean Koehs, Past President

Ina Kaufman, Parliamentarian
Mollie Pipp, Pat Best & Ruth Rescorla,
Executive Board

**AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS COMMENTS**

January meeting – Norma Brazda was surprised with a special award for her many years of unselfish service to the American Legion, the Auxiliary and her community. A Thank You plaque was presented to Norma by Commander Rick Chittenden and 1st Vice Commander David MacKeller. Congratulations Norma! Anyone interested in running for an office should contact Jean K at 846-8664. All chairmen should get annual committee reports ready to turn in at our March meeting. Thank you Romayne and crew for preparing and selling food at the Las Vegas night event. Food sold out early so it must have been a success! March 16 we are hosting the District meeting. March 13 the Auxiliary is preparing and serving the Birthday meal for Legion members. March 20 the Auxiliary will serve for the SAL dinner. Anyone interested in helping on any of the meals, please call Jean W at 842-8237. March 20 is a field service orientation at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home for anyone interested in helping at the Home. Please contact Pat at 842-0749 or Melodie at 997-9414. Scholarship information has been sent to all schools. Call Cleo at 846-6932 for scholarship info. February 23 meeting –We will help with “Birthday Boxes” from Love Inc. after our meeting, finalize slate of officers, and plan for the Legion birthday dinners. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

**“Certificate of Appreciation”**

Commander Dale “Rick” Chittenden presented Norma Brazda with a “Certificate of Appreciation” for her 62 years as a Ladies Auxiliary member.

Norma held the Offices of President, Treasurer and 27 years as Secretary.

Has been a Committee Chairman on every committee at the Legion and has mentored those who have followed her.

Been a member of special committee’s such as Memorial Day, Elevator and Goodfellow’s.

For 18 years she has been a partner in the 8 & 40.

On the District level she’s been Poppy Chairman, Historian and was a regular attendee of the District Events.

In her free time she was Executive Secretary at the North Ottawa Community Hospital in Grand Haven. Raised 4 sons with her husband “Joe”. Active member of the Church of the Dunes.

Pictured Left to Right. 1st Vice Commander David L. MacKellar, Auxiliary President Jean Wolniakowski, Commander Dale “Rick” Chittenden and Past Auxiliary President Norma Brazda.

**ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS**

DUE TO LARGE AMOUNTS OF MAILINGS “YOU” ARE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND ALL CHANGE OF ADDRESSES. EITHER SPRING OR FALL.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE MEETING

There will be our first Memorial Day Meeting March 8th at 7pm. We will meet at American Legion Post #28 on that Monday night. Committee members know who they are. If you have questions or can’t make it, please call me at 616-837-3810 or Dave MacKellar at 616-402-2206. Looking forward to a great Memorial Day, Rick Chittenden



Deb Kelly and Ross Rigoli spin the “Big Wheel” during the SAL Vegas Night

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Legion members interested in running for office for the 2010/2011 run should contact Ray Ribbink at 842-5310. If you have questions about certain offices and requirements please call Dale “Rick” Chittenden at 616-837-3810. Holding an office is a great way to contribute, and give back to our Veteran’s organization. Thank You Commander Rick Chittenden

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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, Texas Hold’ Em
April ~ IRS Party, Armed Forces Day
May ~ Memorial Day, Kentucky Derby Party,
Legion Memorial Golf Outing
June ~ Flag Day
July ~ Independence Day

August ~ Coast Guard Festival, Enlisted Men’s Party,
BBQ Chicken
September ~ American Legion Picnic
October ~ Oktoberfest Party
November ~ Veteran’s Day Dinner, Saturday Football Parties,
Trivia Begins, Happy Thanksgiving!
December ~ Goodfellows Toy Drive, Children’s Christmas
Party, Christmas Buffet, New Year’s Eve Party,
Merry Christmas!

Every Month
1st Tuesday ~ House 6pm, Post 7pm
Every Monday ~ Building & Grounds 9am
2nd Monday ~ SAL Meeting 7:30pm
2nd Tuesday ~ 8 & 40 Meeting 7pm
2nd Thursday ~ Legion Riders 7pm
4th Tuesday ~ Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
1st Saturday ~ Karaoke
Every Wednesday ~ Dinner 5-7pm
Every Friday ~ Burgers 6-8pm

SAL OFFICERS

TL Lowe, Commander
 Rob Wolniakowski, 1st Vice Commander
 Charlie Yonker, 2nd Vice Commander
 Rich Kelly, Finance Officers

Tom Glockzin, Chaplain
 Tom Greensberg, Sergeant-At-Arms
 Jeff VanderVeen, Historian
 Brad Chittenden, Past Commander

Howard Hattson, Post SAL Chairman
 Mike Mattson, Membership Chair
 Jeff VanderWeen, Adjutant

**SAL COMMANDERS COMMENTS**

The long cold snowy winter hoping is coming to an end in a short while. It is time for longer warmer days and sunshine. March Madness for both high school and college basketball will be upon us shortly. Be sure to support your teams. I would like to send a big Thank You to Jeff Vander Veen and Scott Kelly for the highly successful Vegas Night. Much planning and preparation goes into making this a well attended event. Again they found a large group of workers to make this event run smoothly.

Make your calendar for March 20th for the SAL Birthday. It is open to everyone. Tickets are \$7.00 per person, we will be serving a lasagna dinner, and will have musical entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there to help us celebrate

this special occasion.

The SAL will be sponsoring a Memorial Day Golf Scramble again this year. It will be held at West Ottawa Golf Course. Begin talking with your golf partners to be part of this great event. Details will be coming in the future newsletters so watch for more details. Scott Kelly and Jeff Vander Veen will be chairing this event. We are always looking for Tee Sponsors so begin thinking about helping us out in this area.

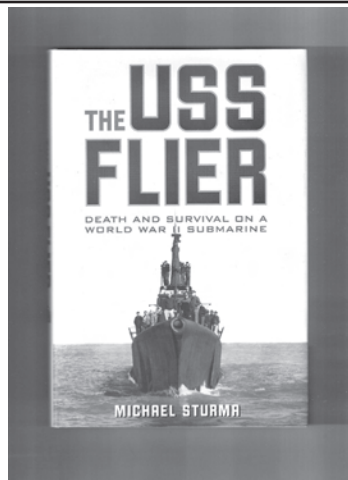
At our February meeting we approved 5 SAL transfer members: - Robert Nelson #179 Grandville, William "Clark" Benson #413 Grand Blanc, Steve Main # 102 Rockford, Brian, and Patrick Quick #102 Rockford and 15 new SAL Members: Don Burley, Jr, Dale Merz, Chad Cooper, Randy Stapel, Brad Fritz, Dennis Rouwhorst, Jack De Marr, James Lambers, Tracy Moore, Joe Wurm, Jack Baas, Dan Robinson, Lee Dreese, Rich Holland, and Tom Vanderherst.
 TL Lowe – SAL Commander

**Youth support troops with cards**

We had about 250 Christmas cards come in from local schools and churches. 150 cards were sent to some of our Post family members serving active duty overseas and state side. I contacted a friend, Army Major Melissa Coleman and asked her if she had any ideas for me to send 100 extra cards. Her idea was to send them to Walter Reed Hospital. Our Service Officer "Jim Walton" Representative of the Heroes to Hometowns program in our area, helped get the cards made by Ferry School students to Walter Reed Hospital. The story is in the National American Legion Web-Site. <http://www.legion.org/heroes/5358/youth-support-troops-cards>. Cards were made by Ferry School, Robinson School, Sunday School Classes at Carpenters House Outreach Church, Bethany Christian Services and a local Home School Group. Thanks for all the hard work from our students. 1st Vice Commander David L. MacKellar "Mack"

WWII Submarine Found "USS Flier"

Hi everyone, Two copies of a book have been donated to the Legion by the family of one of our past members Alvin E. Jacobson. The book is *The USS Flier Death and Survival on a World War II Submarine*. "The fate of the USS Flier is one of the most astonishing stories of the Second World War. On August 13, 1944, the submarine struck a mine and sank to the bottom of the Sulu Sea in less than one minute, leaving only fourteen of its crew of eighty-six hands alive. After enduring eighteen hours in the water, eight remaining survivors swam to a remote island controlled by the Japanese. Deep behind enemy lines and without food or drinking water, the crewmen realized that their struggle for survival had just begun." Alvin E. Jacobson was one of the men that was on the USS Flier. He shared his memoirs and memories to help write this book. These books will be at the Legion in the office so you can sign them out. Check with the Post Manager. I want to thank Lana Jacobson for donating the books on behalf of the Alvin E. Jacobson family.
 1st Vice Commander David L. MacKellar

**Andy's Draught**

The Post had an opportunity recently to help out a local group that contributes a great deal to our veterans. Elizabeth Clark and the Lighthouse Quilt Guild design, sew and stuff beautiful red, white and blue quilts for the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was founded and is run by people that want to say "Thank you" to our servicemen and women in a more tangible way. Elizabeth and her crew of about 8 volunteers from the Lighthouse Quilt Guild donate around 200 hand sewn quilts every year through the QOV Foundation. These quilts are then given to our servicemen and women that are either in wheelchairs or bedridden in hospitals like Walter Reed in Washington DC. These quilts help give warmth and comfort to veterans during times when they need it most.

Each quilt is 55" x 65" in size and use \$60 worth of materials. The Lighthouse Quilt Guild does accept fabric or monetary donations to help offset any out of pocket expenses. If you would like to donate or you have a sewing machine and would like to help, contact Elizabeth Clark at (616)844-4148 or June Ribbink at (616)842-1669. If you would like to know more about QOV Foundation, their website is www.qovf.org.

I came across this quote recently and thought it was worth sharing. "A Veteran is someone who at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America', for an amount up to and including their life." Thank you, Veterans.

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

March drink specials: \$3.00 KJ Special & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday. Don't forget Mondays we have \$2 U-Call-Talls.

Cheers Andy



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

Legion's 91st Birthday Bash
 Tickets are now on sale for the March 13th Legion Birthday Party. Prime rib will be offered up by our Ladies Auxiliary for the meager price of \$8.00. Seating is limited. Cocktails at 6pm with dinner at 6:30. See you there.

March 20th SAL Birthday.
 It is open to everyone. Tickets are \$7.00 per person, we will be serving a lasagna dinner, and will have musical entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there to help us celebrate this special occasion.

MARCH DRINK SPECIALS: \$3.00 KJ SPECIAL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:30pm SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	2 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	3 5PM LAKE PERCH DINNER	4	5 6PM BURGERS & FISH 8pm Lakeshore Big Band	6 6pm Karaoke
7	8 \$2 U-Call Tall	9 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	10 5PM SPAGHETTI DINNER	11 7pm Legion Riders	12 6PM BURGERS & FISH 8pm Silvertones	13 6pm Legion Birthday Dinner
14	15 \$2 U-Call Tall	16 7pm Exec. Comm \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	17 5PM RUBEN SANDWICHES	18 7pm Trivia	19 6PM BURGERS & FISH 8pm Silverado	20 6pm SAL Birthday Dinner
21	22 \$2 U-Call Tall	23 7pm Aux Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	24 5PM SWISS STEAK DINNER	25	26 6PM BURGERS & FISH 8pm Steve Edge	27
28	29 \$2 U-Call Tall	30 \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	31 5PM LASAGNA DINNER	April 1	2 6PM BURGERS & FISH	3 6pm Karaoke