

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 #1103



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

As I write this in mid-February, bands of lake-effect snow are sweeping in

from Lake Michigan bringing periods of overcast skies and heavy snow interspersed with all-too-brief glimpses of blue sky and blessed sunshine. Mother Nature is playing with us. Actually, we haven't suffered too much this winter helped along by the fine hospitality, good food, work and service opportunities and camaraderie provided by our fine Post.

Speaking of work, Phase II of our Post Improvement Project is well underway. Special thanks to: (1) our Post Improvement Project team (Darrel Myers, Leader, Andy VanderHoek, Bill Kaufman and Mack MacKellar), who continue to put in many hours planning, supervising and coordinating the project, and (2) the B&G Committee Work Crew volunteers who have been doing preliminary work preparing the lounge, entrance and dining areas for the arrival of the professional contractors on February 25. And special thanks to volunteers Bob, Chris, Rocky, Big Don, the Ripper (Mike), and Phil L, for donating their talents and time upgrading the Main Lobby with new dry-wall, plaster and paint to complement our new glass doors installed at the Main Entrance. The major project work is expected to last through March and well into April. It is fitting that we will be celebrating the opening of our new lounge, dining and entrance areas (date/time TBD) on the 75th Anniversary of Post 28 being in this fine, old building!

Despite cold wintery weather and work projects, however, it has not been all work and no play at Post 28! And for that, we are especially grateful to everyone who helped provide a very successful and fun Chili Cook Off,

led by Co-Chairmen Phil Smith and Ed Smith with Bill Kaufman (Raffle), Nathan VanKampen (Ticket Sales), and Jason and Julie McKay (Judging). We are also especially grateful to Andy and his crew for providing their usual fine hospitality and beverages, and to all the cook-off teams who prepared some delicious chili recipes. And speaking of entertainment, good food and libations, when you read this, it is safe to assume, the SAL will have already given us another wonderful evening and antidote for the winter blahs with their annual Hawaiian Luau. Mahalo, SAL!

Following tradition, our First Vice Commander, Ed DeKoekkoek, will chair our March 5 Post meeting. Please come and give him your support. If you are interested in becoming a Post officer and/or serving on a committee, contact any Post officer or committee chairperson and let us know.

The next Department of Michigan 5th District meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 7PM, at Roger B. Chaffee Post #154 in Wyoming, MI. Hope to see you there.

On March 16 we will celebrate the Legion's Birthday with our traditional prime-rib dinner. The event will be held upstairs in the Post meeting room and temporary lounge, with cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. Tickets are available at the bar. Our Guest/Speaker will be Dr. Gary Doublestein, who has served 24 years in our Armed Forces (the Navy, Marines, Air Force, and most recently, Army), including 16 years on active duty with tours in Vietnam (2), Iraq (2), Haiti and Afghanistan. Please join us in showing our appreciation to Gary and his wife, Linda, (a former Navy Nurse) for their service, and in celebration of our Legion's 94th Birthday! We look forward to seeing you there! - Ron Bauer, Commander

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

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Our first Memorial Day Meeting will be Monday, March 4th at 7 PM. We will meet at the Grand Haven VFW this year. Committee members, if you have questions or can't make it, please call me at 616-402-2206 or e-mail me at mackeda1@aol.com. Looking forward to a great Memorial Day. Past Commander David MacKellar



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

1. Hugh Hyde, more treatments on arm.
2. Roman Marciniak, recovering from surgery.
3. Vince Antonich in Hackley Hospital.
4. Leonard Kanouse, recovering at home.
5. TJ Thompson, keep in your prayers.
6. Dave MacKellar completed treatments.
7. Dewie Jordan, surgery on arm.
8. Jim Land, surgery scheduled

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Members: Allen R. Girvin, Larry D. Kelch, Aaron J. Wiacek, Todd B. Crum.

Taps were played for: Sherman Ver Plank, Dale Timmer, James Etheridge, Glen Curtis, Richard Perry, Charles Lembke, Army Sgt. Mark Schoonoven, from Plainwell, Michigan, who died January 20, 2013 at Ft. Sam Houston, TX, from wounds suffered December 15, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan.





AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Happy St. Patricks Day to you all. The Auxiliary wishes a Happy Birthday to the members of the Legion. Some of the ladies of the Auxiliary will be going to Marne on March 19, for the annual 5th District dinner. It will be a good chance to meet our Department President. Also our annual reports are due by March 31, 2013. To save postage, I will take any completed reports with me to the District meeting on the 19th. Don't forget that we will still have our meetings during the Post renovation and they will be upstairs. Ann Kammeraad, President

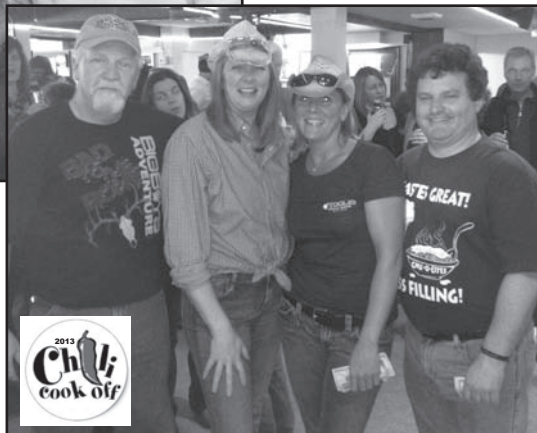
AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Ann Kammeraad, President
Michele Stetts, 1st Vice President
Diane Kirk, 2nd Vice President
Gloria Honey, Secretary
Romayne Althaus, Treasurer
Molly PIPPS, Historian
Peggy Vermeer, Chaplain
Sgt. at Arms; Barb Kelly
Cleo Phipps, Past President



Certificate of Appreciation

From left to right: Greg Retzlaff, Past Commander Phil Smith, and Jerry Retzlaff. Greg and Jerry are owners of Grand Transformers Inc. (GTi) and were presented a certificate of appreciation from the American Legion Post #28 for their generous donation every year at chili cook off.



Chili Cook Off Winners 12th Annual

Left to right: Tom Toogood from the team "Big Boys Chili" finished third. Tracy Easton and Kim Whalen were the 1st place Winners from team "Hic n' Chic" and Dan Smart from team "Chilolights" finished second place.

Andy's Draught

The remodel is underway. We are serving from the bar upstairs. The pizza oven is in storage. Our Wednesday dinners and Friday burgers are cancelled until the construction is complete. We will not be having any bands or karaoke either. We will have the Pull Tabs and popcorn machine upstairs. We are still waiting to see how much it's going to cost to have Keno moved upstairs temporarily.

The bar will be closed Tuesday March 5th during the Post Meeting.

Access to the upstairs will be from the front entry. The west entrance and access to the elevator will not be available all the time.

Please bear with us as we struggle through the next two months. It will be well worth it when it is all done.

Saturday March 16th we will be hosting our Prime Rib Legion Birthday Dinner upstairs. Tickets are available at the bar. The dinner starts at 6:00 and the bar will be closed during the dinner. We will be in need of extra help getting all the food upstairs. If you can help please let me know.

March drink specials: \$3 KJ Special, \$2 U-Call talls every Monday & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday. Cheers Andy



New Honor Guard Members

Commander Ron Bauer, Honor Guard Leader George Bennett, and Past Commander Dave MacKellar presented Harold Weaver and Past Commander Ken Ennenga with their "Honor Guard" pins at the February Post meeting.

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 7 funerals. Army National Guard Honor Guard helped with 2 funerals, Navy Honor Guard helped with 2 funerals and USMC League from Holland helped with 1 funeral. Legion members also attended funeral for Auxiliary member Helen Van Oordt.

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

Gene Rothi Scholarship

Applications for the American Legion Gene Rothi Scholarship for 2013 are now available at the counseling offices of Grand Haven and Spring Lake High Schools. Applications can also be picked up at Post #28 on Harbor Ave.



SAL COMMENTS

As I write this, the lake effect snow is falling and it is mighty cold outside. But the arrival of March means that the winter weather will begin to break and we should start seeing some nice days mixed in with the wintry ones. The Post 28 SAL has certainly had a busy winter, with a number of successful events...the first-ever Wild Game Dinner, our annual New Year's Eve Party, Las Vegas Night, and the ever-popular Hawaiian Luau, now in it's 20th year!! I want to thank all of our SAL officers and volunteers who make these events possible. They work incredibly hard behind the scenes and don't get a lot of recognition. These events are extremely popular at our Post, and absolutely would not happen without their efforts...they deserve a huge round of applause!

The big excitement around the Post these days is the renovation of the Legion bar and lounge area...a big project which is just getting underway. The renovation will completely redo the bar, expanding the bar area, adding seating, and making the bar itself considerably more streamlined and functional for the staff to operate. It will also remodel the Post's entry area to make access easier. The SAL is contributing to the renovation by providing a number of new television screens for the bar area. This should make the bar even more "sports-fan" friendly. The SAL is also supplying a number of new high-top tables and barstools to fill the expanded bar seating area. Once completed, I'm sure that the new bar will be the crown jewel of our Post. A number of the Post's regular activities will be suspended for the duration of the construction (scheduled to be completed by May), but the upstairs bar will be open during this time.

In June, the Post 28 SAL has the honor of hosting the State SAL Convention, and we can't wait to show off our newly renovated Post to all the SAL attendees from around Michigan. The SAL convention is the weekend of June 8th, and there are a number of ceremonial and fun activities on the agenda. Hotel reservations have been pouring in from around the state and the convention should be a fantastic showcase of our Post and our SAL chapter. I hope that a large number of our SAL members will attend and participate so we can show the rest of the state what a great chapter we have. Put it on your calendar and I hope to see you all there!

Drive safely (it's still winter for a while yet) and remember to visit our SAL Post 28 page on Facebook, and "Like" it to get all the updates on our events and activities.

Tom Greenberg, SAL Commander

Post 28 has assembled a team "Mudders For Our Brothers" to compete in a "Tough Mudder" challenge Sunday June 30th at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan to support the "Wounded Warrior Project" & "Operation Comfort Warriors." The Tough Mudder is a 10-12 mile course that involves 20-25 military style obstacles and lots of mud.

Donations can be made at the American Legion Post 28. Cash or checks are accepted. Checks can be made payable to American Legion Post 28 – memo line "Tough Mudder". For more information visit www.toughmudder.com or call Adam Shumaker at (616)617-2722.

Thank you for your support.



Lake Hills Elementary

Honor Guard members Historian Nathan Van Kampen and Service Officer Adam Shumaker were at Lake Hills Elementary school 4th grade class doing a flag presentation. Showed the students how to fold the flag and the proper way to install on the school flag pole. The flag was presented to Principal Jason Lawson.



LEGION RIDERS

seeing motorcycles.

We won't be doing the pork dinner this month due to the bar makeover. It sounds like we may be the first to cook when the bar is done.

By the time you read this newsletter we will have had nominations for the 2013 Riders officers. This month we will vote for the new officers who will start their jobs in April. It looks like we are going to have quite a few rides to choose from this season. Local rides like we had last year, some new ones, some longer ones, some overnights, etc. I know that not everyone will be able to go on all rides because they have other plans, but I hope you can all make as many as possible. Let the good times roll! Ride safe. Toby, ALR Director

LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

Toby Ross, Riders Director
Mike Stressman, Sergeant-at-Arms
John Kemme, Secretary
Larry Foose, Treasurer
Bob Wydeck, Assistant Director
Pastor Wes Spyke, Chaplain
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair

Food for Thought (Because there are no dinners)

There are 428 American Legion Posts in Michigan. Charles Conklin is 2nd in Legion membership. Here's a list of a few:

City	Goal	New members	Renew	Currant	% to Goal
Livonia	1231	34	982	1062	86.27
Grand Haven	1338	91	1177	1314	98.21
Mt. Clemens	1632	27	1303	1436	87.99
Wyandotte	890	54	701	806	90.56
Saginaw	1095	22	851	941	85.94
Ludington	639	16	476	515	80.59
South Haven	446	55	392	482	108.07
Grandville	613	20	453	496	80.91

Post 28 is 122 new members away from #1. We have far and away more new (91) members.
Speaking for the Legion, SAL, and Ladies Aux,
if you haven't paid your dues yet, please get them in. Thank you. Rick Chittenden Adjutant

MARCH DRINK SPECIALS:
\$3.00 KJ SPECIAL

MARCH 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April ~ IRS Party, Armed Forces Day May ~ Memorial Day, Kentucky Derby Party, Legion Memorial Golf Outing June ~ Flag Day					1 NO BURGERS	2
3	4 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	5 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	6 NO DINNER	7	8 NO BURGERS	9
10	11 \$2 U-Call Tall	12 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	13 NO DINNER	14 7pm Legion Riders Meeting	15 NO BURGERS	16 6pm Legion Birthday Dinner
17	18 \$2 U-Call Tall	19 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	20 NO DINNER	21 7pm Trivia	22 NO BURGERS	23
24 31	25 \$2 U-Call Tall	26 7pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	27 NO DINNER	28	29 NO BURGERS	30