

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 #1111

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Volunteer: Person who offers to help or work without expecting payment or reward. I am writing this soon after we did final military rites for one of our own, Hugh Hide. A true example of a volunteer, Hugh served as commander and many other positions here at Post 28, served in our 5th district and was always available when asked. Follow Hugh's example by Volunteering to be on a committee, working on the Monday morning work crew or put your name on the dinner crew. Some of the benefits of volunteering: It gives us a reason to get up, meet new friends, having a good feeling about helping and inspiring others.. Be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem!
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

Greetings to our new members for September. Ronald E. Bohland, Shane P. Funderburg, Joshua A. Patterson, Joseph M. Porter, Dominic L. Westerlund, William G. Colson, James M. Merritt, Casey Nash, Richard D. Rybinski, Kris J. Layson, David A. Thompson III, Erwin R. Doublestein, William D. Hines, Richard I. Joannis, Ryan S. Moore, Christopher M. Bolek, Charles J. Cribley, Larry J. Herlein, Harry C. LaDronka, Ralph Sabene, Brie P. Kreuzfeldt, Dirk A. Nyenhuis. Transfers for September. Arlyn A. Cribley, Richard D. Jackson, Thomas A. Szczytko, David Sobolik, George Ziolkowski, John P. Casazza and Francism L. Zillins.
New members for October. Julie A. Alexander, Jeffrey M. Buehler, Timothy S. Johnson, Gordon A. O'Conner, Graig M. Oudendyk Jack R. Wydeck. Transfers: Michael Michaud, David L. Brinks, Steven B. Lowe, Charles R. Hofty, Guy P. Meloche, Peter B. Ondersma and James Holstine.
WELCOME TO POST 28. Taps for WWII Army Veterans: Jullian Hatton, Richard "Chief" Klempel, and Harold "Hal" Hendrickson.



November 2013 Sick Call List
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 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



Honor Guard leader George Bennett and Commander Ed DeKoekoek presented Service Officer Adam Shumaker with his Rifle Team shoulder cord. They also presented Frank Majors and Cyndy Wierenga with their Honor Guard pins.



5th District Commander Catherine Buckley presented Past Commander Dave MacKellar with Certificate of Appreciation from the 5th District. Post #28 Commander Ed DeKoekoek was there for presentation.

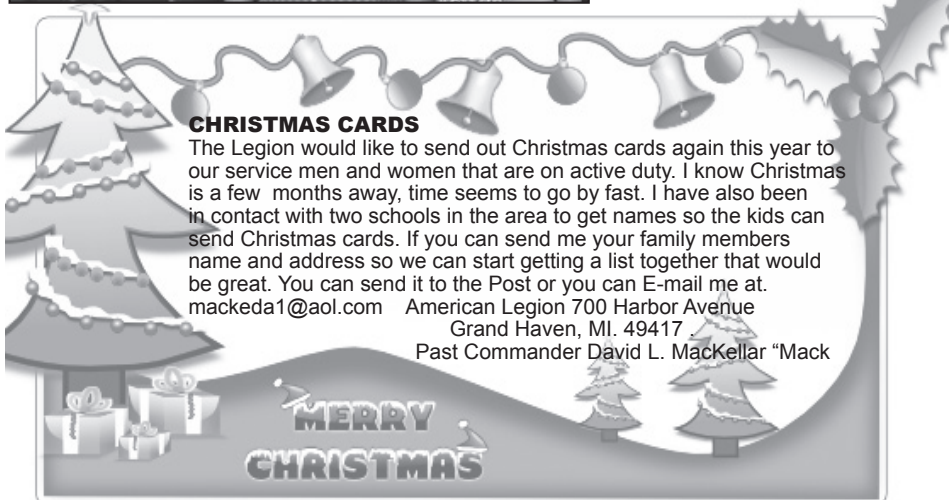
CHRISTMAS CARDS

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 a few months 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"

Charles Conklin Post 28 has 1063 Legion members with a goal of 1433. That's only 270 members that need to join or pay their 2014 dues.

That also puts us 52 members behind the Mt. Clemens post to be the largest Post in Michigan. They are at 1115 members. Their goal is 1662 members. Please pay your 2014 dues by Veteran's Day and find a veteran to join. We can do this.





AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Greetings Auxiliary Members,
Happy Thanksgiving! We have much to be thankful for in our lives. At our October 22nd meeting we enjoyed a potluck dinner followed by the initiation of many new members. Our guests for the evening were 5th District President Deb Chambers and 2nd Vice President LoraLee Nauta.

On November 11th we honor our veterans with a traditional turkey dinner. Social hour is from 6 – 7 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. We are thankful for all our veterans at Post 28 and all those who have served our country. At our November 26th meeting, Department Poppy Chairman, Margot Forrester, is our special guest. She is bringing her Poppy Museum, a collection of poppy designs used by Legion organizations around the world. Please join us.

We are looking for volunteers to put together fruit plates for veterans in local assisted-living centers. Also, the Christmas Gift Shop at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is coming up on December 3rd, 4th, & 5th. We need volunteers to help the veterans choose & wrap gifts for their families. Please contact Chairman Pat Best at (616) 842-0749 if you would like to help with either of these events.

Is shopping your passion? Then the Goodfellows program, in conjunction with Crusade For Toys, is for you. Please contact Chairman Barb Kelly at (616) 566-1294 if you can help shop for children's clothes. She will be passing out shopper cards & instructions on Thursday, December 5th. Clothes must be purchased & dropped off at the Post (upstairs) by Saturday, December 14th.

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. Check your Legionnaire newspaper for the registration form or sign up online at Michiganlegion.org.

Membership Renewal: National sent out 2014 Renewals on September 15th. Your 2013 membership card will expire on December 31, 2013. Please send your \$25 dues for 2014 to our Membership Chair 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.

There will be no meeting in December, but come in to the Post and enjoy the many other activities going on.

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

MISSING: 3 boxes of white melamine dinner coffee cups (120 cups) purchased for the kitchen by the Auxiliary. The cups were stored in the pantry in their original boxes after each use, but have disappeared (or possibly stored elsewhere). If anyone has seen the 3 boxes, please let Michele Stetts or Myrna Puse know as soon as possible. Thank you.

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*



WEDNESDAY'S MENU

NOVEMBER 6TH

CHOPS MEATLOAF DINNER

Scalped potatoes, green bean casserole, role (A Team)

NOVEMBER 11TH

MONDAY NIGHT...

VETERAN'S DAY DINNER

Veterans Only. Let's sell this one out!
(Ladies Aux/SAL)

NOVEMBER 13TH

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY

SPAGHETTI

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Boys)

NOVEMBER 20TH

COUNTRY STYLE PORK

DINNER

Mashed, veggies, dinner roll (Legion Riders)

NOVEMBER 27TH

SPECIAL BURGER NIGHT

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

PLEASE: Pay your 2014 dues by
Veteran's Day. Thank you.

Andy's Draught

Our Healing Heroes program teamed up again this year with the Flyin' Heroes group to take another 5 Veterans fly fishing down the Muskegon River on Saturday September 14th. This year we selected Vietnam era veterans. Through donations and fund raising we were again able to outfit each veteran with all their own equipment. Each veteran received his own waders, flies, line, reel and handmade fly rod with the colors for the Vietnam service ribbon laminated right on the rod itself. They were beautiful.

I would like to thank the Beukema Family for their hospitality. They hosted our "after party" for our fishing trip. They provided everyone with homemade pizzas, ribs and beverages all around their warm campfire. It was the perfect way to end a great day.

Next year's trip we are going to be looking for Iraq & Afghanistan veterans. If you know of any that you think could benefit from a float down the river, casting lines & catching fish please let me know. If you would like to learn

more about our program please check out the video from last year's trip on our website at www.grandhavenlegion.org.

Sunday November 3rd the Channel Cats will be performing here from 4-6pm for your listening pleasure. As for right now we plan on continuing Sunday sales at least until the end of this month. Sunday hours are 1-7pm & Miller Lite and Bud Light drafts are only \$1.

Tickets are available at the bar for the Veteran's Dinner Monday November 11th. The tickets are \$8 each & are available to veterans only.

Wednesday November 27th our regularly scheduled dinner will be changed to burgers served from 5-7pm. Trivia will start at 7pm. So bring your brightest friends & family & test your wits against some of the Legions finest. Remember, you may not use your cell phones to look up answers. That would be cheating.

The Post will be closed Thanksgiving Day. I hope everyone enjoys their Thanksgiving. Karaoke has been rescheduled to Saturday

November 30th & again Saturday December 21st.

Tickets will be available for this year's Wild Game Dinner which will be on Saturday December 7th. Tickets will be \$10 per person. The Post will provide a main dish & asks everyone bring a dish to share of their own catch. Fish, deer, turkey, squirrel, pheasant... they are all fair game. Proceeds will benefit our Healing Heroes program.

It's not too early to renew your memberships. Feel free to mail us your renewals or see one of the bartenders. We just ask that you not try to renew your membership at the bar during a busy dinner.

This month's wine feature is another Sauvignon Blanc from Two Vines. It displays aromas of passion fruit, limes, fresh herbs & flavors of Granny Smith apples, Meyer lemon and zesty grapefruit. It is \$3 per glass or \$10 per bottle.

October drink specials: \$3 Warm Apple Pie, \$2 U-Calls every Monday & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday. Cheers! Andy



SAL COMMENTS

Well, the weather has finally started to turn a bit cooler! It's definitely hard to complain after the absolutely gorgeous Autumn we've been treated to. As the season starts to head toward the holidays, the SAL is busy getting ready for it's busiest time of the year. On Wednesday, November 27 (the day before Thanksgiving), the SAL will host another Trivia Night. This is always the busiest Trivia Night of the year, so come out and join us for a really fun evening with a lot of great folks! We divide into teams, bring appetizers and snacks to pass, wrack our brains for the right answers

to wacky questions, hoot, holler, and generally have a hilarious time.

On December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day), the SAL will host the 2nd Annual Wild Game Dinner. This dinner was a huge success last year, and we are very excited to bring it back! SAL members will prepare and serve appetizers and side dishes, and everyone is encouraged to bring a Wild Game dish to pass. It's only \$10, and the food is absolutely fantastic! Dinner is served from 6pm to 8pm, so plan on coming hungry and sampling everything. Only a few weeks after the Wild Game dinner, it's time for Christmas, and the SAL is very active in the Goodfellows gift delivery, as well as the Legion kid's Christmas party, and other holiday events. Then comes New Years Eve, one of our really fun events of the year. This year, we'll serve hors d'oeuvres from 6pm to 9pm and then Clover Bar pizza at 10pm. We'll dance to the sounds of Amalgamated Sound, and enjoy sparkling drinks and noisemakers to welcome in the New Year. Tickets are limited and only \$20/person, so make sure you purchase yours early...I'm sure this event will be a sell-out!!

Later in January, we'll host Las Vegas Night, a great time to hang out with friends at the Legion and do a little wagering. Then in February comes the Hawaiian Luau, one of our signature events. Always a fantastic party, this year promises to be even bigger and better. Putting on all of these events requires a lot of help, and we'll need plenty of you to pull them off successfully. Please sign up for these events as we post sign-up sheets at the bar, and plan on getting involved!

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the SAL: Cory Holmes, Kenneth Bush, McCauly Jemstad, Nichola Whalen, Joe Campbell, Michael Benedict, Stanley Fortuna, Jr., Mike Ruark, William Cleveland, William Schap, William Sienko, Mark Deal, and Dwight Chittenden. Please plan on coming to a meeting, get to know the Officers and other dedicated members that work so hard throughout the year, and get involved!! We donate all of our proceeds from the various events we put on, and it feels great knowing that you are helping veterans, local charities and those in need.

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

Did you notice the paper pumpkins in our lounge in October? They were hung up to represent donations made. Thank you to those of you who donated to our Cystic Fibrosis Foundation fund raiser. We appreciate the donations that you made. The money will be sent to fund research to find a cure for the childhood disease that affects thousands. Our next 8 & 40 meeting will be on November 12 at 7pm. 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 5 funerals. Army National Guard helped with 2 funerals. Members of the Coast Guard GH helped with a Joint Memorial service for "TJ" Thompson and "JW" Wayne here at our post.

The Honor Guard has 2 new members, Cyndy Wierenga and Frank Majors. Welcome to the Honor Guard. Also Adam Shumaker has joined the Rifle Team. Thanks to all for helping out with funerals for our members and veterans.
Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett

Chili Cook Off is right around the corner on February 8, 2014. Be sure to read the December newsletter for date and time to sign up. Remember Chili Cook Off is an ADULT FUNCTION ONLY no one under 21 years of age please.



LEGION RIDERS

The Great War is over! Germany defeated!

An eerie silence descended on the scared battlefields of Europe at 11am on November 11, 1918. The Allied Powers had signed a ceasefire agreement at Rethondes, France bringing the Great War, later known as World War I, to a close. The Armistice with Germany hit news stands all across America. Americans across this country celebrated in the streets.

The Armistice reminds us of all those who gave their lives for this country in The Great War. In the 1950's the Armistice was changed to Veteran's Day to remember those that died in all Wars and gave their lives for their country and our freedoms. So especially this month please thank a Vet whenever you see one. America is what it is because of our Vets.

The weather is getting cold and snow is just around the corner. Our Post 28 Riders start their first winter get-together this month on Nov. 9th at 5pm at Fricano's Pizza in Grand Haven. Last year we had around 18 Riders show up and had good turn outs all winter long.

Don't forget Thanksgiving. I know I'm looking forward to turkey and getting stuffed. I hope you all have a good turkey day with you families.

Some of our Riders will be out in the woods this month trying to bag that big buck so please be safe.

We are getting closer to our 2014 Riders dues, so make sure you renew you Legion dues. I don't want anyone to miss the fun next year.

Toby Ross, Post 28 ALR Director




Honor Guard members from the VFW and the American Legion were Honored by the "Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival Committee for their support of fallen comrades during Memorial and Burial services."



Adam Shumaker and Nathan VanKampen present Commander DeKoekkoek with a book "named "dung in my foxhole" written by retired Master Sgt. Gordon Ewell! He wrote the IED manual for the Army and was blown up 6 times. The last of which caused the major damage and caused him the need to be retired!" Adam and Nathan met Master Sgt Ewell at (Post #117 Andrew Pearson, American Legion) in Billings Montana, while at a Fly Fishing Training School.



The Executive Committee approved sending to the membership at the November 4th legion post Meeting a proposal for sound abatement which was recommended by the Building and Grounds committee.

NOVEMBER DRINK SPECIALS: \$2.00 BLOODY MARY		NOVEMBER 2013					<i>December ~ Goodfellows Toy Drive, Children's Christmas Party, Christmas Buffet, New Year's Eve Party, January ~ Happy New Year!, Las Vegas Night</i>
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	Every Monday 8am Building and Grounds Meeting				1 6PM BURGERS	2 12pm UofM vs MSU No Karaoke	
3 4pm Channel Cats \$1 Drafts	4 7:30 SAL Meeting 8:30pm Chicago @ Green Bay \$2 U-Call Tall	5 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	6 5PM CHOP'S MEATLOAF DINNER	7 7pm ALR Meet	8 6PM BURGERS	9	
10 \$1 Drafts	11 7pm Veteran's Day Dinner \$2 U-Call Tall	12 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	13 5PM ALL-YOU- CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI	14	15 6PM BURGERS	16	
17 \$1 Drafts	18 \$2 U-Call Tall	19 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	20 5PM ROAST PORK DINNER	21	22 6PM BURGERS	23	
24 \$1 Drafts	25 \$2 U-Call Tall	26 7pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	27 5PM SPECIAL BURGER NIGHT 7pm Trivia	28 	29 6PM BURGERS	30	