

# 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](http://www.grandhavenlegion.org)

Issue #1109

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



September, where has the summer gone?  
Coast Guard Festival Honored our Honor Guard members with a medallion and a certificate of appreciation on Thursday. Friday My wife and I attended a luncheon on the Mackinaw Coast Guard ship. I met Miss America on board. We attended the memorial service for fallen guardsman. I had the great honor to welcome the Coast Guard commandant to Post 28. I received a special plaque and Picture from the first Escanaba memorial service from the son and grandson of survivor O'Malley. Look for the plaque and picture at the club.

READY = be prepared, available, and ready for action. Willing to do something. Before the command FIRE we are told to get ready. If our mind is not on the what we accomplish we won't be ready to fire in unison, or we will not fire at all. Are we ready, as members of the American Legion, to serve those who are in need? Take time to find something you can do to help those in need.

BE READY AND WILLING TO DO SOMETHING!

## 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

A warm welcome to our new members and transfers,  
Michael A. Brown, Robert D. Etheridge, Jeremiah D. Jacobs, David A. Liening, Marcel Manzagol, James K. Palma, Richard J. Radde, Walter A. Wasil, Andrew L. Sytsma, Gerald J. Verrier, Ryan B. Atkins, Thomas W. Austin, Richard F. Baxter, Bruce D. Campbell, Thomas D. DeYoung, Donald C. Hipp, Michael D. Metzger, Dennis H. Steffens, Edward J. Talen, Sijtze VanTuijn, and Thomas J. Devlin. You are urged to become involved by attending meetings and volunteering. WELCOME ABOARD.

Taps were played for Robert "Bob" Elenbass, Terry "T.J." Thompson, and Norbert "Bud" Grant. REST IN PEACE.



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.

Hugh Hyde, Vince Antonich, Dave Meints, "JW" James Wayne, "Jimbo" Jim Land, Ron Kurchner, Doug Telgenhof

Chaplain: George Bennett



## HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 7 funerals. Army National Guard helped with 4 funerals and USMC helped with 1 funeral.

The Honor Guard and Rifle Team will be at our "Patriot Day Program" on September 11, 2013. At the American Legion time 10AM.

Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett



Miss America Mallory Hagan and Commander Ed DeKoekoek meet at the Luncheon on the Coast Guard cutter Mackinaw.



## AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Welcome to our many new members. Our membership is over 1,100 strong and is the largest Auxiliary Unit in Michigan. I encourage our new members to volunteer a few hours of their time helping out at the numerous events we hold and participate in throughout the year. It's a great way to meet other members and an opportunity to witness first-hand the Auxiliary in action.

At our August meeting, we had several guest speakers including the Post's Service Officer, Adam Shumaker and our Girls State delegates. We received Department awards for membership (meeting 100% goal & increasing membership) and for our donation to Girls State. Also in August, seven Auxiliary members volunteered for Bingo night at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans; our Unit donated \$150 for prizes.

FYI: September 12th is a get-together with the VFW Auxiliary. Fall Conference is in Harbor Springs, MI, on September 20th-22st. Our October 22nd meeting is a potluck that begins at 6:00 p.m. and includes Initiation of new members. November 11th is the Veterans' Day turkey dinner. Soon we'll be asking for volunteer shoppers for the Goodfellows program in December. Give me a call if you would like to attend and/or help out at any of these events.

The 2013-2014 Hostess Booklets are now available. You can pick one up at the bar or at our monthly meetings.

Enjoy the last days of summer! Respectfully, Michele Stetts, President  
mstetts@charter.net (616 901-8331)

### 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



Thanks to our Ladies Auxiliary for the cakes for the Coast Guard Enlisted Dinner.

## Andy's Draught

The new bar weathered this summer quite well. The bartender weathered the summer quite well too. This summer was a big challenge for all of us learning the ins and outs of the new bar. I would personally like to thank our hard working and personable crew. They are on the front lines every day and help make this the best Post in Michigan.

With the fall season approaching we will be closed Sundays with exception of the Legion Picnic. Monday through Friday hours are 2pm to 10pm and Saturdays are noon to 10pm.

We will be hosting the Legion picnic here at the Post Sunday the 15th from 1pm-4pm. We ask everyone bring a dish to pass. The Post will provide hot dogs, beer and pop. Corn provided by Dale Chittenden. We will also be running a special on build your own Bloody Marys.

It is not too early to renew your dues. Feel free to renew at the bar if you don't get a renewal reminder in the mail. You must have your card on you to renew as well as purchase alcohol. Don't take offence if the bartender asks to see your card. Be proud to show it. The bartenders are only trying to protect your Post.

Saturday, September 14th we will be hosting 5 Vietnam Era Veterans down the Muskegon River for our 3rd annual Healing Heroes fly fishing trip. This event has been a huge success. Thank you to the Flyin' Heroes group for making this trip possible.

Pizzas are back! They will be available any night there is no dinner being served from the kitchen. We are looking for volunteers to help cook and serve pizzas when the bartenders are too busy behind the bar.

September drink specials: \$3 Anothers, \$2 U-call talls Mondays & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday. Cheers! Andy



Commander Ed DeKoekkoek and wife Ruth Ann met the Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert J. Papp Jr. at the post and talked about the Coast Guard Festival.

## WEDNESDAY'S MENU

### SEPTEMBER 4TH PERCH DINNER

Slaw, Fries and Roll (Ray's Gang)

### SEPTEMBER 11TH ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Boys)

### SEPTEMBER 18TH COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, dinner roll (Legion Riders)

### SEPTEMBER 25TH SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER

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

### OCTOBER 2ND PERCH DINNER

Slaw, Fries and Roll (Ray's Gang)

The Dinner Comm. would like to thank some Coast Guard volunteers: Phyllis, Fran, Patty, Betty, Char, Nicki, The Pat Kuck gang, T.L., Carl, Mack,Bill, Darryl, Phil (2), Ken, Dave, Rich, Doc, Tom, Kim, Tracy, and the others that made the wonderful bean medley, Dale Gould, Brownie Jr, Rob and the car club. I know I forgot someone. This may have been one of the smoothest weekends yet. And finally, the Comm has to give a big shout out to Andy. He is our extremely capable Post Manager who works his bar towel off to make this Coast Guard week happen. Andy and his mixologists are to be commended. Thanks to all from the finest American Legion Post in Michigan.



## SAL COMMENTS

Summer is still going strong as I write this, but the nights are starting to cool down a little, and there is the tiniest hint of Fall in the air. We still have lots of Summer weather left (at least I sure hope so), but it won't be long before vacations are over, Labor Day is behind us and the kids head back to school. September in Grand Haven means Salmon Festival, and this year, the Salmon Festival is bigger and better than ever. The many events include a wine and beer tasting, an art fair, a salmon cook-off, a Big King fishing contest, a beer tent with entertainment, a grape-stomping competition, educational exhibits and fun activities for the kids in the KidZone, and of course, the Salmon Fish Boil Dinner on Friday evening. The Salmon Fest has been moved a week earlier to help insure that we have great weather, and the dates this year are Friday, September 13 through Sunday, September 15. For more information on activities and schedules, visit the Grand Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau website at: [www.visitgrandhaven.com](http://www.visitgrandhaven.com) and click on Salmon Festival in the menu bar.

The Salmon Fish Boil Dinner is put on every year by your SAL. We always need many volunteers to pull off this event, and there are signup sheets at the Legion bar for those who want to volunteer. We need to get at least 12 people involved on the morning of the 13th from 8:00AM - 12:00PM to cut up fish, shuck corn, peel and clean onions and potatoes, and do setup. This prep work takes place at the GH Sailing Club on Harbor Drive. And then we need people in the afternoon and evening of the 13th to sell and take tickets, check wristbands, check ID's, serve beer and wine, serve food, do cleanup, and much more at the Fish Boil tent in the public marina parking lot. We are especially in need of 6-8 people to help with "kitchen cleanup" after the Fish Boil! This is always a big job, and more hands would really help us out. This would be a great way for some of our new members to get involved. As usual, I will be part of the cooking crew, so I hope to see you all there!

The Salmon Fish Boil is always a great fundraising event for the SAL, since we generally serve 800-1000 dinners. As with all our events, we donate the proceeds to worthy Veteran's causes and local community charities, so come on out and help us...you'll have a fantastic time with a bunch of great guys and gals, participate in a really fun event, and feel great about the contribution you are making to those less fortunate! As a special perk, for anyone that volunteers, there is a pizza dinner at the Legion on Thursday, September 12 at 5:00 PM, where you will get your official Festival T-shirt, sign up to work other Salmon Fest events, and eat Clover Bar pizza and salad. C'mon out and join us...it's a blast!

Speaking of new members, our Squadron 28 SAL membership continues to climb. We have 20 new SAL members this month. They are: Lawrence Snell Jr., James Gallup, Randall Janiczek, Thomas Peters, Dan Jaracz, Arthur Lien Jr., Guy Yondo, Monte, James Dewerd, John Deklyen, John Pountney, Tom LaFave, Dennis Haney, Matthew Moore, Jeffrey Rumsey, Scott Lambourne, Adam Wessel, McHale Smith, and Jason Minier. We also have 3 transfers from other Squadrons...Craig Strain transferred from Squadron 47, Robert Swantek transferred from Squadron 324, and Richard Iacovoni transferred from Squadron 258. I want to personally welcome each of the new and transferred members to Squadron 28 and hope that we'll see you at our monthly meetings (first Monday of every month at 7:30PM) and at our various SAL events throughout the year. Enjoy the rest of the Summer and I'll see you at the Salmon Fest! Tom Greenberg, SAL Commander

## LEGION RIDERS



September. I can't believe it's here already. Seems like it comes sooner every year. I rode about the same amount of miles on the bike as in past years, but wish I would have been able to put more on. There's always next year. Fall starts this month on the 22nd so get some more miles on that bike.

I would like to thank the American Legion Riders of Post 28 for their donation of \$1300.00 to the Legacy Run to help the children of our Fallen Heros.

Just a note about the steak dinner we did in August. We had many good comments about the food and people were asking when we'll do it again. We are thinking about doing another

one so stay tuned.

We have a ride on the books for September to Dublin Mi. The Famous Dublin BBQ Ride. We do this every year. It's lots of fun and both the ride and the food are great. If you haven't been on this ride it's a must do. We will stop at the Dublin Store, get some jerky and whatever meat you want to grill. It's a good time.

This is the last month for our Bike Nights. We have had a good season this year and I will miss them. If you want a good hot dog dinner you'd better get down here on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 6pm to 8pm. Thank you to the kitchen crew that has been there for every dinner. Great job!

There is one more ride that we can participate in this month. It's the American Heros run. Date is September 14th and cost is \$20.00 per person. Registration at 9am at our Post and the ride leaves at 10am. The money made goes to help our Vets in the area. Hope to see you there.

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  
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

Thank you to the ladies who helped on our fund raisers the last couple of months. Thank you to those who participated and contributed. It is generous people like you who make our Post the wonderful American Legion Post that it is. Our 8 & 40 Salon raises money and donates it to organizations that assist in the prevention and control of lung and respiratory diseases in children. Coming up in October we will be asking for donations and then hanging up paper Jack-O-Lanterns at our Post. Our next meeting will be on September 10, at 7pm. Dues of \$15.00 for 2014 may be paid at that meeting. Chapeau, Char

## 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



Commander Ed DeKoekoek is presented a plaque from the son and grandson of Coast Guard Seaman 1st Class Raymond O'Malley, Jr. The plaque is on display at the Legion with a picture of the 1st Memorial Service of the sinking of the Coast Guard cutter Escanada during WWII.

## 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



Scottville Clown Band at Post 28 after Coast Guard Parade

SEPTEMBER DRINK SPECIALS: \$3.00 ANOTHERS		<b>SEPTEMBER 2013</b>					October ~ Oktoberfest Party, Wine Tasting November ~ Veteran's Day Dinner, Saturday Football Parties, Happy Thanksgiving!
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	<b>2 LABOR DAY</b> 7:30 SAL Meeting Building and Grounds Work Crew @8:00 AM \$2 U-Call Tall	3 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	4 <b>5PM PERCH DINNER</b>	5 5pm Legion Riders	6 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	7 6pm Karaoke	
8	9 Building and Grounds Work Crew @8:00 AM \$2 U-Call Tall	10 6pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	11 <b>5PM ALL-YOU- CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI</b>	12	13 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	14	
15 <b>1PM LEGION PICNIC</b>	16 Building and Grounds Work Crew @8:00 AM \$2 U-Call Tall	17 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	18 <b>5PM COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER</b>	19 7pm Trivia	20 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	21	
22	23 Building and Grounds Work Crew @8:00 AM \$2 U-Call Tall	24 7pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	25 <b>5PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER</b>	26	27 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	28	
29	30 Building and Grounds Work Crew @8:00 AM \$2 U-Call Tall	Oct. 1 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	2 <b>5PM PERCH DINNER</b>	3 5pm Legion Riders	4 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	5	