

# 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 #1087



## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

My fellow Legionaries. The skies are dark, the winds are blowing, and the surf is really up, plus road construction continues in front of our Post. The project is on schedule, and access to our parking lot remains unincumbered. As expected, business has been down a little. Curbs and sidewalks will be installed in the next two weeks followed by the base coat of asphalt. Meeting attendance has been great under the circumstances.

Thank you all for coming out in these difficult times and also for supporting our Wednesday night dinners and Friday night burgers. Please don't forget our Veterans Day festivities this month. There will be a service at the Eternal Flame on Friday November 11th, at 11 A. M. followed by cocktail hour at 6:00 P.M. and dinner at 7:00 P.M. at our Post. Start thinking about Chili Cook-Off to be held in February! Sign up will be January 2, 2012, and is limited to 11 teams. The Cook Off is February 11, 2012. October 15th, the American Legion held a medal ceremony at our Post for one of our members. Mr. Charles Hennesen was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal. The Medal is the highest award given by the French Government. The Medal was pinned on Mr. Hennesen by U. S. Congressman Bill Huizenga of Zeeland. Mr. Hennesen has been a member at our Post for 66 years, he was also honored with a Life Membership. Congratulations from a grateful nation Mr. Hennesen. So till next month, I'll see you at the Post.

Phil Smith Commander Post # 28.

## American Legion Officers

Phil Smith, Commander  
Ron Bauer, 1st Vice Commander  
Ed DeKoekkoek, 2nd Vice Commander  
Butch Balk, 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  
Hugh Hyde and Bill Kaufman  
Executive Board at Large  
David L. MacKeller "Mack", Past Commander

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to our new members and transfers:  
John Pimm, James Taylor, George Spink,  
James Pilko, Ronald Thenn, Wayne Potsma,  
Edward Beebe.

Taps were played for one of our members:  
Dr. Robert Sluiter, also U. S. Army Specialist Chazray Clark of Ecorse, Mi. KIA Afghanistan.



"Michael Ginocchio being congratulated by Ron Bauer, First Vice Commander/Boys State 2011 Chairman, at the Post's Boys State Recognition Ceremony and party. Mike was one of 27 delegates sent by Post 28 to Boys State 2011 in June, the largest delegation sent by any Post in Michigan Mike was further honored to be one of two delegates from Michigan selected to represent their State at Boys Nation, held in Washington, D.C. in July, where he met the President and many Congressional leaders."

## "Adopt-A-Platoon" Program

In September, Post 28 agreed to enroll in the "Adopt-A-Platoon" program and has actively been engaged in sponsoring a platoon of soldiers currently serving with the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division - stationed in Afghanistan. The platoon is with C-Company, 2-2 IN, 3/1 BCT and is stationed at Cobat Out Post Deh Yek - Task Force Ramrod. This unit's state side base is at Ft. Knox, KY. To date, we have collected enough donations to fill 12 boxes for these troops. Feedback from their commander, 1st LT Johnathon Brown, after the first two packages arrived - "my platoon is very appreciative of the items sent." "We passed out the shampoo to everyone in our COP to ensure everyone was squared away who might need hygiene items. I believe the soldiers have already eaten all the snacks that you (we) sent." "Once again, we thank you." So, a big thank you to any and all of you who dropped off donations at the Legion for this platoon. And a special thank you to the legion riders who really stepped up to provide supplies for these troops. I ended up draining the Post Office of all their APO



shipping boxes while attempting to ship all these supplies out. Well done Riders! If you are interested in making any donations, there is a station next to the elevator with slips of paper recommending supplies the troops would like to receive. The holiday season is just around the corner!

## HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 5 funerals. Army National Guard helped with 2 funerals. We want to welcome S/Sgt. Jason Abbott and Sgt. Scott Kinney back from Iraq, they are with the Army National Guard and help us with funerals. Color Guard & Honor Guard members were at the "Easttown Fallfest Parade." Commander Phil Smith, Dave MacKellar, Ed DeKoekkoek, Nathan VanKampen, Ken Kelly, George Bennett, Jack Gardner, Dave Carlson & SAL member Roger Kelly. Members of the VFW Color Guard also attended parade.

Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett

## "LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VETERANS"



Ever consider running for Post 28 Commander? Let me explain it to you.  
616-837-3810. Rick Chittenden.  
Nominating Committee.



## AUXILIARY COMMENTS

The leaves and the acorns have fallen, next we will see snow coming down. The annual newsletter has been printed. The Officers, Committee Chairpersons, and meetings are listed. Due to the high cost of mailing you can pick up your newsletter at the Legion or at the meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We now have over 1,000 members. Any questions call me at (616) 846-6932, or email me at cleophipps@att.net. By the time you read this we would have had our initiation. Welcome all new members. November 11 is the Veterans Day Service in the morning at the Eternal Flame and dinner in the evening at the Legion. On November 30 we will be participating in the Veterans Christmas gift shopping. Call Pat Best at 842-0749 if you can go. It is a delightful day. Happy Thanksgiving! Cleo Phipps President

## AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Cleo Phipps, President  
 Ruth Kelly, 1st Vice President  
 Diane Kirk, 2nd Vice President  
 Ann Kammeraad, Secretary  
 Romayne Althaus, Treasurer  
 Michele Stetts, Historian  
 Peggy Vermeer, Chaplain  
 Barb Kelly, Sgt. At Arms  
 Molly Pippis, Char MacKellar,  
 Sharron MacConnack, Executive Board  
 Peggy Vermeer, Ruth Kelly, Kay Dougall,  
 Lisa Davis, Parliamentarian  
 Jean Koehs, Past President



## Andy's Draught

Tuesday September 27th we were able to take 5 Veterans fly fishing down the Muskegon River through our Wounded Warriors Fly Fishing program. It was a huge success. Everyone had a great time and nearly everyone caught a fish. Thank you to everyone involved. We are looking to continue the program and go again next year, but we are in need of more support. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out with this rewarding program.

I would like to say that I was blown away by the turn out of our MSU vs. U of M tailgate party, but I was just blown away. The wind was terrible. We had a lot going against us this year with the weather, construction and a noon game, but the Post was still busy with members taking shelter inside. We will plan on doing it again next year.

Tickets are available at the bar for the Veteran's Dinner Friday November 11th. They tickets are \$7 each. Trivia this month has been moved to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The kid's Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday December 10th and will follow the same style party as what we did last year. There will be crafts and games for the kids to do and of coarse Santa will be there too.

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 renew your membership at the bar during a busy dinner.

Keep your eye on the calendar for upcoming dinners & bands. October drink specials: \$3 Washington Apple, \$2 U-Calls every Monday & \$1 12oz can beer every Tuesday. Cheers! Andy

## WEDNESDAY'S MENU

### NOVEMBER 2ND

LAST PERCH DINNER OF THE YEAR (Ray)

### NOVEMBER 9TH

ZESTY SPAGHETTI (Coopersville Gang)

### NOVEMBER 16TH

COUNTRY PORK (Biker Dudes)

### NOVEMBER 23RD

ZZZ... Night before Thanksgiving (Pilgrims)

### NOVEMBER 30TH

SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK

(Mr. Wellings Favorite)

November-February mark some pretty challenging dinners. Be assured that there will be at least 100 servings of these delicious entrees every Wednesday night. We need your support. If you can't be where its warm, be amongst friends. Dinner Committee.

## AMERICAN LEGION GOODFELLOWS

Goodfellows time is rapidly approaching. If you don't have a chance to give to the firefighters "Crusade for Toys" on December 3rd you may send your donation to:

Goodfellows: c/o American Legion Post #28,  
 700 Harbor Ave. Grand Haven, MI 49417

We are anticipating a greater need this year for toys and clothing for the needy children who are referred to us by the Salvation Army, which serves as our clearing house.

The Goodfellows, What Do They Do?

For over 60 years, the American Legion Post #28 Goodfellows program has worked to make sure that the needy children of the area have a good Christmas. We furnish each child with new clothes, along with toys, games and candy. The Goodfellows Committee is made up of Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members. We shop for clothes and specialty items, then pack all items in a family box, wrap and deliver to their homes.

Shoppers will need to pick up their list between 6:00 and 8:00 pm on December 1, 2011, at the Post and shopping must be completed by December 10, 2011.

Wrapping party is on Thursday, December 15th, at 7:00 pm, with delivery on Saturday, December 17 with breakfast for Delivery Personnel at 8:30 am. Delivery will start at 9:30 am.

Thank you everyone – The Goodfellows Committee  
 Please sign up for delivery in the Lounge



Car & Motorcycle Show Chairman Garrett Veihl with Nancy & Dan Glueck and Mary Chittenden were at the October Post meeting. Nancy presented Ken Kelly with a check for the Fallen Heroes Memorial and Mary presented Fred Smith from the Legion Riders with a check for the Wounded Warriors Camp in the UP.





## SAL COMMENTS

By now you are preparing for Thanksgiving dinner with friends and/or family. It is a great time to be thankful for the blessing that we are given. Hopefully, the Lions are still unbeaten at this time.

Trivia will be on Wednesday evenings on November 23rd and on December 14th. The largest group night to play is on November 23rd. It is a lively fun filled night. Beginning in January, we will return to the 3rd Thursday of the month.

In October, we added three new members and they are as follows: Rich Romans, Dave Johnson, and Jeffrey Meyers. If you have not renewed your membership, you may either stop down to the Post to leave a check for Mike Brown or send it through the mail to Mike at the Post. Membership dues have increased to \$25.00 and I would like to encourage you to add a donation to the Fallen Heroes Monument.

Be sure to mark your calendar for New Year's Eve party that has been a successful event the past several years. Great food, appetizers, music, and spending time with friends to bring in the new year.

Up and Coming Events: Vegas Night January 12th - if you are interested in helping out we can always use dealers. Contact Mike Brown or look for the sign-up sheet that will be available at the bar. February 25 - Hawaiian Luau.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the SAL events. If you are interested leave your name with a bartender and they will pass it on to me. This is a great way to get to know people at the Legion, meet great people, and have fun volunteering your time for a worth cause.  
TL Lowe SAL Commander

## SAL OFFICERS

TL Lowe, Commander  
Tom Greenberg, 1st Vice Commander  
Jack DeMarr, 2nd Vice Commander  
Rich Kelly, Finance Officer  
Tom Glockzin, Chaplain  
Mike Zolik, Sergeant-At-Arms  
Tom Greenberg, Historian  
Carl Lori, Legion Advisor  
Mike Brown, Membership  
Paul Kubicek, Adjutant  
Brad Chittenden, Past Commander

## 8&40 Salon 499

This has been a year of many changes, but in all we are thankful for our Post, our Partners and our Officers. We are especially thankful for the donations we received for the Cystic Fibrosis drive in October. Your generosity is heartwarming. The money was sent on to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Michigan to help the children with lung diseases. Plan to attend our next meeting on November 8 at 7:00 PM. We do not meet in December and January.  
Chapeau, Ann Kammeraad

## LEGION RIDERS

Cold weather is starting to show its face and the riding season will soon be coming to an end.

Time to put the bikes in the garage and start planning next years events.

Last month some of the riders from post 28 took part in the legacy run as it traveled to the national convention in Minnesota.

Riders from all across the country banded together to escort the national commander to the convention and raise money for the American Legion legacy scholarship fund.

300 Plus riders traveled more than 1200 miles across four states before winding up in Minneapolis.

This year the goal was to raise \$450,000 . In the end \$642,666 was generated for the scholarship fund topping the goal by almost \$200,000.

This brings the total raised for the last 6 years to over \$2.5 million. to help with the education of the children who have lost a parent while serving in the military. Well done Legion riders.

The riders here at post 28 are in the beginning stages of planning for the national north south barbecue shoot out that will be held at post 28 this coming spring. More on that later.

Thank you riders for making this another good year of supporting our veterans and their family's.

And thank you for riding safe.

God bless those wonderful men and women who keep us free.

Billy, Riders director



## LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

Billy Haynes, Commander  
Freddy Smith, Assistant Director  
Ed Mc Donald, Secretary  
Larry Culbertson, Treasurer  
Rev. Wesley Spyke, Chaplain  
Michael Capman, Historian  
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair  
Glen Bullock, Past Director

## 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 two 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"

## FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

We have changed the dedication date from November 11 Veterans Day 2011 to Pearl Harbor Day December 7, 2011. We plan to hold the service at 6:00 P. M. and the speaker will be committee members from the VFW and American Legion.

We are drawing near our goal of \$130,000.00 in contributions as of this date 10/12/2011. We have received donations totaling \$123,466.00. This shows what great support we are getting from our communities.



Ann Kammeraad being installed as Le Chapeau of the 8 & 40 Salon #499 by Myrna Puse.



**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



NOV. DRINK SPECIALS: \$2 Bloody Mary		<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>		December ~ Goodfellows Toy Drive, Children's Christmas Party, Christmas Buffet, New Year's Eve Party, Merry Christmas! January ~ Happy New Year!, Las Vegas Night		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	2 <b>5PM PERCH DINNER</b>	3	4 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	5 MSU vs Minnesota UofM @ Iowa 6pm Karaoke
6 	7 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	8 ELECTION DAY 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	9 5PM ZESTY SPAGHETTI DINNER	10 7pm Legion Riders Meeting	11 7 pm VETERANS DAY DINNER	12 MSU @ Iowa UofM @ Illinois
13	14 \$2 U-Call Tall	15 7pm Exec. Comm. \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	16 5PM COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER	17	18 <b>6PM BURGERS</b> 8pm Silverado Band	19 MSU vs Indiana UofM vs Nebraska
20	21 \$2 U-Call Tall	22 7pm Aux Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	23 NO DINNER	24 	25 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	26 MSU @ N. Western UofM vs Ohio
27	28 \$2 U-Call Tall	29 \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	30 5PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER	Dec. 1	2 <b>6PM BURGERS</b>	3 6pm Karaoke