

# 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 #1107



### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

The Grand Haven Memorial Day programs and parade went very well thanks to months of work by those involved in planning and

executing the events. And thanks to those patriotic and caring citizens who came out to participate and/or simply observe as we honored our fallen veterans. Special thanks to Chris and Sabina Streng, Past Commander Dave "Mack" MacKellar, and members of the Kelly family, for again serving on the Grand Haven Memorial Day Planning Committee, along with other members of the VFW and our Post 28 Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders organizations. Thanks to Garrett Veihl, Ann Kammeraad and Cleo Phipps and their "kitchen" volunteers for providing a most-welcome Memorial Day breakfast and lunch before and after parade and post-parade ceremonies. Thanks to the Boy and Girl Scouts for doing a fine job raising the flags during the Waterfront and Eternal Flame ceremonies, and to our Post members and the many unsung volunteers throughout the county who helped place flags next to the veteran's graves prior to Memorial Day. Special thanks to Reverend John Kenny, a former US Army chaplain, for leading us in prayers for our veterans at the Sunday Evening Service at the Grand Haven First Reformed Church and at the Memorial Day waterfront ceremony. Finally, a special note of thanks to our well-performing Coast Guard, VFW and American Legion Honor Guards for participating in all of these activities. Well done all!

With the start of June, our SAL members, Andy VanderHoek and his staff did an excellent job preparing the Post for, and hosting, the 2013 State SAL Convention. Special thanks as well to our SAL volunteers, Darrel Myers and his Building & Grounds crew, and the volunteer "kitchen" and clean-up crews for so successfully preparing the Post to serve this large, three-day gathering. On June 14th, we participated in and attended the annual Flag Day Waterfront ceremony, organized by the Elks, followed by our annual formal Flag retirement ceremony at the Post to provide proper disposal of unserviceable American flags gathered from the area. June ended on several less-somber and happier notes. First, several Post officers attended a Boys Scout Troop 165 Court of Honor, at which Scout Liaison Officer, Dewie Jordan, presented newly-appointed Eagle Scout, Ronnie Madrid, with special Legion awards for his extraordinary achievements and project in support of our fallen veterans.

On June 16th, 2nd Vice Commander/Boys State Chairperson, Dave Carlson, escorted 25 outstanding Grand Haven and Spring Lake seniors (probably again, one of the two largest contingents sent by any Post in the state) to the 2013 American Legion Boys State program in Midland. And, finally, Past Commander, Garrett Veihl and I attended the 2013 American Legion State Convention where our Post received several awards for excellence in achieving and exceeding our membership goals. Ken Ennenga, one of the individual award recipients, received and deserves special recognition for helping us achieve the rewards by administering applications and maintaining our membership records so well for the past several years.

My year as your Commander is rapidly coming to an end. It has been truly an honor and a privilege to serve you. What we have achieved during this period has been the result of the incredible amount of time, talent, work and simple "can do" attitude provided by so many, especially amongst our Veteran, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders volunteers, and by Andy VanderHoek and his staff. Collectively, they literally keep this Post --- not just running ---, but excelling in what we set out to do. On a personal note, throughout the year, I have tried to bring our volunteers due recognition and thanks, but space limitations necessarily prevent me from doing so. But I do wish to give special recognition and thanks to those who have worked extraordinarily hard 'for the good of the Legion', and helped me so much, throughout the year. First, as always, I owe much to my wife, Nancy, for helping maintain some balance in our lives between the demands of home and those of the Post. In so doing, as for the past 45 years, she made things much easier. And special recognition to "Mack" MacKellar and Darrel Myers who, without being asked and with extraordinary devotion to duty, routinely go "the extra mile" and are at the Post almost daily performing many essential tasks. And thanks to Jim Thayer, our Finance Officer, who does his due diligence and works quietly behind the scenes managing our assets and liabilities so we are not just able "to pay the bills", but prosper and have the funds necessary to achieve what we, as a Post, set out to do. In closing, we have a fine slate of new and continuing officers ready to take up the reins. They and the Post will need your continuing "volunteerism", understanding and support. All the best to Ed DeKoekkoek and his team. And to ALL of you, it has been a joy getting to know, serve and work with you. I will see you around the Post. Volunteer where you can, come to our Post meetings and events, and keep the faith. - 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



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. 1. Hugh Hyde 2. Vince Antonich 3. TJ Thompson 4. "JW" James Wayne 5. Dave Meints.

On a personal note, I regret to say that my business responsibilities have grown to the point where it is impossible for me to serve in any meaningful way as the Post Chaplain. Rats. The good news is that George Bennett has graciously agreed to take over the position, and I know that he will do a fantastic job! I look forward to doing my part for the good of the Legion in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Chaplain Chris

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Members: William R. Beland, Thomas E. Epplert, Nyal D. Skilling, Thomas M. Soltysiak, Chester J. Stolarz, George M. McCoy, Ryan S. Nabkey, James B. Zartner, Angelo F. Marasco, William R. Howe, IV.  
Transfers: Melvin C. Brown, Charles J. Bugielski, Alan B. Philipps, Stephen J. Weeks, David B. Westphal, Clarence P. Filestra. Taps were played for: Virginia "Irene" McCain, H. James Wierenga.



### HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 3 funerals. Army National Guard helped with 2 funerals, Marine Corps helped with 1 funeral. Honor Guard attended Sunday night and Monday Memorial programs in Grand Haven with members of the VFW Sgt. Alvin Jonker Post 2326.

Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett



## AUXILIARY COMMENTS

A year ago a lucky lady won a quilt made by a group called Quilts of Valor. Once again the American Legion Auxiliary has been selling tickets for another quilt by the same group. Now time is running out to buy your tickets because a winner will be drawn on July 4, 2013 at the American Legion Post, Grand Haven. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for 5.

Proceeds will go to The Wounded Warriors and Quilts of Valor to make more quilts for injured military personnel.

Now that the new officers have been installed and starting their duties, please cooperate if you are asked to be a chairman or a hostess for one of our meetings. My congratulations to Michele Stetts, President and the other officers. I look forward to Michele's report after attending the Summer convention.

## 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

**JULY 3RD**

### PERCH DINNER

Fries, cole slaw and dinner roll  
(Ray's Gang)

**JULY 10TH**

### ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Boys)

**JULY 17TH**

### COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, dinner roll (Legion Riders)

**JULY 24TH**

### SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, dinner roll The "A" Team

**JULY 31ST**

### BURGER NIGHT SPECTACULAR

Just a "teaser" for Coast Guard weekend.

**AUGUST 7TH**

### PERCH DINNER

Fries, slaw, Ray's Gang.

Hard to believe we're talking Coast Guard. This is Post 28's time to shine. Be nice to strangers as they may be a new prospective member. We are ~120 short of being the largest Post in the State. We are already the best! Dinner Committee.

## Andy's Draught

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but our Friday night bands have been cancelled. We will no longer have bands playing on Friday nights. We have found that with the completion of the new bar business on Friday nights have grown incredibly. We have also found that revenue on nights when we are paying a band is substantially less than those without a band. I hope everyone understands the financial aspects of our decision.

We have not ruled out bands forever. We are going to take the rest of this year and see where business from the new bar takes us. If we bring bands back next year we will be looking at having them play nights other than Fridays.

Now that I have just told you that we are no longer having bands, I'd like to make you aware that the Scottville Clown Band will be here for a 90 minute show. The show will be Tuesday July 30th from 7 - 8:30pm. It will be held outside in the east parking lot. Parking is already an issue that week. Tuesday it will be even worse. We will be fencing off most of the east lot. This will be a BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair) party. We are providing chairs for the band members, but will not have enough to

accommodate everyone.

There will not be cover charge collected, but we will be asking everyone for a free will donation to help support the Michigan American Legion Wilwin Lodge. Wilwin Lodge is an old lumbering operation built in 1914 which has been converted into a peaceful retreat deep in the north woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It provides free rest and recuperation for our returning service members and their families. If you would like more information about Wilwin Lodge please visit their website at [www.michiganlegion.org/wilwin](http://www.michiganlegion.org/wilwin).

In regards to our homemade pizzas, we are looking at a couple of different options. One option would be to ask volunteers to take orders, cook and collect money for pizzas certain nights of the week. Another was to offer our pizzas as "To Go" only. You would be able to purchase them frozen and cook them at home. Our current pizza oven is too hot to go behind the new bar. No decisions have been made as of yet.

July drink specials: \$2.00 Cream Soda (vanilla vodka & root beer), Monday's \$2 U-Call tall and Tuesdays \$1 12oz can beer.

Cheers! Andy



Members of the Legion Tough Mudder team "Mudders for our brothers" present state commander Tom Brown a donation of 8000.00 for Operation Comfort Warriors! The team will be running the 14 mile obstacle course on June 30th in Brooklyn, Michigan.



This is a photo of Jack Gardner briefing the new Eagle Scout Ronnie Madrid, on responsibilities of an Eagle Scout. Ronnie is a member of Troop 165 which is sponsored by Post 28 of the American Legion.



## SAL COMMENTS

June has been an incredibly busy month for the Post 28 SAL. The month began with the installation of new officers for the 2013-2014 year. The officers remain mostly the same as last year, but there are a few changes. They are: TL Lowe, Past Commander; Tom Greenberg, Commander; Mike Zolik, 1st Vice Commander; Tom Schultz, 2nd Vice Commander; Chuck Yonker, Sgt. At Arms; Brock Rodgers, Historian;

Paul Kubicek, Adjutant; Rich Kelly, Finance Officer; Mike Brown, Membership; Al Vandam, Chaplain; Carl Lori, Legion Advisor. I hope you will join me in congratulating all of our officers, and I want to offer my personal thanks for all that you gentlemen do throughout the year!

June also saw Squadron 28 hosting the 2013 Sons of the American Legion State Convention! This is the second time in 5 years that we have hosted the State Convention, and Grand Haven continues to be a very popular destination among the attendees, who come from squadrons all over Michigan. You may not realize this, but Squadron 28 is the largest SAL squadron in Michigan...we have over 700 members. We received so many compliments on the beauty, size and location of our Post...and the new bar was an extremely popular gathering place when each day's events were finished! Among the events on the agenda of the Convention was the election of new Officers for the Detachment of Michigan. Mike Boughner of Squadron 233 in Lake Orion, MI was elected Detachment Commander to succeed outgoing Commander Rodney Tolbert. We were also honored to have the SAL National Commander, Chris Huntzinger, in attendance from Harrisburg, PA as well as a number of other honored guests. Squadron 28 put on a number of events over the course of the weekend, including a Detachment Officers' Breakfast, and a fabulous steak and chicken picnic. A great time was had by all!

One of the real high points of the State Convention are the donations that each Squadron makes for various Veterans' charities and causes. The Michigan squadrons collectively donated over \$23,000 at the Convention! This is in addition to all the donations and volunteer hours that each Squadron puts in over the course of the year. Grand Haven's Squadron 28 was proud to lead the way with over \$11,000 of donations: \$8,000 to Operation Comfort Warrior by our Post's Tough Mudder Team, \$1,400 to the Homeless Vets Fund, \$1,400 to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, and \$700 to the Child Welfare Fund! We are very proud of our Post's contributions to Veterans' causes!

SAL membership is about more than cheap drinks and sitting on the deck on a nice Summer evening. As the leading SAL squadron in Michigan, I believe all our members have an obligation to volunteer, contribute and do all the little things necessary to honor our Veterans. They have earned this through their Service. We can use your help, so please come out to our monthly meetings and volunteer for SAL events and activities throughout the year.  
Tom Greenberg, SAL Commander

### SAL OFFICERS

Tom Greenberg, Commander  
Mike Zolik, 1st Vice Commander  
Tom Shultz, 2nd Vice Commander  
Rich Kelly, Finance Officer  
Tom Glockzin, Chaplain  
Brock Rodger, Sergeant-At-Arms  
Paul Kubicek, Historian  
Carl Lori, Legion Advisor  
Mike Brown, Membership  
Chuck Yonker, Adjutant  
TL Lowe, Past Commander

### 8&40 Salon 499

Our 8 & 40 group pledges to assist in the prevention and control of lung and respiratory diseases in children. To reach our goals we are planning several fund raisers. We can then donate the money to causes that do research to find cures for respiratory diseases. We are planning to serve appetizers on Saturdays at the post during the summer from 4-7pm. Please stop down and enjoy our beautiful post and delicious food. Our next meeting, on July 9 will be a potluck starting at 6pm, please bring a dish to pass. Char MacKellar, Chapeau

### 8 & 40 OFFICERS

Char MacKellar, Chapeau  
Barb Kelly, Demi Chapeau Premier  
Michele Stetts, Demi Chapeau Deuxieme  
Ann Kammeraad, La Secretaire  
Peggy Vermeer, La Cassiere  
Cleo Phipps, L'Archiviste  
Veloyce Hansen, L'Aumonier  
Pat Vadas, L'Concierge  
Cleo Phipps, L'Avocate  
Ann Kammeraad, Le Pouvoir



During the Elks' Flag Day program, Nathan VanKampen was the winner of an American flag that had been flown over the "United States Capitol" on April 10, 2013. Flag was presented by Mike Lankes from the Elks.

## LEGION RIDERS



July is already here and at the time of writing this newsletter the weather has been on the cool side.

Last month the Post 28 Riders donated \$300.00 each to both the Wilwin Lodge and the Old Warriors Camp. We also gave \$350.00 to our Legion for a TV monitor to display Post events and other information. Thank you Post 28 Riders.

We will be going on a ride this month to Grass Lake (Grass Lake Wheels of Thunder) on July 10th.

All Post 28 Riders are invited to attend the July planning meeting for the 2014 Michigan Summer Romp. We will meet at our Post on the 2nd Saturday of July. (Time we are leaving will be announced later.) The meeting will be at The Wheel Inn Campground south of Holt which is the location of the 2014 Romp. We will be checking out the campground to get the layout. We may be asked to help in some way.

Our Bike Nights (hot dog dinners) will be on July 9th and July 23rd. Also the Scottville Clown Band will be playing during Coast Guard Festival week at the Post on the 23rd around 7:00 p.m. We should be busy for Bike Night that week.

Just a reminder that we do Pork on the 17th of July. We can always use your help for both Bike Nights and the Pork dinner. If nothing else come on down to your Legion and support the American Legion Riders.

Ride safe. Toby Ross ALR Director

### LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

Toby Ross, Riders Director  
Mike Stressman, Sergeant-at-Arms  
John Kemme, Secretary  
Lary Foose, Treasurer  
Bob Wydeck, Assistant Director  
Robert Butcher, Chaplain  
Sally Kemme, Membership Chair  
Burl Newbill, Ride Captain



## FLAG DAY PROGRAM

Past Commander Ray Ribbink takes part in the "Retirement and Disposal of Unserviceable Flags" ceremony.



Sgt at Arms, Sue Metzler with members of Cub Scout Pack 3005 Leo Zolik and Joseph Zolik take part in the "Retirement and Disposal of Unserviceable Flags" ceremony.

Memorial day program at the Grand Haven Waterfront.



AMERICAN LEGION POST #28 HARBOR AVE.

## CHICKEN BAR-B-Q PUBLIC INVITED

**FRIDAY AUGUST 2ND (5:30-7PM)**

(After Coast Guard personnel have been served)

**SATURDAY AUGUST 3RD (12 NOON- 7PM)**

(First come, first served)

**ADULTS \$8.00 A PLATE CHILDREN \$4.00 A PLATE**

SCOTTVILLE CLOWN BAND APPEARING AFTER THE PARADE

**\$10 RAFFLE** for 1 guaranteed parking place for the whole week of Coast Guard. Proceeds to help fund the Enlisted men's Dinner. Do not have to be present to win. Winner will be drawn Friday July 26th during burgers.

JULY DRINK SPECIALS:  
\$2.00 CREAM SODA

# JULY 2013

August ~ Coast Guard Festival,  
Enlisted Men's Party,  
BBQ Chicken  
September ~ American Legion Picnic

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	2 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	3 5PM PERCH DINNER	4 	5 6PM BURGERS	6 6pm Karaoke
7	8 \$2 U-Call Tall	9 6pm Rider's Hot Dogs 7pm 8 & 40 Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	10 5PM ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI	11	12 6PM BURGERS	13
14	15 \$2 U-Call Tall	16 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	17 5PM COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER	18 7pm Trivia	19 6PM BURGERS	20
21	22 \$2 U-Call Tall	23 6pm Rider's Hot Dogs 7pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	24 5PM SUCCULENT SWISS STEAK DINNER	25	26 6PM BURGERS	27
28	29	30	31	AUG. 1	2	3
<b>COAST GUARD WEEK</b>						
		7pm Scottville Clown Band	5PM BURGER NIGHT 6PM DECK-E-OKE		5PM ENLISTED MEN'S DINNER	12PM BBQ CHICKEN