

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 #1115

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



History: This month we celebrate another birthday for the American Legion. Our charter was issued at National Headquarters in Indianapolis on August 1, 1920. Our post was named in honor of Charles A. Conklin, the first serviceman from Grand Haven to make the supreme sacrifice in World War I. He served with the Rainbow Division and Died May 7, 1918. Chuck, as he was known by his friends, wrote that liked the trench life better than any other part of his service. He graduated from Grand Haven high school in 1914 and was prominent in high school particularly baseball. I went to our website for this information at grandhavenlegion.org. Take time to read the entire story about this remarkable soldier. Our birthday banquet will be held on Saturday March 15th. Legionaries, SAL, and Auxiliary members get your tickets for you and your spouse at the post.

American Legion Officers

Ed DeKoekkoek, 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 Post 28 welcome to our new members and transfers. Linda M. Doublestein, Darrin P. Kimsey, Russell N. Lillie, Matthew D. McClure, Russ S. Rigoli, Duane S. Smith, David C. Snyder, Joseph J. Crow, Steven R. Morgan, Blake P. Meyer, Sean Brady, John F. Stewart, and James C. Walter. Transfers were Terry L. Derks and Gregory J. Stepien. WELCOME ABOARD!!

Taps were played for James Jacobs, Army Air Corps WWII, Raymond Stedrom, Army WWII, Robert Dime, Air Force Vietnam, Edward Bares, Army WWII, Charles E. Clark, Army Vietnam Era, Oren Westerhouse Jr. Air Force & Marine Corps Vietnam Era, Past Honor Guard Member Allen VanOort, Army WWII, Covell Olsen, Navy WWII, and David Meints, Marine Corps Vietnam. "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 lead and keep all of them in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Chaplain: George Bennett
Bob Wydeck
Vince Antonich
Darrel Myers
Doug Telgenhof
Charles Davis
Mike Ripka
Roman Marciniak



Sound abatement!!

The job to reduce the sound in the downstairs is complete. A special thank you to Darrel Meyers and his Building and Grounds crew who completed the installation of the sound abatement panels.

Gene Rothi Scholarship

Applications for the American Legion Gene Rothi Scholarship for 2014 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 Avenue.



Legion Rider Director Toby Ross and members of the Legion Riders present Service Flags and POW Flag to Commander Ed DeKoekkoek. The new flags will be installed on the flag poles out front of the Legion in the spring.





AUXILIARY COMMENTS

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Fight the winter blues by participating in the Post's March events. The Legion is celebrating its birthday on Saturday, March 15th. The Auxiliary is hosting the Fifth District dinner meeting on Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m. Our next General

Meeting is March 25th at 7:00 p.m. 2014 Membership News: Department set our membership goal at 982. As of February 2, 1,000 members have renewed for 2014, putting us over goal at 102%! We still have, however, over 300 members on our roster who have not renewed. There's still time to mail your \$25 dues to the Auxiliary c/o Post 28. As always, I encourage our members to participate and volunteer, whether for events at the Post, within our community, or at the Veterans' Home. Like us on Facebook (facebook.com/unit28ALA); you can check for upcoming events & meetings & view photos of activities.

Respectfully, Michele Stetts, President

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 DINNER MENU

MARCH 5TH (Ash Wed.)

PERCH IS BACK! Fries and slaw.
Ray's Gang. Think Spring.

MARCH 12TH

ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI

Salad, garlic toast (Coopersville Boys)

MARCH 19TH

COUNTRY STYLE PORK DINNER

Mashed, veggies, corn bread. (Legion Riders)

MARCH 26TH

Succulent Swiss Steak

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

APRIL 2ND

PERCH DINNER

Fries and slaw. Ray's Gang.

The March 2013 newsletter reported we were 122 members behind the Mt. Clemens post. At this printing Charles Conklin Post 28 is 41 members AHEAD of Mt. Clemens. Thank you for supporting your Legion.

Andy's Draught

Saturday March 15th we will be hosting our Prime Rib Legion Birthday Dinner downstairs. Tickets are available at the bar for only \$8. Cocktails start at 6pm, dinner at 6:30. This dinner is open to all Post members. The main Bar will be closed to anyone not attending the dinner.

We will be adding another dinner in April to celebrate our Vietnam Veterans. It will be held downstairs on Saturday April 26th from 6-9pm. It will follow our Veteran's Day dinner format with tickets sold ahead of time. Space will be limited and tickets will not be sold at the door. We need to have an accurate head count by the week prior. Tickets will be \$10 each and will be open to all Vietnam Era Veterans whether members or not. Other era Veterans are invited but we are specifically focusing on our Vietnam Vets.

We have solidified plans with the Scottville Clown Band again this year during Coast Guard week. They will be here on Tuesday July 29th to perform another outdoor show. The bad news is they will no longer be stopping here after Saturday's parade. They have had to eliminate most of their post parade stops. It makes for too long of a day for the band. It was a good run, but personally I'd much rather have the whole band here for a full show on that Tuesday, than half the band here for a 15 minute show after the parade. With talking with the band this is going to be an annual event here at our Post.

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

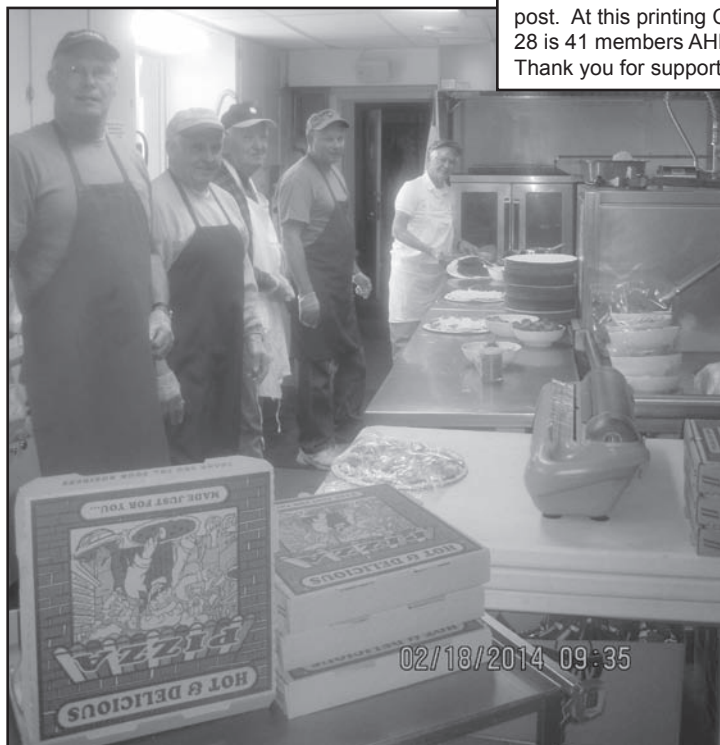
PROPOSED NOMINEES 2014/2015

97th Commander.....Dave Carlson
1st Vice.....Bob Wydeck
2nd Vice.....* Carl Lori
.....* Chris Jarvis
Adjutant.....Rick Chittenden
Finance Officer.....Jim Thayer
Service Officer.....Adam Shumaker
Service Officer.....*
Service Officer.....*
Historian.....*
Chaplain.....George Bennett
Sergeant at Arms.....Nathan VanKampen
Executive at Large.....Butch Balk
Executive at Large.....*
Judge Advocate.....*Ron Bauer
Past Commander.....Ed DeKoekKoek
* Tentative officer to be voted on.

April.....Prospective officers
May.....Election of new officers
June.....Initiation of new members
July.....Swearing in of new officers

As of the time of this printing: Grand Haven American Legion - 1417 members 98.88% of goal.

Mt. Clemens American Legion - 1361 members 87.13% of goal.



Past Commander Mike Zeeff, Russ, Scott, Steve and Charlie have made over 6,600 Pizzas in the last 5 Years.



SAL COMMENTS

This has been a tough winter, and I know that everyone is ready for it to be over (I am definitely ready!!). February was a busy month for the SAL, with our SAL Open House and the Hawaiian Luau. At the very successful SAL Open House (many thanks to those who turned out), we awarded our 'Tom "Cap'm" Glockzin Volunteer of the Year Award', to Phil Young, a very worthy recipient! Phil, a Squadron 28 Past Commander, has been active in the Grand Haven SAL for many years and is always willing to pitch in and help at our events. I want to congratulate Phil

on his much-deserved award and thank him for all his hard work. Who will win this award next year...will it be you?

In 2013, the Grand Haven SAL donated almost \$36,000 to various community and Veterans' charities and causes. We put on a number of fundraising events throughout the year, and always need volunteers to help out. We are a non-profit organization and give away all the money we raise. The money goes to worthy causes, organizations, and individuals...things like the Grand River Green-Up, Love Inc., the Goodfellows, Hospice, the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, Operation Comfort Warrior, Homeless Veterans, Make-A-Wish, and many, many more. Please pitch in and help us help those in need.

March is finally here, and with it comes the promise of Spring and some better weather ahead. The SAL is starting to plan for some of our regular Spring activities... Memorial Day golf tournament, our upcoming election of new officers, getting the Post deck furniture in place, Friday night burgers, Trivia nights, and all the other fun stuff we do. I'd like to welcome our newest members: Robert Twa, Jr., Gary Olk, Chris Thomas, Erik Hanba, Ross Berens, Timothy Jarvis, Benjamin Chittenden, Chad Mattson, Derrick Walker, Steven Dutmers, Brandon Melffsky, Bradley Melffsky and Les Raebel. I hope you will all get involved in the Grand Haven SAL and help out Post 28 and our Veterans!
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

Our Salon is looking forward to spring and warmer weather, it has been an extremely long cold winter. Our next meeting will be on March 11, at the Post at 7 pm. We will be discussing details for our upcoming Spring Pouvoir which we will be hosting on April 11, & 12 at our lovely Charles A. Conklin, Grand Haven Post. Our goal remains to donate to research to help find a cure for respiratory lung diseases in children. 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
Velooyce Hansen, L'Aumonier
Cleo Phipps, L'Avocate
Ann Kammeraad, Le Pouvoir*



LEGION RIDERS

Here we are in March finally. As I'm writing this last newsletter we seem to be stuck in a deep freeze. The Big Lake is almost 90% frozen over and from shore it looks like a big white wasteland. All of us "up north" here have had enough, but March will start to bring change. We usually start seeing temps over 32 degrees. Bring it on!

Bike Nights will start in May again this year and will be on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6pm to 8pm. I know alot of our Legion members are looking forward to those

hot dog dinners.

March also brings change to the Post 28 Riders. We will vote in the new Officers for 2014 and they will take over in April. I'm sure they will continue making our ALR one of the best in Michigan.

I want to thank all the Post 28 Riders for the support they've given me over the past two years. I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to be the Post 28 Director. The Riders have donated time and money to many causes in the past two years and I'm glad to have been part of it. We started Bike Nights and a End of the Season Bash and a Winter Get-Together during the past two years and it's been fun. I have learned alot as the ALR Director and it's time to move on and let some new faces take over. I know all of our new Officers will do a great job. Ride safe,
Toby Ross ALR Director

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Our first Memorial Day Meeting will be Monday, March 3rd at 7 PM. We will meet at the Grand Haven American Legion 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

HONOR GUARD

This past month we had 4 funerals. Honor Guard from the Army National Guard helped with 2 funerals and Honor Guard from the Navy helped with 1 funeral.

This last month we lost one of our Honor Guard members Allen VanOort. Al will be missed by us all.

Honor Guard Leader: George Bennett

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*

This years chili cook off was won by "Two Sisters Tex Mex", the team consists of Tina Davis, Cindy Scheele, Rich Cagle, and Jim Davis.
 2nd place was won by "Chilo Lites" consisting of Paul Kubichek, Phil Young, Dan Smart, and T.L. Lowe.
 Third place was won by "Double Flush" with Chris Whalen and Mark Rinkevicz.



Picture of chili Cook 1st place



Chili cookoff 2nd place

MARCH DRINK SPECIALS: \$3.00 POST PUNCH		MARCH 2014					February ~ Chili Cook-Off, Hawaiian Luau March ~ American Legion Birthday Party, Annual Food Drive, St. Patrick's Day Party
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
						1 6pm Karaoke	
2 \$1 Draft	3 8am Building and Grounds 7:30 SAL Meeting \$2 U-Call Tall	4 6pm House Comm. 7pm Post Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	5 5PM PERCH DINNER	6 7pm ALR Meet	7 6PM BURGERS AND FISHWICH	8	
9 \$1 Draft	10 8am Building and Grounds \$2 U-Call Tall	11 7PM 8& 40 MEETING \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	12 5PM ALL-YOU-CAN EAT ZESTY SPAGHETTI	13	14 6PM BURGERS AND FISHWICH	15 6PM LEGION B-DAY DINNER	
16 \$1 Draft	17 8am Building and Grounds \$2 U-Call Tall	18 7pm Executive Board \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	19 5PM ROAST PORK DINNER	20 7pm Trivia	21 6PM BURGERS AND FISHWICH	22	
23 \$1 Draft 30 \$1 Draft	24 8am Building and Grounds \$2 U-Call Tall 31 8am Building and Grounds \$2 U-Call Tall	25 7pm Auxiliary Meeting \$1 (12 oz) CAN BEER	26 5PM SWISS STEAK DINNER	27	28 6PM BURGERS AND FISHWICH	29	