Department of France

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Any Department Officer, Committee Chair, Program Director or Post can input material to this newsletter. Input is due the Last week of the month, not later than the 26th of the month for next month’s newsletter.

Department Calendar
April Children and Youth Month
27 April Bowling Tournament GR42

Birthdays
12 April Joshua Settle SAL GR79
18 April David Greaux GR42
25 April Isolde Settle Auxiliary GR79
27 April Ed Batero GR07

Department Commander’s Corner

My fellow

Legionaries
This was a very interesting month for most post. This month I had the privilege to talk to all the outlying post (BE02, DK01, FR05, FR01, IR02, IR03, Ir63, IT01, Nl01, SP292, PO01, and GC01). All post were happy to hear from me and stated that things are going as good as possible. On the 15th of March we had the 3rd DEC in Heilbronn, I was a little disappointed in the turnout of the participation, however it was still a very interesting DEC, and we accomplished everything that was on the agenda. In the future I hope we can limit our remakes to constructive manner, also there is no limit to how long a meeting goes, all members have the right to have their voices heard No Matter How Long it Takes. On the 22nd I and the Department Adjutant attended GR42’s Easter party, it was a great event, and even the Easter Bunny showed up and all had a great time, the most impressive part was that the post invited the local disability children to participate in the event. Once again all had a great time at this event. Thanks to the Post Commander and his staff for making this a worth while event. On the 29th of March myself, the department Adjutant and the Department VCAL Kane attended a sit down dinner hosted by GR03, it was a fantastic turnout, I along with Adjutant had the opportunity to talk to the Post Commander, Adjutant and members of GR03, all had a great time. Thanks to Commander Sherman and Adjutant Gatchell, and Comrade G. Hall for a great program. We are in the process of planning the Department Convention I am sure this will be one of the best (for more info see Committee Chairperson remarks in this Newsletter). I would like to take this time to give
my special thanks to the Department Auxiliary President Sonja Dennis and the Auxiliary Treasure/Secretary Diane Hanchak for their direct involvement in the Easter program. We have 29 Post in this Department, I find it hard to believe that we have such a problem doing this Newsletter, it appear’s to me the same post and Officers supply info for this Newsletter (usually Late) this is not my or Adjutants Settle’s Newsletter this is your Newsletter, so please support it and send in your post events, and pictures are always welcomed. Commanders and Adjutants please do not forget I need your Awards packets NLT 12 April 2008. If your post recently had elections please insure that Adjutant Settle receives the Officers Certification Report so that it can be forwarded to National. At the 3rd DEC we asked for post that would like to host the National Commander’s visit to date I or the Adjutant have not received any reply’s, please look at your schedules, and let us know if you are able to host the National Commander’s visit. If you are planning on going to Saint Avold for the Memorial on the 25th of May, and you are planning on laying a wreath please either order your own or get with NECMan to order you one so it is in place on time. I attended the SAL 3rd DEC, it was a nice turnout, most likely the most members in years. I would like to thank all Squadrions for putting out the effort to make the Detachment one of the best at the National level. Mrs. Jackson as just returned from the National Oratorical contest I will provide you information on the outcome when I receive information from her. As always, I stress to all of you to take a few moments out of your busy day and say a small prayer for all of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, that are still in harm’s way that they may return home safely to their loved ones. May God bless you all. If you are having any problems please do not hesitate to contact your Post Officers, Department VC, or myself.

For GOD and Country

Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

Adjuant:

My Fellow Legionnaires,

Now that the Department 3rd DEC is behind us, we are in the planning stages of the Department Convention to be held in June (see Convention Chairman’s David Greaux Article) I am sure that the event will be one of the best yet. On the 22nd of March I had the opportunity, along with the Department Commander to visit GR42’s Easter Party, the Easter Bunny even showed up for the children all had a great time. Thanks to all who invested time for this event it was GREAT. I along with the Department Commander, and the Department VCAL had the opportunity to attend a sit down dinner hosted by GR03 on the 29th of March. We also had the chance to speak with Commander Sherman, and Adjutant Gatchell, and many of the members and family members of GR03, all there had a great time eating and conversing with one another, GREAT JOB Commander Sherman, and Adjutant Gatchell. If your post recently held Post Elections and you have not sent me the Officers Certification paperwork please do so ASAP, so that I can forward the form to National, this is the only way that the Department and National can keep up to date on Post Officer changes. By now you should know that I need your Post Data Forms back by the end of this month, and the Consolidated Post Reports by the 28th of May 2008. Both of these forms were provided to each post at the 3rd DEC. If your post was not able to attend the 3rd DEC you should have or will shortly receive these forms via snail mail. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input toamericanlegion@hotmail.com In closing I wish all of you a GREAT 2008. Remember if you need to contact me I am just an E mail away pisces@t-online.de . Please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

James M. Settle
Department Adjutant

Department NECman’s Comments

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH

William Marshall
Department NECman

Vice Commander’s Corner

Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane

BE02, DK01, FR01, FR05, IR02, IR03, IT01, GC01, NL01,

PO01, SP292

I was away in China for a week at the beginning of the month with some Business friends and was amazed at the vastness of the country. The people were very friendly but mostly very poor, working long hours in horrific conditions for unfair pay and “living” in or over the factory floors. We must count our blessings that we have such a great life style here in the free world with so many benefits. I was told by one of our drivers that millions of people died in the very bad cold spell in January February last and I asked about health care he looked at me and said that there was none they just died and that was the facts of living in China maybe the Nations of the World will think again before, during and after the upcoming Olympic Games if they get the chance to see some of the real China. YES WE SHOULD THANK GOD ON A DAILY BASIS FOR WHAT WE HAVE: Back to our great free World and our 3rd DEC meeting hosted by Gr79 in their new Post Home which looked very impressive. The meeting was a long one but we got things done. We had a very Special visitor after the Meeting when Leprechaun O Cathain appeared to greet the Delegates and Department Officers and gave away his Pot of Gold and then we assumed he returned to the Meeting when Leprechaun O Cathain appeared to greet the Delegates and Department Officers and gave away his Pot of Gold and then we assumed he returned to the...
Saint Patrick’s Day Parade with all 3 Irish Posts marching IR02, IR03 and IR63 proudly showed their Colors and received a great reception along the Route and at the Reviewing Stand. Dept. Service Officer Robert Gray also took part and took the opportunity to hold talks with all 3 Irish Post Service Officers and no doubt learned from his experience. Our thanks to IR02 for hosting a beautiful meal for the 20 plus marchers. The National TV Station showed our contingent in its review of Parades from around Ireland and the World and we also made our way onto the local Newspaper. Back to my home in Wicklow and a couple of days showing Robert the many sights in the Emerald Isle before leaving him at the Airport. The usual E-mail and phone calls had to be looked after and I returned to Germany and found myself at a belated Easter Party at GR03 and I really enjoyed it, thanks to Ed and Phil for their Organization and we all discovered another talent when the Acting Skills of Ed and George (Hall) came out in a very enjoyable Funny Sketch we even had an Irish Song "sung" by An American and an Irishman with a Russian born Pianist during the impromptu Cabaret. Well done to all in GR 03. Home again and a reminder to get in those Renewals to bring us over the 100 %, also return the Post Data Forms to Dept. ADJ James Settle ASAP. Once again your VCs are there to help you please use them.

Liam Kane
Vice Commander at Large

Vice Commander Darrel Shannon
GR05, GR09, GR042
Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members
NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH

Darrel Shannon
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Keith Abernathy
GR01, GR06, GR07 and GR13
NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Keith Abernathy
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR14, GR20, GR45, IR63
THANK YOU!

Let me get that small formality out of the way. It is almost embarrassing to say that. Here we are, working together, as volunteers no less, but it is virtually unheard of to be told THANK YOU! I write this because I am just returning from the Department Executive Committee meeting. During the meeting, I listened to several speakers talk about how we are not doing our jobs. I heard quite a few times how we are not recruiting enough members, how we are not doing what we are supposed to do, how we fail as chairmen, or that we don’t meet the expectations of the speaker. I heard over the course of some six hours how disappointed the speakers were with our job performance. After hearing this repeatedly, I began to wonder why it is that we are volunteering to do these jobs. Thankfully, the answer lies within this very membership. Some of you are better at some things than the rest of us. We cannot all be the Commander, a Chairman, or some of the many other important jobs that there are to do. But we can all do the best we can at whatever it is we do. It is somewhat discouraging to attend a meeting where speakers stand before us and belittle what we do. Listening to these speakers putting us down makes us wonder why we even bother. I hope the attitude of our colleagues’ changes and maybe the speakers might even thank us. If that does not happen, and I have every reason to believe that we will continue on with our “Status Quo”; which is continuing to serve with few words of thanks. Please don’t disparage! Sooner or later, our speakers will come to realize the value of our service. I was somewhat hurt by the comments of one of my colleagues (a fellow Department Officer). I have watched him serve our Department for about the past three years or so. I felt his pain as he tried to describe his service to us. He truly gave his all for us. But, he probably will not seek to return to his service because he feels unappreciated. What a shame! We will lose a valued servant. Saying THANK YOU may not change his mind, but those two, simple, single syllables could have gone a long way to a person who just got finished listening how unappreciated he was to the speaker. I soon began to realize that no matter how well I performed, I would not quite make whatever grade this speaker determined I should. And that’s OK. Although I am a disappointment to the speaker, I am proud of the service you and I have given to the Department. I realize that our teamwork is making things happen. No, the speaker will not thank us. On the contrary, I am confident that he will continue to put us down. And that is also OK. This caused me to think further why we were not pleasing these speakers. Here is the decision I came to. I decided that I am doing the best I can. I know that there will always be those who question our integrity, or who will demand from us more than we can give. Now, don’t misunderstand me, I can never quite give you 100%. There are times when you will just have to settle with my meager 90%... or 70%... or even 30%. Not being fully capable 100% of the time is one of our shortcomings. But don’t let those speakers get away with saying that we are a failure just because we do things differently than they do. While I’m complaining about some of our speakers, let me add that I don’t mind sitting in a department meeting from before 11:00 till after 1730. What I do mind is the time spent telling us how much of a failure we are! I hope that in the future, the speakers will give equal time and spend at least as much time telling us that we are successful in some of our undertakings. Maybe then, I’ll leave the meeting feeling good about what we are here for what we are doing.
On the 19th of April, VCAL Kane will chair the annual Awards meeting. I very much hope that he and the rest of the awards committee will be swamped with work and have to spend extra time because of the flood of awards that local Posts will send.

So, all you American Legion volunteers, let me say THANK YOU for all you do. And for those days when you don’t give 100% Thank you anyway for what you do give. AMERICAN STORIES: I received a DVD from Mr. Guy DeFazio. Mr. DeFazio made a presentation to the Department of France at our Department Executive Committee meeting in Bastogne last year. Those of you who were there recall his moving and inspiring video presentation. It is now one year later and we are honored to receive an update on this patriotically inspiring program. Mr. DeFazio has asked Department Commander Joe Brown to assist him once again this year. Commander Brown has tasked me with helping him get this word out. Please Email me very soon with a suggested date that you would like to see this special presentation. I will visit your post at your convenience and show the DVD and give a briefing on the program. Please talk with your post membership and invite me to your next meeting! If conflicts for dates arise, I will seek assistance from your Department Vice Commanders. Commander Brown has given his support to this program. He will contact Post Commanders and ensure they have this presentation scheduled for viewing prior to the Department Convention in June. Speaking of classes... It is too bad that the subject of giving classes was brought up at the DEC. Not that the subject was too bad, but the context in which it was brought up. I left the meeting with the impression that the only reason we will be sending a candidate to the American Legion College was so he can return to us and give classes. I very much hope that this is NOT the case. I hope that individual comes back to us with a “wealth of knowledge and experience” that he will receive from the National Organization and continues on to become a future leader and shaper of the Department of France. Then; and only then; will he be viewed (in my humble opinion) as successful!

Thank you,

frank.hanchak@gmail.com
(M) 0171-473-9782

NOTE: New mobile phone, and new Email address!
0171 473 9782 frank.hanchak@gmail.com

Frank J. Hanchak
Vice Commander
Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John
Gerdeman, Sr. GR-07
Harry Hall, GR-42
Jerry L. Deaver, GR-07

are undergoing, were undergoing or were scheduled for, medical treatment.

No other deaths or other illnesses were reported to me, but we continue to pray for those comrades, family members and friends of the Legion who have passed away or are ill.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

We have reached one of those milestones that the press calls important. 4,000 of our servicemen and women have given their lives in service for our Nation. We must honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, but we dare not forget those who stood by them in harms way and who have returned home or are still involved in service to our country. Many of them have been wounded in action, but others carry mental and internal scars from their service.

Our National Commander spoke before Congress this weekend and has called to mind the responsibility that we have to those young men and women. He has also been verbal in his defense of our Armed Forces and fights on many fronts to ensure that our politicians recognize the sacrifice that our men and women make. I always pray that those politicians will wake up and recognize the call of the people instead of the few.

Our community programs are well-founded; our roots are deep and are hearts are in the right place. Service to God and Country is more than a nice motto; it is our promise to the Veteran community and the children of our veterans.

Please don’t forget the 3rd Annual Legacy Run. If you can’t ride the actual distance with me, please get together in your Posts and hand your non-participating registration in to the Post. My spirit is always with you and I would love to have yours with me on the 1,800 mile ride to Phoenix in August. Please wear your patch when you receive it.

Please bring our comrades in arms and their families into your Posts. I’m not trying to boost membership, but who else would know better how to welcome them than our American Legion Family? Make them feel at home and know that they are respected members of our family.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve. Please bless and keep safe those who leave Europe to go down range.

Service to God and Country!

Pastor Ronald Moore,
Dept of France Chaplain
Home: 0049-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Sons of The American Legion David Greaux

A reminder for ALL Squadrons…If you have already held your Squadron Elections or will be doing it soon please get a list of your 2008-2009 Officers to our Detachment Adjutant James Dennis. Also needed is updated copy of your Squadron Constitution and Bylaws.

The Detachment of France presently has a raffle going on to help raise its funds. I am asking you to please support
this activity. You may purchase raffle tickets from a SAL member. If your SAL Squadron does not have any tickets to sell and would like obtain some to support this venture please contact your Detachment Adjutant/Raffle Chairman James Dennis (department_dennis@hotmail.com). The drawing will be at the American Legion Convention on 21 June 2008. You do not have to be present to win. The tickets cost only $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00

1st Prize HD LCD 26” Television
2nd Prize Trip to Paris for one
3rd Prize $100.00 Savings Bond

davidgreaux@aol.com
David Greaux
Detachment Commander
Americanism David Greaux

APRIL IS…
CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH

In 1938, April was formally designated as the Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we urge each of you to show your community that the American Legion Family is committed to Children…Our Most Precious Natural Resource!

David Greaux
Americanism Chairman

Department Convention Chairman David Greaux

DEPARTMENT 84th ANNUAL CONVENTION 2008
HOSTED BY OMAR BRADLEY POST GR42
18-22 June 2008 / Sankt Englmar, APART HOTEL Predigtstuhl

A lot of members either forgot or did not have time to register for convention at the third DEC. If you plan on attending please send me an e-mail with names and length of stay.

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO CONVENTION PACKET: Please do not send any correspondence or payment for convention 2008 to Lee Preston as indicated in the convention package sent out. Since then Lee Preston has been called back into the military and is presently serving a tour in Iraq.

Complete Convention Package Consist Of:
5 days - 4 nights
Breakfast / Dinner Buffet…to include Banquet on Saturday Evening
One convention coin per registered guest
Children 0-14 receive per day one FREE entrance ticket to Family World (hotel family center)
Complete Package - single room € 280.00 per person
Complete Package - double room € 210.00 per person
Children 12 years and older € 190.00 per child
Children 3 to 11 years old € 50.00 per child

Convention Chairman 2008
David Greaux
Brunnhöhe 21
97505 Geldersheim
Tel.: 09721-86102
Handy: 0171-5109356
E-Mail: davidgreaux@aol.com

David Greaux
Convention Chairman

A message from Frank Hanchak GR 42
GR 42 will be sponsoring the following events
27 April SAL Bowling Tournament.
24 May End of Year Banquet.
14 June 2nd Annual SAL Father/Son Banquet and Flag Retirement Ceremony. POC is SAL Commander Frank Hanchak at: frank.hanchak@gmail.com

A message from Lionel Morais IT01
After talking with Department Commander "Charley" Brown, it was suggested that I go further in suggesting a "corner" in each newsletter devoted to the possible interests of members of the Department that may be collectors, whether it be coins, stamps, sports cards, etc.. In addition I have license plates of Post IT01. Any interested Post in the Department, that has same, can contact me about trading plates. I only have the Worms Post #7 plate at this point. If interested, my email address is: elainespts@aol.com.

Lionel Morais
IT01 Adjutant

Department Events

Leprechaun visits the Department 3rd DEC
Department 3rd DEC

Post Events
Saint Pat’s Day in Ireland

Saint Pat’s Day in Ireland

GR03 Sit Down Dinner 29 March 2008
GR03 sit Down Dinner 29 March 2008 and owner from the Guesthouse

Department NECMan, Department Commander, and the Bun

GR79/ Department 3rd DEC Easter Event

GR42 Easter
A message from Patric Goesaert Flanders Field BE02

We will be attending the Memorial Day Ceremony on the 25th of May that takes place at Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem. We also shall attend the services held on the 7th of September. This is a service that is held on the borderline between Waregem and Anzegem for the 4 members of the Belgium resistance, 2 RAF Fighter pilots and 1 USAF pilot that where killed one the 6th of September 1944. (See Photo’s) Hope to see you some time.

Patric Goesaert
Finance Officer BE02

Memorial Cemetery between Waregem and Anzegem Belgium

POST HAPPENINGS

Below is a partial listing of Post and their General Membership Meetings and dates. If you would like to attend a post meeting, please contact the respective Commander and or the Adjutant.

GR01: First Wednesday day of the month at Post Home
GR03: First Thursday of the month Post Home
GR06: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR07: First Tuesday of the month Post Home
GR13: Third Saturday of the month Post Home
GR14: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR42: Third Sunday of the month Post Home
GR79: Second Saturday of the month Post Home
PO01: Third Wednesday of the month Past Com House
IR03: First Saturday in April, first Sat. in Oct for elections

Editor’s Note:
Please support your Newsletter, send all inputs to the below listed E-mail address. Note new suspense date for Newsletter inputs is the 26th of the month. Remember anyone in the Department can submit inputs to the Department Newsletter.
americanlegion@hotmail.com
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor

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Memorial Cemetery between Waregem and Anzegem Belgium