Hello my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and family members.

This month really flew by. We missed the 90% cutoff date at National, so now we have to play catch-up. I encourage you not to sit on transmittals; this only hurts the posts and the department when they are not submitted in a timely manner. Once again those posts that already reached their 100% goal my cap is off to you, those posts that have only reached 50% need to get the word out and get those renewals transmitted. If you need any assistance you have many resources at your disposal, you can contact your Vice Commander, the Department Membership Chairman, or me.

The 3rd DEC was in Paris France. The trip was outstanding! the trip planned by GR-01 was well organized and executed, my cap is off to Comrade Fleming and Comrade Mason for a job well done. The three Memorial Services were done well and were planned and executed by Paris Post FR01. The support from the city of Paris and local Nationals was very impressive and over whelming, it is very apparent, that the post has a very good relationship with the city. The Commander and Post Adjutant did an outstanding job in organizing these events.

I had the opportunity to talk to the following Commanders during this month GR01, GR03, GR05, GR06, GR07, GR09, GR13, GR14, GR42, GR45, and IR02. the Commanders assured me that their posts are moving forward, and hope to achieve their goals for this year.

Upon receiving a phone call from Mrs. Gisela Carr surviving spouse of Comrade Ed Carr from John Wayne Post 79, I visited her. She was concerned about receiving her Survivors Benefits, and I contacted the Department Service Officer Comrade George Hall, who assisted Mrs. Carr in preparation of the required paperwork.

The Re-Call to the 3rd DEC is scheduled for the 25th of April 2009 at Budingen Post GR14’s Post Home. The 3rd
DEC had to be re-scheduled due to a miss-understanding of a meeting room reservation, but we did have a quorum, thanks to all the posts that supported this event.

I participated in a Post Ever Lasting Ceremony for Warren Schwartz, at Post GR03, along with Vice Commanders Frank Hanchak, and Robert Gray and past Department VCAL Frank Wing. The Ceremony was solemn and showed great respect to our departed Comrade, Warren Schwartz. Comrade Schwartz’ Daughter and Husband also attended the Ceremony.

I attended GR42’s Auxiliary Easter event, it was a well planned and organized event, the children had fun and played many games, the Easter Bunny showed up (thanks to Sonja Dennis).

The Awards Committee Meeting will be conducted on the 9th of May. Please ensure that your Awards Recommendations/packets reach VCAL Kane not later than 4 May 2009. These can be sent either by E-mail or snail mail.

On the 26th of May, the National Commander will be visiting the Department of France. If you desire to have the National Commander visit your area, please submit your plans at the 3rd DEC, once you submit your plan the NECman and I will try to accommodate your request for the National Commander’s visit to your area.

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. I f you are having any problems please do not hesitate to contact your Post Officers, Department VC, or myself.

Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

From the Department Adjutant:

My Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members

As everyone should know by now the 3rd DEC did not convene, due to meeting room reservation miss-understanding; The Re-Call is scheduled for the 25th of April in Budingen, Germany (GR14) Post Home. I understand that the ceremonies and the support from the City of Paris and local citizens were amazing to say the least.

On the 15th of March 2009 an Internal Affairs Committee Meeting was conducted in Heilbronn, the results of the Internal Affairs Committee Meeting will be released at the upcoming DEC. We missed the 90 % cutoff date, at National, which means we need to work harder to ensure we meet the 95% cutoff date. If you are having problems with Membership, please contact your Department Vice Commander for assistance or guidance.

The Commander set the 9th of May 2009 for the Awards Committee Meeting, at a place and time to be announced. Post Commanders and Adjutants, please ensure that your awards packets reach VCAL Kane by the 4th of May 2009.

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak is the new Department Newsletter Editor, I wish him the best of luck in this endeavor, and encourage all of you to support him and your Department Newsletter, the way you supported me. You can contact Comrade Hanchak at the following E-mail address with your Newsletter inputs frank_hanchak@gmail.com

In closing please, 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 William Marshall

William Marshall
Department NECman

Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane
BE02, DK01, FR01, FR05, IR02, IR03, IT01, GC01, NL01, PO01, SP292, CH01

March started off with the hosting of the Department's final of the Oratorical Final in the GR06 Post Home. Although there were only two contestants the standard was very high and the judges had a hard time picking the winner and our rep at national will do well I believe. It was nice to see some Dept Officers present and as usual the arrangements were first class.

I returned to Ireland on Monday having met members in GR01 who were working on their plans for this years Convention. Thanks for transporting me around Robert (Gray). During the past month I had several meetings in Ireland relating to the American Legion and one in particular is of great value to us all as Veterans, O.N.E. (Organization of National Ex servicemen and Women) of Ireland are a similar Organization to us and they invited all three Irish Posts to a meeting to discuss ways and means of setting up formal meetings between us veterans. The O.N. E. have “Posts ” all over Ireland and they made one great offer to us being the use of their Special Homes set up for Veterans who have become
homeless for whatever reasons, these unfortunate people are now able to avail of having someplace to stay on a permanent basis for a very small portion of their State and Army Pensions, they have their own room with TV, Shower, etc, three meals per day, visitors may come and go. There is also a number of rooms set aside to facilitate other vets who would not be able to afford to stay in hotels while in, for example, Dublin for a very reasonable charge, the O.N. E are offering this facility to members of the American Legion in Ireland and if there are special occasions and reasons it can be extended to our other Legion Members. They will allow people to use their other rooms at a reasonable charge if recommend by Legion members in Ireland, we were delighted with the offer and will have the Department thank them on our behalf as well as the formal written expression of our gratitude which we sent them. All three Irish Posts were represented and I spoke for and on behalf of the Department. A really great day for the American Legion.

Back to Dublin for six hours and on to Killarney by train to join with Twenty-Three other American Legion members who proudly paraded carrying their Post colors among the Forty-Six other Floats and Marching Bands. We received a great reception from the onlookers and the judges. We all retired to the Flesk restaurant home of IR 02 and were dined and wined thanks to the Killarney Post. Off to Paris on Friday 20th, where I stayed at the home of the Geoghegans’ before taking part in the 90th Anniversary Celebrations which were a huge Success and enjoyed by all members of the Department who were in Paris.

I would like to say Thank you to our Adjutant, James Settle who was the Editor of the Newsletter for the way that he made it such a good readable and informative publication despite getting so little help from contributors some whom were late in submitting their input (I was one of them)Thanks James. And good luck Frank. Remember Thus maith leath na h-oibre.

Liam Kane
Vice Commander at Large

Vice Commander Shawn Ashe
GR05, GR06, GR30

Shawn Ashe
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Robert Gray
GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14

Hello my fellow comrades. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone and their families the best and their families the best of health and spirit. On Mar 12, I was invited to the 21st Theatre Sustainment Command, retreat and retirement ceremony, honoring, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Blair, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph M. Bray, and Sergeant First Class Jeffrey D. Troxel. Our guest speaker was Command Sergeant Major Blackwood. The ceremony was given in reference to the Year of the NCO. I came as an honored guest representing the Department of France. It was a lovely ceremony. You can feel the enthusiasm of those who attended.

On March 20-21, we were to hold our third DEC in Paris. The trip to Paris was outstanding. The first of the three ceremonial events were a visit to the Commemorative Plaque of the Creation of the American Legion. It was the first time that I had the honor to visit a place of such historical value, that I sworn to give my life to. The second ceremony, was at the Arch de’ Triumph. It was t this place that it hit home that we as legionnaires are doing the right thing. I was impressed by the people who came out to greet and thank us there. The loyalty to us as Americans I felt was overwhelming. At this ceremony there were the Flag Bearers, military music played all national anthems, and most of all, laying of the wreaths. And the third ceremony was held at the American Cemetery of Suresnes. In attendance, there were the French and American Honor Guards, to include, flag bearers, and playing of both the French and American national anthems. After that, there was a reception in the meeting room by all dignitaries and honored guests. The whole day, all three of these events, made it worthwhile.

We did, however, have a problem hosting the third DEC, due to time restraints. The first order of business, in
the third DEC, would have been to discuss the internal affairs findings. My personal feeling is, on this day representing the 90th birthday of the American Legion, being where it all began, to also represent the men and women who sacrificed their lives, which were honored on this day, hosted by FR01, and Commander Clarita Geoghegan, dignitaries from all over France, including a banquet of refreshments. I personally as member of the Department of France and Vice Commander want to personally thank FR-01 and its commander for showing us so much hospitality and keeping our history of the American Legion alive. I believe that history of the American Legion should be kept alive, and in saying this, on the third DEC, I will make a motion, that every year, we will need to visit the birthplace of the American Legion. I will also take the responsibilities of planning the bus trip, to include events, hotels, and meeting rooms. That's how strong I feel about this. Again, my hat off to FR01

On Mar 24, Post GR07 had a blood drive, which I was happy to attend. GR07 did an outstanding job. Medical personnel were there, food, and most of all the pride at the post and its commander, shown. It was conducted in a very professional and upbeat manner. In fact, the community civilian command was present to give blood. I would like to say thank you to Commander Jennifer Ewerds, Reynaldo Ginete, John Odom, and the rest of GR07, to include, the hospital staff. Again, GR07, a job well done.

On 26 Mar, it was a very sad day that we had memorial services at, GR03, for Warren Schwartz. In attendance was Warren’s daughter, Department Commander Joe D. Brown, Vice Commander Frank Hanchak and myself. Master of ceremonies was GR-03 Post Commander, Ed Sherman. The ceremony was truly a real tribute to a fallen comrade. Comrade Warren Schwartz will be truly missed. To all of you take care and I look forward to seeing you at the next DEC.

Robert Gray
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR01, GR20, GR45

Last month, I failed to recognize special congratulations to Kaiserslautern Post GR-01 for reaching 100% membership. They have since gone WAY OVER THE TOP! Thank you CDR Mendez and Membership chairman Mike Young for your hard work!

I would like to send a big THANK YOU to Post GR-01 and their Bus Chairman Bryce Mason. Chairman Mason expended much effort and inconvenienced himself greatly to provide the Department with dependable transportation for the DEC that was held in Paris this past month. Not only did he provide transportation, but he was also constantly available to assist whenever he was needed. Through his efforts, all participants were treated like royalty. Chairman Mason provided expertise for DEC attendees, and there was plenty of food and drink for all travelers. Post commander Dave Mendez even provided two ‘professional’ photographers who were on hand to record the event.

Another big THANK YOU goes out to Commander Clarita Geoghegan and Adjutant Ed Canady of Paris Post 1. They handled the coordination on the other end of the trip. Their help enabled us to enjoy the weekend and not have to worry about the local problems associated with travel. Although there were some minor problems with locations and reservations, they worked hard to provide facilities and all events were well attended by many French and American dignitaries.

On 1-3 May 2009, the “2009 Brothers-In-Arms Run” will leave from the Heidelberg Rod and Gun club. This event is sponsored by the Vietnam Vets – Legacy Vets MC.
Vice Commander Jerry Aman  
GR13, GR42, GR79, GR1982, IR63

On March 14th, I was fortunate enough to visit John Wayne Post, GR 79 in Neckarsulm for their annual elections and banquet. The post was well prepared for the elections and I was pleased to witness the membership’s interest in which officers would lead them throughout the next legion year. It was also apparent that the membership had confidence in the leadership provided by Daryl Shannon, Post Commander and Larry Nicholas, his 1st Vice Commander as they were unanimously reelected as the Post’s Commander and 1st Vice.

Later in the evening the Post hosted a banquet during which the new GR 79 Legion and Auxiliary officers were sworn in and awards were handed out. It was an enjoyable evening with much fellowship and comradery.

We congratulate all of the newly elected officers and wish them the best in the next year.

Contact me at E-mail Address Jerrya503@aol.com or phone number 07307-4492 or 073075752

Jerry Aman  
Department Vice Commander

Department Chaplain Ronald Moore

Chaplain’s Page April 2009

Special Days/Legion Events: Children & Youth Month, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Week
Christian Religious Days: 5th - Palm/Passion Sunday; 9th - Maudy Thursday; 10th - Good Friday; 12th Easter Sunday; 12th Palm Sunday (Ortho); 13th Easter Monday; 17th Holy Friday (Ortho); 19th Pascha (Ortho); 23rd St. George’s Day; 30th St James the great Day (Ortho)
Jewish Holidays (Year 5769): 9-16th Pe sach; 21st Yom HSho’ah
Islamic Holidays: None that I know of. Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

Post Everlasting reported to March 26th:
Roger West, father of TX adjutant Bill West  
Warren V. Schwartz, GR03 survived by daughter Sandra Reyes  
Paul E. Tucker, former manager of Patch Physical Fitness Center

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:
George Hall, GR-03

Shawn Ashe, GR-42  
Doug Clemence, GR-06  
Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander  
John H. Miller, GR-1982 and PDC & present Dept Alt NECman  
Phil Gatchell, GR-03  
Edward Hayes, GR-03  
Kenneth Grasser, GR-09  
Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine present Americanism Chair and past chaplain  
Harold M. Wild, GR-13  
Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR-06  
Marlene Watson, Widow of GR-13 charter member  
William Watson  
Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming 3rd District VC and Past Chaplain  
Donnie Swareengin, GR 09  
Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR-07  
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13  
Robert Downs, GR-79  
Brian Charters, IR-63  
Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdeman, Sr. GR-07  
Harry Hall, GR-42  
Rance Cottingham, GR-09  
Carl Hackworth, GR-14  
Isadore Pink, GR-07  
Hal Rittenberg, GR-09, Dept Sergeant-at-Arms  
Niece of Comrade Dave Mendez, GR01  
Cyndia, wife of Comrade Dan Halsey, GR03  
Marie-Anne Godefroid, wife of Comrade Carl Hale, FR01  
James W. Johnson, Alvin Thompson, GR03  
Mike Pagua, GR03  
Jerry Deaver, GR07  
Rose Jeffries, GR07  
Harry Jeffries, GR07  
Gorrell Cheek, GR1982

The above listed persons 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 Comrades, Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

We are in turbulent times as the stock markets and economy take us on another roller coaster ride into another period of uncertainty. Fear for jobs and financial security
may haunt us and make us lie awake at nights worrying about the future.

But think for a moment. All of us have already survived many economic problems (11 to 16 others since the Great Depression depending how you want to call and split them) that we may not have even known we were in. We have recession in my household every day because I always manage to spend more than I take in somehow. As I count the many blessings I receive from God daily, I also have to count the many things I bought that I don’t really need or use. I’m glad all of you are smarter than I am and don’t fall into that trap.

No, I’m not only bringing you bad news in this monthly message. As with everything there is the good news and then there is other news. The other news is that we are going to make it. We will survive this new problem, maybe with a few more gray hairs than before, but we will survive it. America has always been a strong nation and we will survive this problem a little wiser for the experience. The good news is that others depend more on us to give that friendly smile and word of encouragement. When I insist that a uniformed person go ahead me in the line and thank them for their service, I normally get an embarrassed smile. But as they see that I honestly mean it, they thank me for mine also and all of a sudden two people have both brightened up someone’s day. Pass that smile on and watch how it grows in brightness and spreads happiness.

Add the really “Good News” that God loves each and every one of you and is available to you 24/7. Spread the Word! It’s great to be a member of the American Legion family and it is great to understand what “For God and Country” really means.

As we approach the Christian religious holiday of Easter/Pascha and the Jewish religious holiday of Pesach, let us continue to pray to God and thank Him for the many blessings we do have.

May God bless you and your family and keep all safe.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve.

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

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**Here ye, Hear ye!**

To all members of the Department of France American Legion Family, consisting of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.).

The American Legion Pony Express (AL PE) Messenger System for the Department of France is still being provisionally formed. We need Stations, Way Stations and at least two messengers assigned from each station. The supervision of the system remains under the auspices of The Department of France Commander and the Department of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, who will also be transporting donations to the National Convention as Department of France messenger. Post or messenger participation does not require any funding, extra dues or incur costs for the Post. The Post would act as a collection point for donations for the 2009 Legacy Run and ensure that those donations are received by the messenger who will be delivering the donations to the National Commander during the National Convention. All efforts of the Posts and messengers are on a voluntary, best effort basis.

The National AL PE Messenger System was in use during the 2007 Legacy Run for the coordinated movement of donations to ensure that Legacy Scholarship Fund donations were delivered to the National Commander along the Legacy Run route or at the National Convention. It is not a separate American Legion program but is recognized as a tool for use by The American Legion nationally. Outlying departments were not considered to be part of the National plan and were not included in the setup. Discussions were held with the National AL PE Coordinator who has been made aware of the oversight of not including The Department of France in the organization. He has now included us, subject to final Department of France Commander approval.

The plan and proposal have been made to the Department Commander, subject to approval at a DEC. We are to set up a provisional system which, if proven feasible, will become the official department organization after DEC approval has been obtained. **Why incorporate the system in your Post?**

It is a win/win situation for our Department, Posts and indirectly for the AL Riders. It is not dependent on ALR membership which should make it interesting for all Posts at present, not just those who ride or have motorcycle riders. **What is involved?**

Collect funds for the 2009 Legacy Scholarship Fund as usual.

Get at least two messengers and register your Post as a PE Collection Station with the **Department AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore at revronmoore@yahoo.de** giving Post Name, Post full Address, Post telephone number Post email address and Messenger name, contact
telephone, email address and city/country of residence (don’t need full address of messenger).

Messengers will be sent a return email confirmation Coordinate with the Department AL PE Coordinator to have donation checks and pledges moved to the final collection point by deadline July 31, 2009. All checks should be in U.S. $ and made payable to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Please note- No other items will be transported by messengers.

That’s all there is.

We will be collecting for the 2009 Legacy Run again next year and you can use your AL PE Status to increase your visibility within your community. Increasing visibility should mean increased interest in membership in your Post and an increase in donations from outside of your Post.

What is the Legacy Scholarship Fund?
http://legion.org/programs/legacyrun/legacyscholarship

What is the Legacy Run?
http://legion.org/programs/legacyrun/overview

How can you donate?
- Sign up as a rider or supporter. Please note Dept of France on your form and send me a note.
- Coordinate with the Dept of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, to have your donations/pledges moved to the designated Department of France Final Collection by July 31, 2009
- Make an individual online donation at the legion.org site

Donations for 2008 exceeded $515,000 by the end of Convention, surpassing the $409,000 collected in 2007. National Commander Rehbein has set a new goal of $400,000 for 2009 which exceeds the goal from 2008 by $50,000.

Please remember, only those Posts and messengers registered through and with the Department of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, will be part of the official Department of France System.

A hearty welcome to:
Rhein-Main Post GR05, Moerfelden-Waldorf
Omar Bradley Post GR42, Niederwerm
as new Way Stations of the Provisional A.L. PE System, Department of France

Here is information about the registration as a rider or supporter.

Subject: Early Registration Open for American Legion Legacy Run

The American Legion

Indianapolis to Louisville
August 18-23, 2009

Early registration is now available for the 2009 American Legion Legacy Run Please share the attached 2009 American Legion Legacy Run release/waiver registration form with all interested rider groups and organizations. An online printable registration form will be made available after March 6, 2009 on The American Legion’s website

Registration fees remain the same as in 2007 and 2008: $35 per rider and $15 per passenger. Many people who do not (or cannot) ride, but who support the goals of the Riders, have also asked permission to register in support of The American Legion Legacy Run. We honor their support and will provide them with the same registration materials and souvenir mapbook that we will provide to the registered participants. Thanks to all for registering.

Paid registrants will receive:
2009 American Legion Legacy Run Patch set. Two-piece patch set includes the ALLR patch and a smaller strip underneath with the 2009 destination and dates. Run Mapbook/Event Guide
Complete Run Schedule, including gas stops. Participants and supporters may submit the attached waiver/release form to the address shown on the form.
Mail one signed copy with payment—and keep another copy for your records. We will mail back a confirmation immediately. In July, after we have finalized and printed the run mapbook and other materials, we’ll mail out the completed American Legion Legacy Run packages to all registrants.
I have registered to participate for my 3rd full ride in The American Legion Legacy Run. If there are any members who will be also participating, please let me know.

Ron “Gypsy” Moore
revronmoore@yahoo.de

Provisional A.L. PE Coordinator, Department of France

God bless all of you and God bless our servicemen and women and all who are serving in our defense.
Service to God and Country!
Pastor Ronald Moore,
Rev. Ronald Moore  
Department Chaplain

Department Service Officer George Hall

As of this writing, DSO George Hall was recently hospitalized and is home recuperating. We hope for his speedy recovery.

Editor

George Hall  
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion

The SAL Convention will be hosted by Kaiserslautern Squadron/Post GR-01 in June. Details will be published next month.

Frank J. Hanchak  
Commander,  
Detachment of France  
Sons of The American Legion

Department Americanism Chairman

Please submit your Americanism report to Chairman Carl Hackworth. Remember that an Americanism report is any thing that the American Legion does; i.e., Graveyard decoration, Children displaying Flags, Flag ceremony, etc. You should report it at a General membership meeting s anywhere the US Flag is Present.

Carl R. Hackworth  
Dept. Americanism Chairman

Department Events

ROTC

The Bamberg ROTC Battalion earned the highest unit award "Honor Unit with Distinction," during their formal inspection. The cadets are now authorized to wear the "Gold Star," this was a first in Bamberg's JROTC 28-year history.

They have an award/promotion ceremony and "Gold Star" celebration this Thurs, Apr 2 at 4 pm in the Bamberg High school Multi-Purpose Room. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities for Cadets:

Apr 4th > Color Guard Performance: Month of the Military Child (Bamberg JFK Gym)  
Apr 15 > Teddy Bear Tea Party for SAS (Bamberg Community Library)  
April 17 > 173rd STB Ball Coat Check (Bamberg Kongress Hall)  
Apr 18 > Drill Team Meet (Bamberg High School Gym: 9 AM) All Welcome  
Apr 24 > Ropes Course Field Trip (Bad Staffelstein)  
Apr 25 > Drill Meet (Hohenfels High School)  
May 1 (or 8) > Military Ball (Location TBD)  
May 9 > Drill Meet (Vicenze High School)  
May 15 > USAG Schweinfurt Ball: Color Guard, Drill Performance, Car Parking (Schonungen: Mainburg Castle)

JROTC Chairman
Charles St. John

VFW Liaison

The VFW Department of Europe will hold their annual Department Convention on 18 – 21 June 2009 at the Hotel Sonnen Huegel, Bad Kissingen, Germany. POC is Norberto Millet Jr, Convention Chairman. If you are interested in attending, please contact me and I will forward the information to you.

The VFW National Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona August 15-20, 2009.

Frank J. Hanchak  
VFW Liaison
POST HAPPENINGS

The following American Legion Posts will celebrate Easter on the dates noted:

GR 03 > 4 APRIL
GR 30 > 4 APRIL
GR 07 > 11 APRIL

POST ELECTIONS:

GR 01  4 APRIL
GR 13  18 APRIL
GR 42  19 APRIL

Posts are encouraged to send your local information for publication.

David Chavez Post GR 1982
Ansbach/Katterbach, Germany

It has been a very busy year at GR 1982 with our members picking up the slack when a comrade is out sick or away in the USA attending Funerals and other Family emergencies. But we survived and pulled our post over the top as the first medium size post in the Department. We are also active in many community projects with two scheduled fishing derbies for the youth; supporting the local high school JROTC program; and support to the Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs. We have visited both soldiers and family members in local hospitals and while our soldiers were deployed, we offered our services to family members needing transportation to and from local hospitals and medical appointments. Next month we will hold our yearly elections and already have nominations for the positions, it should be an interesting meeting. We have been working with the VFW on a joint meeting room so we will be able to host a DEC at Katterbach and are looking at expanding into the American Legion Family area by recruiting the wives into forming an auxiliary here.

Still Serving

John H. Miller, PDC
Post Adjutant

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
GR1982: Third Wednesday 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

The following letter was placed in the US Postal Service on Friday 20 March 2009:

TO:
National Commander Dave Rehbein
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Dear Commander Rehbein,

We, the Committee of Portugal Post #1, have read your articles in the Legion and the PR issued in your name and it is obvious that you are not being well served and supported by the paid staff of the American Legion.

The American Legion is living the last days of its
So now what do I do? It all depends on you, the Legionnaire. The Newsletter does not belong to the Commander or the Editor. It belongs to you, the Legionnaires of the Department of France. The success or failure will not necessarily be mine or the Commanders, but must be shared by all who read it and write for it. If it was a success or failure in the past, it was not because of anything Adjutant Settle did or didn’t do. There is little that I will do now that he wasn’t doing then. Bottom line > the same Newsletter will go out to you whether I get much input or not. It is the quality of the content, not the quality of the editor or commander that will make this Newsletter succeed or fail.

Don't forget them, but don't think these are the only veterans who have sacrificed for America and are the only concern that the Legion should consider

The American Legion needs an attitude adjustment and a shot of reality and that will probably only come with new and younger leadership.

If the American Legion can not submit to relevancy, then it will cease to exist.

Best regards,

Cdr Loren Kesting
1st Vice Cdr Gilbert Wells
2nd Vice Cdr Stuart Schuyler
JA James Pritchard

EDITORIAL

The New F-Word???

In an article by Rick Newman entitled “The New F-Word; Failure Used To Motivate People To Try Harder. Now It’s A Dirty Word”; the author states that “There is a fundamental need for failure”. He continues by showing “that in the 1870’s, for instance, there was a five year depression, followed by a(n) historic era of mechanism that destroyed old industries and generated new ones at a pace nobody had ever seen. It was a time of terrific insecurity. It was also a golden era of dynamism”

We have all failed many times. Heaven knows I have! It is in how we recover from our failures that makes us better people and a better organization. All of our successes are rooted in failure of either ourselves or of others. Now is the time for our own “dynamism”. Let’s build on our failures and grow to be better Legionnaires and a better American Legion.

On another subject; Theodore Roosevelt said, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are”. That is what I am doing. I asked to return as Editor because I saw a need and knew I could help. I wanted to return as Editor, not because the prior editor was doing a bad job. On the contrary, he was doing just fine and I thank him for the job he did. But I also saw that he was swamped with other important Legion business and I felt I could relieve him of some of his burden.
Pictures from the Department of France visit to the 90th Anniversary of Paris Post One
Pictures from Omar Bradley GR-42
EASTER PARTY

Easter Bunny with SAL Member
Connor Ashe

DCDR Joe Brown with Darlene Edgar, Easter Bunny (Sonja Dennis), and Diane Schmidt

Back: Ashley Ashe, Doris Hall, Isolde Settle, Rosa Petri
Front: Andrea Preston, Diane Schmidt, Darlene Edgar

The Omar Bradley Family
Post Everlasting

WARREN SWARTZ POST EVERLASTING GR 03
Past VCAL Frank Wing, DCDR Brown, Mrs Sandra Reyes, Mr. Reyes, GR-03 Post CDR Ed Sherman (Post Chaplain Robert K. Pierce in back)
The AMERICAN LEGION

France

85th Annual Convention Package

Hosted By Kaiserslautern Post GR01

Hotel-Restaurant Barbarossahof
Eselsfuhrth 10
67657 Kaiserslautern

17 - 21 June 2009

Convention Package Consist Of:

- Breakfast Buffet
- Friday Steak Night at the Post (except for Saturday arrivals)
- One convention coin per room guest

### Four Night Package – Arriving Wednesday, Departing Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Price per room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>€ 292.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double room</td>
<td>€ 388.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three bed room</td>
<td>€ 508.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four bed room</td>
<td>€ 580.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Three Night Package – Arriving Thursday, Departing Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Price per room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>€ 223.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double room</td>
<td>€ 299.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three bed room</td>
<td>€ 393.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four bed room</td>
<td>€ 451.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Two Night Package – Arriving Friday, Departing Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Price per room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>€ 154.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double room</td>
<td>€ 210.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three bed room</td>
<td>€ 278.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four bed room</td>
<td>€ 322.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Single Night Package – Arriving Saturday, Departing Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Price per room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>€ 75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double room</td>
<td>€ 101.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three bed room</td>
<td>€ 133.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four bed room</td>
<td>€ 153.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Steak Night – at the door € 12.00 per person

(If you have no room package)

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Convention Chairman 2009

John Fleming
Hauptstr 20
66885 Altenglan-Patersbach

Tel.: 06381-6009404  * Handy: 0163-258-8768  * E-Mail: adjutant@k-townamericanlegion.org

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The AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France
85th Annual Convention Agenda
17 - 21 June 2009

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14
**Wednesday, 17th of June 2009**

**FOURTH DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:30-16:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Call to order</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opening ceremonies</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roll call</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction of guest</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome remarks</td>
<td>Convention Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minutes of previous meeting</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finance report</td>
<td>Department Finance Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AWARDS PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEW BUSINESS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Announcements</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MEMORIAL TO DEPARTED MEMBERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLOSING CEREMONIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Department Chaplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recovering of POW/MIA Flag</td>
<td>POW/MIA Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retiring of colors</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Committee Meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thursday, 18th of June 2009**

**FIRST SESSION OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Convening of Convention</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opening ceremonies</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roll call</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction of guest</td>
<td>Department Judge Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption of convention rules</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report of credential committee</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conformation of standing</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Committees</td>
<td>Committee Chairpersons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ratification of 2009 convention</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation of resolutions</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award committee report</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Awards presentations</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guest speaker</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recessing convention</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Committee Meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Friday, 19th of June 2009

SECOND SESSION OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
08:30-09:00 Registration Department Sgt-At-Arms
09:00 Convening of convention Department Commander
Roll call Department Adjutant
Standing committee reports Department Commander
Audit and Finance report Department Finance Officer
Presentation of 2009-2010 operating budget Department Commander
Annual reports Department Commander
Presentation of awards Department Commander
Administrative announcements Department Adjutant

TBA Past Commanders Club
TBA Annual Caucus

1900 Steak Night at the Post

Saturday, 20th of June 2009

THIRD SESSION OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
08:30-09:00 Registration Department Sgt-At-Arms
09:00 Reconvening of convention Department Commander
Roll Call Department Adjutant
Report of Credential Committee Department Sgt-At-Arms
Awards Report Department Commander
Awards Presentations Department Commander
Voting on 2009 – 2010 operating budget Department Finance Officer
Adoption of Dept. Constitution and By-Laws Department Judge Advocate
Appointment of Election Judge Department Commander
Appointment of Election Tellers Department Commander
BREAK Department Adjutant
Roll Call Election Judge
2009 Department Elections NEC MAN
Short Form Installation Department Commander
Appointment of Adjutant Department Adjutant
Administrative Announcements Department Chaplain
Post Everlasting Department Commander
Closing Ceremonies Department Commander
Adjournment of Convention Department Commander

FIRST DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
TBA Registration Department Sgt-At-Arms
Call to Order Department Commander
Opening Ceremonies Department Commander
Roll Call Department Adjutant
Introduction of Guest Department Sgt-At-Arms
Minutes from 4th DEC Department Adjutant
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENCE
NEW BUSINESS
Saturday, 20th of June 2009 (Continued)

Request for Funds
Annual Appointments
Appointment of Delegates to 2009 National Convention
Appointments-Chef Delegates To 2009 National Convention
Report of 2009 Convention
Selection of 3rd DEC Site for 2007
General Announcements
Memorial To Departed Members
   For The Good Of The Legion
Closing Ceremonies
Prayer
Retiring Of Colors

Department Commander
Department Commander
Department Commander
Department Commander
Convention Chairman
Department Commander
Department Adjutant

Department Commander

18:00       Cocktails
18:30       Speakers and Awards
19:00       Banquet
            Dancing???

Sunday, 21st of June 2009

Departure after Buffet Breakfast

**** TIMES LISTED IN AGENDA MAY VERY ****

Please fill out the included reservation form and return it as soon as possible. Minimum 50% Deposit must be received by 8 May 09 per instructions below. The sooner we know who will be attending, the sooner name tags, etc. can be made and rooms reserved. Please print clearly to avoid mistakes. Feel free to make copies as needed.

Send To:

John Fleming
Hauptstr 20   CMR 422, Box 241
D-66885 Altenglan   APO AE 09067
Tel: 06381-6009404   Handy: 0163-258-8768

E-mail: adjutant@k-townamericanlegion.org

* All room payments must be in €uro. Payments made in any other currency will be returned!

* Send Euro checks and the reservation form to one of the above addresses.

* Please make checks payable to Karin Fleming. (Please watch spelling.)

* Your meals and drinks may be charged to your room during your stay, and you may pay those charges with a credit card and a VAT form.

* If any questions arise, please feel free to write or call us at any time.

John Fleming
Department Convention Chairman “2009”
Short Summary of Hotel:
* The Flockerzie family has proudly owned and operated the Barbarossahof hotel and restaurant for over 150 years.
* After the American Civil War in 1865, Georg Walter Flockerzie came back across the Atlantic Ocean to Germany. He went to Kaiserslautern-Eselsfürth, where he bought a little post station and changed it to the Barbarossahof.
* After his death in 1895 his son, Orlando Flockerzie, became the new owner. He led it in the same tradition as his family in the prior years with the guest being of the utmost concern and making the Barbarossahof a home away from home.
* His follower was Walter Flockerzie, who had the hotel after the hard times of World War II, where the Barbarossahof was occupied by the French. The Barbarossahof survived these hard times without any damages and Walter Flockerzie built one new hotel-building and added a new restaurant.
* The hotel was totally renovated in the nineties and some new buildings were added. The former post station is now a hotel with over 250 beds and a restaurant that can host up to 400 people.
* The CEO of the hotel is today Heide-Lore Flockerzie and her son Alexander Flockerzie.

Hotel Amenities:
* Rooms are available in Single, Double, three beds and four beds in Standard, Comfort, Junior Suite and Suite Categories. All rooms include TV, telephone, in-room internet access, WC, shower and hairdryer.
* T-Mobile provides a HotSpot for wireless high-speed internet access everywhere in the hotel.
* Our guests have free parking and a fitness-center without any extra costs. Sauna and solarium are also available.

HOW TO GET TO BARBAROSSAHOF!

Autobahn: A6 Mannheim – Saarbruecken
Exit: Kaiserslautern Ost
A63 Mainz – Kaiserslautern
Exit: Kaiserslautern Centrum

Eselsfuhrth 10
67657 Kaiserslautern
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France
85th Annual Convention
17 - 21 June 2009

Room Reservation

Last Name: _____________________ First Name: _____________________
Wife First Name: _____________________
First Name of Children: _____________________ Age: _______
____________________ Age: _______

* For use if double room is occupied by two Legionnaires:
Last Name: _____________________ First Name: _____________________

Address (only one is needed):
City: ______________________________ Country: __________________________

: _____________________ e-mail: ______________________________

Total Amount In € = __________

Arrival Date: _____________________ Departure Date: _____________________

Special Requests/Needs: _________________________________________________________

Bad Durkheim Tour (18 Jun 09) 10 a.m.: YES or NO How many: ______
USAFE Band (Hotel) (18 Jun 09) 6 p.m.: YES or NO How many: ______
K-Town Tour (19 Jun 09) 10 a.m.: YES or NO How many: ______
Steak Night at Post Home, (19 Jun 09) 6 p.m.: YES or NO How many: ______
Banquet Night (Hotel) (20 Jun 09) 6 p.m.: YES or NO How many: ______

Registration deposit of 50% due by 8 May 2009.

Make checks Payable to: Karin Fleming

Send Payment To:

John Fleming

Hauptstr 20 CMR 422, Box 241
D-66885 Altenglan APO AE 09067

Tel: 06381-6009404 Handy: 0163-258-8768

E-mail: adjutant@k-townamericanlegion.org