Hello my fellow Legionnaires. I want to wish you and your loved ones well.

On 16 March, Kaiserslautern Post GR01 held a ceremony at the Deployment Processing Center, Rhine Ordnance Barracks, to commemorate five Dell computers purchased by The American Legion National Headquarters. This project was started by Department Adjutant/Post Commander John Fleming. His understanding of the problems and situations of Soldiers in transit made it possible for the American Legion to assist the needs of our fellow Soldiers. In attending the ceremony with his fellow work colleagues, there was a sense of pride, dignity and understanding which seemed to overflow the Department Adjutant. In attendance were NEC William Marshall, Judge Advocate Michael Young, myself and fellow workers. The ceremony was very inspirational and memorable. Good work John.

On 20 March we held our 3rd Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC), hosted by GR42 in Schweinfurt. In general, it was a fairly good meeting, with minor interruptions. Once that was resolved, we continued to press forward. Below is a highlight of some areas that were covered, starting with the Department Convention.

After being voted in at the 2nd DEC, the Convention was to be held in Ireland. A motion was present to cancel the Convention in Bray, Ireland and hold it in St. Avold, France. There was much discussion, but the vote was surrendered in favor of the Convention being held, as planned, in Ireland. So the Convention chairman will have more information on where to send the monies and updates.

VCAL Kane discussed the awards deadline and that the awards Committee will meet 8 May 2010. I wish everyone luck.

Another highlight was John Odom being ratified as Vice Commander. John brings experience, leadership abilities, and a can do attitude to the job. I believe his assigned Posts will benefit greatly. He possesses an understanding of the functioning of different programs associated within the Legion. Again, thank you John.

Please see the updated list of Vice Commanders and their Posts in the Department Officers list to the right. >>>>>>>>

The National Commanders entourage will be arriving in Germany on 24 May. Their itinerary has them in Stuttgart, Heidelberg and Ramstein, Landstuhl and Kaiserslautern. The main Posts that will be involved are GR06, GR03 and GR07, and GR01. It would be great if the Posts would prepare something for their evening visit.

In closing, I hope everyone had a safe Easter and please think of those who may not be as bless as you. Take care.

Yours in Comradeship,

Robert Gray

FROM THE COMMANDER
VCAL Report

March was an interesting Month for me and a lot people in the Department. Probably the DEC Meeting was the most interesting of all. I had a number of functions during the month and of course the preparations for hosting the Department Convention in June. As usual we had our Big Show in Ireland with all three Posts parading in Killarney and receiving another great reception from the huge crowds lining the streets on St. Patrick Day. IR02 were nice and entertained us all to dinner before we dispersed to the four corners of Ireland. On then to the 3rd DEC at GR42, and thanks to the generosity of our fellow Legion Member, Charlie Vaughan. The meeting was interesting to say the least and Commander Robert Gray did a very good job in getting through the Agenda. The proposal to relocate the 2010 Department Convention from Ireland generated a lot of debate with contributions from all sides, some attending their first meeting in 2 years and others being there for their first time ever. Thankfully, there is no change in the venue, and IR63 have spent a lot of time and money to date, notwithstanding the people who have paid for their airline tickets and deposits too. Post IR63 has resumed their quest to make the Convention one to remember with great memories for all. (See separate Convention Report). We welcomed Vice Commander John Odem on board and he will be a great help with his vast experience. We also said farewell to Shawn Ashe who is returning to the Motherland and we wish him well.

There are two big jobs to be completed in the near future. The first being that of the Awards, which have to be to the Department Adjutant on or before 30 April. If you are not aware of your Posts position please find and help out to put your members and Post in the Competition for the Annual Awards (see Awards Report). The Membership Drive needs a helping push to get to our goal of 100% before the end of the Membership Year. If every member went out and signed up a Renewal or a new member, we could reach this magic number. LET’S DO IT. Looking forward to seeing many of you over the next month on my visits to work with Robert, John and other Department Officers.

Liam Kane
I would first like to thank all those that in attendance at the 3rd DEC who voted to confirm for my appointment as Vice Commander.

To get started with the Post that I had been assigned, I unofficially visited two of the four Posts before I was confirmed at the 3rd DEC. Now that I am confirmed, I will be officially visiting each Post during the coming months.

While visiting with GR01, I found that they are on time with most all required matters; their membership is looking very good and on 10 April they will be having their Elections. They are also preparing for their Post and Department awards.

Likewise, GR03, their Commander was on TDY and the Vice Commander and Past Commander kept all Post matters moving right along. Their next event will be their annual Easter Dinner.

Post GR05 Commander was attending a funeral in the USA and was not available.

While I was preparing to visit and coordinate with the leadership of GR06, it was reported that they had one comrade that died and was being taking back to Colorado for burial. After finding I had no official status I decided not to go.

All of my Post but one had a contestant in the Department 2010 Oratorical Contest, and they all did an outstanding job again this year. The support that we give to our Youth in each of our communities is just what we are all about, our Post and Department programs.

John H. Odom, Sr
Vice Commander Dept of France
49(0)6217245742 Home
49(0)1746935296 Cell
Email: jhlolilbro@aol.com

Another month is gone, another birthday celebrated, another DEC on the books, and it looks like Spring is arriving.

I would like everyone to spend a little time and look at OUR Department website: The Department of France. If there is something you think would should change or update, please let me know. I know we need to update the following pages, so if you have ideas or input, PLEASE send it to me:

Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders, Oratorical, Youth Programs, Scholarships, Scouting, and Photo Gallery

We have added Membership information to the website, so please look at that and let me know what you like or don’t like and should be changed. Carl Hale is our webmaster, and he and I can both take constructive criticism, but that needs to be accompanied by suggestions!

Below is the Poster that will hang in the Computer room at the Deployment Processing Center, ROB, to Commemorate the five computers purchased by The American Legion Nation for use by the Deploying Soldiers.

John D. Fleming, Adjutant
**Special Days/Legion Events:** Children & Youth Month, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Week

**Christian Religious Days:** 1st - Maudy Thursday; 2nd - Good Friday; 4th Easter Sunday; 19th Pascha (Ortho); 23rd St. George’s Day; 30th St James the great Day (Ortho)

**Jewish Holidays** (Year 5770): 5th-6th - Pesach (Last two days of Passover); 11th - Yom HaSho'ah; 19th - Yom Ha’Atzmaut

**Islamic Holidays:** None that I know of.

Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

**Post Everlasting reported in February:**

Wendell P. Dore, Department of D.C. Commander

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**Prayers for the Sick:**

- George Hall, GR03
- Shawn Ashe, GR42
- Doug Clemence, GR06
- Nola Maloney, GR03 and Past Department Commander
- John H. Miller, GR1982 and PDC & present Dept Alt NECman
- Phil Gatchell, GR03
- Edward Hayes, GR03
- Kenneth Grasser, GR09
- Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine present Americanism Chair and past Chaplain
- Harold M. Wild, GR13
- Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR06
- Marlene Watson, Widow of GR13 charter member William Watson
- Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming 3rd District VC and Past Chaplain
- Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR07
- Edwin F. Hoffman, GR13
- Robert Downs, GR79
- Brian Charters, IR63
- Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdeman, Sr.
- GR07
- Harry Hall, GR42
- Isadore Pink, GR07
- 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,
- Mike Pagua, GR03
- Jerry Deaver, GR07
- Rose Jeffries, GR07
- Harry Jeffries, GR07
- Gorrell Cheek, GR1982
- Kevin Murphy, GR05
- Bill Tilman, GR14
- George Davis, GR42
- Michael Umland, GR06 and Past Department Commander
- A. “Ray” Cline, GR14
- Joe D. Brown, GR42, IPDC
- Robert Loudon, GR05
- Dallas Smith, GR05
- Mother and Father-n-law of DVC James Dennis

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.

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**Greetings Comrades,**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

We feel and smell the stirrings of life as we enter into spring. The flowers and trees are blooming and we feel the energy flowing in us after a long hard winter. This winter was one of the hardest we have had in many years. It’s nice to have it over with.

Just as the sun warms us more each day and the days are getting longer, so should our thoughts turn towards our families and our comrades as we come out of our winter hibernation. Thank you God that we have come through a long hard winter and one filled with economic and fears for our personal well-being.

Please don’t forget to count the small things as blessings also. When you consider a child’s smile, the touch of a loved one’s hand or the thank you from a veteran whom we have helped, then those small things make us feel good. Maybe it was only a small thing that caused that reaction but we feel the warmth in our hearts.

The 10 ideals mentioned in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion aren’t very many as such, and are short enough for us to recite quickly, but they give us a lifelong goal to accomplish many great things by
doing small ones, one step at a time.

Let us take the small steps necessary to accomplish great things in someone’s life. We all have it in us and the American Legion gives us the vehicle to accomplish great things for our veterans and their families. Thank you for what you do.

May God bless you and give you strength to continue His work in helping our service members and fellow veterans.

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

Awards

Time is running out for everyone to finish off their Awards packets. The deadline for receipt is 30 April. Packets should reach the Adjutant on or before 30 April. Should any Post have a problem, please e-mail me and we can make arrangements for you to deliver the entry to your Vice Commander. There should be an entry from each Post because there are so many ways to win an award. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to see someone from your Post receiving an Award at the Department Convention in front of the other Posts? Our Department Adjutant has kindly offered to copy the relevant pages to be examined by the Awards Committee when they meet in May. At the 3rd DEC, I told those present that the period being covered for this year’s awards is 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010. I wish you all the very best of luck with your entries and don’t hesitate to contact me or your Vice Commander if you need clarification on any matter, big or small.

Liam Kane, Chairman, Awards Committee

Department Convention

Now that the venue for our Department Convention have been voted on again, and confirmed for the Royal Hotel, Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland, those who haven’t made a final decision can now do so and send on their deposits to our Bank. The Post Committee meet again next week and again please help us to help you by cooperating with us by sending on full details of your stay and type of room required and any special needs. The required deposit is 25% payable to ULSTER BANK, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24. BANK CODE is 98-62-90. NAME of ACCOUNT is American Legion JFK IRL Post 63, and the Account Number is 10604063. If you need any further information on payments, please e-mail me, especially those who are coming early or extending their stay. We assume that everyone is flying into Dublin Airport, so this is how you get to the Hotel. Exit the door directly in front of you when come through Customs and you will see Light Blue colored buses, turn LEFT and take the bus that shows GREYSTONES as its designation. You pay €17.00, round trip, when getting on the Bus. Tell the Driver that you want to get off in BRAY for the Royal Hotel. It’s about 150 yards from the Bus stop. If anyone requires any assistance with luggage or anything else let us know in advance. The Buses leave the Airport every hour on the hour e.g. 11.00 am. The journey takes you through part of Dublin City and takes approximately one hour. Don’t forget that there is a special scheme open to all those over age 66 on the railway while you are in Ireland giving you €100.00 FREE TRAVEL. TO AVAL OF THIS, YOU MUST FILL A FORM WHICH MAY BE COMPLETED ON THE INTERNET. Some numbers to call: In France 0170200020, Germany 06966800950, in Italy 0248296060, in Belgium 022750171, in The Netherlands 0205040689, in USA 1800 Shamrock (74267625), and in Denmark 80601518. The nearest railway station from the Hotel is only 10 minutes walk. If you need any information please ASK. Once again, thank you for coming to Ireland. CEAD MILE FAILTE.
The host Post: JFK IR63

The Venue: Royal Hotel, Bray County, Wicklow, Ireland

The Date: 16 - 20 June 2010 and beyond.

The Bookings are high and we need those few who have not registered to kindly do so or tell us that they are not attending.

The POST WEBSITE is up and running and will be updated weekly. The Post meets again to-night to work for your Convention.

http://www.americanlegionirelandpost63.com/

is our contact, please have a look.

Some people have even booked in for longer periods than the actual Convention. We can do great deals for you if you want to do the same. We’re here to help, just contact us by e-mail if you require any information.

We are working on the social side for you. One item of interest will be a talk on the Irish who fought on the American side in Korea and Vietnam. This will include slides and Books by the Author who will conduct the free show.

A group of Irish Dancers will perform for us and are willing to show you the odd step or two.

Details of events in and around Bray are also available, and of course, remember that you are in County Wicklow, The Garden of Ireland.

Trains and Buses run on a very regular time to Dublin City. the scenery on both are worth a trip and we will supply time tables on request.

Some of our Post will be available to assist you on all matters at all times during the Convention. JUST ASK. YOU’RE AT HOME IN IRELAND.

Failte Roimh To Leir do Cualainn. ar an ocaid den Comhdial Leguna na Stait Aontaite Roin na Bfranca 2010. OCumann 63

Package consists of the following:

Fare consists of:

Bed and Irish or Continental breakfast.
1 Convention coin for each person registering.
Banquet on Saturday Night.
Bus Trip & BBQ.

2 Night Package
Single room €155.00
Double room €211.00
Triple room €282.00

1 Night Package
Single room €90.00
Double room €124.00
Triple room €159.00

3 Night package
Single room €219.00
Double room €290.00
Triple room €393.00

4 Night package
Single room €290.00
Double room €377.00
Triple room €506.00

Family rooms available on request.
Package for 5 Nights please contact me.
Booking Dates:
31st December 2009 (Numbers attending)
Booking deposit 25% must be paid on or before 3rd D.E.C.

1ST MAY FINAL DATE FOR BOOKING AND PAYMENT
Your cooperation for the above will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Liam Kane, Convention Chairman
The Sons of The American Legion will hold our annual Detachment Convention on Saturday, June 5, 2010. The call will be sent out from the Detachment Adjutant thirty days prior to the convention with all details. I encourage you to attend this important event.

During the last DEC in Stuttgart, it came to my attention that prospective SAL members are not able to be sworn in at their Post Homes and at their local Squadron Meetings because many squadrons do not meet regularly. If this trend continues, we will not increase our membership; indeed, we will continue to decrease.

For this reason, I will initiate ANY SAL candidate from any squadron (who has an application signed by their Squadron Adjutant) and, who travels to Schweinfurt and attends our regularly scheduled meetings on the third Sunday of every month. Simply give me a call or send an E-mail and let me know when you can attend. I will insure that you are properly and honorably inducted into the ranks of our organization. I am sure that Omar Bradley Squadron Commander Dave Lofaro will make room in his meeting agenda for this important reason.

Thanks to all Department and Detachment Legionnaires for your support these past two years. It has been an honor and a great pleasure to serve you in the capacity of Detachment Commander!

Frank J. Hanchak
Commander
Detachment of France
Sons of The American Legion
frank.hanchak@gmail.com
0171-473-9782

The American Legion Department of France
2010 Eagle Scout of the Year

By David Sears

A Joint Forces Command, NATO Base Brunssum, The Netherlands, student has been named The American Legion’s Department of France 2010 Eagle Scout of the Year. Sean Ballard, 17, a senior at AFNORTH DODEA High School, earned the Department of France Eagle Scout of the Year title and plaque, and is further nominated to compete for The American Legion National Eagle Scout of the Year college scholarship worth $10,000.

The award recognizes Ballard’s practical citizenship at school, Scouting, and his commitment to community service.

For his Eagle Scout project, Ballard led a team of over 35 volunteers to register hundreds of community children in the AFNORTH “ID a KID” program. Sean and his staff provided valuable information regarding the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as well as the Amber Alert Program. Ballard’s project presented parents with individual computer CD’s with their child photo’s and other valuable identifying documents and personal data.

Ballard is also a member of the AFNORTH HS National Honor Society, and has Varsity Lettered in Band, Concert Band and Swim Team. Additionally Sean is a member of Club Beyond Military Catholic Youth Ministries and attended Europe Catholic Youth Conference.

Ballard will study Engineering at Penn State College. After graduation, he plans to work in the Aerospace Engineering field and become an expert in Command, Control, Communication and Computers.

The Legion has supported Scouting since its first national convention in 1919. Legion posts sponsor more than 2,700 Scouting units, serving more than 71,500 young people at a cost of more than $1.7 million.

For God and Country! Scouting Forever and Venture On!

Dave Sears
Scouting Chairman
The American Legion
Department of France
American Legion Boys State Program

I would like to start the 2010 year with a few words of thanks to those few Department of France Post that have, for the past 12 years, supported our program and provided some outstanding young men from their communities. Now we are at the midway point and need to start first with our Post selection of candidates and notifying the Department of France of their desire to send a Boy or Boys to Boys’ State.

As always a successful program will depend on timely input, cooperation, and coordination of all needed information between both the Department of France and our host State of Maryland.

Let’s re-energize Boys State

Two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, created The American Legion Boys State, believing there was a need for American youth to be trained in the workings of their local and state governments. The program paved the way for American Legion Boys Nation, a similar experience at the federal level in Washington. Boys State has spread throughout the nation and enjoyed continuing growth – until recently.

In 1996, nearly 25,000 students participated in Boys State in 49 American Legion Departments. In the past few years that number has dipped. Some departments have experienced a moderate to steady increase in participants; others have dropped anywhere from 100 to 400 participants. During a recent Boys State National Conference in Indianapolis, program officials cited several reasons for the decline. An increase in competing youth activities, fewer participating posts, and applications going out too late in the school year, among others. In my opinion, the most alarming reason given was that as post leader’s age, they are failing to mentor younger Legionnaires on the importance of Boys State. One of the keys to any organization’s future is the mentoring of younger members who will become the next generation of leaders. American Legion Boys State has been around for 72 years, successfully introducing young Americans to the inner workings of government. Boys State, like every program, has a cost. In most cases, these expenses are paid by the sponsoring Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization. I know that the rising cost of living is taking a toll on most of us, but Boys State shouldn’t be seen as an expense. Rather, it falls under what I call the value of membership. Look at it as an investment in our nation’s future.

Since 1996, we’ve lost 5,000 Boys State participants. How many of those young men were would-be future senators, professional athletes, entrepreneurs, or maybe even president? The lessons learned at Boys State can and often do cultivate a desire to enter public service. Just as important, they educate America’s youth about the responsibilities that come with being a citizen of our great country. It’s worth our time and our investment to keep this program alive and well.

With your leadership your post can be a part of this great program and become a mentor, and cost of the program can always be shared with other legion post or parents.

We are now beyond the midway point and need to start our Posts selection of candidates and notifying the Department of France of their desire to send a Boy or Boys to Boys’ State. Or, if your Post would like to share the cost to send a Boy, please let us know now. A successful program will depend on timely input, cooperation, and coordination of all needed information between both the Department of France and our host State of Maryland.

NOTE: The Maryland Boys State program is where The Department of France send our Boy’s each year, typically begins on Father’s Day and runs through the following Saturday. Depart: Sat 19 June 2010, Return: Sun 27 June 2010.

Eligibility Guidelines provided, a boy who is a junior during the past school year with a GPA of 3.0, US citizen. For more information you can go online www.legion.org. And applications may be obtained through your local American Legion Post Boys State representative or Americanism representative.

The Department of France, as the sponsoring Department will provide each Post, High School, and Student and Parent all the information as required. Please contact Department Boys’ State Director, for more information.

John H. Odom, Sr.
Boys State Director
Department of France
E-mail: jhlolilbro@aol.com
49-(0)174-6935296 or
49-(0)170-1785054 or
49-(0)621-7245742-Home

A WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME
The following is a list of scheduled rides for 2010. As you can see, the list is getting larger and is for information only. If you want to participate in one or more of these rides, additional information will be sent out when we get closer to the event.

April:
04 April: RVLC Easter Egg Hunt & Membership meeting at the Rod & Gun Club Heidelberg
10 April: Rhein-Neckar Harley-Davidson Open House
11 April: Ramstein Military HOG meeting 16:00 in the KMCC
17 April: Customer Appreciation Day
17 April: Veterama Ludwigshafen http://www.veterama.de/?lang=uk&site=home

May:
07-08 May: RVLC Erlangen 74” or More Club Ride & RVLC membership meeting
09 May: Ramstein Military HOG meeting 16:00 in the KMCC
20 May: USAG-K Safety Day
28-31 May: Memorial Day weekend trip to Bastogne, Belgium (Limited to 10 bikes, pre-registration registration required)

June:
12 June: Customer Appreciation Day
13 June: Ramstein Military HOG meeting 16:00 in the KMCC
19 June: Remagen Bridge (Road Captain Jason) http://www.bruecke-remagen.de/index_en.htm
26 June: On 26 Jun 2010 CC Air biker friends is holding their annual charity BBQ on RAB.

July:
03-05 July: TBA (watch this space)
10 July: Customer Appreciation Day
11 July: Ramstein Military HOG meeting 16:00 in the KMCC

August:
01 August: Custom Car & Harley Show Sinsheim Museum http://www.mm-customs.de/?mod=news
06-08 August: 5th Annual ERGK European Rally, Spangdahlem www.cifelriders.com
08 August: Ramstein Military HOG meeting 16:00 in the KMCC
14 August: Customer Appreciation Day
28-29 August: Ride the Alps, Garmisch, Germany (Tentative date)

September:
11 September: Customer Appreciation Day
12 September: Ramstein Military HOG meeting 16:00 in the KMCC
24-25-26 Sept: RVLC Toy Run (Tentative date)

October:
09 October: Customer Appreciation Day
08-10 October: Verdun, France ride (Limited to 10 bikes, pre-registration required) http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/battle_of_verdun.htm
10 October: Ramstein Military HOG meeting 16:00 in the KMCC

November:
11 November: Veterans Day ride to St Avold, France

There will always be conflicting events happening at the same time, so please decide which event you want to participate in and go for it! Remember, it's always the ride and never the destination!

Eddie Kane
American Legion Riders
Department of France
Cell: 0172-723-8444
ek31706@militarycars.com
The William D. Nelson Post GR09’s 2nd Annual Shooting Contest was held on 24 March at the local German Air Rifle Shooting Club. Eight members were brave enough to display their shooting skills (or lack of), that they still possessed since leaving the military.

Several of the shooters were surprised at the accuracy of their shots and were overheard to say, “I wonder if the Army needs snipers.” Some of the older members explained their less than stellar performance as “I haven’t shot a weapon since basic training.” (Range personnel apologized that front loading muskets were not available).

After the event everyone retired to the adjoining gasthaus and a good time was had by all.

Awards will be presented during the Annual Banquet on 15 May.

Submitted by:

Jerry Aman  
Commander  
William D. Nelson Post GR09

“What! You mean I hit the target.”

“Is this thing pointed in the right direction?”