DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  James Dennis

Fellow Legionnaires and Legion families,
March was a very busy month for me. I feel that we accomplished some of our goals. Congratulations to Margraten Post NL01 new Commander Ray Perez and his staff.
We cancelled the Centennial meeting in Paris due to NEC Maloney sudden illness. We will set a new date this month for the next meeting. We still need some volunteers to assist us on this event. Please contact myself or Comrade Stockenberger for slots needed.
I would like to thank Ansbach Post GR1982 for hosting the Post Service Officers class. The Post Service Officers class was very informative and professional. DSO Bucker and ADSO Phillips represented themselves and this Department with great honour. I am looking forward to the next class.
Ansbach Post GR1982 hosted the 3rd Department Executive Committee meeting. Everyone enjoyed the meal for lunch and their friendliness and helpfulness during the event. Commander Houston and the staff of Ansbach Post GR1982, thank you.
We are all aware the NEC Maloney is still in the hospital in Stuttgart. Hopefully she will leave ICU soon. I will keep the Department informed of any new news I receive. Please keep NEC Maloney in your prayers.
I would like to inform the department of my agenda for the month of March.
April 7th Eifel Post GR20 for an Awareness drive
April 14th 40/8 Local 1524 promenade and Department awards meeting in Heilbronn.
April 22th Bingo in Kitzingen “My Place”
April 28th 40/8 Grand elections in Heilbronn
May 4-9th Sons of the Legion NEC meeting in Indianapolis
May 28th- 7th June National’s Commanders visit
Please contact me in advance if you wish me to stop by. May is still open.

James Dennis / Commander / Department of France
# Department Officers - 2018 Membership Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>James Dennis / GR30</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Americanism Chairman Carl Hackworth…**

It is requested that all Americanism reports be sent to me prior to our DEC’s.

Carl Hackworth  
Dudenroder Str. 1  
63654 Buedingen, Germany  

carl@hackworth.de / Tel.: 004950425454989 / Mobil: 00491764248922 / Fax: 004950425454987
Department of France Past Commanders Club

2018 Membership Year PCC President Gary Thomas (r) and PCC Secretary Susan Houston

Who is eligible to join the Department of France Past Commanders Club?

PAST AND PRESENT Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents...so if you were just voted into office you are eligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $25.00
Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $10.00

Our next meeting is planned in conjunction
with the Department of France Convention 2018
Young American living in Europe don't have many of the same opportunities as their counterparts in the USA. Their participation in the Boys State/Girls State programs is contingent on their sponsoring Posts ability to raise the funds to send them from their home in Europe to the USA. With the Department of France’s Boys State/Girls State GoFundMe fundraiser, you have the opportunity to help support our young Americans. Go to the webpage indicated on the pester and follow the directions. If each member of the American Legion Department of France donated $5, we could send 12 young men and women to this life changing event.

All proceeds go directly into the Boys State / Girls State program. Each Post will be allocated funds from this fundraiser to support one young man and one young lady to participate in the Department of Maryland’s Boys State & Girls State programs.

The American Legion, Department of France website
http://www.amerlegiondeptfrance.org
Also Visit the Department of France Facebook page

WANTED TODAY… pictures and stories of your posts, your members.
Share your experiences, let everyone know what you are doing and contributing to your “American Legion Family”
Convention 2018 will be hosted by John Wayne Post GR79

Saturday, 09 June 2018 / Heilbronn, Germany… More information to follow

Monument honoring Vietnam helicopter crews approved for Arlington Cemetery

It's been three years in the making, but helicopter crews who flew during the Vietnam War will have their own monument at Arlington National Cemetery.
“Members of American Legion Post GR14 along with family and friends celebrated Easter on April 1st, 2018 in Büdingen’s historic town hall. The festivities included breakfast, an egg hunt and raffle. Thanks to all that attended.”

Allen Jones / Historian / American Legion GR14

Doug Haggan
FODPAL Secretary
Past National Vice Commander
Past Department of France Commander

The Department of France meets with Senator Cruz representatives to discuss Veteran issues overseas.
Trump to Award Medal of Honor to World War II Infantryman

This undated photo provided by the family's attorney, Donald Todd, shows Lt. Garlin Murl Conner, of Albany, Ky. Conner left the U.S. Army as the second-most decorated soldier during World War II, earning four Silver Stars, one Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during 28 straight months in combat. Now, he's been nominated for the Medal of Honor. (AP Photo/Courtesy Conner Family Attorney)

Military.com 29 Mar 2018 By Hope Hodge Seck

Department of France

Hello Ladies and Legionnaires;

I have been on the sick list this month. First, I had the flu for 3 weeks. Then I was operated on twice this month. This operation was on my vocal cords. They operated on both sides to get water out of the “sacks” by the vocal cords. Both operations were successful. I will be back to assist the Department in April.

April is Children and youth Month. Have you thought what your Post, Unit or Squadron is going to do? You might want to take them to see a movie, to the zoo, tell them a story, or go to the playground with them. We also have Girls State and community events available to us. Please, take some time with the children.

I am grateful that Nola Maloney is doing better. She will be out of ICU soon. Commander Dennis and I will visit her on the 1st - 2nd of April. I have an Easter package for her.

Also, in May, the National President will be visiting from 28th May to 7th June. We need to show our selves at these areas. So, please if you have time, come out and support us.

Thank You.
Sonja Dennis / President / Department of France
Here is a good cause to support. One day benefit run. Lots of fun for the kids and adults. So, come on all you post with legion Riders get out and ride. For more information contact Post GR79 Commander Donald Chamberlain...chamberlindw@hotmail.de
WHAT CAN I DO?
The American Legion has been actively involved with children’s issues since the early 1920's. In many instances, the Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state, and local levels.

In 1938, April was formally designated as 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 dedicated to America’s youth.

Each year at the American Legion’s Spring Meetings, the Committee on Children & Youth focuses on three primary areas of concern. They may include:

Child health
- Immunization programs
- School nutrition programs
- Teen pregnancy prevention programs

Child safety
- Child pornography
- Drug abuse prevention
- Drug trafficking
- Alcohol abuse prevention
- Child sexual abuse and neglect
- Teen suicide prevention

Family support
- National Family Week Activities
- Lay care safety
- Foster care
- Temporary financial assistance
- Missing and exploited children

WHERE DO I BEGIN?
To start, consider:
- Obtaining a speaker on one of our areas of concern or other pertinent topics.
- Conducting a community project with and for children.
- Forming a Community Committee on Children & Youth to discuss current problems, generate solutions and then take action.
- Sponsoring a carnival or show featuring young people to raise money for a community project.
- Featuring a youth panel at a local school where participants can discuss some of their concerns.
- Using videos, if applicable, enlisting the aid of an individual familiar with the subject matter to both present it and be available to answer questions following the viewing.

Use these suggestions, or develop your own projects, but get involved. Remember: The only limitation you have for youth programs and activities is your own imagination!

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
Legislation to improve conditions for children is a focal point of The American Legion’s Children & Youth program. By working on behalf of sound legislation, the Legion, in accordance with maintained positions, strives to bring into enactment the laws necessary to meet the needs of all children.

Whether the legislation involves a local matter, pertains to a problem of a particular state or is an item of national concern, it requires the efforts of all interested in the well-being of children and youth if it is to become law.

Most state assemblies begin their sessions early in the year. This is the best time to present legislators with any new legislation or changes needed in current laws.

Within each community, there is a great deal of local legislative action, which deserves continued attention: city ordinances affecting children and youth, appropriations for schools and school budgets, immunization, child abuse and neglect statutes, juvenile courts, local public welfare departments, playgrounds, traffic regulations and other such matters relating to the health and welfare of children.

There is a great need for informed public participation in local government matters. And when it comes to local matters affecting our children and youth, The American Legion should make itself heard.

PROMOTE YOUR ACTIVITIES
You should publicize your programs and activities. Have the mayor or other local official issue a proclamation declaring April as Children & Youth Month. The post commander should issue a news release proclaiming April as Children & Youth Month and list what the post will be doing for its annual observance. (For a sample news release, see www.legion.org/youth.)

Remember, programs affecting the children and youth of your community are news! Have the news media to your activities and keep them informed.

REPORT SUCCESSES
Following the observance of Children & Youth Month, the Children & Youth chairman need to turn their attention to the annual reporting of expenditures and activities. Be sure you have an accurate record of all money spent for the benefit of children and youth by your post/unit during the current year, as well as the number of children who received services and assistance.

Shortly after the first of the year, American Legion departments receive copies of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) for later distribution to posts. This form has been developed to track necessary information about the Legion’s overall program. It is the responsibility of the post Children & Youth chairman to report his/her program activities to the individual designated in the post to complete the Consolidated Post Report. The CPR can be done online at my.legion.org by the post adjutant.
Veterans Train to Better Assist Veterans
By Estus Smith, Post Adjutant, American Legion Post 1982

ANSBACH (Germany) -- Normally, when a Veteran has a service-related disability issue and needs to get information or assistance from the Veterans Administration (VA), he or she simply contacts the local VA Representative or schedules a visit to the nearest VA hospital in his/her area.

Outside of the continental United States the situation is different. There are no VA hospitals outside the United States, and very few VA Representatives. Most America Legion members in Europe have learned to depend on their local Post Service Officers or the Department Service Officer (DSO) from the Department of France to answer their questions and provide assistance with filing claims to the VA.

An issue was, until recently, that most Post Service Officers (PSOs) in the department were not properly trained, nor had there been an accredited DSO in the past 22 years, for Europe.

That situation is changing. Laura Buckner, DSO for the Department of France, and her assistant, Frank Phillips, conducted training for 14 candidates at the home of Legion Post GR1982, on Katterbach Kaserne, Germany, March 16. Phillips recently completed training with the VA, and is accredited by the Veterans Administration.

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Commander, Col. Benjamin C. Jones, welcomed the students and expressed his appreciation for what the American Legion is doing to support Veterans, both as a National Organization and also within the Ansbach community.

Attendees represented Legion Post members from across Europe, from France, England, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg, as well as from different Legion Posts throughout Germany.

VA Representative Jill Downs, from Grafenwoehr, Germany, assisted with the training. Downs is an Overseas Military Service Coordinator with the VA. Mark Kistner, also an accredited DSO with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, provided assistance with the training as well.

The training addressed the procedures of the claims interview process and subsequent filing procedures, as well as rules and regulations on the privacy act and the health information privacy act. A lot of the standard forms required to file a VA claim were covered in detail. The applicable rules and regulations, as well as references to current procedures were provided to each of the candidates on a memory stick. Special emphasis was given to candidates to avoid making promises on any potential results. “Use your references” was the mantra of the day. Attendees were also reminded that “as a PSO, you are there to assist all veterans within the community; not just Legion Comrades.”

The 8-hour training was very intense, providing PSOs with an initial level of training, enabling them to better assist local veterans, as well as helping them with properly filing a VA claim. Two additional levels of PSO training are scheduled to be completed within the next several months.

PSOs seemed very impressed with the training conducted by their instructors.

Department of France Commander James Dennis said, “This training was excellent, and long overdue. There was a lot of information covered, most of it was new to PSO’s. Now, this information needs to be shared with other Posts. Veterans need to be informed, and encouraged to consider filing a claim if they have service-related conditions.”

“The work of the Service Officer is the core business of The American Legion. This training is an essential gateway to doing that while supporting the needs of our fellow Veterans,” said John Shanahan, Immediate Post Commander of Department of France and current Commander of Ireland Post IR01, one of the attendees of the training.

Joseph Schram, Commander of Belgium Post BE01, stated “This was the best training done by Department of France, ever!”

The training will continue. Coordination has already began for the next stage of training for these PSOs, as well as initial training for other Posts who could not send participants to this training session. It appears that the “training slump” for Post Service Officers in the Department of France is definitely over and that our veterans will profit from it.
Ansbach Community honors Vietnam Veterans

Franconian News, Uncategorized / Posted by Michael Beaton × March 29, 2018
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
94TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
HOSTED BY JOHN WAYNE POST GR79
WHERE: Hotel Restaurant Cafe SCHÖNBLICK
Kretschmerstrasse 1
71543 Wüstenrot, Germany
WHEN: 21-24 June 2018

Convention Package Consist of:
4 Days and 3 Nights
Breakfast Buffet
Dinner Meal
Banquet on Saturday
One convention coin per registered guest

COST:

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<td>Banquet Only (no overnight)</td>
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Prices include Breakfast and Dinner Meals only. Lunch is not included.

* We need half for a down payment on all Rooms by 1 May 2017

Please send payment to:
John Wayne Post GR79 - Henry Meyers
IBAN—DE24620500000008186593
BIC—HEISDE66XXX

POC: Charlie Brown / vcalbrown50@gmail.com
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
94TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
ROOM RESERVATION FORM

HOSTED BY JOHN WAYNE POST GR79

Last Name: ____________________________  First Name: ____________________________

Please check proper box  ☒

Complete Package/Single Room  235.00 Euro Per Person  ☐
Complete Package/Double Room  175.00 Euro Per Person  ☐
Two Nights with Banquet/Single Room  135.00 Euro Per Person  ☐
Two Nights with Banquet/Double Room  120.00 Euro Per person  ☐
One Night with Banquet/Single Room  70.00 Euro Per Person  ☐
One Night with Banquet/Double Room  65.00 Euro Per Person  ☐

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________________

EMAIL: ________________________________________________________________

MOBIL: ________________________________________________________________

AMOUNT IN €: ___________________________________________________________

Please send payment to:
John Wayne Post GR79 - Henry Meyers
IBAN—DE24620500000008186593
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POC: Charlie Brown / vcalbrown50@gmail.com