Department Commander John Shanahan

Working Together: Our work this last month has been spent in organizing and leading our new Department of France team with respect to a new Membership Plan and preparing to represent you at the Legion’s National Convention next month in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I’m delighted to report that VCAL (and Membership Chairman) Joe Schram has completed the new Membership Plan – and we’ve turned it in and reported on details to National on Thursday, 28 June. Thank you to Past Department Commander Doug Haggan for representing us so well at the National Membership Committee meeting this past week.

On this coming Sunday evening, 01 August 2016, the Department’s leadership team will teleconference on the steps we need to put the new Membership Plan to work. Why is this focus on membership so important? Because a strong Department, with a sound membership base, means that we will continue to have the means and the manpower to support you, the Legion member. And that is fundamentally our job – the reason why we have been elected.

Standing Up for the Department of France: The schedule for the National Convention provides this Department Commander with 10 minutes to appear before National Ad-Hoc Committee and make the case for retaining the Department of France and not have it merged with other foreign departments and relocated to Indianapolis – the proposal that’s on the table.

You will recall that I brought this to your attention several months ago, prior to the Department Convention, and that I made a personal commitment to you to stand up for our Department and make the case as to why this must not happen. I have been fully briefed on the background to this Committee’s work. I am prepared for this meeting and prepared to make a very robust case for our Department.

You can do your part in this by renewing your membership early and allowing me to show others that the Department of France is strong in its membership and fully prepared to continue operations as an effective Legion component.

Saving a Post: Shortly after taking office, I discovered that Riviera Post FR-05 in the South of France had been taken over by the Department as the result of the death of Comrade Tony Di
Pietro, its long-time commander and adjutant. I’m happy to report that Vice Commander Lyndon Hudson and I have met with Post members and we have laid out a plan and timetable to regenerate this Post. Vice Commander Hudson will serve as acting Post Commander until we can get the Post back up to strength and hold new elections. In the meantime, we have planned a recruiting drive in conjunction with the U.S. Navy League in Villefranche (this was the home port of the Navy’s 6th Fleet for a long time). We expect to be able to save this Post for the benefit of existing members and new members to be drawn from veterans living in the area.

**Celebrating America in Paris:** I had the honour of spending Independence Day with members of Post FR-01 in Paris and joining them as the Legion participated in ceremonies organized by the mayor of Paris’ 16th Arrondissement to celebrate America’s birthday and our long and important relationship with France. The day ended in the evening at the Arc de Triomphe, as we laid flowers at the tomb of France’s Unknown Soldier. We had a very sizeable turnout of American veterans from both the Legion and VFW, and I had the special pleasure of meeting new members of Paris Post FR-01. Look for growth and more good news from our comrades in Paris as we work towards preparations for the Legion’s 100th Anniversary.

**Personal Notes:** I’d like to especially recognize the work of PDC Doug Haggan and Assistant Adjutant Bob Fuelling for their contributions to getting the Department Delegation ready for the National Convention, and to say thanks as well to PDC James Settle and Adjutant Max Rice in organizing the paperwork and documents for our Delegation. We’re ready – and thanks to all!

For God and Country, **John**

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### Department Officers - 2017 Membership Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commander</th>
<th>John Shanahan IR01</th>
<th>John Shanahan IR01</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjutant</td>
<td>Maxwell Rice GR79</td>
<td>Casby Logan GR07</td>
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<tr>
<td>NECMAN</td>
<td>Nola Maoney GR03</td>
<td>Laura Buckner BE02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alt. NECMAN</td>
<td>James Settle GR42</td>
<td>Gary Miller GR06</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCAL</td>
<td>Joseph Schram BE02</td>
<td>Christopher Buchanan GR1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Commander</td>
<td>Lyndon Hudson FR01</td>
<td>Keith Abernathy GR79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Commander</td>
<td>Carl Hale FR01</td>
<td>Keith <a href="mailto:Abernathy1942@yahoo.de">Abernathy1942@yahoo.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Commander</td>
<td>Darren Dahlke GR06</td>
<td>Serjeant-at-Arms GR1982</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Christopher Buchanan GR1982</td>
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<td>Chaplain</td>
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<td>Laura Buckner BE02</td>
<td>Gary Miller GR06</td>
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<td>Keith Abernathy GR79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judge Advocate</td>
<td>Keith Abernathy GR79</td>
<td>Keith <a href="mailto:Abernathy1942@yahoo.de">Abernathy1942@yahoo.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Adjutant</td>
<td>James Settle GR42</td>
<td>John Fleming CH01</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Robert Fuelling FR01</td>
<td>John Fleming CH01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Adjutant</td>
<td>(Membership/Records)</td>
<td>John Fleming CH01</td>
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</tbody>
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American Legion Comrades, Department Officers and all VIP’s;

Let me start by saying “CONGRATULATIONS” to all the newly elected and re-elected, appointed and re-appointed Department Officers. I am very much looking forward to working with all of you.

I am very honored to have been elected as your NEC (to take affect afternoon 1 September 2016), to be your voice and action person at the National level. I will do my utmost to represent you well at the National level, and to other Agencies/Organizations we will certainly have contact with.

I feel we have a strong leadership amongst those elected and appointed this year!! In addition, we have the strength of many of our other Department Members. I look forward to working with you, placing my trust in you and hopefully yours in me, you all have my utmost respect and loyalty. We have a lot to do in a short time – the year will go quickly because we are working on knocking out the very positive, obtainable annual plan that was laid out by Department Commander Shanahan. There are a lot of moving parts but I have GREAT Faith in our Department Membership to work together to accomplish our goals.

As your NEC – IT WILL BE MY RESPONSIBILITY TO STAND UP FOR ALL OF US. As the NEC it will be my responsibility to bring forward what the Department’s agreed upon wishes are in the proper form; some can be verbal with hand vote; others must be through Resolutions if we need votes from the NEC Committee which in turn might have to be sent to Internal Affairs Committee, etc. Anything that ensues changes to our structure in any form or fashion will have to be dealt with in this way.

It is my responsibility to voice our agreed upon wishes before the NEC and get them to see things our way if it makes sense; or if it is rejected on final vote, then take that news from the NEC meeting back to the Department and look for another solution. It is my responsibility to inform the Department CDR and Body as to why and when a change is coming. In addition, I shall try to explain in the clearest explanation I can why the change is happening.

There are several things I am working on for the good of the Department before I take office on late afternoon 1 September 2016 and some of you will be contacted for answers only you or someone from your AOR or Post can provide (some of you already have been). I would like to hope there were no long term projects but there are and we may need to “eat the elephant one small bite at a time but persistence usually pays off”. while others we still need to start on now and proceed forward. More on those later – but be thinking A.L.A. and Museum articles…..

I created an email account to help ensure I do not miss any of yours and to keep my term as your Department NEC electronic correspondence in one area. The new account for me is: NECMaloney@gmail.com. Please feel free to use it for the good of the Department – information, suggestions, ideas, positive comments are all welcome!!

Travel safely and God bless you All for all you do!

Nola Maloney
Your Soon 2 B NEC
**ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  John Fleming**

Department of France 2016-2017

MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTAL TARGET DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Due</th>
<th>Holiday/Activity</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Early Bird/NEF Kickoff</td>
<td>3 Sep 16</td>
<td>*14 SEP 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Fall Meetings</td>
<td>8 Oct 16</td>
<td>19 OCT 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>5 Nov 16</td>
<td>16 NOV 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor Day</td>
<td>3 Dec 16</td>
<td>*14 DEC 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Mid-Winter</td>
<td>7 Jan 17</td>
<td>19 JAN 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
<td>28 Jan 17</td>
<td>*08 FEB 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Legion Birthday</td>
<td>4 Mar 17</td>
<td>15 MAR 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>1 Apr 17</td>
<td>*12 APR 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Armed Forces Day</td>
<td>29 Apr 17</td>
<td>10 MAY 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delegate Strength</td>
<td>15 Jul 17</td>
<td>30 Days Prior to Convention 26 Jul 17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*These dates are also a renewal notice cutoff date.*

Department Target dates fall on Saturday, 1 ½ weeks prior to the National Target date to insure receipt at National by the Target date.

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Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my email address at the latest three days prior to the end of the month…If possible. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with YOUR Department you can also visit the following sites, [www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org](http://www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org) / [www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance](http://www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance) / [www.legion.org/fodpal](http://www.legion.org/fodpal)

Thank You…the Editor

David N. Greaux / davidg1959@t-online.de
Hello Comrades,
I was in the American Legion in1982 as the Sergeant-At-Arms and served on post 6 for 4 years. Due to a new job which I started at IBM I had to leave the American Legion then.
I rejoined the American Legion in 2013 and have been elected Vice Commander for The Department of France recently. I look forward to working with Commander Shanahan and the four Vice Commanders.
My assigned Posts are: GR05 Rhein Main Post / GR14 Thomas W. Barnett Post / GR30 Audie Murphy Post / GR42 Omar Bradley Post / GR79 John Wayne Post. I am looking forward to visit each and every post. If I haven’t already contacted your post, please send me an e-mail to: Vice-Commander Marcus W. Briscoe / Email: marcus.briscoe@online.de / Mobile: +49 1637010955.
I need from each Post: A point of contact - Post Election dates - Major events - Retirement Appreciation Days...etc.

On 30 July I was invited to a German Spanferkel Dinner at the GR30 Post Home hosted by GR30 Auxiliary Unit. I was able to meet up and have a long discussion with Post Commander James Dennis GR30 (m) and Post Commander Charles Vaughan GR42 (l) along with many other members of the American Legion.

Department of France Past Commanders Club

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

Due to circumstances we were not able to conduct a PCC meeting at our Annual Convention. Our next meeting is planned in conjunction with the Department of France Second DEC.
I was working in Warsaw, Poland, through 11 July. On 10 July, before my final day in country, I visited the Museum of the history of Polish Jews. For more information on the museum see their link at http://www.polin.pl/en. After touring the museum to learn more about the History of Jews I was surprised to see a group of military personnel setting up for a ceremony outside the museum at the memorial to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

I asked if a ceremony was being planned and received confirmation that the starting time was 1800. I waited in the park until the ceremony was supposed to start. When I returned I witnessed a great event. I uploaded the photos to our Department of France Facebook https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.1202448556467270&type=1

I didn’t know the full story and I left wanting to learn why a Patriotic ceremony was planned on 10 July by a visiting delegation of about 150 Israeli Defense Force members. Details about the history of the day are available at http://www.polin.pl/en/news/2016/07/09/75-anniversary-of-the-jedwabne-pogrom-10-july-1941

After the ceremony I began to ask myself what motivates me to be involved. I’ll let you know that I get sad after these ceremonies. I think about the suffering and sacrifices of lost life and broken families. Why do I care? What makes me stay to participate in Patriotic ceremonies? I then further ask why am I a Paid Up For Life member of The American Legion and a Life member the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America.

Why would I want to spend my limited personal time to help manage a Post membership program and other Legion programs? Why would I spend limited personal funds to travel to Legion meetings and participate in ceremonies? Why would I ask other veterans to also join the Legion or VFW?

Instead of answering ~ I am asking readers of this newsletter to also think about the questions. What makes the veteran service organization important in your life? Why do you support the different personalities in your Legion community? Is it worth your time? What motivates you to be an active member?

Submit your replies as letters to the editor of the Department Newsletter. Thank you.

For God and Country. Best regards, Carl
Hello Fellow SAL Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and doing well. As we are into the new membership year I am not getting much information from National. I hope that all Squadrons have begun working on membership. We were number 1 in the Eastern Division for 2016 and I know that we can accomplish this again for 2017. We already have a good start with a new Squadron in the Frankfurt area. Congratulations on Squadron GR05 for getting their temporary charter. This is 10 new members for the Detachment; Great Job! Moving forward, we will have our 2nd DEC on 1 October 2016. It will be hosted by Squadron GR79. Our Great Adjutant will get the information for the location out to all of you as soon as Squadron 79 gets it to us. I am sure that many had celebrated the 4th of July and hope that all of your celebrations were a success. My wife and I celebrated both the 4th of July and our Anniversary on an airplane coming back from vacation. This was not the most memorable celebration but, we ordered drinks and toasted both on the plane. We must always remember that many people died to give us the freedoms that we have and many more have perished to maintain those freedoms over the years (Freedom Isn’t Free). I will close with this statement and hope that everyone stays safe and let’s make this a memorable DEC on 1 October 2016.

Lee Preston / Detachment Commander

Comrades,

just so you know, it is hot down in Cannes, France! I was fortunate enough to visit with Riviera Post FR05 members this past weekend and I’m delighted that I will be working with that post in the near future in a recruitment effort. I’d like to thank Legionnaires George Colt and Hector Sanchez for stepping up to the plate in order to accomplish tasks outlined by Commander Shanahan. The next scheduled meeting for Post FR05 is 10 September 2016, 14hr CET at the Nice Airport Radisson.

Stuttgart Post GR06 put on a wonderful BBQ for its members on the 10th of July, and, on the 13th of July I held their elections in which they elected a new Commander, Tyler Johnson. Congratulations to all officers of Post 6. During this meeting two VA representatives were present and gave their contact information in order to schedule one-on-one time with them. What a very nice added benefit to the meeting. I personally saw several members take advantage of their visit.

Also, Post GR06 is hosting a golf tournament on the 6th of August. For registration and information please contact: Robert Maldonado - DSN: 430-6158 robert.j.maldonado6.ctr@mail.mil or Gary Miller - DSN: 430-4500, gary.d.miller2.ctr@mail.mil (civilian prefix: 0711680-xxxxxx).

Regards, Lyndon Hudson, VC, Department of France
Will be having a Barbeque at GR30 Post Home “My Place”

97318 Kitzingen, Otto-Hahn Str. 21

When: Saturday 27 August 2016
Time: 1300 hours
Cost is: 8 Euros adults / 4 Euros children 12 and younger
RSVP by 20 August 2016

Lots of good food / 50-50 Raffle

Everyone is welcome!

POC: James Dennis (GR30) / Postgr30@yahoo.com / 0160-95260485
POC: Charles Vaughan (GR42) / gabiplace@hotmail.com / 0932131644
Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, conduct a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) live fire demonstration on June 9 on Sicily Drop Zone. The live fire demonstration validates the unit as ready to deploy in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

About 300 Fort Bragg soldiers are deploying to conduct strikes against the Islamic State in the Middle East and Asia.

The soldiers of 18th Field Artillery Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment will deploy next month in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

The battalion will case its colors during a ceremony at the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Noncommissioned Officer Academy Field next week. The soldiers are expected to be deployed for nine months.

The battalion’s two High Mobility Artillery Rocket System firing units could be tasked with conducting strikes during counter-ISIS operations. The soldiers will work to build capacity with partner forces through U.S. Army Central theater security cooperation and prepare to support contingency missions in the U.S. Central area of responsibility, which covers 20 nations in the Middle East, Central and South Asia.

In the past, the brigade’s 321st Field Artillery Regiment has deployed to Afghanistan as part of a Provincial Reconstruction Team, including seven battery-level deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq during the Global War on Terrorism.

During this mission, the 583rd Forward Support Company will provide logistics support.

Staff writer Amanda Dolasinski can be reached at dolasinskia@fayobserver.com or 486-3528.
SAL FISHING FEST

WHERE
Frohnfalls,
Manhardter Wald, 74535 Mainhardt
Forellenparadies

WHEN
20 AUGUST 2016 - 0700
MEET AT THE POST HOME…then we’ll drive to Forellenparadies and fish from 0800 till 1300. Then drive back to Post GARDEN for a fish Fry at 1400
Gartenfreunde Klingenberg; Im Heilbronn - Klingenberg. Bruch 74081

If you plan on attending…Contact vcalbrown50@gmail.com / M-01701888034
GR 79 First Vice Commander Charlie Brown

GR79 General Membership Meeting.
GR79 Commander R. Martin (m) receiving Department Award.

GR79 4TH of July Fest/Birthday Party for Post Vice Commander Brown.
American Legion Post 1982 took part in the Independence Day festivities on Katterbach Army Airfield on 4 July. This year, as last year, we conducted a ping-pong ball toss for German beer mugs as a fund-raising event. Over 100 beer mugs were donated by our members over the past year. This game was especially interesting for our unaccompanied young soldiers, and they took advantage of the opportunity to win German beer mugs. The game gave us a chance to discuss the American Legion and what we do for the local military community. The day also gave us a net win of over $500. to support our local Child and Youth programs.

Post 1982 is a very diversified post with Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines among our ranks. Our members ages range from young soldiers in their mid-20’s to retirees in their 70’s. All members are there to support the Legion’s work as well as supporting the USAG Ansbach, which we consider our hometown.

We support the local Junior ROTC Cadets, Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and our local Retiree Appreciation Day. We place wreaths at Katterbach AAF and Storck Barracks on Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day; as well as in Ansbach on Volkstrauertag (German Memorial Day). We conduct an Oratorical Scholarship Contest, support Boys State and Girls State, as well as a Youth Shooting Team. We also support an annual Christmas Party for a local German Kinderheim (orphanage).

Our Post got a nice write-up in the local newspaper. You can view it at http://ansbachhometownherald.com/american-legion-wins-biq-2016/
A Clayton County native is in the running to be the next leader of the American Legion.

If elected National Commander, Denise (Hulbert) Rohan would be the first woman in the position.

“It is a huge honor to be a candidate,” she said. “I have been an American Legion member for 32 years and truly believe in what The American Legion family stands for and does.”

Rohan served as Department Commander from 2011 to 2012 in Wisconsin. At the end of her term, the state’s delegates endorsed her for National Commander.

“I was named an official candidate last August at the end of our national convention in Baltimore,” Rohan said. She is currently running unopposed.

The campaign for National Commander lasts two years, during which Rohan will attempt to visit every state. The election will be Aug. 24, 2017 during the American Legion’s 99th annual convention in Reno, Nev.

“The Commander represents the 2.2 million members of The American Legion across the nation and in several foreign countries,” she said, and often meets with state and national legislators.

“There is usually a meeting with the president in the Oval Office,” Rohan added. “We work on behalf of veterans, their families and our communities.”

Rohan, who was born in McGregor, grew up in Elkader with her parents, Joe and Dorothy Hulbert, and two sisters. After graduating from Central Community High School, she enlisted in the Army in 1974.

“Who would have thought my two-year Army enlistment in 1974 would lead to my seeing the world 40 some years later?” she said.

Rohan said growing up in northeast Iowa helped make her ready for the position of National Commander.

“Giving back to my community is something I learned from my parents and growing up in Elkader with so many great role models,” she said. “My time at Central, and especially the speech classes taught there, helped me prepare for public speaking.”

Rohan served as an instructor in the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Lee, Va. before being honorably discharged in 1976 after attaining the rank of specialist.

After the military, Rohan graduated from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, Wis., and worked as assistant bursar of student loans at the University of Wisconsin before retiring in 2012.

Rohan joined the American Legion in 1984, and has served in a number of positions at the local, district and national levels.

As a post commander, she established the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 333 and chartered Boy Scout Troop 333. She now serves as a volunteer in the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Program.

Rohan and her husband Mike, who live in Verona, Wis., are 2006 graduates of the National American Legion College and 2015 graduates of the Wisconsin American Legion College basic course.

“My husband Mike is a big part of my journey, it would not be possible without his support,” she said.
Cincinnati Ohio
Site of the 98th American Legion National Convention
August 26rd to September 1st 2016

If you are planning on attending the 98th National Convention in Cincinnati OH (and I hope to see some new faces in Cincinnati) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information,

THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.

The room cost per night is $155.61 all included. Cutoff for the reservation is 15 July 2016.

Hope to see you in Cincinnati