My fellow Legionaries

I attended the Veterans Day Ceremony in St Avold France on 11 November 2011. On the way back we stopped in Kaiserslautern at Post GR01 for a Dinner. A big thanks to Post GR01 for the dinner I recruited 3 new members for the post at the dinner. There were over 50 members from the Ramstein Motor Cycle Club the Hogs in attendance. I also want to thank the post’s that purchased Wreaths to be laid at St. Avold on 11 November. I was able to attend The Early Bird Dinner in Schweinfurt at Post GR 42 there was a nice turn out, and awards were presented.

Stopped in Heidelberg and visited past Adjutant Phil Gatchell at his home. He is doing ok at this time. I also visited Past NECMAN William Marshall at his home. He has a leg problem, but is in high spirits at the moment. I attended the GR 30 Thanksgiving Dinner and we all had a tremendous time. the food was outstanding and the event was well planned and organized. I hope that your Thanksgiving Celebration, where ever you were was a happy and safe one. At the dinner I recruited 1 new member for the post. The Department reached 75% target on 3 DEC thank you all for a job well done. I thank all the post that made 100% and all the post that helped us reach 75%.

November is over and I, like many of you are still feeling the after effects of all the Turkey. Christmas is in the planning and each year other various Communities have different programs to help the younger military families that are struggling to make ends meet. I ask that each of our post look into aiding the community in making this Holiday Season a happy one for all our Military Families.

Post GR03 Heidelberg will be hosting their Oratorical Contest 21 January 2012 Heidelberg High School Music Room  Time 1100 Hours. Post GR06 Stuttgart will be hosting their Oratorical Contest on 10 JANUARY  2012 at the Patch High school Forum. Anyone needing help with their Oratorical can contact the Department Oratorical Chairman Gary Miller who can help you with your needs. The Department Oratorical Contest will be on 18 February 2012- at 1300 in the Patch High school Forum Stuttgart, Germany. Commanders and Adjutants need to immediately update their E-mail and home addresses. This is very important for the checks that come in from online membership. If your address is wrong the check cannot be delivered. A lot of post will be having their Christmas Parties this month, I want to thank you for inviting me and the Vice Commanders to your events. I stress to all of you to take a few moments out of your busy day to say a prayer for all of our Service men and women serving in harm’s way. Say a prayer for all of them.Remember I’m just an E-mail away. Legion-
brown@hotmail.com  cell- 0171888034

For GOD and Country
Joe D. Brown
Department Commander
From the Department Adjutant:

My Fellow Legionnaires, The Department reached 75% in Membership on the 3rd of December, Great Job, thanks to all of you that have put your all into Membership. I would remind you that the 3rd DEC will be held in Schweinfurt in March 2012. We still need a post to step up and support the Department Convention. If no one decides to host the Convention, the Department will make arrangements for the Convention to be held in Saint Avold, France. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input to pisces@t-online.de. I would like to take this time to wish all of you a safe Christmas and a happy New Year. 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

November as usual was a time to remember and honour Veterans, especially on Veterans Day when members from our Department travelled to St. Avold for Veterans Day Ceremony, it was a cold day but we did our duty led by our Department Commander Charlie Brown, Officers and members, Auxiliary, Sal by Clarita Geoghegan and appreciated by all. After a nice few days in France I flew back to Enniskerry and off to another function. The highlight of the year for our Post in Dublin is our Celebrations of Thanksgiving and our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and 2011 was a Fantastic Night with 31 people present, the Elections saw a couple of changes "new younger Blood, being elected", on to the Dinner which was a first for our newest member Sam Notkin a young 86 year old who attended with his wife. The meal a Traditional Thanksgiving one was followed by a Raffle and music by the two men Joe and Frank who entertained us at the 2010 Department in Ireland, an unusual happening took place during the nite when we introduced a newly wed couple, Michael Coyne Junior and his Wife Sarah this of course lead to more celebrations the Parents were there and our Dept. Historian got some unusual shots for his collection. Apart from the above I had the usual correspondence etc from National as your NECMAN and once again James has kindly issued all Posts with important
happenings which you should know about. American legion .org is the site to visit for information if you need assistance with any matter please contact me and I will be only too glad to help or to put you on to someone who will help you.

Our standing in the Membership Tables still has Department of France in the the Top 10 this is great, congratulations to each and every Post for this great effort please keep it up, we can use these times to visit non paid members to remind them and also to make sure that our older comrades are o.k for food and heat during the coming Winter Months.

 Hopefully we are making inroads into the Oratorical Competition which has its Final in February maybe 2012 will see us have a big entry and even a break through at National, Gary Miller is the man to contact.

Finally keep us informed of happenings and any problems that we can help you with, send on your Thanksgiving Photos to our Historian the three Irish Posts got air time on Irish National TV evening news thanks to their work a special thank you to Ron Howko IR 03 for this.

To each and every member of the Legion I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy NewYear Beannactai na Nollag agus an Athblian duib go lear

Liam Kane
Department NECMan

Vice Commander
Stephen Ward
GR05, GR07, GR14, GR79, IR02, IR03, IR63

Greetings Commanders & Comrades,

Attended the Rokycany Veterans Day Observance in the town of Rokycany, Czech Republic. The first day event (11 November) was a social at the Bily Lev Hotel (Rokycany).

It was song along music.

Second day event (12 November), we travel to the Demarcation Line Memorial site afterwards to the War Museum (Rokycany). In the evening, we travel to the town of Mirovo for the evening meal reception. The third day event (13 November), church service to bless the Posts flags afterwards wreath laying ceremony in front of the town hall (Rokycany). Later, we had lunch with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Rokycany at the Bily Lev Hotel. I presented the Department of France Convention coins to the Mayor (Mesto) Valdimir Smolik and Deputy Mayor, and to the Czech military present at the luncheon. In the afternoon, we travel to the town of Dysina to lay a small wreath at the General Patton statue in front of the General Patton primary school renamed after General Patton.

Attended the Thanksgiving Dinner (24 November) 11:30 a.m. held at the Kleber Military Dining Facility (Kleber Barracks)

Kaiserslautern with the Kaiserslautern Post GR01 members present. The dinner meal was abundant with great taste.

The Dail Trip was re-scheduled December 7, 2011, 3:30 p.m. Dail Eireann. The Dublin Post IR-63 had a Turkey dinner (November 24). The Saint Patrick Parade is schedule March 17 (Kilarney).

Assisted the Leroy Riley Pitts Post GR07 Poppy/Recruitment drives at the Mannheim PX and Commissary (29 October 11). The next Post meeting is: 6 December 11, 7 p.m., Spinelli Barracks (Mannheim).

The next John Wayne Post 79 General Membership Meeting (11 December) 2 p.m. at the Neckarsulmer Brauhaus.

The TWB Post GR14 Post meeting (14 December) 8 p.m. at the Gasstatte SchrORTH Orleshausen. Thomas W. Barnett Post GR14 conducted a Veterans Day Ceremony, 13th of November, 10:45 a.m., at the German grave yard (Buedingen).

The Oratorical contest held in Stuttgart late February 2012, more details from the Department of France Adjutant (James Settle). The 3rd DEC to be held in the city of Schweinfurt. More details to follow.

Commanders; and Comrades,
we need to think about membership. Are the Posts reaching their target goals? Remember, membership is our voice on Capitol Hill. Numbers do count. If your Post requires any recruitment assistance, please contact me. Are we contacting our Post members to let them know we care?

WE NEED TO STRESS MEMBERSHIP because the Congressional Super Committee has failed and each White House Cabinet Secretaries will decide where the cuts will be made after the White House Office of Management and Budget identifies which if any programs are exempt. How does this affect Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare and other Veterans programs? Do we face increase in Tricare Prime, co-payments for visits and prescriptions as well as charging VA category 7 and 8 veterans an annual enrollment fee? Under the law passed this summer, mandatory cuts will now take place across all federal departments and agencies beginning January 2013. The Department of Defense recommendations is to change the pay and benefits of those currently serving and military retirees. The actions from the Department of Defense will affect the morale and welfare of our U.S. Armed Forces. We’re looking at reduction in forces both military and civilian, and cuts to quality life programs in the military. We (Veterans) need to contact our respective members House of Representatives and U.S. Senators to demand that these programs are protected. If you’re in Washington D.C. during the March 2012 Legislative Conference, please arrange face-to-face meetings with every member Congressional Delegation to alert them of our concerns. We need to make our voices heard now.

Important date to remember:
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7).

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Stephen Ward
Department Vice Commander

David Sears
GR03, GR06, GR09, GR13, GR42

Season’s Greetings Fellow Comrades!
My goodness. The months of October and November have passed so quickly! Our Legion Post are doing an awesome job with their annual programs! Many of our Department of France post are looking out for the single service-members, visiting our sick, and meeting with the spouses. Congratulations and Thank You for Still Serving!

My apologies for not seeing many of my comrades during the Second DEC in historic St Avold, as I was attending a classes Saturday and Sunday with the University of Oklahoma. I had the great pleasure of attending a meeting with GR42 in Schwienfurt! And still looking forward to attending one of the finest Post in Bavaria, Augsburg GR13. Rick Cervenka and GR13 hosted a wicked Halloween Bash with the Post and many friends! Calling all Veterans to a hilarious social and scary fun.

As we enter our Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, I hope you are all thankful and prayer for your own families each and every day. Whether they are residing in the continental United States, Serving in Afghanistan, or right here in Germany. I hope you strengthen the family unit. Equally I am thankful for all my fellow Legionaries which support the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Your contributions alone have supported free immunization clinics, National Family Week initiatives, Operation Purple Camps of service-members that are currently deployed as well as Survivors Camp for children of fallen veterans.

During this approaching festival season, please kindly remember your families, and equally remember our larger Legion Family, right here in our Department of France. Take care of your families as well as our extending Legion families thru this Winter season. To all my fellow Legionnaires, Get More Legion “Bang for your Bucks!” and participate in your local Post program!

Dave Sears, Vice Commander
Still Serving, the Best and Oldest Department in the American Legion

“For God and Country”

David Sears
Department Vice Commander
Legion Riders Report

It's hard to tell all of the possibilities that the Legion Riders Program opens for our Posts.
Take a look at the Legion.org Legion Riders website for a few ideas:
http://www.legion.org/riders
Just remember the 2013 Legacy Scholarship Run is in the planning. Check back there frequently.
Ron "Gypsy" Moore,
Dept of France AL PE Coordinator
Home/Fax: +49-(0)6196-569026
Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812
Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

Ronald Moore
On the 11th of November I was able to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony, in Saint Avold France, along with the Department Commander, Department NECMan, Department VCAL, Department Auxiliry President, and 40&8 Chef de Gard du Germany. All though it was a very cold day, there were about 80 people present to honor our fallen. It was an honor and privilege for me to attend this ceremony and lay a wreath in remembrance of our fallen, for the Detachment of France.

It's that time of year again to select an Eagle Scout of the year, if your Squadron or Post has a candidate for this program please contact Comrade David Sears(see Boy Scouts in this newsletter).

The Oratorical Contest is in full swing now, with Post's having set dates for the Post level competition. The Department Oratorical competition will be on the 18th of February 2012 at 1300 hours at the Patch High School, in stuttgart. If you need assistance please contact Comrade Gary Miller the Department Oratorical Chairman. This is an event I plan to attend.

Please keep in mind our 3rd DEC will be held in Stuttgart in March 2012 at a time and place to be announced, more information will be coming out on this event in the near future. Please ensure you get your transmittals into our Membership Chairman Comrade Brown. I wish all of you a very safe and Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. In closing please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts, put your prayers as well.

Yours in Comradeship
Service to God and Country

Joshua J. Settle
Detachment Commander

Phone: 07138-67359
EM: josh.sal@hotmail.com
Chaplains Corner

Special Days/Legion Events: 07 Dec – Pearl Harbor Day


Jewish Holidays: 21 to 28 Dec – Hanukkah

Islamic Holidays: 05 Dec – Ashura

Buddhism: 08 Dec – Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)

Hindu: None that I know of.

Please Remember to Worship – Visit the Church, Temple, Synagogue, Tabernacle or Mosque of your choice!

Post Everlasting Reported Until 31 November 2011:

Norine Pellegrini (Wife of Past National Vice Commander John Pellegrini),
Mike Wanser (Maurice Dunn Post 7, Carroll, IA)

No other deaths were reported to me but please continue to pray for those Comrades, Family Members and Friends of the Legion who have passed away or are ill.

Prayers for the Sick:

I have received new members to update on Sickness or Illness Prayer List. Also, We will continue to pray for those that have been on our Prayer List in the past month as follows:

The Wife of Comrade Voyageur Bryce Mason
Harry Hall Family in Distress from Fire
Joe D. (Charly) Brown (Department Commander) GR42
A. Ray Cline GR14
George Hall – GR03
Brenda Dearborn Dept of Maine Present Americanism and Past Chaplain
Comrade Eddie Haynes GR09
Comrade Willie Summers GR79 Post Chaplain
Arthur Beasley
Tom Davis (Washington)

PNC Robert S. Turner
PNC Michael J Kogutek
George Seeburger Dept. J A, Post Cmdr. GR14
PNC Bill Galbraith
Comrade Bryce Mason GR01
Chair Conrad Roberson Texas NECman
Comrade Jimmy Gunn GR30
NECman Robert J Proctor
Don Ellis GR14
Woodrow (Woody) Ervin GR01
Shean Harris GR07

Please Note:

Our Prayer List has become quite long and is possibly no longer up to date. If you know of someone who should be placed on the Sick and Prayer List, Please report them to the Department Chaplain or the Department Adjutant no later than the last day of each month for inclusion in the Newsletter. If someone is ill or wishes to be placed on the Sick/Prayer List for the following month, please send the Name and Post Affiliation to the previous mentioned persons. Only those members so reported will be included in the current Newsletter!

Hello Comrades, and Brothers, Sisters and Friends of the American Legion Family:

I would like to wish each and everyone of you a very happy holiday season during this month. It will be a little stressful for me as Department Chaplain due to our move to the north so if I am not able to send Get Well Cards and Sympathy Cards, please bear with me, I have run out of those cards and will have to wait until my move is complete before I order new ones. Those that are on the Prayer List will continue to be in my Prayers and those that I find out needs to be on my Prayer List will be added. I hope to have Internet capabilities by the time my computers arrive even though I won't have a desk to work on for a couple of weeks. I wish each and everyone of you God Speed in all your goings and comings and I hope that all those that celebrate Christmas (you notice that I do NOT “X” out Christ when I write Christmas) to have a very happy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.
In the “Please Note” section of the chaplain's page, it is stated “If someone is ill or wishes to be placed on the Sick/Prayer List or if someone has transferred to PEL, and needs to be listed for the following month, Please send the NAME and POST AFFILIATION to the Department Chaplain or the Department Adjutant.”, However, I continue to receive email from various sources that only state the Comrade or Persons Name to be listed with no affiliation indicated or no Snail Mail Address and in the email senders address, there is no indication of which post the email came from only the person's name that sent it.

SO, Please, in the future, indicate in the “SUBJECT” area of the email sent to the Department Chaplain or the Department Adjutant, Sick/Prayer list request or PEL Notification, for member of..... (then the Post Name and Number). In the body of the email, Please indicate the Current Mailing address of the person that has been requested to be added to the Sick/Prayer list, or the address of the Immediate Family of the person that has reported to PEL. This will make the sending of “Get Well” or “Sympathy” cards much more expedient.

Thank You!

May God bless and keep each and everyone of us as we go about our worship, our lives and work during the remaining months of the year.

May God Bless Our Armed Forces and All that have been put in harms way to secure our way of life!

May God Continue to Bless America and keep America... One Nation Under God with Liberty and Justice for All!

Service to God and Country

Jerald F. (Jerry) Bass  
Department Chaplain,  
The American Legion  
Department of France

Email: GeneralBass@gmail.com  
Phone/FAX: +49 (0) 6101 128432  
Cell Phone: +49 (0) 175 201 1009
HISTORIAN REPORT

Department Historian
Michael Coyne

Thank you for all the Photographs from our recent Department Convention they will become part of our Department Records. Please submit reports/photos from your 4th July celebrations you must have plenty of them my e-mail address is tom-myc76@gmail.com I want every Post to submit some post happening e.g. AGM, Party or anything of note, at the end of the year 2011/2012 I intend to award a prize to the best Photograph submitted to me from either a member or a Post. "If you're not in you cannot win" Looking forward to seeing you every month in our Newsletter. Michael Coyne

National Security

Douglas Haggan
National Security Committee Chairman

NATIONAL SECURITY

TOPIC 1: CONGRESS INVESTIGATES DOVER AIR FORCE BASE MORTUARY

A congressional investigative committee disclosed Monday that it has begun a wide-ranging probe into operations at the Dover Air Force Base mortuary, escalating public scrutiny of the military installation charged with handling America’s war dead.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform told Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta in a letter Monday that it would examine any allegations of “mismanagement, dishonesty and misconduct” at Dover over the past decade — a more extensive review than other recent investigations into the mortuary.

The Air Force inspector general reported this month that it had found evidence of “gross mismanagement” at the mortuary after whistleblowers cited cases of missing body parts and poor recordkeeping.

The Air Force probe was prompted by the Office of Special Counsel, an independent federal agency that handles whistleblower complaints. But that investigation was limited to a handful of incidents from 2009 and early 2010.

The House Oversight Committee announced that it would investigate all allegations of the mishandling of troops’ remains dating to Jan. 1, 2002, shortly after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. The Dover mortuary has handled the remains of more than 6,300 service members killed overseas since then.

The committee is a principal investigative arm of the House of Representatives. The letter to Panetta was signed by the panel’s chairman, Rep. Darrell E. Issa (R-Calif.), as well as its top Democrat, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (Md.).

The Air Force announced Nov. 8 that it had disciplined — but not fired — three supervisors at the mortuary in response to the findings of gross mismanagement. In response to criticism from lawmakers and veterans groups, Panetta later asked Air Force Secretary Michael Donley to reconsider whether the punishment was too lenient. That review is pending.

Although Air Force officials said they were confident they had fixed problems at the mortuary, Panetta also appointed a panel of public health experts to examine current operations at Dover and report back to him in 60 days.

The leader of that panel is retired Army Gen. John P. Abizaid, the former head of the U.S. Central Command.

The Defense Department “takes very seriously the need to look into the lapses that occurred at Dover Port Mortuary,” George Little, the Pentagon press secretary, said Monday. “That’s why the secretary has appointed an outside board of experts to look into procedures at Dover, and we will continue to work with Congress as it looks into this matter. Dover
is sacred military ground, and our fallen heroes deserve the highest respect.”

Other lawmakers have questioned whether the Air Force’s internal investigation was adequate, citing a Washington Post report that said the Dover mortuary had disposed of cremated portions of troops’ remains in a Virginia landfill.

The Air Force said it ended that practice in 2008, but it was not a focus of the investigations by the Air Force inspector general or the Office of Special Counsel. Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.) said he has been pressing the Defense Department for months for details on the landfill dumping, but to no avail. *(Washington Post 11.28.11)*

**Douglas Haggan**

*National Security Committee Chairman*

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**BOY SCOUTS**

Transatlantic Council and Department of France

The American Legion Department of France has contributed to the benefit of over 5000 Boy Scouts of America in the Depart of France theater. Over 3,450 Cub Scouts in 91 packs, 1,945 Boy Scouts in 97 troops and over 106 Venturers in 13 crews.

This past Fall I was able to recognize Comrade George Hall with the American Legion Square Knot Award during a visit to Heidelberg Post GR03. Many Thanks to George for his years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts in our local area!

Also, I am looking forward to another Legion Square Knot presentation which has been waiting nearly a year. As well as, receiving an awards package back soon from National on another Department of France famous Legionnaire/Scouter. *(To be announced)*

Scouting provides service to the community. Just one common program will be the Scouting Troops in central Germany, they are looking forward to Veterans Day, learning just a little of American History and Culture in central Europe and placing flags out at local German Cemeteries, as well as participating in just a few events at American Battle Monument Commissions in England, France, Luxemburg, and Italy. Boy Scouts of America joined along Scouts du France’ for Memorial Day celebrations, carrying wreaths to the presenters.

Nearly each month, Life Scouts throughout the European Continent are looking to conduct service projects around military communities and sometime in the local European communities, to enhance the lives of military and civilians living abroad, and sometimes to benefit our generous and welcoming neighbors. Most recently, Kaiserslautern has become the sponsor to a Pack and Troop and are looking forward to a great forging a great relationship with more Scouts. Life Scouts are throughout the community looking to serve the public and possible serve the American Legion.

As the Winter of 2012 approaches, many Scouts will be looking to begin Merit Badge work. Merit Badges are difficult assignments, sometimes as challenging as identifying a career in college, Scouts may choose to work with veterans and local experts in a variety of 125 professions and hobbies. Many of these merit badges consist of over 200 word essays along with 100 hours of performance work. These merit badges are conducted by adults such as Legionnaires with professional experience, hobbies or avocations within these topics. The scouting program gives all Legionnaire members the opportunity to touch the lives of the youth of our Nation and to share with them the skills necessary to build a generation of young people ready to serve God and Country.

Just prior Third Department Executive Committee meeting will be the 2011 Department of France Eagle Scout of the Year Committee. I will send out electronic samples of the application and blocks. Please be sure the application is as complete as possible, as the application is submitted to National for a 10 Thousand Dollar college scholarship competition. Solely amongst other Legion sponsored Eagle Scouts.
This season’s deadline Eagle Scouts will even have an extra 24 hours will be midnight Wednesday, February 29, 2012. Our own local Eagle Scout of the Year will be announced just in time for the February birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. How can you submit an Eagle Scout for this prestigious recognition in our department, contact your own post awards chairman. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will then join the Youth Champion delegation and participate in the 94rd Annual National Convention.

Nominations must be received by Department Scouting Chairman no later than March 1, 2012.

THE NOMINEE MUST:
• Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron.
OR
• Be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member.
AND
• Received the Eagle Scout Award.
• Be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem.
• Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community.
• Have reached his 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.
Note: Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

Post from throughout the Department of France get involved. How can your Legion Post get involved with Scouting and share mutual benefits? Contact myself or the Transatlantic Council and we will explain how Scouts may be of benefit to your Post annual programs.

“For God and Country”
Scouting Forever and Venture On!
Dave Sears
Scouting Chairman
The American Legion
Department of France
Department Auxiliary President

I was able to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at Saint Avold France, along with many other Department of France Officer’s. I was very impressed with the ceremony and the amount of people that showed up for this ceremony to show respect to those fallen. After the ceremony I along with other Department officers stopped at GR01 for their yearly meal. The food was great and the conversation was also very interesting. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In closing please remember to keep those in harm’s way and their families not only in your thoughts, but in your prayers too.

In the Spirit of Service Not Self

Veterans, God and Country
Isolde Settle
President
American Legion Auxiliary Department of France

Phone: 07138-67359
EM: isoldesettle@hotmail.com

Membership

John Fleming
Department Membership Chairman

Legionnaires, please go to the Department website and click on Membership on the left column, you will find lots of Membership information, including Department Membership Reports. I updated the page extensively recently. Thanks.

2011 - 2012 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

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<th>Department</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Early Bird/NEF Kickoff</td>
<td>3 Sep 11</td>
<td>*14 SEP 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Fall Meetings</td>
<td>8 Oct 11</td>
<td>19 OCT 11</td>
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<td>65%</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>5 Nov 11</td>
<td>16 NOV 11</td>
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<td>75%</td>
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<td>7 Jan 12</td>
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<td>95%</td>
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<td>31 Mar 12</td>
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<td>100%</td>
<td>Armed Forces Day</td>
<td>28 Apr 11</td>
<td>09 MAY 12</td>
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<td>Delegate Strength</td>
<td>14 Jul 12</td>
<td>30 Days Prior to Convention 25 Jul 12</td>
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*This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.
Department Target dates fall on Saturday, 1 ½ weeks prior to the National Target date.
Post Events

Post GR07 Sponsors Veterans Day Activities
American Legion Post GR07 recently conducted its Annual Veterans Day activities, which included a Veterans Appreciation Dinner in Heidelberg hosted by Post GR03, Wreath Laying Ceremony and visits to Graves of Deceased Veterans and known family members. The dinner was held at the Heidelberg Youth Service’s “Lion's Den” on Patrick Henry Village and was attended by current and past members of Post GR07. Remarks were provided by Post GR07 Past Commander, Comrade John Odom and by Post GR03 Commander, Davie Lewis. Sean Harris, Post GR07 Past Commander and Comrade Lee Vaughn also attended the event as well as members of Post GR03. The Heidelberg High School JROTC unit and several community youth also attended the event.

The Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at Veterans Park on Sullivan Barracks in Mannheim, Germany and was attended by members of the local Mannheim, Heidelberg and Worms communities; a wreath was presented by Post GR07 with support from the local Boys and Girls Scouts of America. Post members, along with the Boys and Girls Scouts of America also visited the graves of Fallen Comrades at the Mannheim-Kafertal Cemetery and the Worms Main Cemetery. The post later provided a Veterans Day reception at its home in Spinelli Barracks in Mannheim. Members of Post GR07 were thankful to have the support of the local communities, and they were especially honored to have so many youth in attendance at this year’s Veteran’s Day activities.

Post GR07’s members after the Veteran’s Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Mannheim’s Veteran Park

Post GR07 extends a special thanks to the following organizations and people that made this year’s activities a success:
Heidelberg High School Junior ROTC
Heidelberg MWR
Heidelberg Youth Services “Lion’s Den”
Mrs. Delia Ginete (Post GR07 Auxiliary)
Mrs. Shondalyn Atchison (Mother of a Sons of American Legion member)
Mannheim Army Garrison
Heidelberg Army Garrison
POST EVENTS CONTINUED
POST EVENTS CONTINUED
DEPARTMENT EVENTS
SAINT AVOLD 11 November 2011
Last Minute Note from NECMAN Liam Kane

Social Security Benefits will increase in 2012. Everyone should have received a notice by now, if you have not heard anything please contact me as your NECMAN I will help you or contact your local US Embassy or Consulate, you need to have your Social Security Number available when you visit above name places. It is also possible to call at 1-800-772-1213 between 7.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday to Friday or if you are hard of hearing please use TTY number 1-800 325-0778

Liam Kane
Department NECMan

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

GR01: First Wednesday day of the month at Post Home
GR03: First Thursday of the month Post Home
GR06: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR07: First Tuesday of the month Post Home
GR13: Third Saturday of the month Post Home
GR14: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR42: Third Sunday of the month Post Home
GR79: Second Saturday of the month Post Home
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

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

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pisces@t-online.de
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor