I wish everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day. Don’t forget the Oratorical Contest on the 23rd.

James Dennis / Commander / Department of France
The following are some incentive dates and monetary numbers to keep and eye on.

**15 Feb** If the Department Membership is at 100% the Department Vice Commander's will get a $200.00 bonus.

**1 March** is the Big Twelve Competition if we are 100% Membership, National will give the Department $2000.00.

**1 May** if the Department Membership is 100%, the Department, the Department Commander, and the Department Membership Chairman will get $1000.00 each.

**1 May** if the Department Membership is 100% National will give the Department $2500.00 from the Membership Incentive Program.

**1 June** if the Department Membership is at 105% National will give the Department $5000.00 from the Membership Incentive Program.

**1 June** if the Department Membership is at 105% every Post in the Department will receive a $1.00 per member bonus.

There is a total of $12,500.00 at stake that National will give the Department.

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You might be interested in...

- Legion Website
- Legion Facebook
- FODPAL Website
- FODPAL Facebook
- Alaska Website
- France Website
- France Facebook
- China Post 1 Website
- Hawaii Website
- Hawaii Facebook
- Puerto Rico Facebook
- South Korea Post 37 Facebook
- South Korea Post 38 Facebook

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Newsletter Editor...David N. Greaux

REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in prior to months end!

Davidg1959@t-online.de
American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad holds an American Legion 100th anniversary commemorative coin Thursday during a ceremonial striking at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion

**Mint hosts first strike of American Legion commemorative coin**

**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

**New in 2019: The Army’s basic infantry training is about to get longer, and it could be a sign of broader changes to come**

**4 Tips for Flying Space-A**

**The Army is moving toward extending basic training for all soldiers. (Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hamilton/Army)**
DEC Preparations

The Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting, hosted by Post GR1982 in Ansbach-Katterbach on 23 March, should be on your calendar by now. What may NOT yet be on your calendar are the dates for several very important preparatory actions that are critical to the success of this DEC. These dates include:

1 March – If you need to be added to the access roster, contact Post Adjutant Estus Smith at estus@live.com with your information by this date. The early date is required in order to get Garrison approval and the access roster finalized.

1 March – If you are planning to spend the night of 22 March in Katterbach, contact the Gasthaus Goldener Stern at phone 09872-1262 or Hotel-Gasthof zur Windmuehle at phone 0981-972-000 to make your reservations.

8 March – Attending the DEC and planning to eat the noon meal on-site? Please contact Estus at estus@live.com to confirm your meal. (Same caterer as last year, and “all you can eat”)

8 March – If you are planning to attend the “meet and greet” meal Friday evening, please confirm your attendance with Estus at estus@live.com by this date.

Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Post Adjutant Estus Smith at the email above or cell 0152-5406-8940.
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE  Joe D. Brown

My fellow Legionaries

As your Department VCAL, I ask you what is a Legion member? Being a Legionnaire means you are able to support your family, your community, your nation, and past, present and future Veterans. On 26 January, we conducted a Legion Awareness Drive at GR20 Spangdahlem and had an excellent turnout. Post GR20 recruited 31 new members and 1 new member for GR01. Thanks to the Vice Commanders for their support in hosting this annual Legion Awareness Membership Drive for 2019.

The Membership for DEPT is going well, but we still have posts that have not transmitted at all this year. It is time to submit your transmittals now. The Oratorical contest Department Finals are coming up on 23 February 2019, the location is on Panzer Kaserne Böblingen hosted by Stuttgart post GR06. The Department Centennial celebration will be held in Paris on March 15 and 16.

The 3rd DEC will be held on 23 March 2019 hosted by Ansbach Post 1982 and SAL 3rd DEC on 9 March 2019 hosted by GR 79 in Heilbronn.

We must remember the ideals of what the American Legion stands for, justice, freedom and democracy. We are here to support our veterans, their families, our communities and the care of our veterans through the programs set out at the National Level. Many of our Posts need to be more involved with these programs, I would strive to make that happen. All Post Commanders need to properly display your POW-MIA Table, American Flag and your Post Legion Banner at all your meetings.

I look forward to getting out to each post and assisting in any way I can. Thank you, and as always, remember if you need to contact me, I am just an email away, vcalbrown50@gmail.com - mobile 01701888034. Please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts but in your prayers as well.

Membership Chairman / VCAL Charlie Brown

Awareness Drive at GR20
GR07 General Membership Meeting
VCAL Brown with Dept. Commander Dennis at GR01
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 Third DEC 2019

Disabled Veterans Can Now Fly Space-A

President Donald Trump (Alex Wong/Getty Images)
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
2019 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

By now most everyone knows about the new American Legion Membership Incentive Program, (to each Post a $5.00 bounty for every 2014, 2015, and 2016 delinquent member that a Post signs up).

Well, the Department of France is going to take this Membership Incentive Program one step further.

If the Department of France surpasses the 105% National Membership Goal by close of business (1700hrs Central European Time) on May 1, 2019, each Post in the Department of France will receive a $1.00 rebate for each of it's members.

This incentive program is totally separate from and is not connected in any way to the Department of France monetary award program as set forth in the Department Awards Manual.
Did you know: Veterans make up 16 percent of our nation’s total adult homeless population?

The American Legion understands this cause is a huge concern and has put forth the Homeless Veterans Task Force to urge each State Department to work with their local public and private sector agencies and organizations to ensure local services and resources are available to homeless veterans and their families.

To help our struggling brothers-in-arms, the Legion works on a global level, lobbying for legislation affecting veteran homelessness, and acts on a local level, directly assisting veterans who have fallen on tough times and are without a place to live or facing the prospect of it.

Our Department Homeless Veterans Chairman, Eddie Guevara collaborates with homeless service providers and veterans’ service organizations to develop and implement initiatives that will help homeless veterans.

A veteran who is homeless or facing possible homelessness can contact our Department Chairman or their local American Legion Post, who will provide guidance and assistance to the veteran and his or her family.

For all inquiries on veteran homelessness and Legion outreach efforts, contact:

Department Homeless Veterans Chairman Eddie Guevara

Email: pso.guevara@gmail.com / Cell Phone: +15121244628
The Department Oratorical Finals will be conducted on the 23rd of February 2019. The location of the Department Oratorical will be Panzer Kaserne at the New High School (Böblingen by Stuttgart). The event will begin at 1300 hours, and the Oratorical contestants must be present NLT (Not Later Than) 1200 hours all times are in CET (Central European Time).

Those Post that have contestants participating in the Department Oratorical Finals, please provide me with their Names, affiliated schools, and Post. Please provide this information to me NLT 25 January 2019. If your Post Oratorical Contest is conducted after 25 January 2019 please let me know and we will extend the required provide date.

James M. Settle
NECMan Department of France
Assistant Adjutant
``Chaplains Corner''
Harvey Briggs
Department Chaplain

Comrades,

We often find ourselves faced with challenges that affect us and our families. These challenges that we face can be caused by bad choices however, some can come from circumstances we have no control over. Regardless of the situation we often find ourselves sitting back and wondering why is this happening to me.

Each challenge or trial we go through is a test of our endurance. When your endurance increases that will help us through this race, we call life. For some people, knowing the fact that you will eventually be faced with these trials and tribulations it is not something to get excited about. We should look to find joy in the trials that we are facing because it is in that trial that we will find God leading us to something great.

DISTRICT OF FRANCE

Dear Legionnaires and Auxiliary's

DEC is coming up on the 23. March 2019 in Ansbach on Post. We have to talk about the Girl State and USO what we are going to do. District Auxiliary Meeting will start at 14.00 Hours (02.00 p.m.)
I did not get the list yet from Department Chaplains, Post Chaplains, District Chaplain and Unit Chaplain on who has past to the Post everlasting from Juni 2018 to now. Please send me the List of Names, Post and Unit Number. I would like to make the Flowers ready for the Convention.
Convention is coming up in a couple months and we need to start thinking which Position you like to take for District Auxiliary. If you are interested in taking a Position and cannot attend, please write which position you wish to fulfill.
The Convention will be in June 2019.

Be safe and God bless you

Sonja Dennis / President / District of France
MEMBERSHIP BOUNTY

No, we’re not talking about Paper Towels.

We’re talking about a real BOUNTY a MONEY BOUNTY.

Starting now and going until 1 June 2019 The American Legion National Headquarters is going to give every Post in The Department of France for every 2014, 2015, and 2016 member they sign back up into The American Legion. In the week to come National Headquarters will modify MyLegion.org so everyone can see your membership rolls from 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Please be reminded that this is an American Legion National Headquarters incentive plan and no money will be coming out of The Department of France account. In mid-June National Headquarters will issue a check to each Post in The Department of France that participated in this incentive plan.
“The 3rd SAL DEC will be held soon in GR79 Heilbronn, 9 March 2019 and there are Detachments within the department that still have not submitted a transmittal this year, BE 02 and GR 06. As part of the American Legion Family our goal within the department is to achieve 100% throughout the department. so please send in your transmittal now!”

Detachments Commander, Charlie Brown

* The S.A.L. Convention will be hosted by GR07 on 08 June 2019

American Legion moves to open up membership eligibility

Guidelines for honoring the Four Chaplains

Eagle Scout of the Year...2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship

Nominations for the 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year are open. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant’s respective American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March, 2019. The nomination packet judged best by each respective American Legion Department (state) Selection Committee, along with a list of the members serving on that Selection Committee, must then arrive to American Legion National Headquarters no later than 1 April, 2019.

The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will receive a $10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of $2,500 each. The scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarship immediately upon graduation from high school (public, parochial, military, private, or home school) and must utilize the total award within four (4) years of their graduation date, excluding active military duty or religious mission. Additionally, the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will join the Youth Champion Delegation that is honored each August at the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

Applicants having questions or seeking additional information about their application or the application process should contact their respective American Legion department (state) headquarters. Contact information for American Legion department (state) headquarters may be obtained at www.legion.org/departments.
It's TAX time at the USAG-Bavaria Tax Centers!
Federal & State Tax Return Preparation for FREE!

Opens 1300 on 28 January 2019!

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO PERSONNEL ELIGIBLE FOR TAX SERVICES THIS YEAR

We serve the following persons whose gross income is $54,000 or less:

- Active Duty Service Members (including eligible mobilized Reservists) and their Dependents - generally E-6 and below
- DA Civilians
- Military Retirees with Retired DOD ID Card & Surviving Spouses of Military Retirees with unexpired DOD ID Card

Ansbach Tax Center
Bldg. 5817-A, 3rd Floor of the ACS Bldg.,
Across from Legal Assistance Office
Phone: +49 08802-83-2324
DSN: (314) 487-2324
Email: usarmy.ansbach.jmtp.list.ansbach-legal-assistance@mail.mil

Grafenwoehr Tax Center
Bldg. 216
Phone: +49 09841-70-569-0558 DSN: (314) 569-0558
Email: usarmy.bavaria.7atc.list.tax-center@mail.mil

Hohenfels Tax Center
Bldg. 213
Phone: +49 09472-83-5571 DSN: (314) 520-5571
Email: usarmy.bavaria.7atc.list.hohenfels-legal-assistance@mail.mil

Hours for all Tax Centers:
Monday - Wednesday by Appointment: 9:00 - 10:30 & 12:30 - 3:30
Thursday Walk-Ins: 9:00 - 10:30 & 12:30 - 3:30, Graf: 12:30-3:30
Friday by Appointment: 9:00 - 10:30 & 12:30 - 2:30

WE CANNOT PREPARE:
* Foreign-Earned Income Exclusion
* Capital Gains & Loss
* Rental income from more than 1 rental property
* Sale of a rental property
* Sale of more than 5 assets (like stocks)

WHAT TO BRING:
- Military ID's and SSN/ ITINs are REQUIRED for ALL filers and Dependents listed on the return.
- Previous year returns (if available).
- All income documents such as W2, SSA, 1099-R, MISC, DIV or INT.
- Notarized IRS form 2848 or Power of Attorney, if spouse cannot be physically present to sign.
- Education documents such as 1098-T or E.
- Income and expenses related to real property rental.

For more information, check us out online!
http://www.7atc.army.mil/About-Us/Staff/SJA/TaxCenter
Please welcome the latest Member to the 2019 100% Post Membership Club for The American Legion, Department of France

Rhein Neckar GR03 / Eifel GR20

They will join the follow Posts in The Department of France already at 100%

Rhein Main GR05          David Chavez GR1982
Omar Bradley GR42        Riley Leroy Pitts GR07
Lisbon Post P001         Brig Gen. Robin Olds TH01
Margraten NL01           Copenhagen DK01
John Wayne GR79          Isabel La Catolica SP292
                         Sgt. William D. Nelson GR09

The following Posts are within ten members away from going 100%

Audie Murphy            GR30           8 AWAY
Riveria                 FR05           6 AWAY
Rome                    IT01           2 AWAY
Commodore John Barry    IR03           1 AWAY
Father Francis Duffy     IR02           4 AWAY

La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses) is an independent, by invitation, honor society of American veterans, more commonly known as “The Forty & Eight”.

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include among others, programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

Membership is by invitation, and open only to honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

GRANDE ELECTIONS / HEILBRONN, GERMANY / 27 APRIL 2019

Hosted by Locale V1546

Lee Preston
Department of France
Legion Riders Director
E-mail: lpreston1957@gmail.com
Phone: +49 176-70599666

Hi All Legion Riders,

As we all know, not very much has happened again this month. I am sure that things will get busy once the riding season gets here.

Upcoming Events; my wife and I will participate in the Erlangen Toy Run again this year. The date for this event is 4 May 2019. The Department convention will be held 20-23 June 2019 and I hope that we can get some riders to attend. I believe that I have located a place for the riders to get together on a weekend this year. The place is Gasthof Sonnenberg (https://www.hotel-sonnenberg.de/). I would like to do this about mid-September after all the school vacation has ended. I need to get information as soon as possible about riders that would be interested so that I can begin talking with the Gasthof. Please give me an indication of how many would be interested.

As I mentioned last month, the National Commanders visit information is out and Department Commander Dennis has made the request that the Legion Riders provide bus escort during this visit. I will need at least 4 riders for each of the areas being visited within Germany. The National Commander will visit Wiesbaden and Kaiserslautern May 27 – June 1, 2019. I have sent out E-mails to those Post Legion Rider Directors requesting support for this visit. I have also sent another E-mail confirming the dates. I have one rider already that has confirmed support in the Wiesbaden area; Please speak again with your riders about this visit and let me know if you have any riders that might be interested in supporting this event. This will be great visibility for our Legion Riders program and the Department. Thank you for your support!

I will not be able to attend the next DEC hosted by GR 1982 in Ansbach which will be held on 23 March 2019. Please bring any donations your post and chapter should have for the Legacy Scholarship fund and give them to Dave Greaux.

Again, should any chapter in the Department of France like me to attend a function please let me know with plenty of time for me to plan. I will do my best to attend. Thank you all again for being a part of the Department Legion Riders program.

“For God and Country” / Lee Preston
Department of France

95th Annual Convention

20 - 23 June 2019