Happy New Year!
Hello Comrades,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and is looking forward to the new year. I would like to thank my staff for all their hard work and continued support. I would also like to thank Post GR14 for their hospitality at their Christmas Dinner on 14 Dec 19. The VCAL and I really enjoyed ourselves and the comradeship with your members.

Membership: The Department membership is moving steadily alone, and I want to congratulate all the Post who have already achieved their 100% membership goal before 31 Dec 19. The department is almost at another deadline goal we need to be at 80% by 6 Jan 20. Right now, we are just a little short 93 members of the goal, we do have awareness drives schedule for every Saturday in January.

Commander Post Report (CPR): This report is still very important for each Post to turn in whether you are an active Post or not. You don’t have to wait to the end of the year to start plugging in the data on this form online. National track this data to feed its reports they use to brief congress and lobby on the behalf of veterans and their family members. So, don’t forget to turn in your post report even if you only did a Memorial Day event or grave registration before the end of May 20.

Poland: Is still in the planning phase for VCAL Brown and Vise Commander Owens to go down and do a site visit to access whether we should establish a Post there are not. We have pushed this visit back to Feb 20 and we are hoping to have this completed by our next DEC in Ansbach 21 March 20.

I want to wish all the Legion Post, SAL Detachment, and ALA a Happy New Years and a continued successful recruiting year.

Jimmie Dale
Commander
Department of France

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2020MY

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ADJUTANT Maxwell Rice  GR79  colwichboy@yahoo.com
Post NL01 Supports Wreathes Across America

For the first time ever, Wreathes Across America stopped at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten on 1 December. This is only the second year the program has operated in Europe (last year they graced the Normandy American Cemetery). Post NL01 performed a Color Guard for the opening ceremony and helped with the unpacking and placement of wreathes, alongside multiple American and Dutch groups and community members. The wreathes were on display until 4 December, and once again Post NL01 stepped up to help with the clean-up.
Commodore John Barry Post IR03

Ireland 03 new Commanders

L to R, 1st vice commander Ron Howko, new post Commander Eamonn Walsh, Chaplin Michael Noone and SGT at Arms Dr. Jerry Solan at last post elections. Good luck to the new commander.

Department of France Past Commanders Club

PCC President Dennis Owens info@dennisowens.com

PCC Secretary Quincy Foster qcfoster@yahoo.com

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

David W. Craig
Department of France Legion Riders Director
dcdavid16@gmail.com
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE...Joe D. Brown

GR79 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

GR14 Christmas Party

GR79 Homeless Christmas Dinner

JANUARY 6, 2020 IS THE 80% DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CUTOFF DATE!

2960 Members to make 80%...That’s 77 Members to go
We have 1562 Members from 2018-2019 that have not Renewed.
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE 2019 – 2020 / POST MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD KICKOFF – 50%
Department Cutoff – August 30, 2019
National Cutoff - September 11, 2019

PEARL HARBOR DAY – 75%
Department Cutoff – December 02, 2019
National Cutoff - December 11, 2019

LEGION BIRTHDAY – 90%
Department Cutoff - March 02, 2020
National Cutoff – March 11, 2020

FALL MEETINGS – 55%
Department Cutoff – September 30, 2019
National Cutoff - October 09, 2019

MID-WINTER – 80%
Department Cutoff – January 06, 2020
National Cutoff - January 15, 2020

CHILDREN & YOUTH – 95%
Department Cutoff – March 30, 2020
National Cutoff - April 08, 2020

VETERANS DAY – 65%
Department Cutoff – November 04, 2019
National Cutoff - November 14, 2019

PRESIDENTS DAY – 85%
Department Cutoff – January 31, 2020
National Cutoff - February 12, 2020

ARMED FORCES DAY – 100%
Department Cutoff – May 04, 2020
National Cutoff - May 13, 2020

William D. Nelson Post GR09

GR09 Legion and local club members help homeless in Ulm

Sara Olivarez, Post GR 09 member and Iris Polley, Donau Americans & Friends member recently asked the members of these two groups for possible assistance for their annual holiday help the homeless program that the two have been active together with the Ulm’s Red Cross facility for four years. According to Olivarez the support exceeded her expectations with generous financial donations during the annual Christmas party and clothing dropped off on Sunday the 29th of December.

Sara and Iris, together with local Red Cross members served lunch for 65 and dinner for 70 of the local unfortunates who do not have a home during the holiday season. Enough clothes were given by the members of the groups to sufficiently supply new outfits for those present. Four German hairstyle apprentices provided free haircuts to 15 women and 30 men. This would not have been possible without the generous donation of three brand new haircut machines donated by the Legion’s Jess Swanner family. According to Sara “Without these machines we would have had to work all night.”

When thanked for her work Sara, a former soldier assigned to the Pershing Missile unit in Neu-Ulm responded with “That’s what soldiers do.” True, but also Good Samaritans like Iris Polley.

Sara Olivarez (left) and Iris Polley (center) with some of the early arrivals at the Red Cross, Ulm
INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTMENT FINALS

The Department Oratorical Finals will be, conducted Saturday, 22nd of February 2019. The location of the Department Oratorical will be Katterbach Kaserne at the Ansbach Middle High School (BLDG 5924, Von Steuben Str. 33, 91522). The event will begin at 1300 hours, and the oratorical contestants must be present NLT (No Later Than) 1200 hours.

Those Post that have contestants participating in the Department Oratorical Finals, please provide me with their contestant name, affiliated school, and post. Please provide this information to me NLT 01 February 2020. If your Post Oratorical Contest is conducted after 01 February 2020 please let me know and we will extend the required provide date.

Please have your Post representative (Oratorical Contestant) fill out all documents prior to this event this will save everyone time when the event is over.

Please make sure you notify the Department of your Post Contestant. Provide the below information.
Name:
High School:
Sponsored by Post:

If your post has members that are interested in volunteering to help for this event please have them contact Comrade Christopher Buchanan at E-Mail christopherbuch@hotmail.com

If you need to have access (No ID Card) to Katterbach Kaserne Please provide the GR1982 Adjutant Estus Smith at E-Mail estus@live.com with the below information at least 5 weeks prior to the Department Finals.

Name: Last First MI
Passport: Number
Citizen of what Country:
Auto: Make and Model
Vehicle: License Number

James M. Settle james.settle@kabelbw.de
NECMan Department of France / Assistant Adjutant / PDCDR
News from the Department Service Officer:

Our Department Service Office is getting swamped with new Claims! We need your support. We will be offering a basic PSO training course on the 20th of March 2020. Anyone may attend this time. The course will give you an insight on how a PSO may help a Veteran. It will not allow you to “assist” the Veteran in filing a claim. You will learn the following:

- What forms are needed
- POC of our, current, 3 American Legion VA Reps
- What are presumptive condition
- What are secondary conditions
- Survivor Death Benefits
- Foreign Medical Program
- And so on…

At the end of the course, you will have to take a test. Upon successful completion of the test, you will awarded a certificate at the 3rd DEC the next day.

We need your support!
Thank you from the American Legion Paris Post 1!

Highlights from Paris Post 1’s centennial weekend celebrations and documentary film production!

Special thanks to Jeric Wilhelmsen from Hollywood Post 43 in California who came to Paris for a centennial filming adventure.

We greatly thank you for your presence and American Legion spirit as we filmed our centennial documentary. Stay tuned for updates on Paris Post 1’s documentary and plans for 2020!
REMINDER…all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to months end!

Davidg1959@t-online.de