DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  James Settle

My Fellow Legionaries

Well we have come to another year's end, and a great one I must add. We conducted our 90th convention, and thanks to the Chairman Comrade Jerry Aman and GR09’s support, it was a successful event. The department had a very successful year, thanks to your support of the department and our programs, GREAT JOB fellow Legionnaires, and I am positive, we will continue the trend for the 2015 Membership Year.

My congratulations to the, newly elected officer’s, of the Department of France. I feel, again we have a great team this year, and we should be able to move this department forward, with the support of all of us, in addition we have some new first time officers to the department Vice Commander Comrade Quincy Foster (GR05), and Historian Comrade Michael Keating (IR02)I am sure they will have ideas to help the department in the upcoming year. See the attached list of the elected department officers for 2015.

During the Department Convention I again mentioned involving the SAL and Auxiliary, in our events. My goal is to continue to make this Department a total Legion Family orientated Department. However we must do this together through communications. If you have an Auxiliary Unit and or a SAL Squadron at your location communicate with them and get them involved in your Post activities. If you want to or have the capabilities to start an Auxiliary Unit at your post, please contact the Auxiliary President at isoldesettle@otail.com. In the case of SAL, you can contact the SAL Commander at casbyj@hotmail.com. Both will be more than happy to assist you in your questions.

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP. I cannot stress membership enough. It is the bloodline of our organization. It enables us to perform our missions to the Veterans and their Families, and supports not only National Programs but ours also. While you are out there recruiting, new members do not forget your current members, get them to renew in a timely manner. If you have any questions on membership do not hesitate to contact the Membership Chairman Comrade Brown, at joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com. He can answer your questions and resolve any problems you are having, with membership.

In closing, Once again thanks to all of you for your support to the Department of France. I wish all of you a very happy 4th of July. Please celebrate safe and take care of each other. Please keep those in harm's way and their families, in your thoughts and prayers also.

James M. Settle
Department Commander

Phone:  07138-67359
E-Mail: Pisces@t-online.de

The Department Web Page is: www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org
The department has a Face Book page at the following www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance. Please visit and like this page. Thanks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Officers - 2015 Membership Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>James M. Settle GR42</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de">james.settle@kabelbw.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADJUTANT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maxwell Rice GR79</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:colwichboy@yahoo.com">colwichboy@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NECMAN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Miller GR1982</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:miller-roth@t-online.de">miller-roth@t-online.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALT. NECMAN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liam Kane IR63</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:commliam@gmail.com">commliam@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE</strong></td>
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<td>Joe D. Brown GR79</td>
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<td>GR03 GR07 GR13 GR30 GR42 &amp; New Post Development</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com">Joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Ward GR01</td>
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<td>GR20 PO01 FR05</td>
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<td>SP292 IR63</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:wardtrans@yahoo.com">wardtrans@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<td>Quincy Foster GR05</td>
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<td>GR01 GR02 GR14</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:achange@qcfoster.com">achange@qcfoster.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<td>Jerry Aman GR09</td>
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<td>GR06 GR1982 CH01 GC01</td>
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<td>IR02 BE02 IR03</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Jerrya503@aol.com">Jerrya503@aol.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Casby Logan GR07</td>
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<td>GR05 GR09 GR45</td>
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<td>GR79 DK01 NL01</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:casbyj@hotmail.com">casbyj@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPLAIN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ronald Moore GR05</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:gypsy_moore@yahoo.de">gypsy_moore@yahoo.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HISTORIAN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Keating IR02</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:michael.keating@t-online.de">michael.keating@t-online.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCE OFFICER</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERVICE OFFICER</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:hallgt@hotmail.com">hallgt@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JUDGE ADVOCATE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>George W. Seeburger GR14</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:gwseeburger@gmx.de">gwseeburger@gmx.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hal Rittenberg GR09</td>
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**Variously known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.**
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  Joe D. Brown

The American Legion Department of France was the first Department to make a 100% for membership year 2014. Thanks all the posts for their hard work in keeping up with the membership and a special thanks to Vice CDR Stephen Ward for recruiting over 70 new members.

I would like to place my emphasis on renewing members. National Commander Dellinger stated that the retention of members is a must. The job is to renew your old members first, send out renewal notices, if you don't have any notices, I can mail some to your Post. Our goal is to make make a 100% for 2015. I want to congratulate all the new and old elected officers this year. We have three new officers for 2015, Past Department Commander from GR 05 Ronald Moore for the Department Chaplain, from GR 05 Quincy Foster for Vice Commander and from IR02 Historian Michael Keating.

We have a new post in the Department of France GR02 Ramstein. For 2015 membership year, we have new goals to make to get GR 45 back on the right track. With the help of all the Department Officers, we would like to have a Membership Drive in Stuttgart, Wiesbaden, Germersheim, Vilseck, Ramstein and Bitburg.

We had 5 contestants last year for the Oratorical and this year we hope to have more contestants. Hoping to get support from the following posts, GR01—GR 02—GR 06—GR 1982—BE 02—GR 45. GR03-GR 05-GR07 can work to as one team. So start now contacting the schools in regards to the Oratorical contest and Boys State selection. If your post has a Membership meeting or any other activity, let your Vice Commander know. The Department would like to support all posts activities this is a new year, so let us work together to make this Department number 1!!!

I will go in the hospital on JULY 16 for my operation.
GR 79 Ross Shephard, Roy Martin and Thomas King just got out the hospital and are at home.

By now all the Vice Commanders should have introduced themselves, so send them your meeting time and place if you need any assistance.

3 September 2014 is the Department 50% Target Date
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER  Quincy Foster

Greetings to our Dept. (FR) American Legion Family,

My name Is Quincy Foster and I would like to introduce myself as a newly elected Department Vice Commander, which is an honor for me and I truly hope a rewarding one for the Department. I am retired Air Force (1st Feb. 1989) and have been a member of the American Legion for over 20 years. I became an active member of the Post GR05 Rhein- Main a couple of years ago and still serve as Post Historian and Judge Advocate.

I am looking forward to working with you and your Post. I am looking forward to visiting each of your Posts at least twice this year if possible, and I would like to know the best times for you. Please send me an email with dates where I might be able to visit your Post.

I am a person with a can do attitude, so if there is anything I can do for you or your post please let me know and we, as a team, can make it happen.

I am truly looking forward to working with you, “For the Good of the Legion!”

God Bless You!!
Mobile: +49- (0)1783989509
Email: Achange@qcfoster.com
Greetings, Commanders & Legionnaires,

As the Department of France Vice Commander, I have been assigned the following Posts: John F. Kennedy Post IR63 Facebook site: www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionIRL, Eifel Post GR-20, Rivera Post FR-05, Madrid Post SP-292, and Portugal (Nuny Alvares Pereira) Post PO-01. Doug Haggan (FODPAL Secretary) is asking the Department and Posts to submit pictures and small articles to the FODPAL website: http://www.legion.org Click Members FODPAL site listed at Quick Links. FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion) is asking for special programs & events and Facebook sites. The Department of France Newsletters is posted on the FODPAL website. Click Newsletters. Also, listed in the FODPAL Newsletter site is Post IR63 Spring Newsletter 2014 (check-out there events of July) 5 July (Saturday) Rico Stein’s Independence Day BBQ Saturday afternoon (Tralee), 12 July (Saturday) Annual Wreath laying Ceremony at the National War Memorial Gardens Island bridge (Phoenix Park) Dublin 2:30 P.M., 13 July (Sunday) National Day of Commemoration at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham 9:45 A.M. Please contact the Post Adjutant (John H. Shanahan Jr.) to confirm attendance. If you like a copy of the Spring Post Newsletter 2014 from Post IR-63, Dublin, Ireland, please contact jhshanahan@aol.com Post IR-63 has many activities in the coming months, if you like to attend.

The Annual FODPAL Breakfast (25 August) Westin Charlotte Hotel, Grand Ballroom Section B, Level 2, 7 A.M. at the National Convention. Reservation Request listed on the website. American Legionnaires from Ireland Posts IR-02, IR-03, and IR-63 were present for Catherine Ivers retirement 16 May (Secretary of Veterans Affairs) U.S. Embassy (Dublin). Article posted in the FODPAL site by Post IR-03 Post Adjutant Michael Noone.

Please send your Post Americanism Reports, to Carl Hacksworth. I talk on Skype every Monday evening. You can reach me on Skype: stephenallenward

The Mayo Peace Park Committee and Mayo County Council have agreed to host the 100th Anniversary of the World War I Commemoration Day Ceremony at the Mayo Peace Park, County Mayo, Ireland 3 August 14, 2:30 P.M.

SSG Aaron A. Smith Detachment Commander for the U.S. Embassy Lisbon, Portugal plans to dedicate the Heritage Room at the American Embassy to Lance CPL. Joaquim Vaz Rebelo served in the Marine Corps and went above and beyond the call of duty.

I stress the importance of membership in the Posts, Department, and the National Organization. Membership is our Voice on Capitol Hill. Please send your Post transmittal to the Department Membership Chairman by 14 July. I encourage the Posts to transmit each month to the Department Membership Chairman (Joe Dan Brown). Join the Paid Up For Life Program instead of paying Annual dues each Month and receiving renewal notices from National. If you have interest in the Paid Up For Life Program, please contact me at wardtrans@yahoo.com

The Department of France Convention hosted by William D. Nelson Post GR09 (19 – 22 June 2014) Neumaier’s Gasthof & Landhotel Hirsch was a superb Convention. The hotel accommodations were excellent as well as the food. Many thanks to Jerry Aman and the Post members of GR09. The Department of France Convention was organized and many important issues were discussed and voted upon.

I’ll depart to the States (17 July). Attendance to the VFW National Convention (St. Louis). Afterwards, flight to Orlando while staying at Cocoa Beach, Florida. Flight back to Germany (1 August).


STEPHEN A. WARD

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER  George Hall

I am now set up at my home for VA, DAFS, SSA, ACG, CA. The address is AmKirchwald 3, 69251 Gaiberg

Phone H 06223 5475
Phone M 0176 7227 6350
Email hailgt@yahoo.com
Greetings Comrades,
Greetings Sisters and Brothers of the American Legion Family,

As your past department chaplain from March 2006 to June 2010, I would to thank you for electing me to serve as your chaplain for 2014-2015. As an ordained non-denominational Christian minister, I will do my best to accompany you on our daily road through real life, under the non-denominational and non-sectarian principles of the chaplaincy of the American Legion.

We all know real life has its ups and downs. It may seem difficult sometimes, that we feel lost and alone. Through our faith and belief in God, we are strengthened in spirit and can overcome overwhelming odds. Through our association together, “For God and Country”, we are part of one great family of veterans and their families. We never fight alone on the battlefields and we are not alone when we no longer serve actively in military service.

Each Legionnaire, member of the Auxiliary and Son (S.A.L.) puts God in first place in reciting the Preamble of the American Legion Constitution. We pledge with our mouths, but we also need to pledge with our hearts, and be aware of that necessity in our minds. Our family of veterans has sworn to help veterans and their families. By helping the veteran and his/her family where they live, we help ourselves and the community.

If I could, I would visit everyone who is ill or bereaved. I have to be realistic though, and know that I have assistance, not only from the chaplains of the American Legion, but also from every officer, member and family member of the Department of France American Legion.

I ask all Department of France Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. chaplains to send me an email. If there is no chaplain, I ask the Post commander to inform me per email. That will be the start of our lines of communication, and the revitalization of the National Program, “Service to God and Country”.

Food for thought: How can we praise God at the opening of our meetings, but then use His name in vain in a moment of forgetfulness or irritation?

Rev. Ronald Moore
Dept of France Chaplain
Mobile : +49 (0) 172-7417812
e-mail: : gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

Special Days/Legion Events: – 4\textsuperscript{th}- Independence Day; Korean War ended (July 27, 1953).
Christian Religious Days: 15\textsuperscript{th}- Saint Vladimir (Ortho); 24\textsuperscript{th}- Pioneer Day (Mormons); 25\textsuperscript{th}- St James
Jewish Holidays (Year 5770): 15\textsuperscript{th} – Fast of the 17\textsuperscript{th} of Tammuz.
Islamic Holidays: 23\textsuperscript{rd} -Lailat al Kaidr; 26\textsuperscript{th}-31\textsuperscript{st} Eid al Fidr
Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

Post Everlasting: Prayers for the Sick & Ill: No deaths or illnesses were reported to me, but we continue to pray for those comrades, family members and friends of the Legion who have passed away or are ill.

Please note- Post Commanders and Officers are requested to report the names of sick to be shown in the newsletter to me, latest by the 20\textsuperscript{th} of each month. Names should be reported every month as the last list will be cleared. If someone is ill or wishes to be placed on the Sick/Prayer List for the following month, please email me your name and Post/Unit/Squadron affiliation. Only those members reported to me by the 20\textsuperscript{th} of the month will be included in the upcoming newsletter.
Department of France 90th Annual Convention which was on 19-22 June 2014 in Neu-Ulm, Germany hosted by GR09
My fellow Comrades

First my congratulations go out to all the newly elected SAL Detachment Officer’s. Comrade Casby Logan (GR05) is the newly elected Commander for the detachment. As you know this year we did not have to elect a new NECMan and AltNECMa. Comrade Odom Sr. remains the detachment NECMan with Comrade Greaux the AltNECMa.

During the Convention we updated the budget. We added a General Administration and postage account $100.00, the Adjutant expense increased from $50.00 to $100.00 and National Convention was increased from $75.00 to $150.00. in addition there were changes made to the Constitution and By-Laws, major changes were the Quorum requirements we now need three (3) Detachment Officer and two (2) Squadrons for a quorum, during our DEC’s and Conventions.

The Delegates for the SAL National Convention are Comrade Odom Sr., Comrade rev Ronald Moore, and myself.

SAL FAQ

How large is the Sons of The American Legion? Each year since 1982, the Sons of The American Legion has set a new all-time high in membership. Currently, there are more than 300,000 members of the Sons in this country and abroad.

What is the main purpose of the Sons? The mission of the Sons is to support veterans and their families and the policies of our parent organization, The American Legion. Virtually everything that involves the Sons could be grouped under three areas: 1) support for veterans and their families, 2) promoting patriotism and Americanism and 3) promoting programs which benefit the youth of our country.

Why would someone want to join the Sons? Different people have different reasons for belonging to organizations. For many, membership in the Sons has allowed them to become involved in American Legion programs alongside their fathers. Others belong out of respect for their parents’ and grandparents’ service to our country in the military. Many younger members get involved and learn valuable leadership skills involving organization, public speaking, negotiating, budgeting and fundraising skills. Membership in our organization also provides individuals with opportunities to forge lifelong friendships with people who share a common bond.
How do I know if I'm eligible to join the Sons? Membership in this organization is established through an individual's parents' or grandparents' military service. Essentially, if your parents or grandparents are (or were) eligible to join The American Legion, you would be eligible to join the Sons of The American Legion.

Are girls or women eligible to join the Sons? No. Only males are eligible to join the Sons. Women who are veterans and are eligible to join The American Legion are welcome and encouraged to do so. The American Legion Auxiliary was established to provide Legion Family membership for female relatives of Legionnaires.

How can I sign up for the Sons? You should check with someone at The American Legion Post nearest you. There is a good chance that Post will have its own Squadron of the Sons. If not, someone at the Post should be able to tell you where to find a Squadron near you. If not, contact the S.A.L. National Headquarters for information about finding a nearby Squadron.

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**DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

Robert Miller (GR1982) has been elected our PCC President for the 2015 Membership Year with David Greaux (GR42) as our Secretary.

Who is ineligible 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 ineligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $25.00 which will entitle the new member to a Past Commanders Club cap (*YES, the caps are here*), Past Commanders Club pin and membership card

Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $10.00

Our next meeting will be held at the Second DEC

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE... David Greaux, PCC President “1999”**
Greetings Department of France Post Commanders, Adjutants, Post American Legion Riders Chapters, and Interested Bikers,

I was appointed as the Department of France American Legion Riders Director for 2014-2015, and wish to take the opportunity to introduce our plans for the current Department fiscal year.

The Department of France American Legion Program is set up so that each ALR Chapter is hosted by a Hosting Post and the ALR Chapter Constitution and By-Laws are approved by that Post. The Chapter then takes the Post Number as its identifier for the chapter, such as ALR Post GR05 for example. The Post is responsible for activities of the ALR chapter, and minutes, financial reports and list of officers are presented to the hosting Post for recognition. This should be noted in the Post minutes of the meeting and a copy given to the chapter for their records. A chapter can only belong to one Post, and if that Post or chapter is retired, members may join another chapter affiliated with another hosting Post. This is not a new ruling and has been in existence since the Department of France program was initiated.

Active members of the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons may join any active ALR Chapter, either in the Department of France or elsewhere, without becoming a member of the hosting Post, as long as they meet the Rider requirements of motorcycle ownership or spouse of an owner. Some chapters accept trikes, but rollers generally do not meet the motorcycle requirement. The American Legion patch is, and remains, property of the Department to which the hosting Post and chapter belong. For the Department of France for instance, it is the Emblem Sales 8" Riders patch with one line on the patch, directly below the Riders Emblem, showing, “DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE”. One bottom rocker showing “VETERAN” or “AUXILIARY” or “S.A.L.” may be worn, but only one in case of dual or multiple affiliation.

I kindly ask that all Department of France Post Commanders/Adjutants with American Legion Chapters or those planning to establish one, please send me an email at gypsy_moore@yahoo.de (underscore between gypsy and moore)

For background information on the history of the Riders and the National Program of the American Legion Riders, please see http://www.legion.org/riders/about. You can also register online as Rider or supporter for the 2014 Legacy Scholarship Run being held from 17-21 August 2014 and receive the ride information and patch.

An ALR chapter can help all Posts to increase membership and be visible in the community. The ALR however, is not a motorcycle “gang” or club, but rather an organization of family members who are interested in safe motorcycling. When you wear your vest (we don’t have motorcycle colors), remember you are an ambassador of The American Legion and that you should behave accordingly.

Ride safe, but ride with God.

Ron “Gypsy” Moore
Dept (FR) ALR Director
Mobile : +49 (0) 172-7417812
e-mail: : gypsy_moore@yahoo.de
American Independence Day

Paris American Community Celebrations on 4 July 2014

09h30  Ceremony hosted by the Sons of the American Revolution at the Picpus Cemetery at the site of General LaFayette grave.

***

Afternoon ceremonies organized by the 16th Arrondissement of Paris City Hall

15h00  : Ceremonies begin at Place des Etats-Unis, Paris XVIème Arrondissement and then follows, marching, to the following sites:

2) 11 Septembre 2001 memorial.
3) memorial for the American Volunteers 1914-1918.
4) monument of Admiral de Grasse.
5) monument de Rochambeau.
6) monument of General Washington.
7) monument of Admiral de Grasse, at the Trocadéro gardens.

16h00  : a cocktail is offered by the City Hall of the 16th Arrondissement

***

Evening ceremonies organized by The American Legion, Paris Post #1

18h00  : Assemble at the base of the Arc de Triomphe.

18h30  : Ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe.
INDEPENDENCE DAY BARBEQUE

SPONSORED BY “MY PLACE”
(Gr30 Post Home)
AND THE VFW POST 10436

Saturday 5 July 2014
14:00 hours till 16:00 hours

Otto Hahn Str. 21
97318 Kitzingen

ALL YOU CAN EAT for €8.00 (Adults) and €5.00 (Children)

On the menu... RIBS-HAMBURGERS-HOT DOGS-BRATWURST-POTATO SALAD-
NOODLE SALAD-BAKED BEANS-ASSORTED BREAD-ASSORTED CAKE...and more!

From the Editor...

Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my e-mail address by the end of the month. Please use Word document format. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

I would like to thank the Department Officers and Posts for their input that makes up the newsletter. Especially FODPAL for all their articles.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with YOUR Department you can also visit the following sites,

David N. Greaux
davigreaux@t-online.de
GREETINGS TO ALL - YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR 2014 – INDEPENDENCE DAY (JULY 4TH) CELEBRATION

Where: Max Gartenfreunde Klingenberg; Im Bruch; 74081 Heilbronn-Klingenberg
When: Time 1300
Date: July 5, 2014

RIBS - HOT DOGS - HAMBURGERS
SOFT DRINKS – WHISKEY - WINE - BEER - WATER

TICKETS COST ONLY 15 EUROS EACH

VETERANS SERVING VETERANS, FAMILIES, AND OUR COMMUNITY
Feb – August 2014- Department of France is coordinating donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund through the Department of France AL PE Messenger Service as follows:

We recruited several Post and messengers over the past years, but we are woefully short of the 100% department participation anticipated. The following is a reminder for Posts and perspective messengers:

1) Department of France Pony Express Messenger service is open for all Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. organizations, as well as their current members. Posts, Units and Squadrons serve as Way Stations on a best effort basis and collect donations from their members or their communities in their area of operation. This is on a best effort basis with no donation limits or set expectations.

2) The first two messengers from each Way Station (each Post Commander automatically becomes a Messenger for his Way Station) receive a Pony Express Badge at no cost from the Dept of France AL PE Coordinator. Department of France AL PE Way Stations and Messengers must register with the Department of France AL PE Coordinator.

Goal is to have all donations moved to any physical Department of France Post by July 31, 2014. The Post will either call me or send an email by evening of July 31st requesting pickup.

I will coordinate to have donations (Checks drawn on U.S. banks, USD money orders or pledges <keep a copy of your pledges please>) picked up to be moved to the Final Collection Point in Frankfurt Germany by August 4th. I will pick up the donations/pledges on August 5th for personal transport to the U.S.

I will ensure that the National Commander receives all envelopes that I receive from Department of France Posts and messengers.

Procedure for envelopes containing donations and pledges:

1) No cash will be moved. Only checks made out to The A.L Legacy Fund and drawn on U.S. banks, USD money orders or pledges are to be sent in an open envelope with name of Post and total amount of donations/pledges written on the front of envelope. An envelope that is sent by mail because of time constraints may be sealed. The messenger will open it to check contents before transporting.

2) Again, no cash, packages, sealed letters or other items are to be transported by messengers. All envelopes containing donations/pledges are to be left open or opened by the messenger.

3) Messengers are to ensure that they do not move instruments totaling more than $10,000 when crossing international borders.

4) Department of France Messengers are instructed to deliver any envelopes from Posts with donations/pledges to me personally, either before August 4th or at the National Convention at the beginning of the Convention First Session. These donations should be kept separate from the general Department of France donation. The department still receives credit for all amounts received from Department of France Posts. This however gives Posts the chance to receive recognition for their individual efforts. Donations of $100 or more receive personal recognition from the National Commander.

I will be in Washington, DC from August 6th to 13th. I then plan to ride straight to Indianapolis and will be at the Legacy Run hotel specified until the Run and I plan to ride the full Run, God willing. This will be my 5th full Run.

Please remember, we do God's Work in caring for our fallen heroes and their children, so let's ride safe and all get where we have to be with no accidents. Ride safe and ride with God.

Also please remember your Messenger’s oath that you took when you received your badge.

Ron “Gypsy” Moore
Department of France AL PE Coordinator

P.S. In case of late donations received after July 31, 2014, it is still possible to mail donations to me so that I receive the donations by August 12th in the U.S. for delivery to the Convention. My address there will be

Ronald Moore, ALPE Coordinator
4030 19th St. N.E.
Washington, DC 20018

Effective August 7th, my US cell phone number is 202-375-8769 and will be on 24 hours a day.

If you have any questions, please contact me under gypsy_moore@yahoo.de (underscore between gypsy and moore) or mobile telephone +49-172-741-7812.
CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA
Site of the 96th American Legion National Convention
August 22nd to August 28th 2014

If you are planning on attending the National Convention in Charlotte (and I hope to see some new faces in Charlotte) 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.

Cutoff for the reservation is 14 July 2014.
Hope to see you in Charlotte, a good time will be had by all.

COMING ONE COME ALL TO THE F. O. D. P. A. L.
ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
BREAKFAST / INSTALLATION

PLACE: THE WESTIN CHARLOTTE
Grand Ballroom, Section B, Level Two

DATE: August 25, 2014

TIME: 7:00 AM SHARP
COST: $30.00 per Person

Tickets will be issued at the Convention Site starting on Saturday August 23th. However Pre-Reservation will be of great help to me, so I can get a good idea of the number of people that will be attending.

This is the biggest event of the year for FODPAL it has become “The Showcase” of the National Convention. So pass the word to all of your Members that are going to attend the National Convention. Adjutants don’t forget to bring some items from your Department for the RAFFLE that is held after the breakfast.

RESERVATION REQUEST

Enclosed is a check in the amount of $__________for_________reservation tickets

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FODPAL
AND MAIL TO:

Doug Haggan
5712 Riva Ridge Dr
Indianapolis, IN 46237
The route plan for the 2014 USAA-sponsored American Legion Legacy Run has been finalized. The Run will traverse 1,336 miles through eight states, eventually ending up in Charlotte, N.C., on Aug. 21, 2014.

The ride leaves Indianapolis on Aug. 17 and will make stops in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia before ending up in King’s Mountain, N.C. The Legacy Run even will make a stop at The American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C., on Aug. 19 for the series championship game.

The route is as follows:

Aug. 17 – Indianapolis to Pikeville, Ky. (stops in Florence, Lexington and Stanton, Ky.)
Aug. 18 – Pikeville, Ky., to Danville, Va. (stops in Grundy and Bedford, Va., and Princeton/Bluefield, W.Va.)
Aug. 19 – Danville, Va., to Shelby, N.C. (stops in Winston-Salem, Statesville, Shelby and King’s Mountain, N.C.)
Aug. 20 – King’s Mountain, N.C., to Buford, Ga. (stops in Waynesville, N.C., and Rabun Gap, Ga.)
Aug. 21 – Buford, Ga., to King’s Mountain, N.C. (stops in White Plans and Rock Hill, S.C.)

Eight previous Legacy Runs have raised more than $4 million for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which was established so the children of servicemembers killed on or after Sept. 11, 2001, have the opportunity to pursue a college education.

A variety of hotels are available for at each night’s stop during the 2014 USAA-sponsored American Legion Legacy Run. View the list by clicking here. Participants must reserve and book their own rooms; be certain to look for discounts from AARP, The American Legion or others to reduce costs.

These are lodging suggestions only. Ride participants may find other lodging or camping options, often at a less expensive price, by searching online.

Registration is available online here. A printable registration form is available here. Registration fees are $50 for riders, and $25 for passengers and supporters. The latter category is a new addition this year. Non-riding supporters provide much of the resources needed to conduct the Run each year – and all supporting registrations of $25 or greater will be mailed the full map book set and 2014 American Legion Legacy Run patches. Eight Legacy Runs have raised more than $4 million for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which was established so the children of servicemembers killed on or after Sept. 11, 2001, have the opportunity to pursue a college education.

Online registration ends Aug. 9.
House Panel Pushes 1.8 Percent Troop Pay Raise

A U.S. House of Representatives panel voted for a 1.8 percent troop pay raise in fiscal 2015, though the boost is far from guaranteed.

The House Appropriations Committee, headed by Harold Rogers, R-Kentucky, on Tuesday passed its version of the defense spending bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, including the statutory military pay raise designed to keep pace with private-sector wage growth.

The measure, which goes to the full House for debate, budgets "$534 million to fully fund the authorized 1.8 percent pay increase for the troops," Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-New Jersey, who chairs the panel's defense subcommittee, said during a hearing to debate the legislation.

The bill would also cover the entire cost of basic allowances for housing for troops next year and restore $100 million in funding for the Defense Commissary Agency to provide subsidized groceries and household goods for service members and their families, veterans and retirees.

Overall, it would provide $128 billion for military personnel and pay, some $830 million less than what the Defense Department requested, and $31.6 billion for defense health and military family programs, about $360 million less than the Pentagon request.

In approving the language for the higher troop raise, the panel's members broke ranks with their colleagues on other congressional defense committees.

The House Armed Services Committee, led by Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-California, last month voiced support for a 1.8 percent troop pay raise but approved legislation that would allow President Barack Obama to limit the increase to 1 percent. The language was later adopted by the full House. The Senate Armed Services Committee, headed by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, was more explicit and voted to cap the raise at the lower level.

Both the House appropriations and armed services committees rejected most of the Pentagon's proposals to curb personnel costs by reducing housing, commissary and health care benefits.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, though, agreed with the department's plans to curb raises for most troops, slow the growth of basic allowances for housing until recipients pay about 5 percent of the cost, and increase pharmacy co-pays for prescriptions filled outside military treatment facilities.

Many lawmakers want to wait until the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, an independent panel mandated by Congress, issues its findings next February before making significant changes to military benefits.

Within the defense health and military family programs, the House appropriators also earmarked an additional $246 million for cancer research, $150 million for medical facility upgrades, $125 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health research, and $39 million for suicide prevention outreach programs.

Congressional leaders have said they want to finish the defense bills by the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year, a goal that's frequently missed due in part to the fact that Congress breaks for an extended summer recess in which neither chamber is in session for the entire month of August.
Army Sgt. Delbert D. Kovalcheck, 20, of E. Millsboro, Pa., will be buried June 11, in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. In late 1950, Kovalcheck was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea. On Nov. 29, 1950, the 31st RCT, known historically as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position. Following the battle, Kovalcheck was reported missing in action.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea turned over the U.S. 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain 350 - 400 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from Sinhung-ri, near the area where Kovalcheck was believed to have died.

To identify Kovalcheck’s remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including DNA comparisons. Two types of DNA were used; mitochondrial DNA, which matched his maternal-line niece, and Y-STR DNA, which matched his paternal-line cousin.

Army Cpl. Richard Isbell, 20, of Fishtrap, Ky., was buried on June 7, in Staffordsville, Ky. In April 1951, Isbell was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Division (ID).

While deployed near Popsudong, South Korea, the 7th ID was attacked by overwhelming Chinese forces, which caused Isbell’s unit to begin a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position.

During this battle on April 25, 1951, Isbell was reported missing in action. However, after the war, Isbell was reported by returning POWs as having been captured by Chinese forces and died in captivity from dysentery on June 30, 1951, in a prisoner of war camp known as Camp 5, near Pyoktong, North Korea.

In 1954, Chinese and North Korean Communist forces exchanged the remains of war dead with the United Nations forces during Operation Glory. In 1956, a military review board declared Isbell’s remains as unidentifiable. He was transferred to be buried as unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, known as the “Punchbowl.”

In 2013, due to advances in forensic technology, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) determined that the possibility of identifying the remains was likely at that time. The unknown remains were disinterred for analysis and possible identification.

In the identification of Isbell’s remains, scientists from JPAC used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental comparisons and radiograph comparisons.

Army Pfc. James R. Holmes, 18, of Warren, Ohio, was buried on May 29, in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. In November 1950, Holmes was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, which was pushing north through North Korea to the Yalu River. In late November the unit was attacked by enemy forces and withdrew south to the town of Anju. On December 1, Holmes was declared missing in action.

As part of a 1953 prisoner exchange known as Operation Big Switch, returning U.S. service members reported that Holmes had been captured by the Chinese during that battle and died in 1951, in prisoner of war camp known as Camp 5, near Pyoktong, North Korea.

Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the U.S. 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain 350 - 400 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents turned over with some of the boxes indicated that some of the remains were recovered from Pyoktong County, near the area where Holmes was believed to have died.

To identify Holmes’ remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister and brother.
House Votes to Ensure Speedier Care for US Vets

United and eager to respond to a national uproar, the House overwhelmingly approved legislation Tuesday to make it easier for patients enduring long waits for care at Veterans Affairs facilities to get VA-paid treatment from local doctors. Lawmakers were so keen to vote for the bill, they did it twice.

The 426-0 final vote was Congress' strongest response yet to the outcry over backlogs and falsified data at the beleaguered agency. Senate leaders plan debate soon on a similar, broader package that has also drawn bipartisan support, underscoring how politically toxic it could be to be seen as ignoring the problem.

House members didn't want to be left out of their roll call. An unusual second vote, superseding the chamber's 421-0 passage of the bill barely an hour earlier, was taken after a handful of lawmakers missed the first one. They included Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller, R-Fla., the bill's author, who said he had been in his office.

The VA, which serves almost 9 million veterans, has been reeling from mounting evidence that workers fabricated statistics on patients' waits for medical appointments in an effort to mask frequent, long delays. A VA audit this week showed that more than 57,000 new applicants for care have had to wait at least three months for initial appointments.

"I cannot state it strongly enough — this is a national disgrace," Miller said during the debate.

"We often hear that the care that veterans receive at the VA facilities is second to none — that is, if you can get in," said Rep. Mike Michaud of Maine, top Democrat on the committee. "As we have recently learned, tens of thousands of veterans are not getting in."

The controversy led Eric Shinseki to resign as head of the VA on May 30, but the situation remains a continuing embarrassment for President Barack Obama and a potential political liability for congressional Democrats seeking re-election in November.

Monday night, a top VA official told the veterans committee that there is "an integrity issue here among some of our leaders."

Philip Matkovsky, who helps oversee the VA's administrative operations, said of patients' long waits and efforts to hide them, "It is irresponsible, it is indefensible, and it is unacceptable. I apologize to our veterans, their families and their loved ones."

Matkovsky did not specify which VA officials had questionable integrity. The agency has started removing top officials at its medical facility in Phoenix, a focal point of the department's problems, and investigators have found indications of long waits and falsified records of patients' appointments at many other facilities.

Richard Griffin, acting VA inspector general, told lawmakers his investigators were probing for wrongdoing at 69 agency medical facilities, up from 42 two weeks ago. He said he has discussed evidence of manipulated data with the Justice Department, which he said was still considering whether crimes occurred.

"Once somebody loses his job or gets criminally charged, it will no longer be a game and that will be the shot heard around the system," Griffin said.

The VA drew intensified public attention two months ago with reports of patients dying while awaiting agency care and of cover-ups at the Phoenix center. The VA, the country's largest health care provider, serves almost 9 million veterans.

The House bill would let veterans facing long delays for appointments or living more than 40 miles from a VA facility choose to get care from non-agency providers for the next two years. Some veterans already receive outside care, but the bill would
require the VA to provide it for veterans enduring delays or who live far away.

In Chicago, the American Medical Association added its voice, urging President Barack Obama to take immediate action to enable veterans to get timely access to care from outside the VA system. The nation's largest doctors group also recommended that state medical societies create and make available registries of outside physicians willing to treat vets.

VA performance bonuses have also been an issue in recent disclosures. And the House bill would ban bonuses for all VA employees through 2016 and require an independent audit of agency health care. An earlier House-passed bill would make it easier to fire top VA officials.

Miller said VA would save $400 million annually by eliminating bonuses, money the agency could use for expanded care.

Senators have written a similar bill, which Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said his chamber would consider "as soon as it is ready."

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the chamber should debate the bill immediately, instead of first considering a Democratic measure letting borrowers refinance student loans at lower rates.

"Veterans have been made to wait long enough at these hospitals," McConnell said.

On Monday, the VA released an internal audit showing more than 57,000 new patients had to wait at least three months for initial appointments. It also found that over the past decade, nearly 64,000 newly enrolled veterans requesting appointments never got them, though it was unclear how many still wanted VA care.

The audit covered 731 VA medical facilities. It said 13 percent of scheduling employees said they’d been instructed to enter falsified appointment dates, and 8 percent used unofficial appointment lists, both practices aimed at improving agency statistics on patient wait times.

As a result, the agency said it was ordering further investigations at 112 locations where interviews revealed indications of fabricated scheduling data or of supervisors ordering falsified lists.

Sloan Gibson, the acting VA secretary, directed several steps to address Monday’s audit, including a short-term boost in medical services at overburdened facilities, including using mobile units.

The agency has contacted 50,000 veterans awaiting appointments and plans to reach 40,000 others to accelerate care, letting them choose VA treatment or local non-VA health care providers.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Iraq

As Sunni militants advance on the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, the Pentagon is watching events in the country closely and will continue to help Iraqi security forces build their defensive capacity.

Reports from Iraq say jihadists aligned with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria -- ISIS -- have captured Mosul, the country’s second-largest city as well as Tikrit, and are moving south towards Baghdad. Reports from Mosul say thousands of Iraqi soldiers threw down their arms and fled.

The United States is providing Iraq with about $15 billion in military equipment under the foreign military sales program.

Under the current strategic framework agreement that Iraq signed with the United States, the American military has expanded its training programs, including a second round of counterterrorism training for Iraqi special operators. The final U.S. combat troops left Iraq in 2011.

Read more on the developments at:  
The senate bill would allow VA enrollees to use private health care under certain conditions

WASHINGTON -- Legislation introduced in the Senate on June 3 would give veterans more choice and flexibility in their health-care treatment under certain conditions, such as the inability of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers to schedule appointments in a timely manner.

Veterans would be free to seek health care in the private sector if VA cannot schedule a timely appointment for them, or if they live more than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical center or community-based outpatient clinic.

Under provisions of the American Legion-backed bill (authorized for only two years) VA enrollees would receive a “Choice Card” to use for medical care from a non-VA provider.

In his letter of support, American Legion National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger wrote that the bill “provides resources now to assist veterans being denied health care by lengthy wait-times.”

Noting that any legislation addressing access to VA health care should protect the department as the primary means of care for veterans, Dellinger stated, “The health care veterans will receive through non-VA facilities will still be managed through VA’s office of non-VA care....

“While this legislation expands on VA’s existing authority to allow veterans to receive care outside the system when VA cannot meet the demand for care, it strengthens the system by providing clear direction on how that outside care will be managed with the end goal of bringing those veterans back into the system.”

The measure would also improve transparency by directing VA to post on its medical center websites the current wait-times for appointments, and establish disciplinary procedures for any employee who knowingly falsifies data pertaining to wait-times and quality measures.

Provisions of the VA Management Accountability Act (H.R. 4031), which passed the House, are also included in the bill, which would give the VA Secretary the authority to demote or fire senior executives based on performance.

An October 2012 resolution (http://archive.legion.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/2306/2012F046.pdf?sequence=1) passed by The American Legion called on VA to “develop a well-defined and consistent non-VA care coordination program, policy and procedure that includes a patient-centered care strategy” that takes veterans’ “travel and distance (from VA facilities) into account.”