Dear my fellow Legionaries

Thanks to all who attended our wedding in Heilbronn, Germany I and the First lady would like to thank everyone who attended this event, and made it a very interesting evening for all there. I was able to visit Ireland from 12 May to 18 May 2008. During my visit I had the opportunity to visit the American Embassy, and met with officers of the Embassy. In addition IR63 hosted a BBQ at VCAL Home residence, members from each post in Ireland (IR02, IR 03, and IR63); I thank them for the wonderful time, and the wedding gift that they presented to me and Manuela. On the 24th of May I attend GR42’s membership Dinner, along with the VCAL, it was a good turn-out, and all enjoyed themselves, I was able to talk with NECman Marshall to finalize the National Commanders visit on the 31st of May. 25th of May I was in Saint Avold for Memorial Day Ceremony, It was the best turn out that I have seen in a long time, thanks to the following post that supported this event (GR01, GR06, GR07, GR09, GR30, GR42, and GR79). I would like to give a big thanks to CWO Goldman and the Stuttgart JROTC for their support of this event. I would like to take this time to apologize for the Department Colors not being displayed at this event; I will pay my fine at the 4th DEC. Despite the Colors not being there, the Department was well recognized; the Legion family laid eight wreath’s at this Ceremony. On the way back, as usual we stopped at GR01 for their annual BBQ, as always it was well planned and organized, thanks to Commander Mendez, and 1st Vice Commander Young for putting on a great event. On the 31st of May myself, the NECman Marshall, and the Service Officer Gray met the National Commander and his party at the Frankfurt Airport. The National Commander spent time with members and Commander’s from GR01, GR03, GR06, GR30, GR42, FR01, and IR63. I, along with NECman Marshall, National Commander, and National Auxiliary President, and Party, attended briefings in Stuttgart, Heidelberg, and Ramstein. We also had the opportunity to visit Landstuhl General Hospital, to include the Intensive Care Unit, further we were allowed to visit the Fisher House, were the National Commander and Commander Mendez from GR01 presented them an American Legion Clock; overall it was a very impressive tour. On the fourth of June, The National Commander and his party, I and the NECman Marshall arrived in Paris, where we were greeted, by the Commander of
FR01 Commander Geoghegan, VCAL Kane, and Auxiliary Members met us at the Train Station. In Paris we did a tour of the Eiffel Tower, that evening we had dinner with the Commander of FR01, the next morning we met with Comrade Jeff Stoffer, who took over the responsibility of escorting the National Commander and his party through France. Overall the National Commander and his party appeared to be very satisfied with their stay in Germany. The following is the information on the National Commander and his party.

National Commander/and First Lady Marty and Sharon Conatser
Aid to the National Commander/Wife William and Ann Flanagan
National Auxiliary President/Husband Jan and Cornelius Ryan

As you know this is the last Newsletter for this year, I would like to thank each and all of you for your outstanding support to this Department and me; I hope to see all of you at the upcoming Convention. As always, I stress to all of you to take a few moments out of your busy day and say a small prayer for all of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, that are still in harm’s way that they may return home safely to their loved ones. May God bless you all. If you are having any problems please do not hesitate to contact your Post Officers, Department VC, or myself.

For GOD and Country
Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

From the Department Adjutant:
My Fellow Legionnaires,

As you know this is the last issue of the Department Newsletter for this year. I do hope, whoever takes over the position of the Newsletter Editor next year will have the same fun, and enjoy the same experiences, that I have enjoyed doing it. The Department Convention is only days away, I do hope to see all there. Remember if you are planning to run for an office or accept an appointment, please have your DD Form 214 with you for verification of eligibility. A word to the post Adjutants, Do not forget your Delegates Report, without your delegates will not be allowed to vote. If you are planning to attend the National Convention, be advised cutoff date for room reservations is July 10th 2008. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input to americanlegion@hotmail.com . 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

Department NECman’s Comments
NO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH
William Marshall
Department NECman

Vice Commander’s Corner
Vice Commander at Large
Liam Kane
BE02, DK01, FR01, FR05, IR02, IR03, IT01, GC01, NL01, PO01, SP292

Two songs come mind at this time of year, what’s another Year, and We’re almost there, yes its June and our Department Convention is almost upon us. Convention is a time for reflection, examination and planning for us all. During the past 12 Months I have travelled quiet a lot to Posts assigned to me and visited Spain, France, Ireland, Germany, Portugal, Holland, and USA [met the Rome Post Adj. there ]. As your VCAL I attended all DEC meetings and we also had a meeting of the Awards and the Internal Affairs Committees. My sincere thanks to the many Posts and People who Gave me a bed and transported me around. During the year I, together with IR 02 , IR03, IR63 had the honor to entertain Officers of the Department. Service Officer Robert Gray held meetings with the 3 Service Officers in Ireland and joined us in the Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Killarney. Next up was our Department Commander Charlie Brown and his New Bride Manuela who honeymooned in Ireland and we visited many places including a meeting in the US Embassy in Dublin, we had an Irish Party for the Commander, and a member of the Organization of National Ex-Service men and the Irish United Veterans Association attended too, to honor our Commander. The continual struggle to maintain our Department Membership is again highlighted, and once again, I ask everyone to make a huge effort to reach our goal as shown by Mike Umland we need 300 plus members to renew to achieve 100%. To all Department Officers who carried out their responsibilities during the past 12 months I say thank you. I include the many efficient Chairmen of Committees too.

One Special Event comes to mind our Oratorical Competition needs a revamp the many advantages for our young students are too many to mention and of course The American Legion can take advantage of the many opportunities of publicity too; There will be many people who will be seeking Office at the forthcoming Department Convention I appeal to all to give thought to what lies ahead, please remember the amount of your time, energy, and money that you will need to spend but above all don’t forget that you must think of your family who must come first. Good luck to all for a great year 2008/2009 It would be remiss of me not to thank the Auxiliary and SAL for their contribution in 2007/2208 they continue to amaze me with their work, well done. Finally I have to thank you all for allowing me to serve as an Officer of this great Organization of ours THE AMERICAN LEGION .DEPARTMENT of FRANCE it was a great Honor and Privilege to serve, and I will always be available to serve in whatever capacity that I am asked to for the GOOD of THE LEGION

Liam Kane
Vice Commander at Large

Vice Commander Darrel Shannon
GR05, GR09, GR042

Greetings my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Darrel Shannon
Department Vice Commander
Vice Commander Keith Abernathy
GR01, GR06, GR07 and GR13

I was on the road again this month and every kilometer of it. On the 6th of May I was in Mannheim at Reily Leroy Pitts to Install the new Officers for the Post and the on the 25th I was in St. Avold for the Memorial Day Service and it was outstanding. This was my first time being there and I can say to you all it will not be my last. Every Legionnaire should see St. Avold at least once. After he service we went to Kaiserslautern GR01 for lunch and I pigged out. This morning I was one Kilo heavier. Commander Mendez and Vice Commander Young I'm now overweight and it's your fault. The food was delicious. I hope to see the Officers at the 4th DEC and the rest of you at the convention. Until then for God and Country.

Keith Abernathy
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR14, GR20, GR45, IR63

“Please stay seated with your seatbelts fastened until this Legion Year comes to a complete stop” OK, you won’t hear that on your next plane ride; but we are approaching the terminal gate of another Legion Year. There are so many things that we have accomplished in such a short amount of time, I won’t waste valuable time enumerating them. I visited with Neu Ulm Post GR-09 for their annual Awards and end of the year banquet. As usual, they put out the red carpet and welcomed Diane and I with open arms. I have to say that the Neu Ulm Post has got to be one of the most family friendly posts in this Department. Commander Jerry Amman has got all under control and with him at the helm; they will surely have another record breaking year. I also visited with Ansbach Post GR-1982 and installed the Post Officers. Congratulations to Post Commander Mike Besant. I know he will guide the Post to another successful year. National Commander Martin Conatser was at Schweinfurt Post GR-42. It was great to see him and his entourage there. Special thanks to Post Home Manager Chuck Vaughan for his support. I am looking forward to the Department Convention. As usual, I plan to run for a Department Office again this year. I hope the competition is heavy. We need more leaders and workers under those white caps. Please consider taking on this important and responsible job. There is too much talent out there to accept Status Quo… See you at Sankt Englmar.

NOTE: New mobile phone, and new Email address!
0171 473 9782  frank.hanchak@gmail.com

Frank J. Hanchak
Vice Commander

Vice Commander Jerry Aman
GR03, GR79, GR1982

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Contact me at E-mail Address Jerrya503@aol.com or phone number 07307-4492 or 073075752
For God and Country
Jerry Aman
Department Vice Commander

Department Chaplain Ronald Moore

Chaplain’s Page  June 2008

Special Days/Legion Events: 6th - D Day; 14th - Flag Day; 15th - Father’s Day; 18th - 4th DEC Convention,

Christian Religious Days: 4th - Pentecost; 5th Ascension of Jesus (Ortho); 9th - St Columbia of Iona (Celtic Christian); 11th - Trinity; 15th - Corpus Christi (Cath)/Pentecost (Ortho); 19th - New Church Day (Swedenborgian); 22nd - All Saints Day (Orthodox), Trinity Sunday; 23rd - Sacred Heart of Jesus (Cath); 29th - Feast day of the Saints Peter and Paul

Jewish Holidays: (Year 5768): 9th - Shavuot*

Islamic Holidays: None that I know of.

Special Holidays: 21st - First Nations Day (Canadian Native People)

Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

Post Everlasting reported to June 7th:
Edward Carr GR79 June 7th

Prayers have been offered for their families and friends. Please remember them and those who have passed away in your prayers also.

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:
George Hall, GR-03
Shawn Ashe, GR-42
Doug Clemence, GR-06
Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander
John H. Miller, GR-1982 and Past Department Commander
Phil Gatchell, GR-03
Edward Hayes, GR-03
Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce
Kenneth Grasser, GR-09
Brenda Dearborn, present Historian and past chaplain of Dept of Maine
Harold M. Wild, GR-13
Ronald (Ron) Hansen, GR-06
Marlene Watson, Widow of GR-13 charter member William Watson
Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming Chaplain
Cindy Hogan, wife of a soldier stationed in Iraq
Donnie Swarengin, GR-09
Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR-07
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13
Robert Downs, GR-79
Brian Charters, IR-63
Michelle Gerdesman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdesman, Sr. GR-07
Harry Hall, GR-42

are undergoing, were undergoing or were scheduled for, medical treatment.

No other deaths or other 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.
Greetings Comrades,

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

It was a pleasure to have seen so many of our Department officers, Department Auxiliary President, and Posts represented at the Lorraine American Cemetery in St Avold. Again there was a good turn out with many officials and civilians attending the service. Thank you for the honor of reading the American Legion Prayer for the third consecutive year. I am always humbled by the experience.

Memorial Day is one day out of the year. Those special days when we remember the brave souls who have served our country in peace and in war are stirring. But they should not be allowed to be forgotten on those days that do not especially recognize them. Our work continues 365 days a year and I have yet to meet a serviceman or woman who doesn’t thank me in return for a, “Thank You for your service.” If The American Legion and other Veterans Service Organizations didn’t continue to fight for Veterans rights, a lot of issues would have been forgotten or disregarded.

We stand before our Department DECs and Convention in June. Let us pray to God for guidance and only let those who have truly searched their souls come to the fore. May God bless you and keep you safe in your duties for our great organization.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve. Please bless and keep safe those who leave Europe to go down range.

Service to God and Country!
Pastor Ronald Moore,
Dept of France Chaplain
Home: 0049-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Service Officer Robert Gray
Hello my fellow comrades,
Hello my fellow comrades, as always I hope, this Newsletter finds family, and friends to include yourself, in the best of health and spirit. May has been a very busy Month. Starting off on May the third, first Vice Commander Young and myself attended a ROTC banquet. It was very exciting to see the young men and women who will be filling out ranks in the near future. Their discipline and Outlook were very impressive. I was very calm by the way they performed the respect and attitude given to the seniors. I feel there is no better way to respect the fallen, then by showing the way to our young and upcoming leaders. On the sixth of May we had our Special Olympics. It was amazing to see the attitude of the disabled having the ability with a can-do attitude to accomplish different task, sporting events and still be able to entertain us. It is events like this that makes me feel proud of who I’m doing. The 11th of May was Mother’s Day, I hope no one forgot their mother or loved ones, who may have played an active role in mothering. On that day I had a chance to meet with some of the mothers of the soldiers who are downrange they told me that they were very proud of their children, and look forward to having them home again, it was very touching to hear. On the 18th of May, the post commander of GR01, along with myself and other legionnaires were able to attend a beautiful ceremony. I had the honor of representing the department of France in a speech relayed to the public. Commander David Mendez, and myself, with fellow legionnaires, laid a wreath for the fallen of the. On the 25th of May we went to France, to honor our fallen heroes it was my first time there and I was very impressed, it was like taking a page out of history and being there you could feel the fallen comrades who have moved on. It was a very sentimental time for me, to honor those who gave the supreme sacrifice. I also had the honor of meeting four widows, whose husbands were buried there. On the 28th of May, I was invited by Colonel Corr and staff to hold a meeting about hospice care. The meeting was very successful. I feel as though there will be changes with retirees and hospice care. I will talk about the results of this next time. Again, I would like Post Commanders/Adjutants to send me a list of their post Service Officers. Again take care.

Robert Gray
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion David Greaux
LAST CALL TO SAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION 2008
For those who did not receive the information already...

Date: 7-8 June 2008
Time: 4th DEC / Convention will start at 1100 hrs.
Registration: 1000 – 1045 hrs.
Place: Boy Scout Camp Ground, Euerbach, Germany ( by Schweinfurt )
Cost: $10.00 for 1 day ( includes dinner ) $15.00 for over night ( includes dinner and breakfast) Drinks will be pay as you go.

To Bring: Please bring either a sleeping bag or bed sheets with you if spending the night. There are blankets there but I would want something between my body and the blanket.

Please reserve in advance so that we can plan on what to buy for dinner and breakfast. Send your reservations to Frank Hanchak Email: frank.hanchak@gmail.com , tel.: 01714739782. The early start time is so that we can conduct the 4th DEC, Convention, and the 1st DEC all on the same day. If you need more information please contact Frank Hanchak.

A REMINDER for those still with SAL raffle tickets…THEY NEED TO BE TURNED IN NO LATER THEN AT CONVENTION! POC for the raffle is Detachment Adjutant James Dennis.

In closing I would like to thank all those who supported me personally and the Detachment of France this past membership year. Looking forward to seeing you at SAL Convention 2008!
Americanism David Greaux
NO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH
David Greaux
Americanism Chairman

Department Convention Chairman David Greaux
DEPARTMENT 84th ANNUAL CONVENTION 2008
HOSTED BY OMAR BRADLEY POST GR42
18-22 June 2008 / Sankt Englmar, APART HOTEL Predigtstuhl

LAST CALL TO CONVENTION 2008 !!!

For those who plan to travel by train, once you get to Staubling (closest bigger town) you may call the hotel 09965-981 and request for them to send a taxi. The cost is approximately €25.00 one way. It is cheaper then jumping in any cab at the train station.

NOTE: If you are sending anything to me via snail mail or e-mail concerning the convention I must receive it by June 13th.

Complete Convention Package Consist Of:
5 days - 4 nights
Breakfast / Dinner Buffet…to include Banquet on Saturday Evening
One convention coin per registered guest
Children 0-14 receive per day one FREE entrance ticket to Family World (hotel family center)

Complete Package - single room € 280.00 per person
Complete Package - double room € 210.00 per person
Children 12 years and older € 190.00 per child
Children 3 to 11 years old € 50.00 per child

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO CONVENTION PACKET:
Please do not send any correspondence or payment for convention 2008 to Lee Preston as indicated in the convention package sent out. Since then Lee Preston has been called back into the military and is presently serving a tour in Iraq.

Convention Chairman 2008
David Greaux
Brunnhöhe 21
97505 Geldersheim
Tel.: 09721-86102
Handy: 0171-5109356
E-Mail: davidgreaux@aol.com

Boy Scouts by David Sears

The American Legion Department of France and Boy Scouts of America Transatlantic Council
By Dave Sears

The Department of France has had a long term partner in the European theater with similar goals and agendas. With the recent European Command down-sizing and right sizing over the past two decades. We have lost a few relationships as smaller military bases have closed and consolidated to the larger Kasserns. However, some relationships are stronger than ever with the assistance of “homesteading” military veterans and long time Scouters residing in the European theater.

The American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America has had long ties for nearly 90 years. Similarly, the Department of France and the Transatlantic Council have share a wonderful relationship for the past 55 years.

The American Legion, at its first National Convention, voted approval and support to the Boy Scout movement. Since that time in 1919, The American Legion's support of Involvement in Scouting is part of the Legion's Americanism Program. Nationwide, 2,515 Scout units are chartered to the Legion, with a total membership of 78,087. Hundreds of other units benefit from financial and other forms of support by local posts.

Supporting Boy Scout activities is natural for Legionnaires, who bring their service-learned skills and experiences as veterans to bear to help build character and positive traits in “Young America.” Few other Post activities generate more goodwill from the community. The Scouting Program also gives Legionnaires the opportunity to touch the lives of the youth of our nation and share with them the skills necessary to build a generation of young people ready to do their duty to God and Country.

Based on the principle of duty to God and Country, the Scouting Program serves youth, ages 6 through 21, regardless of ethnic background, creed, or physical or mental ability. In cooperation with organizations like The American Legion, Scouting offers a way for you and other dedicated volunteers of your Post and the Community to bring fun, adventure, and leadership skills to young people, and to provide effective citizenship training, and personal fitness opportunities for youth.

Scouting utilizes the service-learned skills and abilities of the veteran in building character and desirable habits in “Young America.” It’s a Post activity that brings public credit and goodwill to the Post. Legion-sponsored Scout units should be a “must” in every Post.

The newest kid on the block, Venturing has been an up swinging program for the past decade. Venturing is an effective coed young-adult program designed to improve character, citizenship,
and fitness. Venturers exercise leadership, citizenship, fitness, social, outdoor, and community service endeavors. Venturing provides a variety of challenging activities to teach young people 14 - 20 the real world meaning of values, ethical decision making, and life skills. Venturing teaches leadership and problem solving skills to help youths mature into confident, successful adults. Venturing crews organize around a special vocation or interest of the youth members. The specialty clusters include outdoors, sports, art/hobbies, youth ministry, and Sea Scouting.

The Transatlantic Council (802) of the Boy Scouts of America was created in May 1950 to make the Scouting program available to United States citizens and their dependents living in west-and-central Europe, the Near East and North Africa. The boundaries of the Council constantly shift due to changing political alliances and circumstances in nations where servicemen are stationed. Transatlantic Council has served nations as diverse as Norway and Ethiopia. In landmass, it is the largest of the councils of the Boy Scouts of America.

There have been American Scouts overseas since almost the inception of the movement, often for similar reasons as the present day. Troops existed, but until the creation of the Council, they were under the direct service of the Boy Scouts of America.

As American families came to Europe in the earlier stages of occupation, the Boy Scout program came with them. But until 1950 it was a hit-and-miss proposition. In that year, General Thomas T. Handy, then EUCOM commander, backed the program with an order giving logistics support to the program. Contacts were made with the National Council, Boy Scouts of America with the objective of establishing a local council with headquarters in Germany. With this approval the Scouting program became of age in Western Europe. In November 1950, the EUCOM Scouting Advisory Council was formed to give logistical support to both Boy and Girl Scouting. This organization, now known as the European Scouting Fund Council and representatives of both the Army and Air Force with the Transatlantic Council BSA and the North Atlantic Girl Scouts in its membership is continued logistical support for American Scouting in Europe.

Transatlantic Council is administered by the International Division of the Boy Scouts of America, with agreements with SHAPE and NATO.

Membership. Transatlantic Council members are the children of international business people, diplomatic corps officials, and U.S. military personnel. Transatlantic serves Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews in 23 countries on three continents.

Chartered Organizations

The chartered organizations of Transatlantic Council units include American military bases, schools and churches, international schools, U.S. embassies, multinational corporations, parents' groups, veterans' groups, and fraternal organizations.

Trail medals are issued for the hiking and cleanup of several World War I and World War II sites throughout the Council territory.

A similar part of the uniform across Europe is the World Crest. All Scouts, American, German, French, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and on, wear the World Crest patch on their uniforms has a sign of international brotherhood.

American Legion Service

The many other ways that you or your post can support Scouting include, monetary contributions through Friends of Scouting campaigns, signing up to serve as Merit Badge Counselors for the more than 100 merit badges offered to the Boy Scouts, sponsoring a Scouting event for your local Boy Scout Council. Information about any of these activities can be found by contacting your local Boy Scout Council or your American Legion Boy Scout Chairman.

Submitted By Comrade David Sears
National/Department Events

Commander Brown and new wife Manuela

Commander Brown and Members of IR02, IR03, and IR63 in Ireland

Commander Brown and new wife Manuela

Commander Brown, VCAL Kane, US Embassy Ireland
GR42 Legion Family

GR06 with National Commander and Department Commander

GR03 Commander with Department Commander and National Commander

GR01 Members with National Commander

GR01 Dinner for Wounded Troops with national Commander

GR01 Wounded Troops National Commander, and National Auxiliary President
Briefing at Ramstine Air Base

Comrade Goldman receives award for support to GR06 and the Department of France

National Commander and Commander GR01 Present The American Legion Clock to the Fisher House

National Commander and Staff enjoy a day at a German Fest
A visit to the Eiffel Tower while in Paris France

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.  
americanlegion@hotmail.com
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor