# DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

BELGIUM-DENMARK-FRANCE-GERMANY-GREECE-THAILAND-NETHERLANDS-IRELAND-ITALY-SPAIN-PORTUGAL-CHINA-ENGLAND

Volume 15 / Issue 06  --  June 2017

**Department Commander John Shanahan**

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## Department Officers - 2017 Membership Year

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<th>COMMANDER</th>
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<th>ADJUTANT</th>
<th>Maxwell Rice GR79</th>
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<th>NECMAN</th>
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My Fellow Legionnaires, SAL Members, Auxiliary Members, Legion Riders and all other VIPs;

The month of May and first 10 days of June were certainly busy ones with NEC Spring Meetings, coin sales and the beginning of Department of France Tour for National Commander Schmidt, National Auxiliary President Davis, and National SAL Commander Brain.

**Spring Meeting.** Resolutions that were passed can be found on the Legion.org website. Of special note were #1 – Make contact information for newly acquired DMS Members available immediately as of 1 July 2017; #3 – 100th Anniversary Commemorative American Legion Coin. Request the U.S. Congress to enact legislation to mint 100th Anniversary American Legion Coins by the United States Mint, in both gold and silver, with surcharge payment earmarked to benefit four pillars of The American Legion. Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee to Study Departments and Post located outside of Continental United States was rejected – no consolidation will take place. Thailand Post TH01 will remain with Department of France.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee reported to the NEC The American Legion is now solidifying action items and milestones to fulfill the remainder of its five-year strategic plan to commemorate the organization’s centennial. Department of France is planning events and activities to commemorate the birth of the organization in Paris. They reported included in the department’s plans are ceremonies at Arc de Triomphe in Paris, coordinating with the U.S. Embassy, with a possible closure of the Champs Elysees in mid-March 2019 for a gathering that would gain national media exposures. Department Commander Shanahan will report this to the 4th DEC. The Centennial will take team work from all sources at National, Department and Posts. Dave Rehbein, Chairman of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee Chairman states “If at the end of this centennial effort, we can look back and say that it had a positive influence on brand awareness, membership, corporate relationships, fundraising or simply letting people know how The American Legion is poised to continue serving veterans and their families long into its second century, that will be how we measure success.

The Legislative Division of The American Legion during the 115th Congress has worked on and supports 27 House of Representative Bills (3 DEF, 3 EDU, 21 VET) and 6 Senate Bills (1 DEF, 5 VET). In addition 1 House Joint Bill on Flag Ammendment (CON).

I spent a few hours on the Quilts of Valor Day of Service before my sessions began. Quilts of Valor mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts. These personal size quilts are tangible reminders of our appreciation and gratitude, they are stitched with love, prayers and healing thoughts.

**National's Visit to Department of France:**
I want to thank GR01, GR07, FR01, BE02 and Unit FR01 and all those who supported the National Group while they were visiting our Department and gathering information on how to serve our veterans and their families better. They expressed their appreciation and enjoyed their time with everyone they came in contact with.

During the tour National Commander Schmidt, National Auxiliary President Davis and Commander of Sons Jeff Frain spoke with military leaders on how we, The American Legion Family, are here to assist veterans and their families. They were well received everywhere they went. The entire group was tasked with giving away one year memberships – in total I think more than 50 memberships were given away to eligible members who were not aware we are here. We should receive a listing of those along with their contact information so we can invite them into our meetings and events to let them get to know The American Legion and its Family.

While doing a live PODCAST from Wiesbaden we met a fellow Legionnaire from the U.S. who later assisted Adjutant Deaver of GR07 in securing a possible future Post Home. While at Ramstein we learned of a group who reintegrate those returning from Afghanistan who have seen the forefront of battle before returning to their families, making the transition for the individual and the families much easier – they work from donations only and could use our help in small ways – they promised to contact me with a list of needs. The returning members spend up to five days with them going through a decompression process. The program started in 2011 on a very small scale and has increased since. They only take those from the forefront as they seem to be the most affected in having difficulty reconnecting with loved ones. They receive no assistance from the military except facilities and utilities. All other support materials are donated. The program is ran by a Major and two Enlisted personnel who have some Psych background.

The National Group saw that Wiesbaden, Ramstein and Landstuhl had huge potentials for membership in The American Legion Family. The U.S. Military Delegation to NATO at SHAPE was very receptive and interested in learning more about The American Legion programs and our VR & A assistance to those leaving or retiring from the military. Tom Buckner from BE02 sat in on the briefing given us by that office.

The Normandy portion of the tour was emotionally moving and the dedication of a monument at La Fiere Bridge was truly a highlight. The American Battle Monuments Commission does a superb job of taking care of the resting places of our fallen Hereos!! You can see photos taken along the tour by going to: http://imageevent.com/legacyforward

National Commander Schmidt mentioned several times during the tour the importance of Posts turning in Consolidated Post Reports. Even if you only did one thing connected to one of The American Legion programs!! The reports are consolidated at Department level then again at National level and shared with Congress. It tells Congress what we are doing to keep the four pillars we were Chartered under in our forefront. PLEASE do a Consolidated Post Report and send it in!!

Most Sincerely, Your NECLady   Nola
My deepest condolences go out to the families of our departed comrades. Our prayers go with our comrades as they enter Post Everlasting (PEL)

- Comrade Orlando Dunn & Comrade Robert “Bob” Hale, members of Post GR79
- Post GR14 Commander Comrade Anthony Giordano
- Post GR42 Commander Comrade Charles “Chuck” Vaughan

We are about 2 weeks away from our annual conventional Ludwigshafen, Germany. The registration form can be found in this newsletter, the Department’s website, the Department’s Facebook page or by contacting me at vcal.schram@gmail.com.

Remember, the deadline for registration was 15 May but I still have several rooms available.

Questions have been asked about the €25 registration fee. This fee is to pay for the conference room, the convention coin and printed material. It does not matter if you are staying one day or the full 4 days, the registration fee is the same.

At the time of this writing, there were only 4 Posts that have completed their annual Consolidated Post Report. When completed, your report is then consolidated into a Department Report which is then sent to National. And National uses the information to present to congress on what we are doing as a whole.

Please, go to your myLegion account and complete your report. If you don’t have a myLegion account, contact the Department Adjutant or myself.

We now over 97% of our goal for membership and are second in National compared to the other Departments. We still have another month to reach our goal of 100% and would like to ask the Posts to reach out to those members that have yet to renew.

I attended the first of six seminars in Wiesbaden on Tuesday, 30 May. Both Louis Celli and Verna Jones presented an informative briefing to group of veterans regarding their VA benefits. This has been an excellent opportunity for veterans in our communities to learn about their VA benefits and how the American Legion can assist them.

I will have centennial coins available for sale during the convention. The coins are $5/€5 each
Department of France Convention  
15-18 June 2017  
BEST WESTERN Leoso Hotel Ludwigshafen

1. Guest Details:  
   Last Name:  
   First Name:  
   Street:  
   Zip / City:  
   Country:  
   Telephone:  
   E-Mail:  

2. Accommodation Selection:  
   - Payment: Guests will be responsible for payment of their rooms and meals in the hotel. Includes breakfast buffet. **Please check one of the options below:**
   
   **4 days / 3 nights** (Arrive 15 June, Depart 18 June)  
   - Single Room: € 159  
   - Double Room: € 255  
   - Suite: € 342

   **3 days / 2 nights** (Arrive 16 June, Depart 18 June)  
   - Single Room: € 106  
   - Double Room: € 170  
   - Suite: € 228

   **2 days / 1 nights** (Arrive 17 June, Depart 18 June)  
   - Single Room: € 53  
   - Double Room: € 85  
   - Suite: € 114

3. Saturday Evening Banquet  
   Meal will include:  
   - Roast beef is a cold starter.  
   - Consomme with marrow dumplings and swabian ravioli.

   **Your Main Entrée Choices (Please select your choice)**  
   - Salmon Filet  
   - Lamb Rump  
   - Vegan Pumpkin-Thai Curry and Basmati Rice.
Extra Fees
1. Registration Fee: €25
2. Saturday Evening’s Banquet: €25.00 (paid to hotel at end of stay)
3. Parking fee per car: € 8.00 (for entire stay)
4. Lunch Buffet: €18 (per meal)
5. Dinner Buffet: €20 (per meal)

Registration Fee: to be paid before start of Convention to the Convention Chairperson

VAT Form will be accepted from Eligible persons
Children up to 03 years are free of charge
Children between 3-12 years pay 50% of the price for the buffet. Children over 12 years pay normal price for the buffet

Cancellation deadline: No cancellation fee if cancelled before 15th May 2017. In case of cancellation after 15th May 2017, we reserve the right to charge 90% of the expected revenue.

4. Payment Methods for Registration Fee: €25
   (Include a message with Your Name & Department Convention)

(1) By Check (only US checks, no Foreign checks)
Send to:
American Legion Post BE02
attn: Department Convention
Unit 28100, Box 017
APO AE 09714
Or
Joseph Schram
attn: American Legion
Meersenstraat 33 C2
8310 Assebroek

(2) Cash at the convention

(3) Foreign Bank Transfer
    ING Account:
    IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693
    BIC: BBRUBEBB

(4) US Bank Transfer
    Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111
    American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

Send This Reservation Form to:
vcal.schram@gmail.com

Deadline for Reservations is 15 May
Attended the funeral for Charles Vaughan, Post Commander of GR42, on 24 May 2017.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER  Marcus W. Briscoe

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany’s control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France’s Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER  Gary Miller

ALL, Due to my tax situation here in Germany, I must resign from the Department Finance officer position effective 17 June 2017 at the 1st DEC of 2018. I should be available to assist the newly appointed finance officer to ensure a smooth transition.

Some of the qualifications you might want to consider when appointing a new Finance Officer.

1. SOFA status, or access to an American post office, for receiving and sending mail.
2. Has enough spare time to dedicate to the position (retired).
4. Be able to be bonded.

I served the last 18 years as the Department Finance Officer, I think it is time to take a break and become just a Legionnaire again.

v/r Gary
Margraten Post NL01

Post NL01 participating in the Memorial Day ceremony at Margraten American Cemetery
Elections: Saturday, 06 May
Flanders Field Post BE02 conducted their annual election. Congratulation goes out to the new officers:

- Commander: Joseph Schram
- 1st Vice Commander: Paul Haney
- Chaplain: Tom Buckner
- Finance Officer: Laura Buckner
- Service Officer: Kevin Jordan

US Wereth Memorial – Saturday, 13 May
On September 11, 1994, a small stone cross to remember the eleven black G.I.s of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were murdered by German SS after they had surrendered during the second day of the Battle of the Bulge. This new memorial, dedicated on May 23, 2004, honors their memory and all black G.I.s and segregated units who fought in Europe during WW II.

Memorial Weekend: 25-30 May

Isolated Graves: There are 11 graves of US Service members who died during WWI & WWII who are buried in Belgium but outside of the American Cemeteries. Post BE02 commemorated each of these graves with a bouquet of flowers.

Commonwealth War Graves: Before the United States entered WWI & WWII, hundreds of Americans crossed the border and entered into the service of the British Commonwealth. Over 500 of these Americans died and are buried in Commonwealths graves throughout Belgium. This year, Post BE02 members placed US flags at these graves to remember their sacrifice these soldiers gave to fight for the freedom of the Belgian people.
Menin Gate: During the Last Post at the Menin Gate in Ieper, Belgium, we laid a wreath commemorating the Americans who fought with the British Commonwealth. On the Menin Gate their names of 169 Americans who never found during the battles.

American Cemeteries: 27/28 May
Members of Post BE02 participated laying a wreath during the ceremonies at Henri-Chappell American Cemetery, Ardennes American Cemetery and the Flanders Filed American Cemetery. On Sunday, we laid a wreath

SHAPE JROTC Awards Ceremony: Monday, 29 May
On Monday evening, 29 May, 1st Vice Commander Paul Haney awarded two very deserving SHAPE JROTC Spartan Cadets with a couple of American Legion scholastic medals at their awards ceremony. What a group of very sharpe young men and women. They conspicuously display their leadership today and will make great leaders for tomorrow.

Sunday, June 18, 2017
The nation’s first Father’s Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972–58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother’s Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.
National Commander Visits Wiesbaden and Post GR07

The American Legion National Commander, Charles Schmidt, visited Post GR07 and the US Army Garrison Wiesbaden on 29-30 May 2017. The Sons of American Legion (SAL) Commander, Jeffrey Frain, and American Legion Auxiliary President, Mary Davis also visited. On 30 May 17 National American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Officers Verna Jones and Lou Celli conducted a Town Hall Meeting for Active Duty Service Members and Veterans, and they provided information regarding the Veterans disability claims process, explained some challenges related to veterans living abroad, and discussed current legislation impacting veterans programs and benefits.
Post GR07 Visits Lorraine American Cemetery for Memorial Day 2017 Events

Post GR07 laid a wreath at the Lorraine American Cemetery during a Memorial Day Commemoration on 28 May 17. Post GR07 joined the Department of France, US Military Officials, US State Department Officials, and French Government Officials to honor the 10,489 WWII Veterans who are interred in the cemetery, and to remember the 444 personnel Missing in Action (MIA). For more information about the site you can visit the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) website at: [https://www.abmc.gov/](https://www.abmc.gov/).

Post GR07 Presents JROTC Awards

Post GR07 presented Wiesbaden High School JROTC Awards on 5 May 17. Post GR07 continues to support the local DoDDS-Europe schools and is committed to supporting Child and Youth, which is one of the 4 pillars of the American Legion.
GR 09 decorates graves of Veterans

Although Post GR 09 pays yearly visits to the graves of locally buried American Veterans this years’ Memorial Day was more meaningful as the Post was able to decorate each grave with more than just a small US flag. Thanks to the American Legion’s Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund Post GR 09 received a check for 500 dollars to “be used to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.” For the 10 veterans who are not forgotten by Post GR 09 this amounted to fifty dollars per grave and accordingly each grave was decorated with an impressive looking flower plant arrangement complete with a streamer citing the American Legion.

Post Commander Jerry Aman frequently stated at how surprised he was at the ease of obtaining these funds and will definitely submit a request again for next year. Hopefully more posts will take advantage of this program and no one can say they didn’t know about it as FODPAL Secretary Doug Haggan and NEC Representative Nola Maloney frequently informed every one of the availability of these funds.

Aman had barely returned home from the grave visitation when he received a phone call from the spouse of one of the Veterans. She had just returned from visiting his grave and was incredibly moved by the gesture and repeatedly expressed her gratitude and thanks to GR 09 and the American Legion for the respect shown to her husband.
The History Of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.
28 December 1950 – 19 May 2017

Chuck was a PUFL member of Omar Bradley GR42 and Post Commander from 2011 to the 2018 Membership year, with 23 years in the American Legion. He was also a Voyageur of Grande du Germany, Locale 1546.
Memorial Service for Robert “Bob” Hale, 20 May 2017
Memorial Day Service St. Avold, France 27 May 2017

R.I.P. Anthony Giordano

PCC President Anthony Giordano was unexpectedly called to Post Everlasting on 24 May 2017
Post GR1982 Commemorates Memorial Day with Wreath Laying

Soldiers, civilians and family members from USAG Ansbach paid tribute to fallen service members on Thursday, 25 May, during a Memorial Day ceremony at Memorial Park at Storck Barracks, Germany.

Ken Aungst, Past Commander of Legion Post 1982 and Garrison Commander COL Benjamin C. Jones spoke at the event. Commander Aungst read the names of the soldiers from Storck Barracks who gave their lives in combat during Operation Desert Storm. He also read the names of members of his unit in Vietnam who were killed in action.

Leaders of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the city of Illesheim laid wreaths at the ceremony.

NOTE: Pictures available on USAG Ansbach website and Facebook page. (Just Google “USAG Ansbach”) More pictures should be available on the Post 1982 Facebook page in the next couple of days.
Ansbach Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War

The soldiers and civilians of the USAG Ansbach attended a commemoration and celebration of the Veterans of the Vietnam War on Thursday, 25 May. There was music from the 60s and 70s, performances by students and a static display of historic vehicles. There was also lots of free food and soft drinks that everyone enjoyed.

Legion Post 1982 had the lead on the event, and Past Commander Ken Aungst was Master of Ceremonies.

The entire community supported the event. The local Commissary, Post Exchange, Service Credit Union and Community Bank provided cakes. The Commissary Vendors provided many of the food items for the meal at no cost. The USAREUR Jazz Combo and the local high school band performed music from the era; the JROTC Drill Team also performed. Two local Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts provided monetary support and manpower to help with setup and operation of the event. In all, over twenty organizations from the military community provided support to this event!

The Garrison Commander and Command Sergeant Major presented “Vietnam War Veteran” lapel pins to one symbolic member of each branch of service represented. Then members of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) from the Ansbach High School passed out the lapel pins to all Vietnam War Era Veterans in attendance.

NOTE: Pictures should be available on Garrison and/or Post 1982 Facebook pages in the next 2-3 days.
On 03 June 2017, the Detachment of France conducted their Convention in Heilbronn, Germany hosted by GR79. Congratulations goes out to the newly elected Officers for the 2018 Membership Year...

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Army Offers Relocation Classes in Germany

Permanent Change of Station (PCS) season is right around the corner. To help families with their upcoming travels, the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz Army Community Service's (ACS) Relocation Readiness Program provides classes and resources to get people to their new destination with minimal worries. One course is the Smooth Moves Workshop, providing outbound families with organization tips and tools. The workshops are open to all servicemembers, DOD civilian employees and their families and take place monthly at 10 a.m., the fourth Thursday of the month in Room 220, Bldg. 3210 on Kleber Kaserne; and at Baumholder at 9 a.m., the third Thursday of the month in Room 112, Bldg. 8746 in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Also, parents can request youth sponsors for school-age children between the sixth and 12th grade through their local school liaison officer. For more information about these ACS programs, call 541-9000 in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

For more Army news, visit the Military.com Army section.
American Legion
National Commander’s Luncheon
Wednesday, 07 June, 11:30
SHAPE Club

Charles Schmidt, Mary Davis & Jeff Frain
would like to invite
Members, Family, Friends and the
community to a luncheon at the
SHAPE Club
Everyone is Welcome
Starts at 11:30
RSVP by 02 June

Information & Reservations:
flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com or
call +32 0479 178539
9/11 Day of Service Grant Application Deadline: Friday, June 30, 2017

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE PROJECT
GRANT APPLICATION & INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) will award up to 50 grants of $1,000 each to American Legion Family entities or organizations working with the ALA across the nation to conduct September 11th Day of Service and remembrance activities, described below. The projects must take place between Friday, September 8, 2017, and Wednesday, September 13, 2017. Grant recipients must provide an additional $250 in cash or in-kind donations, making the project total $1,250. **Applications must be received by 6/30/17 and you must use this fillable form that begins on page 3!** Funding for this very limited ALA grant program is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The 9/11 Day of Service projects must benefit veterans, military, and their families and must engage ALA and community volunteers. Each project should involve approximating 30 community and military/veteran members and address one of the following: community reintegration, employment, higher education, housing and community facility improvement, or youth civic education. Each service project must also incorporate a reflection activity in memory of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

**Who May Apply?** The following organizations with a valid tax identification number may apply:

- an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion department, district, unit, squadron or post
- a national or local non-profit organization, volunteer center, or faith-based organization
- a youth organization, K-12 school, school district, or public or private college or university
- a government agency or state service commission
- an AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, or Learn and Serve America program

The applicant must either be an ALA entity (unit, district/county, department) or demonstrate that it is collaborating with an ALA entity to implement the grant service project. If the applicant is not connected to an ALA entity, please contact CommunityService@ALAfVeterners.org for help identifying an ALA entity with whom you can collaborate. The applicant and the ALA entity must be in good standing with the IRS.

**9/11 Day of Service Project Options:**

a) **Community Reintegration:** Recruit community service providers and community leaders to ensure that military families that have recently moved into the community feel supported. Applicants will provide: a) a “service providers fair” that provides resources so that veterans and military families can meet people who provide services such as childcare, crisis management, education, employment, financial advice, tax preparation services, food aid, housing help, homelessness aid, insurance, legal assistance, mental health services, substance abuse services, etc.; b) a meet-and-greet with community leaders to give advice on living in the area; c) a “town hall” type Q&A event with community leaders; or d) a combination of any of these.

b) **Employment:** Recruit leaders and management from the workforce to provide one-on-one advisory sessions to veterans, transitioning servicemembers, and military spouses seeking employment. Including resume review, mock interviews, tips for workplace collegiality, or small group training in workforce “soft skills”.

c) **Higher Education:** Provide resources to deliver a fall semester kick-off event for recipients of the GI Bill. Including sessions on using their GI Bill benefits and additional veterans’ benefits, and making connections to off-campus resources, including volunteer opportunities in the community.
d) **Housing and Community Facility Improvement:** Improve a dwelling(s) or community facility(ies) utilized by or commemorating veterans, service members, and their families; including light repairs, adaptations, improvements, or beautification to exteriors and/or interiors of residences and community facilities such as veterans’ memorial parks or veterans’ posts.

e) **Youth Civic Education:** Recruit veterans to visit elementary and secondary schools to speak to students about service and remembrance, as well as the military and veteran experience. Special effort will be made to engage veterans who served post-9/11. Volunteers will follow [lesson plans about September 11 developed by MyGoodDeed, Inc.](http://www.mygooddeed.com) and adapt those presentations to include their own “living history”.

**Grant Period:**
Grants will be awarded on a one-time, non-renewable basis for a budget period not to exceed five months, beginning no sooner than July 1, 2017. Activities that are funded must occur between Friday, September 8, 2017, and Wednesday, September 13, 2017. The grant application deadline is 6/30/17!

**Funding Awards:**
For those grant applications approved, the grant funds awarded will be disbursed in two increments. Half of the grant ($500) will be disbursed upon receipt of a completed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and W-9. The second installment of the grant ($500) will be disbursed upon receipt of the final report and receipts for the project, due by 5pm ET Friday, October 13, 2017. Grantees can expect grant funds to be issued within five (5) to ten (10) business days following receipt of all requirements for each disbursement.

**Allowable Use of Funds:**
Funds may be used for: space/facility rental; consumable materials and supplies; purchasing or renting equipment; purchasing building repair and beautification materials such as lumber, paint, roofing, appliances, garden and landscaping materials; refreshments for volunteers; volunteer recognition items; volunteer recruitment and training; speaker fees; local travel for participants; professional services; and any publication and printing for event media and promotion.

Funds may **not** be used for: any fee or payment towards religious services or proselytizing; any lobbying efforts; purchasing alcohol; any costs associated with staff time or benefits/insurances; any calculations to quantify the value of volunteer time; any event entertainment; any fundraising costs; nor any selling or marketing of any organizational goods and services not related to the service project activity.

**How to Submit the Application:**
The Application must be typed on this fillable form. Save, and attach the PDF to an email, and submit to [CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org) by 5pm ET Friday, June 30, 2017. **Late applications will not be accepted.** The subject line of the email for submitting the application must state:

- [Applying organization’s name, State]: 2017 9/11 Day of Service Application

Confirmation of receipt of your application will be sent within one business day.

American Legion Auxiliary wants to award all the funds; the deadline and time frame is very tight. Please read and follow the instructions carefully as there will not be time for any application “do-overs”. The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will decide the awarding of these grants.

**Questions?**
For further information, please contact ALA Community Service Program Coordinator Sharon Riegecker at 202-861-1351 or [CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org). Applicants are encouraged to participate in one of three conference calls to ask questions and better understand the grant process. The calls will be held on Friday, June 9; Monday, June 12; or Wednesday, June 14. You **must** pre-register to join one of these conference calls; register at: [http://bit.ly/ALA011DOSGrantCall](http://bit.ly/ALA011DOSGrantCall).
RENO NEVADA
Site of the 99th American Legion National Convention
August 18th to August 24th 2017

The Reno Strip

The Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa

If you are planning to attending the National Convention in Reno (and I hope to see some new faces in Reno) please e-mail me at dhaggen@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.

The room cost per night is $135.00 plus tax. Cutoff for the reservation is 1 July 2015.

Plan now to be there, a good time will be had by all