The month of February was a slow month for the Department. On the 7th of February we conducted a Department Awards Manual update with members of the internal Affairs Committee. There were many changes to this document; however they will not take effect until next year. On the 28th of February I and the Department Adjutant attended the Department Oratorical Finals, it’s a shame that more post did not support this program with a contestant. Blake Billmaier, I am sure he will present this Department well at the National Finals. Keep in mind the National Commander will be visiting us on the 27th-31st of May 2009. We are in the process of making plans, if you wish for him to visit your post please start working on it now and let us know what your plans are. We did not make the 90% cut off date, so now we need to play catch up in April. I know we can do it if we all work together. 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 the Department Oratorical Finals was held on the 28th of February 2009. WE only had two contestants for this event this year, a very poor showing for the Department. We need more post to support this program, remember this program is to prepare our leaders of tomorrow. The two contestants (Blake Billmaier GR03 and Christina Lowry GR06) of this event were very well rehearsed and new the subject material, and presented it very professionally. Blake Billmaier was chosen the winner of the Department Oratorical Finals; I feel that either of these contestants would represent this Department in an exemplary manner at the National Finals. As you know the 3rd DEC will be held in Paris in Conjunction with The American Legion/Paris Post Fr01’s 90th anniversary, I am sure the ceremonies conducted by Paris Post Fr01 will be extra-ordinary. Keep in mind that the
Produced the winner and GR06 who had the other entry where were the other Posts? And something else was missing our Department Colors. Overall it was a good day thanks to all who made it happen. Hope to see you all in Paris and get those renewals in and work on the Awards you have 2 months left don’t forget, to keep your VCs informed of your activities why not arrange a night to have them meet you and help with your Awards entry.

P.S. to all collectors of American Legion Badges, Pins etc please contact me and I will put you in contact with a member who has some very old ones.

**Vice Commander Robert Gray**
GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14

Hello comrades, and sprit. This First, I want to wish everyone the very best of health was a great month. On, February, 07, I had the privilege to attend that meeting of the awards committee with vice commander at large, Kane, Department Commander Brown, adjutant Settle, and vice commanders, Hanchak, Aman, Shannon and myself. There were changes that were necessary, however, that were made, for the good of the Legion. On, 11, Feb, GR14, had their elections on that day, which, I had the privilege of attending. I was very proud to see that everything went off in a professional, timely manner. What surprises me about this post is the fact the way they stick together. When one is down, the other takes up for the next. Once the elections were completed, I had the privilege of installing offices. It was a very honored time for me. My Cap off to GR14. On, Feb 28, vice commander at large, Kane and myself had the privilege to attend the oratorical contest. There are only two candidates to apply for the department level. One was from GR03, and the other from GR06. However, Both of the candidates were outstanding. The candidate from GR03 won. It was a very fantastic day. And in closing, I wish everyone a joyful month, and take care.

**Vice Commander Frank Hanchak**
GR01, GR20, GR45

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU… DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE AND THE AMERICAN LEGION! This month, we will mark the 90th Anniversary of The Department of France. Not only is this a monumental occasion, we will actually celebrate the birth of our organization in the city of its’ actual birth! That’s Right! We will hold the 3rd Department Executive Committee Meeting in Paris.
on Saturday, March 21st. Paris Post One Commander Clarita Geoghegan will host this historic event. She and Post Adjutant Ed Canady have been working hard to ensure that our stay in Paris is enjoyable and our work will be successful. They have scheduled a full day of events for us to participate in while we are there. Yes, there will be opportunity for sightseeing, but more importantly, the members of the Department will participate in no less than three patriotic activities at several historic sights in the city. I also want to recognize the work of Kaiserslautern Post GR-01 and their Commander, Dave Mendez, for their help in the logistical part of this excursion. Post Chairman Bryce Mason has served the Department and Commander Brown by insuring that we have bus transportation to Paris. Those who have confirmed seats on the bus will receive details later about the bus trip. We will leave from Post GR-01 on Friday, March 20th. Contact your Post commander for details.

Frank J. Hanchak
Department Vice Commander
frank.hanchak@gmail.com
0171-473-9782

Vice Commander Jerry Aman
GR13, GR42, GR79, GR1982, IR63
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
March 2009
Special Days/Legion Events: American Legion Birthday Period (13-17th), 21st - 3rd DEC in Paris, France hosted by Paris Post FR01 and Founder’s Day Festivities, Community Service Month.

Christian Religious Days: 1st Cheesefare Sunday; 2nd Orthodox Lent, 17th - St. Patrick’s Day; 25th Annunciation of the Virgin Mary; 29th - Passion Sunday

Jewish Holidays (Year 5769): 1st - Four Chaplains (Interfaith), 10th - Purim

Islamic Holidays: 9th - Mawlid an Nabi

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

Post Everlasting reported in February:
Wife of Comrade James Siotas GC01

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 PDC & present Dept Alt NECman
Phil Gatchell, GR-03
Edward Hayes, GR-03
Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce
Kenneth Grasser, GR-09
Brenda Dearborn, Dept of Maine present Americanism Chair and past chaplain
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 3rd District VC and Past Chaplain
Donnie Swearengen, GR-09
Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR-07
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13
Robert Downs, GR-79
Brian Charters, IR-63
Michelle Gerakeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerakeman, Sr. GR-07
Harry Hall, GR-42
Rance Cottingham, GR-09
Carl Hackworth, GR-14
Isadore Pink, GR-07
Hal Rittenberg, GR-09, Dept Sergeant-at-Arms
Niece of Comrade Dave Mendez, GR01
Cyndia, wife of Comrade Dan Halsey, GR03
Marie-Anne Godfroid, wife of Comrade Carl Hale, FR01
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,

As usual, March seems to be my month for apologies every year. Maybe it has something to do with those cold dark days of winter or that time after Christmas and New Year festivities. I believe it is something that a lot of us have at some point in time; that point where you feel vulnerable and alone. For me this year, it might have also been the bone infection I had from riding on the Legacy Run last year after a run in with a scorpion and some cactus spines while camping in the Mojave Desert before heading to the Chaplain’s Conference in Indianapolis, IN. It is surprising how a few little pricks can bring you so close to Heaven’s door and make you feel as though you really want to go. Many of our comrades and families are faced with this daily because their rights have not been fully recognized by the VA or military.

Prayer helps Comrades, Sisters and Brothers! Knowing that God loves us is another help and that He is available to us 24/7 no matter where we may have put up our tent. Please be sure that your children know this too. There is nothing more forlorn than children who do not know who God is or what God should be for them. You send your children to school to learn how to read, write and use math. Isn’t it just as important to ensure that they are equipped to handle the trials and tribulations that everyone has
in life as well? Not to use God’s name in vain, but rather how to say thank you God for the many blessings that we receive daily.

Remember our veterans and their families who may be in situations where a few words could make a world of difference. The light we call life is sometimes fragile and needs protection in order to shine clearly and brightly. Our protection of our comrades and their families also helps to protect their shining lights. Thank you for your service can be said to all veterans. Can I help you is another? The American Legion has a lot of good programs to help our veterans. Do you know what they are?

We, the people! Yes, our Nation was founded on the belief in God although some will try to have that removed from public places or excluded from things our founding fathers included as rights for us and our Nation. Freedom is a God given right, but we also have the choice to fight to retain or not to fight and lose it in America. How is it that we can demonstrate and raise our voices in protest, but one person can cause the right of many to be curtailed? I don’t think it is that one person who is to blame, but the blame has to be lain at the door of the one who misinterpreted what democracy really is. If one person loses his driver’s license and complains about it as a loss of his freedom, will the courts force all other Americans to leave their cars at home and walk too. I certainly hope not, but don’t forget to keep a good pair of walking shoes handy.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve.

God bless all of you and God bless our servicemen and women and all who are serving in our defense.
Service to God and Country!
Pastor Ronald Moore,
Dept of France Chaplain
Home: +49-(0)6196-569026
Fax: +49-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de
Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain

Department Service Officer George Hall

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH

George Hall
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion Frank Hanchak
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DETACHMENT OF FRANCE!!!

Virtually all Squadrons have gone OVER THE TOP! The Detachment is now over 103%! Thank you and a tip O’ the cap to all Squadron Commanders, Adjutants, and Membership Chairmen for your hard work this year!

The 3rd Sons of the American Legion will conduct our Detachment Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, March 14th at Leroy Riley Pitts Squadron GR-07 in Mannheim. Squadron Commander Brandon Oehler and Squadron Adjutant Jay Hain will host this meeting at their new location on Spinnelli Barracks Building 1563. I look forward to seeing the SAL members from Mannheim and from all Squadrons in the Detachment. Please plan to attend AND BRING ANOTHER SAL MEMBER WITH YOU! (A special prize awaits those who bring a guest) . . .

Frank J. Hanchak
Commander, Detachment of France
Sons of The American Legion
Americanism Carl Hackworth

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Carl Hackworth
Americanism Chairman

Frank Hanchak Commander GR42
March is here and we are making our final entries into our Post Yearly Planning Calendar. One of my personal highlights was the Four Chaplains Sunday presentation that our Post Chaplain (Dave Lofaro) and Auxiliary Chaplain (Doris Hall) co-hosted at the Post Home on Sunday, February 1st. They did a professional job and I was proud to act as MC for the event. Chaplain Dave and Chaplain Doris wrote and said prayers that acknowledged the faiths of each Chaplain. Thank you Chaplains Dave and Doris for your wonderful program! Omar Bradley Auxiliary Unit 42 will host their annual Easter Party and Celebration. As always, this event will surely set records within the post. Please make plans to attend. I heard a rumor that a special guest with floppy ears might be there with goodies for the youngsters! Omar Bradley Post GR-42 is alive and healthy, and continues to set the standard. Although we may not be a great as we were in our honored past, we are working hard and doing great things. I hope that when the New Commander is elected next month, he will find that I left him a good foundation to work with and that he will carry Omar Bradley Post GR-42 on to the greatest and most successful year in our history.

Frank J. Hanchak
Post Commander
Omar Bradley Post GR-42
The American Legion

Department Scouting Chairman David Sears
The American Legion annually honors The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year at its National convention. The National winner of the competition receives a $10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up are each awarded a $2,500 scholarship.

Forms for nominating Boy Scouts for The American Legion 2009 Eagle Scout of the Year award are available on the internet at www.legion.org. From the main page, select Programs and Events, and then Scouting. From the resulting page, you will be able to download the 2009 nominating form.

Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain

Department Service Officer George Hall

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH

George Hall
Department Service Officer

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Department of France Awards Board will convene in Early March. There for please submit any American Legion Department of France to the Department Scouting Coordinator no later than 25 February. A panel of Legionnaires will then select the Department Eagle Scout of the Year and that nomination will be submitted to National Headquarters. That National Eagle Scout of the Year will be announced during the 2009 Annual Convention of Fourth Department Executive Committee Meeting at Kaiserslautern in June.

The American Legion Eagle Scout of The Year: The nominee must be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit or Sons of The American Legion Squadron. Or, be a registered, active member of a duly chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member. Additionally must have received the Eagle Scout, be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem, have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community, have reached his 15th birthday and be enrolled in a DODDS High School, International Schools or Accredited Home School program at the time of selection. Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified. (See attached Form)

The American Legion, Department of France Scouting Chairman is David Sears dsears@kabelmail.de

Scouting Chairman
David Sears

Info from Gilbert Wells Portugal Post PO01 Adjutant

Survival Guide for Veterans
Far too often, military veterans find themselves desperately short of the information they need as they make the torturous quest for benefits within one of this country’s most daunting bureaucracies, the Department of Veterans Affairs. Officials say help is on the way, but administrators are forever promising to streamline procedures for an era of conquered paperwork that never seems to come. That is why it is heartening to see that one promising form of help has indeed arrived: a 599-page guide to veterans’ issues, from educational help to vocational rehabilitation, from housing to citizenship. It’s called “The American Veterans’ and Servicemembers’ Survival Guide,” and it comes, unsurprisingly, from outside the system. It is a publication of the nonprofit advocacy group Veterans for America, available as a free download at veteransforamerica.org. This electronic book is a descendant of “The Viet Vet Survival Guide,” which was published a decade after the end of that conflict — when veterans were still being routinely and shamefully denied their rights. The new book was written by veterans and lawyers for a new generation of soldiers with old problems, like post-traumatic stress, and new ones like traumatic brain injury, the brutal legacy of Iraq’s and Afghanistan’s roadside bombs. The authors caution that while the guide will help a veteran understand what’s going on, it is not a substitute for a good lawyer or other advocate. And it isn’t the only source of information: The government, too, has vast Web sites explaining things — for example, how officers help veterans through the disability evaluation system. (In military acronyms, it’s how the Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer, or Peblo, helps with the D.E.S.) The “Survival Guide” does this, too, but with a difference: It also warns veterans to “pay careful attention to what you say to your Peblo,” because the Peblo is not required to act in their best interests the way an attorney is, and things told to a Peblo are not necessarily confidential. No book will ever defeat a bureaucracy this large, but a book can help people to subdue it. Veterans and their families often praise the dedication of health-care providers, but at the same time express utter frustration over incomprehensible thickets of rules and the glacial pace at which benefits and appeals are decided. Unless and until the government significantly improves its treatment of veterans — and our hopes are high for progress under Gen. Eric Shinseki, President-elect Barack Obama’s nominee to run Veterans Affairs — they will have to keep looking to one another for help, as they always have. This veterans’ guide looks like a powerful updating of that old tradition. Article reported by New York Times, December 2008

Gilbert Wells
Adjutant Portugal PostPO01

A.L. PE Department of France Ron Moore

Here ye, Hear ye!

To all members of the Department of France American Legion Family, consisting of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.).

The American Legion Pony Express (AL PE) Messenger System for the Department of France is still being provisionally formed. We need Stations, Way Stations and at least two messengers assigned from each station. The supervision of the system remains under the auspices of The Department of France Commander and the Department of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, who will also be transporting donations to the National Convention as Department of France messenger.
Post or messenger participation does not require any funding, extra dues or incur costs for the Post. The Post would act as a collection point for donations for the 2009 Legacy Run and ensure that those donations are received by the messenger who will be delivering the donations to the National Commander during the National Convention. All efforts of the Posts and messengers are on a voluntary, best effort basis.

The National AL PE Messenger System was in use during the 2007 Legacy Run for the coordinated movement of donations to ensure that Legacy Scholarship Fund donations were delivered to the National Commander along the Legacy Run route or at the National Convention. It is not a separate American Legion program but is recognized as a tool for use by The American Legion nationally. Outlying departments were not considered to be part of the National plan and were not included in the setup.

Discussions were held with the National AL PE Coordinator who has been made aware of the oversight of not including The Department of France in the organization. He has now included us, subject to final Department of France Commander approval.

The plan and proposal have been made to the Department Commander, subject to approval at a DEC. We are to set up a provisional system which, if proven feasible, will become the official department organization after DEC approval has been obtained.

Why incorporate the system in your Post?

It is a win/win situation for our Department, Posts and indirectly for the AL Riders. It is not dependent on ALR membership which should make it interesting for all Posts at present, not just those who ride or have motorcycle riders.

What is involved?

- Collect funds for the 2009 Legacy Scholarship Fund as usual.
- Get at least two messengers and register your Post as a PE Collection Station with the Department AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore at revronmoore@yahoo.de giving Post Name, Post full Address, Post telephone number Post email address and city/country of residence (don’t need full address of messenger).
- Coordinate with the Department AL PE Coordinator to have donation checks and pledges moved to the final collection point by deadline July 31, 2009. All checks should be in U.S. $ and made payable to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Please note- No other items will be transported by messengers.

That’s all there is.

We will be collecting for the 2009 Legacy Run again next year and you can use your AL PE Status to increase your visibility within your community. Increasing visibility should mean increased interest in membership in your Post and an increase in donations from outside of your Post.

What is the Legacy Scholarship Fund?
http://legion.org/programs/legacyrun/legacyscholarship

What is the Legacy Run?
http://legion.org/programs/legacyrun/overview

How can you donate?
- Sign up as a rider or supporter. Please note Dept of France on your form and send me a note.
- Coordinate with the Dept of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, to have your donations/pledges moved to the designated Department of France Final Collection by July 31, 2009
- Make an individual online donation at the legion.org site

Donations for 2008 exceeded $515,000 by the end of Convention, surpassing the $409,000 collected in 2007.

Please remember, only those Posts and messengers registered through and with the Department of France AL PE Coordinator, Ronald Moore, will be part of the official Department of France System.

A hearty welcome to
Rhein-Main Post GR05, Moerfelden-Waldorf
Omar Bradley Post GR42, Niederwerm

as new Way Stations of the Provisional A.L. PE System, Department of France

Here is information about the registration as a rider or supporter.
Subject: Early Registration Open for American Legion Legacy Run

**THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY RUN**

Indianapolis to Louisville

August 18-23, 2009

Early registration is now available for the 2009 American Legion Legacy Run. Please share the attached 2009 American Legion Legacy Run release/waiver registration form with all interested rider groups and organizations.

An online printable registration form will be made available after March 6, 2009 on The American Legion’s website. [http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/legacyrunregister_09.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/legacyrunregister_09.pdf)

Registration fees remain the same as in 2007 and 2008: $35 per rider and $15 per passenger. Many people who do not (or cannot) ride, but who support the goals of the Riders, have also asked permission to register in support of The American Legion Legacy Run. We honor their support and will provide them with the same registration materials and souvenir mapbook that we will provide to the registered participants. Thanks to all for registering.

Paid registrants will receive:

- 2009 American Legion Legacy Run Patch set. Two-piece patch set includes the ALLR patch and a smaller strip underneath with the 2009 destination and dates.
- Run Mapbook/Event Guide
- Complete Run Schedule, including gas stops.

Participants and supporters may submit the attached waiver/release form to the address shown on the form. Mail one signed copy with payment—and keep another copy for your records. We will mail back a confirmation immediately. In July, after we have finalized and printed the run mapbook and other materials, we'll mail out the completed American Legion Legacy Run packages to all registrants.

I have registered to participate for my 3rd full ride in The American Legion Legacy Run. If there are any members who will be also participating, please let me know.

Ron "Gypsy" Moore
revronmoore@yahoo.de

Provisional A.L. PE Coordinator, Department of France

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GR42 Cub Scout Pack 630 enjoying the weather
GR42 having fun at the local Teirheim Cub Scout Pack 630

Oratorical Time Keepers

Commander Brown with Oratorical winner Blake Billmaier

Department Oratorical Finals contestants Blake Billmaier and Christina Lowry
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.
animallegion@hotmail.com
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor