My fellow Legionaries
In February I visited Heidelberg Post GR03. They had their Annual Oratorical Contest and it was outstanding. Thank you Comrade Hall. Congratulations to the winner. I also attended GR03’s General Membership Meeting, there was a good turnout.

I also attended Mannheim Post GR07’s Oratorical contest. It was also outstanding thank you Comrade Odom and congratulations to the winner.

February 18th I attended the Department Oratorical Finals in Stuttgart at Post GR06. We had 3 contestants. They were outstanding. Thanks to the Oratorical Director, Comrade Gary Miller and Comrade Clemence. There was a great turnout. Next year we will not have a high school in Mannheim this means that post with High Schools in there are should start looking for contestants now for next years Oratorical. This year we only had 3 post with contestants for the oratorical this does not bode well for the Department. Comrade John Odom is working on Boys State so you need to him if you have anyone interested in attending.

I also attended GR06 General Membership Meeting There was a good turnout for the meeting. I visited with the Department Finance Officer, Gary Miller at his home to talk about the upcoming visit from the National Commander on 26 May 2012.

I attended Heilbronn Post GR79 Executive Committee Meeting and Post Election. I conducted the election, and want to congratulate Comrade Maxwell Rice on his election again to Post Commander.

Congratulations to the new Badingen Post GR14 Commander Joe James.

I attended Kaiserslautern Post GR01’s Legion Birthday Dinner. There was a good turnout and fun was had by all. Thanks to 2nd Vice Young, adjutant Oneal and POC Stenson for a job well done.

The 3rd DEC will be held at Schweinfurt Post GR42, on 24 March, 2012 We are still looking for someone to host the 2012 Department Convention.

Don’t forget, we will be in Saint Avold on the 27th of May for the Memorial Day Ceremony. If you have not ordered your wreath yet, please contact Comrade Miller to place your order. If you are planning to stop by GR01 for their annual BBQ, please contact them so they know you are coming.

At present We do not have a Department Membership Chairperson, but if you have transmittals please send them to my address Joe Dan Brown, Bamberger Str 1, 74078 Heilbronn.

Please send your Certification of Service Records of American Legion Post Officers to the Department Adjutant and the Department Commander, thank you.

I had phone conversations with the Post Commanders from GR01, GR03, GR07, GR09, GR13, GR14, GR79, GR1982 and GR20.
From the Department Adjutant

My Fellow Legionnaires,
I would remind you that the 3rd DEC will be held in Schweinfurt on March 24th, 2012. We still need a post to step up and support the Department Convention. If no one decides to host the Convention, the Department will make arrangements for the Convention to be held in Saint Avold, France. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department (please read the editor’s note on the last page of this issue) Newsletter please send your input to pisces@t-online.de. I would like to take this time to wish all of you a safe Christmas and a happy New Year. In closing please, remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away.

For GOD and Country
Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

For GOD and Country
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant

The 2012 Edition of Department of France Oratorical Competition was a great success hosted by GR 06. Gary Miller had the Hall ready for the Event and M.C for the occasion took over and as usual conducted the proceedings in a very professional way. Although there were only 3 Finalists the Competitors were very evenly matched and the Judges would have had a difficult time in picking the winner. One very notable thing came across and it was that none of the Three Speakers once said “em” “ah” “eh” or such phrases this shows one of the many useful training that this Competition gives to young people when speaking in Public it will stand to them in later life. It was
nice to see that all 3 Posts had Officers there on the day as usual we had the Auxiliary President Isolde Settle in attendance, Joshua Settle our young and faithful SAL Commander there too, Commander Charlie Brown was his usual self despite his very sore leg, James Settle had all the Certificates etc in order, John Odom Sr was present with other members of his Post all in all great day. Thanks again to GR06 for their superb effort and the Coffee.

While I was in Germany I had time to talk to fellow Department Officers and to discuss the planned itinerary of the forthcoming visit of our National Commander Fang Wong with our Department Commander Charlie Brown who has done great work in this matter. Details will be given at the DEC on 24th March.

Our Membership makes great reading to date let’s keep the strong showing going for the remainder of the year, congratulations to all who have put the fantastic effort in to-date. A special thanks to John Fleming our Membership Chairman who sadly is departing these shores in the near future we wish him well and hope to see him on his return.

Once again don’t forget to submit your entry for the Awards, as we have said in the past there are Special people out there who do so much at Post level and deserve to be honored so let’s nominate each and every one of them this year. Closing date is 22 April .Send your entries to our Department Commander.

Those Recruiters among you who have submitted any combination of 8 Renewals ,New members can avail of receiving the " I Serve with Pride " pin from National Commander Fang Wong it would be nice to see members wearing his pin while he is our Department.

In representing you at National we could easily receive a National Award for having our Posts ( ALL of them ) return their Post Data Forms to our Adjutant James Settle or hand them in at our next DEC.

In May I will be attending an NEC Meeting , if anyone has a problem that has not been solved please let me know of same and I will do my utmost to make sure that it is being dealt with at National. Should you need anything from Emblem Sales please give me your order at the DEC Meeting and I will collect it for you.

Looking forward to seeing you at the DEC in a few weeks time in the meantime keep up the good work, enjoy your activities on the Legion Birthday we will have our Department Vice Commander Stephen Ward with the 3 Irish Posts marching in the Saint Patrick's Parade in Killarney on 17th .

Liam Kane
Department NECMan
Vice Commander Corner

Vice Commander at Large
Ronald Moore
GR45, GR1982, New Post
Development/Revitalization

I guess most of you realized I have been down with a series of illnesses since December. Normally not anything that could have been debilitating alone, but complications set in unfortunately. Started off with a pyrotechnics accident where I had 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree burns on my hands, as well as 1st degree face and eye burns. I went to a comrade’s funeral right after that, and during the ceremony, I removed my coat to cover the WWII Veteran father of the deceased who had come to Germany for our comrade’s funeral. My resistance was weakened from the burns probably and I came down with pneumonia. Bandaged hands and eyes and then my hands became infected. The infection spread to my joints and affected my kidneys. During all of this, I somehow managed to separate my meniscus and have been advised to have a knee replacement as well as an eye operation. Itcan happen at any time or any place, so be prepared.

No, I’m not making excuses or asking for your sympathy, but I would like to remind all of you how fragile life is. I saw the checklist from Vice Commander Ward and I started to fill it out immediately.

Please remember to mentor your new members. Teach them what The American Legion is all about. Assign assistants to some of your hard-working members, so that others can help do the job if it becomes very busy.

Having said that, please make sure you do acquire new members. After the signup, follow the above.

A heartfelt thank you and job well done to Past Department (FR) Adjutant John Fleming. I read that he will be going back to the States for a year and I am certainly looking forward to his quick return. We wish him well.

Please get your reports to the responsible committee chairman and your vice commander. I wish you and your family a happy St. Patrick’s Day and look forward to seeing all at the 3rd DEC in Schweinfurt.

God bless our troops no matter where they serve.

Rev, Ronald Moore, Vice Commander At Large
Department of France
The American Legion
Cell +49 (0) 172-741-7812 Email: revromoore@yahoo.de

Vice Commander
Stephen Ward
GR05, GR07, GR14, GR79, IR02, IR03, IR63

Greetings Commanders & Comrades
Stephen Ward
Department Vice Commander
Vice Commander
CMR 402 box 1572
APO, AE 09180-1572
Klaustal 38
67098 Bad Durkheim
Germany
Phone
Home:06322-68168
Work:06371867516
Handy:0171-4378855

David Sears
GR03, GR06, GR09, GR13, GR42
I hope everyone is looking forward to a warm Spring after a few cold spells and I pray that all my comrades are in good health! The months of January and February have been busy, fortunately February gave me one extra day to assemble a letter to our comrades. I have been out of contact for a little while, as I began a Masters program and I also moved to a new house Ms Lynn and I have just built. Unfortunately, our home Internet connection won’t be installed until this Spring/Summer.

The Legion Posts of Central Germany are doing great works in their neighborhoods! Watching over fellow Veterans, and working with our active duty service-members! Thank You for Still Serving!

I plan to great many of our comrades at the Third DEC in Schweinfurt, on March 24.

GR13 has been very patient with me, I’ve promised to visit and maybe 2012 will be my year to make it to swing off the of the Autobahn and actually drive into Augsburg! Meanwhile, The Stars and Stripes Newspaper and European reporter/columnist Bill Murphy Jr did a very good interview of some of our fellow veterans and colleagues near Nuremberg. Recognize any familiar face [http://www.stripes.com/news/forwarding-germany/any-sharing-memories-of-america—breakfast-116745](http://www.stripes.com/news/forwarding-germany/any-sharing-memories-of-america—breakfast-116745) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0eAB2ExkAY&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0eAB2ExkAY&feature=player_embedded)
Vice Commander
Hans Stockenberger
GR01, GR20, GR30, BE02, DK01, NL01

Vice Commander
H. Ownby
CP01, FR01, FR05, GC01, IT01, PO01, SP292
I am very disappointed in the membership results for this membership year. We are over half way through the Membership Year and our standing at National is 67.857%. I encourage all of you to contact those members who have not paid their membership dues for this year, and let them know how much their membership is valued not only by this Detachment, but National also.

I was able to attend the Department Oratorical Contest on the 18th of February 2012 at the Patch High School, in stuttgart, along with Commander Brown, NECMan Liam Kane, and the Auxiliary Department President. All contestants were well prepared, and gave a good presentation of our Constitution. A big Congratulations to the winner Kilian Liptrot, and let’s all wish him the best at the National level competition.

Please ensure you get your transmittals into our Membership Chairman Comrade Brown. I wish all of you a very safe and Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. In closing please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts, put your prayers as well.

Yours in Comradeship
Service to God and Country

Joshua J. Settle
Detachment Commander

Phone: 07138-67359
EM: josh.sal@hotmail.com
Chaplains Corner

Service to God and Country

Jerald F. (Jerry) Bass
Department Chaplain,
The American Legion
Department of France

Email: GeneralBass@gmail.com
Phone/FAX: +49 (0) 6101 128432
Cell Phone: +49 (0) 175 201 1009

HISTORIAN REPORT

Department Historian
Michael Coyne
Thank you for all the Photographs from our recent Department Convention they will become part of our Department Records. Please submit reports/photos from your 4th July celebrations you must have plenty of them my e-mail address is tom-myc76@gmail.com I want every Post to submit some post happening e.g. AGM, Party or anything of note, at the end of the year 2011/2012 I intend to award a prize to the best Photograph submitted to me from either a member or a Post "if you're not in you cannot win" Looking forward to seeing you every month in our Newsletter. Michael Coyne

National Security

Douglas Haggan
National Security Committee Chairman
programs.

TOPIC 1: DEFENSE BUDGET UPDATE
Brushing aside congressional opposition, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and the nation’s top military leader insisted on Tuesday that President Barack Obama’s trimmer, $614 billion defense budget will ensure the U.S. advantage worldwide with acceptable risks to the force and missions.
Panetta and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, defended the blueprint that would slash the size of the Army and Marine Corps, cut back on shipbuilding and delay the purchase of some fighter jets and weapons systems. Overall, the budget for 2013 would provide $525.4 billion in base spending and another $88.5 billion for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The total is nearly $32 billion less than this year’s budget, a reflection of the drawdown in the two conflicts, a decade since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the clamor to reduce the nation’s deficit.
Dempsey acknowledged the inherent risks of a smaller budget, but told the Senate Armed Services Committee, “we’re very confident, because we’ve worked this collaboratively, that we can mitigate risks by adapting lessons from the last 10 years of war, new emerging capabilities.’’
In the first of three days of congressional testimony for the Pentagon leaders, Panetta said the leadership of the Defense Department — military and civilian — was unified behind a revised strategy to shift the focus from the long wars to future challenges in Asia, the Mideast and cyberspace and the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.
The show of unity from the political appointee and the senior officer was meant to deflect criticism from some in Congress, especially Republicans, that a Democratic commander in chief was hollowing out the force.
Still, Republicans and Democrats on the panel challenged the administration’s call for another round of domestic base closures and raised parochial concerns about the fate of labs, ships and submarines that mean thousands of jobs back home.
Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the panel, said the Pentagon should look at shutting bases in Europe and overseas before targeting installations in the United States.
The panel’s top Republican, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, said the proposed budget “continues the administration’s habit of putting short-term political considerations over our long-term national security interests.’’
The overall spending was dictated by the budget agreement that Obama and congressional Republicans reached last August that calls
for defense cuts of $487 billion over a decade. More troubling to Panetta and lawmakers is the likelihood that automatic, across-the-board cuts will kick in in January unless Congress can come up with at least $1.2 trillion in

“For God and Country”
Scouting Forever and Venture On!
Dave Sears
Scouting Chairman
The American Legion
Department of France

Department Auxiliary President

I would like to remind you that our 3rd DEC will be in Schweinfurt on the 24th of March 2012. We need to have has many members there as possible, we have many things to discuss. A few of the topics will be membership, location of the our convention in June. There have been a few other happings going on since our last meeting which also needs to be discussed. So please try to make this meeting.

In closing please remember to keep those in harm’s way and their families not only in your thoughts, but in your prayers too.

In the Spirit of Service Not Self

Veterans, God and Country
Isolde Settle
President
American Legion Auxiliary Department of France

Phone: 07138-67359
EM: isoldesettle@hotmail.com
Legion Riders Report

Legacy Scholarship Fund – March 2012 Update-

The 2012 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Run will happen whether the Department of France is ready or not, and I plan to have all of our A.L. PE Messengers and Way Stations ready, willing and able.

I hope every Department of France Post now has a donation can out for the 2012 Legacy Run. I also ask all Post commanders and adjutants, as well as all messengers, to ensure that interest is stirred up to help these children and ensure that we have something to donate again this year.

I’m already registered for the Run and I hope a few other members from Department of France will register too.

From the Legion Website-

2012 Legacy Run

The American Legion Riders Ad-Hoc Committee has devised a plan that will incorporate a three-day ride with a three-day expo in Indianapolis, and then culminate with the Riders leading off the annual national convention parade. Participants may register online by clicking here.

The American Legion Legacy Run Home begins Aug. 21 with the National Commander’s Ride, which will start in upstate New York, the home department of National Commander Fang Wong. The American Legion Riders Expo will run from Aug. 23-25 and will feature a planned series of American Legion Rider social events, such as range and classroom training, Rider program development courses, skills training and Motorcycle Safety Foundation exhibitions.

The American Legion National Convention Parade will take place on Aug. 26 and lead off with American Legion Riders. All American Legion Riders are invited, and there is no registration fee.

Online registration for the 2012 event is now available at www.legion.org/riders/registration. Riders will also have the opportunity to print and send in their registration if they choose. Expo registration is free to all Commander's Ride participants. However, riders who choose not to participate in the Ride but wish to attend the American Legion Rider Expo may register separately for a nominal fee.

Dates for all 2012 American Legion Legacy Run Home activities are:

- Aug. 20 - Assembly for The American Legion Legacy Run Home near Buffalo/Niagara Falls
- Aug. 21-23 - The National Commander's Ride.
- Aug. 23-25 - The American Legion Riders Expo, Indianapolis
- Aug. 26 - The 94th Annual National Convention Parade, I

Dept of France AL PE Coordinator
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Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

Ronald Moore
BOY SCOUTS of America

Transatlantic Council and Department of France

The American Legion Department of France has contributed to the benefit of over 5000 Boy Scouts of America in the Depart of France theater. Over 3,450 Cub Scouts in 91 packs, 1,945 Boy Scouts in 97 troops and over 106 Venturers in 13 crews.

This past Fall I was able to recognize Comrade George Hall with the American Legion Square Knot Award during a visit to Heidelberg Post GR03. Many Thanks to George for his years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts in our local area!

Also, I am looking forward to another Legion Square Knot presentation which has been waiting nearly a year. As well as, receiving an awards package back soon from National on another Department of France famous Legionnaire/Scouter. (To be announced)

Scouting provides service to the community. Just one common program will be the Scouting Troops in central Germany, they are looking forward to Veterans Day, learning just a little of American History and Culture in central Europe and placing flags out at local German Cemeteries, as well as participating in just a few events at American Battle Monument Commissions in England, France, Luxembourg, and Italy. Boy Scouts of America joined along Scouts du France’ for Memorial Day celebrations, carrying wreaths to the presenters.

Nearly each month, Life Scouts throughout the European Continent are looking to conduct service projects around military communities and sometime in the local European communities, to enhance the lives of military and civilians living abroad, and sometimes to benefit our generous and welcoming neighbors. Most recently, Kaiserslautern has become the sponsor to a Pack and Troop and are looking forward to a great forging a great relationship with more Scouts. Life Scouts are throughout the community looking to serve the public and possible serve the American Legion.

As the Winter of 2012 approaches, many Scouts will be looking to begin Merit Badge work. Merit Badges are difficult assignments, sometimes as challenging as identifying a career in college, Scouts may choose to work with veterans and local experts in a variety of 125 professions and hobbies. Many of these merit badges consist of over 200 word essays along with 100 hours of performance work. These merit badges are conducted by adults such as Legionnaires with professional experience, hobbies or avocations within these topics. The scouting program gives all Legionnaire members the opportunity to touch the lives of the youth of our Nation and to share with them the skills necessary to build a generation of young people ready to serve God and Country.

Just prior Third Department Executive Committee meeting will be the 2011 Department of France Eagle Scout of the Year Committee. I will send out electronic samples of the application and blocks. Please be sure the application is as complete as possible, as the application is submitted to National for a 10 Thousand Dollar college scholarship competition. Solely amongst other Legion sponsored Eagle Scouts.

This season’s deadline Eagle Scouts will even have an extra 24 hours will be midnight Wednesday, February 29, 2012. Our own local Eagle Scout of the Year will be announced just in time for the February birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. How can you submit an Eagle Scout for this prestigious recognition in our department, contact your own post awards chairman. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will then join the Youth Champion delegation and participate in the 94rd Annual National Convention.

Nominations must be received by Department Scouting Chairman no later than March 1, 2012.

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, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron. OR
• Be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire or Auxiliary member.

AND
• Received the Eagle Scout Award.
• 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 high school at the time of selection.
Note: *Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.*


Post from throughout the Department of France get involved. How can your Legion Post get involved with Scouting and share mutual benefits? Contact myself or the Transatlantic Council and we will explain how Scouts may be of benefit to your Post annual programs.

“For God and Country”
Scouting Forever and Venture On!
Dave Sears
Scouting Chairman
The American Legion
Department of France

Membership

Department Membership Chairman

Legionnaires, please go to the Department website and click on Membership on the left column, you will find lots of Membership information, including Department Membership Reports. I updated the page extensively recently. Thanks.

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*This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.
Department Target dates fall on Saturday, 1 ½ weeks prior to the National Target date
Commanders,

It is now that time of year again. This year and just like each year in the past, we look for each post to show some support for our Department of France Boys State program.

And to follow up with the information that was given at the 2nd DEC, This year unlike in previous years the Maryland Boys State program will be held at Washington College located in Chaster Town (Kent County) on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The Maryland program date's will not change, Start date on Father's Day 17 June 2012, depart on Saturday 16 June 2012, Graduation/Departure on Saturday 24 June 2012 and arrive back in Frankfurt Germany on Sunday 25 June 2012.

This year eligibility will be the same as previous years, first each post will need to let me know your intent or desire to support the program and like last year you would like to send one or two boys or your post would like to Co-sponsor a boy with half the cost.

The cost will be approximately $1,000.00 this information will be needed as soon as possible, Secondly I'll need to have the name's of all candidates as early as first of March 2012 and Application for each not later then 31 Mar 2012.

If your post has any special needs or any special situations please let me know. More information is available on the legion web site under Maryland Boys State program and I can provide any other information you may be needing.

Please contact the department of France, before contacting Maryland directly, As the Department Boys State director I am available to help you with any of your question, concerns, or needs.

Thanks

John Odom Sr.
Boy 's State Director
Post News

Post GR09

William D. Nelson Post GR09 will be having its monthly Executive Committee meeting on 14 March 2012, at 1800 hrs in the TSV Neu-Ulm.

We will also have our General Membership Meeting on 17 March, 2012 at 1400 hrs in the TSV Neu-Ulm.

Kenneth Grasser is doing noticeably better and we hope for a full recovery.

On Sunday 18 March, 2012, several members from GR09 will attend the Harlem Globetrotter Basketball Game in the new Ratiopharm Arena in Neu-Ulm.

On 24 March 2012 we will be going to the 3rd DEC in Schweinfurt at GR42.

Keith Abernathy
Commander

Post GR01

On the 12th of March 2012, Post GR01 presented a plaque to the Kaiserslautern-Landstuhl Spouses Association for their ever so appreciated sponsorship in Boys State. We were invited to attend their luncheon at which the plaque was presented. The event started with the usual meet and greet. We were introduced the president of the organization and several members of the organization. The American Legion was the first to speak and present the award. Cathy introduced us all to the audience and allowed us an opportunity to speak, in which the Adjutant Christopher O’Neal briefly address the crowd and inform them of our existence and purpose for being here. The speech was short and sweet, but true and effective. A few comments were made by the 2nd Vice Mike Young, and after the speech the plaque was presented by the Commander Robert Gray, he thanked them for the support and spoke briefly. We had a few inquire about our services, in which we gave them all P.O.C. information, I anticipate more endeavors in the future with this organization. If I can be of any further assistance please feel free to contact me.
Department NECMan and Boy State Director at department oratorical
New Officers of GR79

Commander GR03
Note from NECMAN Liam Kane
Social Security Benefits will increase in 2012. Everyone should have received a notice by now, if you have not heard anything please contact me as your NECMAN I will help you or contact your local US Embassy or Consulate, you need to have your Social Security Number available when you visit above name places. It is also possible to call at 1-800-772-1213 between 7.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday to Friday or if you are hard of hearing please use TTY number 1-800 325-0778.

Liam Kane
Department NECMan

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 etions

Editor's Note:
This is the official Newsletter of the Department of France. This Newsletter does not belong to the Department of France, Commander, Adjutant, or the Newsletter Editor. It belongs to you, the members of the Department of France. Anyone can submit an article for this Newsletter, for review and posting. If you are a Department Officer, you are not required, but are expected to submit a monthly article, to support your department and post’s assigned to your responsibility.

pisces@t-online.de
James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor