

THE DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France

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Any Department Officer, Committee Chair, Program Director or Post can input material to this newsletter. Input is due the Last week of the month, not later than the 26th of the month for next month's newsletter.

Department Calendar

S.A.L. DEC 8 March in Mannheim
GR30 Easter Event 15 March
Department DEC 15 March in Heilbronn
GR42 Easter Event 22 March

Birthdays

1 March Comrade Settle GR79
6 March Comrade Aman GR09
23 March Comrade Fleming GR01

Department Commander's Corner



My fellow Legionaries

On February 9th I visited GR79, General Membership Meeting, very good meeting. I had the chance to visit Comrade Swearingen in the Ulm Hospital. He had a double by-pass done and is recovering well, and will shortly go rehab. I attended GR 13's General Membership Meeting on the 16th, there was a good turnout for the meeting, I also visited the Post Chaplain Comrade Hoffmann, he was recently released from the hospital, he is not doing very well at the moment. I attended the GR42 General Membership Meeting, SAL and the Auxiliary Meetings on the 17th, turnout was excellent. I also had the chance to talk with NECMan Comrade Marshall, about the upcoming visit from the National Commander. On February 23rd I was in Stuttgart (Post GR06) for the Department Oratorical Finals. It was a great turnout, and the contestants were outstanding. The winner Teyeisha Jackson will represent the Department in the National Finals. I hope next year will provide us with more candidates. Oratorical Director Comrade Clemence, thanks for a well done event. I was able to visit Comrade Downs (GR79) who was recently released from the hospital, he is doing fine at this time. Also visited Comrade Carr (GR79) who was also recently released from the hospital for lung problems. I talked to Comrade Hall (GR42) who is hospitalized for medical problems, but he is doing well and in good spirits. On a sad note Vice Commander Keith Abernathy's mother passed away, please keep him and his family in your prayers. I had a chance to speak with PDC Nola Maloney on the phone she has not been doing too well lately, but is in good spirits, and moving on with her life. She will start sending out E-mails again shortly. I ask that you keep her in your thoughts and prayers. I would like to take this time to congratulate Comrade Joe James on his election again has Post Commander of GR14, and to Comrade Carl Hackworth, who remains the post Adjutant. 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:

I My Fellow Legionnaires,

I was never so surprised or amazed as I was on the 23rd of February 2008. I was able to attend the Department's Oratorical Finals, and was very impressed with all candidates. All were well prepared, on their subject matter, and gave their all, in a very professional manner. I was really impressed of our youth of today, who are our leaders of tomorrow in the way they conducted themselves during this event. Congratulations to Tayeisha Jackson our first place winner. Also Congratulations to our second and third place winners Tom Giovingo and Leah Lynch. All of you did a tremendous job. I would like to thank all of the Legionaries who sent me birthday wish's on the 1st of March, it really made my day. Remember the 3rd DEC is upon us 15 March 2008 in Heilbronn. I hope to see many of you there. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input to americanlegion@hotmail.com In closing I wish all of you a GREAT 2008. 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 input 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

February came in with a cold streak to Ireland giving us a nice coating of snow. The early part of the month was taken up at IR 63 and some visiting to our sick members including our Post Robert Gray. the Meeting was well attended and there were very few changes to made at the Officer Board of the Post. A visit to Fisher House on 14th Feb turned out to be a little different than usual as we were really over fed from a former resident who returned with two caps one to sell his wares and the other to say thank you to Fisher house for looking after him many years ago. A film crew from Air Force AFN were there to film the cooking and people working and visiting. American Legion

members were seen to look very good advantage on the broadcast last week Mike Young, Robert Gray and Yours Truly looked very well on the T.V. I returned home on 15th late. Back again to Stuttgart this time to attend the Dept. Finals of the Oratorical Contest, the Quantity was low but the Quality was HIGH. The 3 Finalists put on a good show and the winner was very impressive. We all wish Tayeisha Jackson well at National Finals. The Running of this Competition is worth continuing but it needs a bigger impute at Dept. and Post level. On Sunday 24th in the company of the Department Commander J.D. Brown I visited Shawn Ashe in Hospital and I was delighted to see Shawn in such good form after all his pains etc . We also took the opportunity to visit two members of GR79 at their homes "Carr "" and Bob were delighted to see someone from the Legion you too could call on your fellow men Please keep an eye out for our Hospitalized Brethren. Just two reminders for all Membership and Awards, has Chairman of the later you can send your entries to me at Department Commander Browns Address. Thank you all for entering. Looking forward to seeing you all at the DEC Meeting in March and wishing you all A HAPPY SAINT PATRICKS DAY and if you are in Ireland Killarney at 1330hours is the time and place to be . Beannacht De oraibh go leir o Liam Commander Brian Charters who thank God is home and making a good recovery. Contacts with my assigned Posts was done mainly by phone or by e-mail happy to report that we have almost a 100% membership return from the group. We must keep up our quest for new members they are out there, we have to pursue them or else some other organization will recruit them. On 13th Feb I stood in for VC Frank Hanchak at A.G.M of GR 14 Thanks to my Transport Crew John Odem, Joe James and **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
GR01 was on the move again in February. On the 14th, David Garcia attended a by request birthday celebration for 80 year old locale national Jan Lechucki. Jan was employed with the Americans for over 40 yrs and requested the presence of uniformed Americans. The legion also coordinated the presence of two uniformed soldiers who also were in attendance. The same day, Post Gr01 was supporting Pat Monany from Washinton state. Pat came here to provide a smoked BBQ dinner for members of the Fisher House. Forty family members were present. AFN was present and the article appeared on AFN. Commander Young, Robert Gray and VCAL Kane were there to support this outstanding effort. On 26 Feb Post Gr01 will be attending the 21st SSC CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY FOR General West at 1500 hrs.

Keith Abernathy
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR14, GR20, GR45, IR63

I had the privilege of attending this year's Oratorical Scholarship Competition in Stuttgart a few weeks ago. As always, I was amazed at the talented young man and two ladies who competed. I am happy to see our young citizens striving to compete in such a difficult contest. I have great difficulty speaking in front of groups to this day. If only I had been introduced to such a skillful application of the spoken language when I was their age Don't forget to start working on your Post Awards. Too many of our Legionnaires work long and dedicated hours to not be recognized for their effort. Now is the time to put down in writing how proud you are of your Post members who work so hard for so little. Please submit a full package of awards.

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 March 2008

Special Days/Legion Events: 15th- 3rd DEC in Heilbronn;
American Legion Birthday Period (15-17th), Community Service Month.

Christian Religious Days: 1st- St. David of Wales; 17th- St. Patrick's Day; 16th- Palm/Orthodox Sunday; 21st- Good Friday; 23rd- Easter; 25th Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

Jewish Holidays (Year 5768): 21st- Purim

Islamic Holidays: 20th- Mawlid an Nabi

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

Post Everlasting reported to February 26th:

Esther Abernathy, mother of DVC Keith Abernathy GR-09

Prayers have been offered for her family and friends. Please remember her and those who have passed away in your prayers also.

Prayers for the Sick & Ill:

George Hall, GR-03

Shawn Ashe, GR-42

Harry Hall GR42
Doug Clemence, GR-06
Nola Maloney, GR-03 and Past Department Commander
Tom Mayock, IR-63
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
Tom O'Keefe, IR-02
Marlene Watson, Widow of GR-13 charter member William Watson
Paul Johnson, Dept of Wyoming Chaplain
Joe D. Brown, GR-79 and Department of France Commander
Cindy Hogan, wife of a soldier stationed in Iraq
Donnie Swearengin, GR 09
Larry "Yard Dog" Ewerds, GR-07
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13
Robert Downs, GR-79
Brian Charters, IR-63
Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdeman, Sr. GR-07

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.

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Greetings Comrades,
Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

March is a busy month, for religion as well as for The American Legion. Easter is one of the most important Christian holy days, celebrating the ascension of Jesus Christ. The Jewish holiday of Purim celebrates the saving of Persian Jews 2,300 years ago and the Islamic celebration, Mawlid an Nabi (Maulid Nabi), celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed. It is a month where the three religions based on the Torah have religious festivities and all of us should ensure that we attend religious services of our choice.

The American Legion also celebrates an important date commemorating its foundation at the Paris Caucus in 1919. We have come a long way since our inception, but we still have a lot to accomplish for our veterans and their families. The U.S. Consensus Bureau Statistical Abstract of the United States 2006 shows 24.5 million men and women alive who served in the military service of our country. Returning veterans from the Gulf have had significant problems and delays in obtaining timely care, treatment or VA benefits.

Maybe it is a common problem that veterans sometime take their own lives after returning home from war, but it is not something that we as veterans can, or should, consider to be normal or accept. Every person who has served our country is our comrade and we have a special responsibility to help them and their families in whatever way we able.

I guess we can do that best by bringing them into our Posts and making them feel at home and ensuring that they know we respect and are proud of their service. We have Hometown to Heroes for our wounded troops returning to the U.S so I guess we need the same idea in our Posts for those who aren't considered to be wounded..

So you might say, your chaplain is trying to make you go out and bring in new members. Well, you are certainly right. How else will they know how much I care for them and how they can do God's work in helping other veterans while helping themselves? Bring them into the fold, oops, I mean your Post.

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.

God bless our servicemen and women no matter where they are stationed and please bless our veterans and their families.

Service to God and Country!

Pastor Ronald Moore,
Dept of France Chaplain
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Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de
Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain

Service Officer Robert Gray
Hello my follow comrades,

Hello my follow comrades, I want to take this time to wish everyone and their families the best of health and sprit. On the 10th of February I went to Heilbronn to take care of a VA claim that had some problems, I'm happy to say that the problem is taken care of and the claim is now in the hands of the VA office. There were elections at GR14, which I attended. The new officers will do a great job. I had the chance to talk with the post service officer about some claims, and please if any problems come up, day or night, let me know. GR14 is rocking, all the way. On the 14th of February at the Fisher House in Landstuhl, hospital, GR01 Commander, Mike Young, Vice Commander at Large, Liam Kane, and myself attended a BBQ by Award winning, buccaneer, Patrick J. Momany. I had a great time. I had the chance to talk with some of the wounded family members. They were pleased to know

that the American Legion was in the area. On the 23rd of February, I attended the Department Oratorical held in Stuttgart. As well I talked with some of the member about VA and answered some question concerning Service Officers. On the 25th February, GR01 Commander Mike Young and others attended the changing of command of General West, of the 21 command Group. General West was a great supporter of the American Legion, He will be missed. I want to take some time out and thank all the Post Service Officers, at each and every post. I know you have a thankless job, sometimes, but never forget, the post where you serve know what you do. The post runs on membership, and what brings the membership, the power of coming together for a common good, that's you. To all of you take care, and I look forward to seeing you at the DEC

Robert Gray
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion David Greaux

A REMINDER FOR ALL DETACHMENT OFFICERS AND SQUADRONS: The 3rd Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be held on 8 March 2008 at 13:00 hours. We will assemble at 15 Bensheimer Str., Kafertal/Mannheim, Germany. This is hosted by Squadron GR07. The dress for the DEC is casual attire.

The Detachment of France presently has a raffle going on to help raise its funds. I am asking you to please support this activity. You may purchase raffle tickets from a SAL member. If your SAL Squadron does not have any tickets to sell and would like obtain some to support this venture please contact your Detachment Adjutant / Raffle Chairman James Dennis (department_dennis@hotmail.com). The drawing will be at the American Legion Convention on 21 June 2008. You do not have to be present to win. The tickets cost only \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

1 st Prize	HD LCD 26" Television
2 nd Prize	Trip to Paris for one
3 rd Prize	\$100.00 Savings Bond

David Greaux
Detachment Commander
Americanism David Greaux

I had the pleasure of attending the Department Oratorical Finalist Contest at Batch Barracks Community Club, Stuttgart. The students did a great job. Unfortunately we can only send one winner back to represent the Department. They were all winners. I would also like to thank the organizers for their hard work and professionalism in their presentation. Please remember to turn in your reports (*Americanism, Children and Youth etc.*) to the appropriate chairpersons and to the Department Adjutant before or at the latest at the DEC. I know many of our posts are doing good things so get the recognition that you deserve

David Greaux

Americanism Chairman

David Greaux

Department Convention Chairman

DEPARTMENT 84th ANNUAL CONVENTION 2008

HOSTED BY OMAR BRADLEY POST GR42

18-22 June 2008 / Sankt Englmar, APART HOTEL

Predigtstuhl

A registration table will be set up at the 3rd DEC in March where you may register for Convention 2008. You may also pay for your convention at that time. I will be contacting the hotel shortly after the DEC to inform them how many rooms we would need. SO PLEASE REGISTER AT THE DEC!!!

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.

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

Convention Chairman 2008

David Greaux

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97505 Geldersheim

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Handy: 0171-5109356

Handy: 0171-5109356

E-Mail: davidgreaux@aol.com

David Greaux

Convention Chairman

A message from Carl Hackworth

Post T-W-B had their elections on Wed 13 Feb.2008

Joe James was reelected Post Commander and I am Still Adjutant

We had the Honor to be installed by Vice Commander Liam

Kane, and also present was Department. Service Officer Robert

Gray. Thanks again for your Visit.

Carl Hackworth

Post Adjutant

GR14

A message from Ray Ginete GR07

1. GR07 Conducting a fund raiser during the European Albert Schweitzer Basketball Tournament 22- 29 March 2008
2. In the process of selecting A candidate for boys state
3. Department Oratorical winner came from GR07
4. Will be participating in sponsoring the USAG Mannheim Kinderfest in April 2008
5. May be moving to a new Post Home in the near future

Ray Ginete

Post Adjutant

GR07

Department Events

Department Oratorical Finals 2008



Time Keepers Department Oratorical Finals 2008



Department Oratorical Finalist 2008



GR01 Fischer House Grill 2008



Post Events

Retirement Ceremony General West GR01



GR14 Elections 13 February 2008



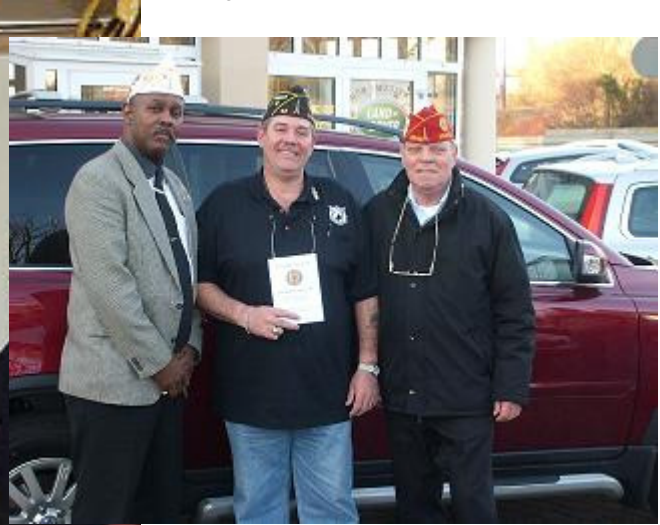
GR 14 Meeting and Elections February 13 2008



GR 14 Meeting and Elections February 13 2008



GR42 S.A.L. Meeting



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
- PO01: Third Wednesday of the month Past Com. House
- TR03: 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.
ameil@anlegion@hotmail.com

James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor