Hello my fellow Legionaries, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and family members

On the 4th of April, I along with Vice Commander Hanchak attended GR01’s annual elections. Vice Commander Hanchak conducted the elections. Comrade John Fleming was elected the new Post Commander. There was a dinner provided after the elections, thanks to Comrade Young. I presented a check to Scouting Chairman Comrade David Sears from the Department of France in the amount of $2,500 dollars in support of the Boy’s Scouts. I also presented checks to GR01 in the amount of $71.00 dollars, and to GR42 (Comrade Hanchak) for $76.00 dollars, both of these checks were for attaining 100% membership.

Comrade Fleming is the Chairman for the Department Convention. If you need reservations you need to contact him ASAP.

GR01 just picked up a new member Comrade Edwin Bruner, and he already active in the post, he is working the trip to Normandy 4-8 June 2009.

On the way back to Heilbronn I stopped and visited GR03’s Easter Party which was held a local Gasthaus. The event was well planned and supported by the post members. I talked with the Commander, and adjutant about legion business, and the post is moving forward. I talked to Comrade Hall (GR03) on the Phone and he is recovering from the operation on his eyes, the doctors believe that the operation will be successful.

On the 19th of April I attended the Auxiliary, SAL and Post elections, of GR42 Congrats to Lee Preston, who just return from down Range, on being elected the Commander of GR42, Congrats also to Diane Hanchak who was re-elected Auxiliary President, and Jim Dennis who was elected SAL Commander. And my thanks to IPC Hanchak for the outstanding job he did for the post and Department for.
I would like to take my cap off to the following Department officers who also were present at the GR42 Elections VC Hanchak, VC Ashe, VC Gray, VC Aman NECMan Marshall, and the department Adjutant James Settle. VC Aman Conducted the Elections of GR42, and Comrade Gray Conducted the SAL elections, Thanks for the support you showed to not only the post but the department.

Comrade Hall (GR42) is in the hospital and awaiting results of the operation, he is in good spirits.

I traveled to Budigin for the Re-Call to the 3rd DEC. I was a little disappointed with the post turn-out, but overall it was a good DEC, The Department Sergeant-at-Arms Comrade Rittenberg was also present. He has not been able to attend a DEC, since the 1st DEC, due to health; it was good to see him again. Thanks to GR14 for hosting the 3rd DEC the area was set up and ready to go, thanks to Comrade James and Comrade Hackworth. I visited a Legionnaire (Comrade Carlos) from GR14, along with Comrade Hackworth. Comrade Carlos recently had a stroke while driving on the Autobahn; he has been released from the hospital and is doing fine in fact he visited the 3rd DEC for a short time.

My cap is off to the 18 post within this department who reached 100%. Those of you that have not yet reached 100 % you’re just short a few members I’m sure that if you all take that extra effort you to will be able to obtain 100%.

I would like to thank the Department Membership Chairman Comrade Umland for keeping the post updated and informed on their membership status.

Comrade Lindsey is having leg problems and finds it difficult to get around, and he cannot travel more than an hour in a vehicle, that is why he was unable to attend the 3rd DEC.

As you know the National Commander will be visiting 26th of May, if you wish to have the National Commander visit your Post area please let us knows ASAP. We know he will be in the following areas Stuttgart, Heidelberg and will be in K-Town for the Wounded Warriors Dinner; Once DOD cuts the National Commanders orders we can give you more information on his agenda.

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

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Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

Department NECman William Marshall
VETERANS BENEFITS IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

Background:
H.R. 1, signed into law on February 17, 2009 by President Barrack Obama as The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, contains several items that are of particular import to veterans. Although one of the portions of the act addresses offshore veterans in the Philippines, there is also relief included for the disabled veterans at home, as well as for others.

Philippine Veterans:
Veterans of the Philippines from World War II will receive recognition for their service during that war, as well as lump sum payments to all living Filipino World War II veterans, those receiving benefits already, as well as those who are not currently in receipt of disability benefits. The payments authorized amount to one time payments of $9,000 to each non-US citizen veteran of the Philippines, and $15,000 to each veteran of the Philippines who is a U.S. citizen and residing in the United States. The stimulus package sets aside 198 million dollars for the veterans of the Philippines. Of the over 200,000 Filipinos who fought for the United States in World War II, fewer than 18,000 are alive today.

The provision calls for benefits to be available to such veterans during a one-year period from the date of enactment. Veterans are being told to file as soon as they are eligible. Applications must be submitted by February 16, 2010, and are currently being processed through the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office located in Quezon City at Camp Aguinaldo. Veterans living in the United States should contact their local VA Regional Office.

William Marshall
Department NECman

Vice Commander at Large Liam Kane
BE02, DK01, FR01, FR05, IR02, IR03, IT01, GC01, NL01, PO01, SP292, CH01

This is not an Aprils Fool Joke its a fact I had a hole in one on first of april at Dargle Valley Golf Course on1st April .It was a nice fresh Irish nite A little wet a good strong wind and a short hole only 146 yards and I landed ball on green ,one hop and it ran up to the cup and fell in a great occasion my first hole in one I know that you all
wanted to share this piece of useless but vital information with me.

The IA meeting and all that goes with it took up a lot of my time in the past month, we finally got to put the report before the DEC meeting at our 3rd DEC on 25th April and it will be necessary to have it voted on at our 4th DEC in June on the eve of our Dept. Convention as we did not have a quorum on sat.last.

Awards
All Posts are to send there entries for the various Awards to our Dept. Comm to reach him on or before the 30th April . Your Dept. VC will be contacting your Post Adj. about this , please send in a package now matter how small if your not in you cannot win.

I hope to be in a position to exhibit all entries at an appropriate place during our upcoming Dept. Conv. this will enable people to see the entries and it will give all Posts ideas as to how they can go about putting in an entry in the coming years ,there are people in your Post who deserve recognition at Dept. level but without the Awards Comm having the details of same we cannot honour these fellow members of your Post . Its not too late yet for entries .

Recently our Adj issued an appeal to all Posts to send in their Post Data have done it yet if not please submit it now , again there is help available from your VC.

During the past month we got good news in Ireland that we are getting a new US Ambassador his name is Dan Rooney the owner of the Pittsburg Steelers we will welcome him and then show him our great Irish games of Football(we kick it) and the most skillful and fastest game on grass Hurling and he will no doubt be thrilled.

On a recent trip to the state of Florida I had the honour of visiting Florida Post 233 where I received a great welcome and participated in their Thursday steak Dinner and on the Sat in beautiful Sunshine there was a pig roasted on the spit so apart from meeting lovely people I also got well fed.

Mike Umland is looking for more renewals to bring us to 100% you are the only ones who can achieve this target and keep our membership at the top.

That’s all for this month hope that keep me very busy on my next trip to Germany with sack loads of entries for the Awards.

Liam Kane  
Vice Commander at Large

Vice Commander Robert Gray  
GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14

Hello my fellow comrades, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone and their families the best of health and spirit. GR09, on 17th of April, was invited to Rommel Kaserne in Dornstadt as guest visitors. Commander Jerry Aman, and GR09 were led into the briefing room where instructions were given for the tank simulation process, which we were invited to attend. The simulators are fantastic, there was not one of us who did not feel overwhelmed. After that, we went into a museum and had a brief history of the tank commander’s Rommel’s division. After the tour of the museum we had lunch where we dined in their facilities, it was grand. We were waited in on and given large portions. At the end of the tour, commander Aman was given a remembrance token of our visit. To the commander at his fellow legionnaires at GR09, as always, my hats off to you.

On April 19th, I attended GR42 elections. Actually enjoyed myself down there and was impressed how the Post handled themselves. Good work.

On April 23, GR07 was invited, to the USAG Mannheim annual volunteer appreciation ceremony. In attendance was John Odom, Reynaldo S. Ginete, and myself. Truly out did itself but its volunteers and aides participation in the community. What made me proud to be and legionnaire was when volunteer of the year and the retiree section, was a Reynaldo S. Ginete. Rey, great job, and it was given all the credit to doing legionnaire work. You made me very proud, thank you Ray.

At this time, we have three legionnaires, our own laws, hospitalized at GR03, rich, I was informed by their commander, Ed Sherman. The following legionnaires are, George Hall, 1st Vice, DSO, Al Thompson, Chaplain, Mike Paguia. Our heart and prayers go out for them and love ones. In closing, I want to wish everyone, a good and prosperous month.

Robert Gray  
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak  
GR01, GR20, GR45

I had another opportunity to visit Kaiserslautern Post GR-01 on Saturday, April 4th for their elections. The food (prepared by Mike Young) was so good, that I forgot who was elected commander… Oh, yea, now I remember.
Congratulations to newly elected Post Commander John Fleming. The slate was completed by Steve Ward – 1VC; Mike Young – 2VC, FO - Angie Riveron; SO – Robert Gray; Historian - Bryce Mason; Chaplain – Woody Ervin; and SAA – Kevin Howson. I predict great and wonderful things from all of these fine Legionnaires! And of course, the food was prepared by 2VC Mike Young! On another note, thanks to the folks from GR-01 who called with concern about my ‘car emergency’. It was an unusual show of caring individuals. Thanks…

In other news…

On 1-3 May 2009, the “2009 Brothers-In-Arms Run” will leave from the Heidelberg Rod and Gun club. This event is sponsored by the Vietnam Vets – Legacy Vets MC.

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

Vice Commander Jerry Aman
GR13, GR42, GR79, GR1982, IR63

On 19 April I had the privilege of conducting the elections and administering the oath of office to the newly elected officers of GR 42. Comrade Frank Hanchek turned over the responsibilities of Post Commander to recent “downrange” returnee Comrade Lee Preston. Although GR 42 lost a very valuable officer in Frank’s relinquishing his position, the Department will benefit as Frank will have more time to devote to Department activities. However GR 42 is in the best of hands as Comrade Preston has many years of experience with the Department of France and is a fervent supporter of the Legion and its activities. We wish all of the best to Lee and the officers of his post.

Thanks to TWB Post 14, Buedingen for their quick response in offering their location for the 3rd DEC. As always, the hosts were well organized (to include free donuts and coffee) and gave the DEC the opportunity to clear up some important issues.

Contact me at E-mail Address Jerrya503@aol.com or phone number 07307-4492 or 073075752

Jerry Aman
Department Vice Commander

Department Chaplain Ronald Moore

Chaplain’s Page
May 2009

Special Days/Legion Events: 1st-3rd- Auxiliary National Membership Workshop; 4th-5th- Spring Commissions and Committees Meetings; 6th-7th- Spring National Executive Committee Meetings; 8th - V-E Day 1945; 10th - Mother’s Day; 16th- Armed Forces Day; 25th Memorial Day/National Auxiliary Poppy Day.

Christian Religious Days: 21st- Ascension of Jesus; 28th- Ascension of Jesus (Ortho); 31st- Pentecost. (Ortho)

Jewish Holidays (Year 5769): 29-30th- Shavuot; 31st- Lag B’Omer

Islamic Holidays: None that I know of.
Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

Post Everlasting reported from March 28th to April 28th: None reported after last newsletter to my knowledge.

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
Kenneth Grassier, 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
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
Harry Hall, GR-42
Carl Hackworth, GR-14
Isadore Pink, GR-07
Niece of Comrade Dave Mendez, GR01
Cyndia, wife of Comrade Dan Halsey, GR03
Marie-Anne Godfroid, wife of Comrade Carl Hale, FR01
James W. Johnson,
Alvin Thompson, GR03
Mike Paguia, GR03
Jerry Deaver, GR07
Rose Jeffries, GR07
Harry Jeffries, GR07
Gorrell Cheek, GR1982

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, Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family,

The Month of May is another month of remembrance, reflection and thankfulness. V-E Day 1945, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day along with many religious special days keep us constantly trying to ensure that we don’t forget someone or an important task.

Occasionally in trying to remember and celebrate these special days, we might have forgotten how the celebration came about or why we even continue to recognize it. My history teacher always said history is important because it reminds us of what others have accomplished. It also helps us to avoid the mistakes that others have made or encountered. But most of all, some of the incidents and conditions of the past should make us thankful for what we have now.

During the War of Independence, a poorly outfitted and badly outnumbered army of mostly volunteers did the impossible. They stood off one of the most powerful nations on earth of the time and fought for independence. They received a lot of support from other nations, some of whom still remain our allies. The soldiers fought and experienced the hardships of war, the families missed having a loved one at home and the American colonials, who didn’t believe we should be free, spoke up and were branded as traitors and had their property confiscated.

Remember the soldiers who fight or fought in support of this great Nation. Remember the mothers and wives who often watch or kept watch at the window for signs of a returning family member. Remember the children who miss or missed fathers, uncles, brothers and neighbors.

Remember now the service women who are fighting alongside their male counterparts, so now those children are also missing mothers, aunts, sisters and female neighbors. I think many of our veterans joined the military to support our country. We aren’t Nationalists or radicals; we are mostly just American citizens or residents supporting this great country of ours.

What has history taught us? Respect the ones who fell in the protection of our great Nation. But it also teaches us to respect and revere those who continue to uphold those traditions of the soldiers who have served before them. It should also teach us to honor and respect those who serve and those who served. Let’s not forget them and let’s make sure that they know someone cares.

The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion reflects what we are supposed to do from a historical point of view. That one line, “to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars,” also helps to underline what I mean, but we all know that you can’t take a portion of the whole and take it out of context. I am proud to be an American and I am proud to be a Legionnaire. I am also proud to be the person who is blessed and can also call you Sister and Brother. Thank you for your service, just as we thank others for theirs.

May God bless you and your family and keep all safe.

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

Rev. Ronald Moore,
Dept of France Chaplain
Home: 0049-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de
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 Messenger name, contact telephone, email address and city/country of residence (don’t need full address of messenger).

Messengers will be sent a return email confirmation 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. National Commander Rehbein has set a new goal of $400,000 for 2009 which exceeds the goal from 2008 by $50,000.

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.
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.


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

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
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Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain

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A Scouting Minute
The Man behind the Boy Scouts

It all began with a young senior military officer, who wrote the equivalent of an “AR” or Army Regulations, just over 100 years ago. His military manual was the You Tube, Facebook and Flickr of its time. The NCO manual he wrote was the best seller of the younger teenage boy audience. The Chief Scout, inspiration, and driving force behind Scouting was Lord Robert Baden-Powell, whose name has grown to be one of the most recognized names in the world. A British officer who distinguished himself during the Boer War, and who retired with the rank of Lieutenant-General in 1910, Baden-Powell was an adept military scout and an ingenious improviser and cool-headed commander.

Ironically, the man who became the youngest major-general in British history and the creator of the Scouts didn’t initially intend to launch such a movement. However, so popular was his 1899 military instruction book, titled Aids to Scouting for NCOs & Men, that civilians started using it to teach their boys outdoors skills.

How Scouts came to America

According to legend, Chicago Philanthropist Newspaper Owner and Editor William D. Boyce *en route* to a safari in British East Africa stopped in London England during the trip and was lost on a foggy street in London in 1909. When an unknown Scout came to his aid, guiding him back to his destination. The boy then refused Boyce's tip, explaining that he was merely doing his duty as a Boy Scout. Soon thereafter, Boyce met with Robert Baden-Powell, who was the head of the Boy Scout Association at that time. Boyce returned to America,
and, four months later, founded the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910.

Upon Boyce's request, the unknown Scout did give him the address of the Scout headquarters, where Boyce went and picked up a copy of *Scouting For Boys* and other printed material on Scouting. He read this while on safari and was so impressed that instead of making his return to America an around-the-world trip via San Francisco, he returned to the Scout headquarters in London. He volunteered to organize Scouting in America and was told that he could use their manual.

**Scouting and War**

When World War I broke out, nearly 2,000 Scouts kept watch on coastlines, relieving Coast Guardsman for active Naval Service. Boys assisted by meeting trains carrying casualties from overseas, winding thousands of rolls of bandages, selling War Bonds, and many other inconspicuous acts of service.

Boy Scouts again assisted their country when WW II broke out, they cut lawns, hoed gardens, and did other odd jobs for Soldiers’ Families campaign. Boy Scouts also acted as members of Air Raid and Civil Defense junior staffing and helping medical and fire brigades.

In addition, Boy Scouts collected hundreds of thousands of cans of food, which were delivered to the Red Cross for distribution. When a shortage of rubber and metal occurred during World War II, Boy Scouts in major cities organized a collection campaign and filled the need. Scouts collecting salvage, working on farms, at armed forces canteens, and assisting the Red Cross.

After the war, BSA's World Friendship Fund gave money to help restore scouting in war-torn areas including the Philippines, which received $10,000. (a large sum at the time)

Scouts in Service to America Today

Many service projects take place daily across the United States and around the pockets of American communities in Europe and the Far East. Millions of service hours to our communities have been conducted in the past 100 years of the BSA.

The largest single service project since World War II occurred, just recently for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in Five National Forest Sites, 5,000 Scout Volunteers, Five Weeks of Service

The Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow, the BSA’s national honor society, conducted the largest national service project since World War II. The service project called ArrowCorps5 (pronounced Arrow Corps Five) was conducted at five U.S. Forest Service sites across the country over a five-week period during the summer of 2008. This service project included 5,000 members of the OA providing more than 250,000 hours of service. This project provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for each participant to set an example of leadership in service to those who treasure our national forests.

The American Legion and Boy Scouts of America.

It is fair to say that many Boy Scouts of yesteryear are the veterans of today. Even those who were too young to fight helped on the Home Front, as history proves.

Today, Legion post as well as other community organizations across the United States play a major role in keeping the Scouting movement alive.

“For the future, we’d like to create an ongoing program…where our Scouts would learn about the American Legion’s contributions during war and peace, then act as The American Legion “youth ambassadors” by telling schoolchildren about Legion programs and events. This would help to create stronger bonds between young Americans and our veterans who have done so much for them.

When Lord Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scouts a century ago, his goal was to help youth bring out the best in themselves, and in doing so do their duty to their god and country. Now 100 years later, this dream is still alive in Boy Scouts of America; and 90 years later similar sentiments are alive in the American Legion.

Through Scouting and its many evocations, there remains possibility of forging dynamic interaction between the American Legion and the Boy Scouts of America.

The Transatlantic Council and The American Legion, Department of France
As stated many times, both organizations share very similar goals and patriotic ideals. The Scouts in your community could be an untapped resource for service projects and work around your post. For manpower in staffing Legion events. For spreading the word of Legion activities. For developing an enduring vision of where the American Legion in the Department of France should go. The beneficial things that our Department does for the Scouts, the young Scouts and families will never forget; and similarly, the things they can provide back to our Legion, our Post and our Department we will never forget either.

“For God and Country”
Scouting Forever and Venture On!

Dave Sears
Scouting Chairman
The American Legion
Department of France

Sons of The American Legion

The SAL Convention will be hosted by Kaiserslautern Squadron/Post GR-01 in June. Details will be published next month.

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

From Past VCAL Carl Hale

Setting The American Flag Right – A quick note that not many people heard about from April’s NATO Summit held in Strasbourg, France. The American flag was originally installed in the same direction as all the other NATO Flags: from bottom – up. The organizers did not know about our flag display regulations. Only after many meetings did the U.S. Delegation convince the organizers that the U.S. flag must be correctly displayed.

Albania and Croatia became the newest members of the NATO Alliance – 29 countries together.

A note from the Department Website Administrator: please send your updates to me through your Post Commander or Adjutant to ensure approved information is uploaded. I can receive updates at crahl@hotmail.com  I will update the site as soon as possible.
The web address is: www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org
Share the web site with your friends, family and possible new members to show how we work together as veterans helping veterans.

Thank you!
Carl Hafe, PUFL, FR01

Department Americanism Chairman

Please submit your Americanism report to Chairman Carl Hackworth. Remember that an Americanism report is any thing that the American Legion does; i.e., Graveyard decoration, Children displaying Flags, Flag ceremony, etc. You should report it at a General membership meeting s anywhere the US Flag is Present.
Carl R. Hackworth  
Dept. Americanism Chairman  

Department Events  

15th Army JROTC Battalion ROTC military ball is now scheduled for May 24th (the Sunday before Memorial Day). Final details & an invitation when everything is finalized will be advertised.  

ROTC  

JROTC Chairman  
Charles St. John  

VFW Liaison  

The VFW Department of Europe will hold their annual Department Convention on 18 – 21 June 2009 at the Hotel Sonnen Huegel, Bad Kissingen, Germany. POC is Norberto Millet Jr, Convention Chairman. If you are interested in attending, please contact me and I will forward the information to you.  

The VFW National Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona August 15-20, 2009.  

Frank J. Hanchak  
VFW Liaison  

POST HAPPENINGS  

Posts are encouraged to send your local information for publication.  

RE: Memorial Day BBQ  

From the Desk of the Commander, Kaiserslautern Post GR01:  

Don’t forget we will be in Saint Avold on the 24th of May for the Memorial Day Ceremony, and Kaiserslautern Post GR01 will hold our annual Memorial Day BBQ in the afternoon. We will be asking our usual $5.00 minimum donation to eat and drinks as you go at our refreshment center. Please invite all your friends, neighbors and colleagues to join you at the Lorraine American Cemetery, near Saint Avold, for the Memorial Day Ceremony, and then stop by on your way home for some great food and better comradeship. See you there.  

John D. Fleming  
Post Commander  
Kaiserslautern GR01
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

Have you marked your calendar for the Department Convention in June? Have you made your partial payment? Are you planning to attend and help guide the Department of France into a healthy and productive future?

For me, the answer to all of these queries is **YES**! I am running the information for the convention again this month for those of you who still answered **NO** above. If you haven’t done so already, send an E-mail to Convention Chairman John Fleming at his Email address: (adjutant@k-townamericanlegion.org) and let him know that you will attend. After you send that E-mail; then resolve to help us lead the way to a healthy and productive future!

Who ya gonna call?

I recently had a small emergency. I found myself with a broken car and no-one to help me. (Not a big emergency, but nonetheless a real one). Since I work out of town, I had no co-workers to call on. For various other reasons, (Sunday, the weather, and others) I found myself stuck. Luckily, I realized that there were fellow veteran friends who could lend a hand. I called one of them and my emergency was taken care of.

The lesson I learned is that we can; and should be able to; depend on each other for small and great things alike. Even a small emergency is easier to handle if we know we can trust our fellow veterans to come to our aid.

Can we depend on our fellow veterans? Do you know if you can count on them in an emergency? Do you believe that they can count on you? If you can answer these questions positively, then we as an organization of veterans are strong. If you can only answer negatively, then there is a weakness within the organization and within us.

I challenge each and every one of you to ask yourselves the above questions. If your answer is no, then we are weak and need to strengthen ourselves. If the answer is yes, then we are stronger, but there is still the need to improve.

Now, ask yourself the same question with regard to the Department of France. Are we a community of strength for our fellow veterans, or are we a source of disappointment and discouragement.

I pledge to be a source of strength and encouragement. I hope to be a key player in the future of the Department and I hope the readers of this newsletter will join with me and help to strengthen our weaknesses and help to build a better future. Your department depends on you.

EDITORIAL: VA and the paper mountains in their rooms.

I read an article recently about the new VA secretary, (former Army General) Eric Shinseki, and how he wants to “transform VA into a 21st century organization”. This is a gargantuan task at best and at worst, virtually impossible.

The Veterans Administration reports that there are more than 800,000 pending claims. Secretary Shinseki reported to Congress in February that in the rooms where claims are adjudicated, there are “stacks of paper that go halfway up to the ceiling. And when they finish one pile, another pile comes in”

What can we, as Veterans and Service Officers, tell our fellow veterans who are in the process of filing claims at VA? How can we make them feel better about the 18 to 24 months that they must wait to learn the status of their claims? How can we take satisfaction in our service?

These are questions that I can’t answer. Because I can’t answer them, I recently declined to serve as a Service Officer at my home post. Because I can’t answer these questions, I very much respect and support those of you who do!

I was recently asked, what is the most important officer at Post level? Without hesitation, I replied; The Post Service Officer! If we do nothing all year, the one job that we must do well is to represent our Veterans who file claims through the Veterans Administration. If you are a Post Service Officer, I encourage you to continue to serve as you have in the past and to re-double your efforts to help our Veterans. Thank you for your service and God bless each and every one of you!

Yours in Service,

Frank J. Hanchak
Editor
VC Frank swears in New Officers of Post GR-01

CDR Brown Recognizes Scouting Chairman Dave Sears

Officers and Members of Kaiserslautern Post GR-01

Dave Sears, Mike young, DCDR Brown, Post CDR Fleming

Post CDR Ed Sherman, Historian Ernest Daniel, DCDR Brown, JA Otis Jones, ADJ. Philip Gatchell
Here is the updated Registration form. Included is my Phone number and the Price of the trip. $619 donate the difference to your post. Was advertised at $650

Suggestions:

If you can’t go please sponsor a soldier These modern-day soldiers should have the opportunity to honor those who went before them and as you know many of them don’t have the money.

Also I suggest that each post could sponsor at least one soldier for this trip The 65th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion. Trip 4 -8 June 2009

Again The price is only $619 for everything Bus, Hotel, Breakfast and Tour Guide (English) Lunch and Dinner are the only expenses
Please fax the completed form to me as quickly as possible.
Name as they appear on the passport.

Thanks, any question please contact me.

Warmest regards,
Ed Bruner
Email: edwin.bruner@t-online.de
German Ph: +49(0)6201-790527
German Cell: +49(0)173-163-1217 Blackberry
Fax: +49(0)6201-790529
USA Toll Free: 1-800-880-7921
The AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France
85th Annual Convention Package

Hosted By Kaiserslautern Post GR01

Hotel-Restaurant Barbarossahof
Eselsfuerth 10
67657 Kaiserslautern

17 - 21 June 2009

Convention Package Consist Of:
Breakfast Buffet
Friday Steak Night at the Post (except for Saturday arrivals)
One convention coin per room guest

Four Night Package – Arriving Wednesday, Departing Sunday
Single room  € 292.00 per room
Double room  € 388.00 per room
Three bed room € 508.00 per room
Four bed room € 580.00 per room

Three Night Package – Arriving Thursday, Departing Sunday
Single room  € 223.00 per room
Double room  € 299.00 per room
Three bed room € 393.00 per room
Four bed room € 451.00 per room

Two Night Package – Arriving Friday, Departing Sunday
Single room  € 154.00 per room
Double room  € 210.00 per room
Three bed room € 278.00 per room
Four bed room € 322.00 per room

Single Night Package – Arriving Saturday, Departing Sunday
Single room  €  75.00 per room
Double room  € 101.00 per room
Three bed room € 133.00 per room
Four bed room € 153.00 per room
Steak Night – at the door  € 12.00 per person
(If you have no room package)

Convention Chairman 2009

John Fleming
Hauptstr 20
66885 Altenglan-Patersbach

Tel.: 06381-6009404 * Handy: 0163-258-8768 * E-Mail: adjutant@k-townamericanlegion.org

The AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France
85th Annual Convention Agenda
17 - 21 June 2009
**Wednesday, 17th of June 2009**

Until 14:00  
arrival / check in at Convention Hall

**FOURTH DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

15:30-16:00  
Registration  
Department Sgt-At-Arms

16:00  
Call to order  
Department Commander

Opening ceremonies  
Department Commander

Roll call  
Department Adjutant

Introduction of guest  
Department Sgt-At-Arms

Welcome remarks  
Convention Chairman

Minutes of previous meeting  
Department Adjutant

Finance report  
Department Adjutant

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Announcements  
Department Adjutant

MEMORIAL TO DEPARTED MEMBERS

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION**

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Prayer  
Department Chaplain

Recovering of POW/MIA Flag  
POW/MIA Chairman

Retiring of colors  
Department Commander

TBA  
Committee Meetings

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**Thursday, 18th of June 2009**

**FIRST SESSION OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

08:30-09:00  
Registration  
Department Commander

09:00  
Convening of Convention  
Department Commander

Opening ceremonies  
Department Commander

Roll call  
Department Adjutant

Introduction of guest  
Department Sgt-At-Arms

Adoption of convention rules  
Department Judge Advocate

Report of credential committee  
Department Sgt-At-Arms

Conformation of standing  
Department Commander

Committees  
Committee Chairpersons

Ratification of 2009 convention  
Department Adjutant

Minutes  
Department Adjutant

Presentation of resolutions  
Department Adjutant

Award committee report  
Department Adjutant

Awards presentations  
Department Commander

Guest speaker  
TBA

Recessing convention  
Department Commander

TBA  
Committee Meetings
### Friday, 19th of June 2009

#### SECOND SESSION OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Convening of convention</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Roll call</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
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<td>Standing committee reports</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Audit and Finance report</td>
<td>Department Finance Officer</td>
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<td>Presentation of 2009-2010 operating budget</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Annual reports</td>
<td>Department Finance Officer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presentation of awards</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Administrative announcements</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Past Commanders Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Annual Caucus</td>
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<td>1900</td>
<td><strong>Steak Night at the Post</strong></td>
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#### Saturday, 20th of June 2009

#### THIRD SESSION OF DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Reconvening of convention</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Roll Call</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
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<td>Report of Credential Committee</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Awards Report</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Awards Presentations</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Voting on 2009 – 2010 operating budget</td>
<td>Department Finance Officer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adoption of Dept. Constitution and By-Laws</td>
<td>Department Judge Advocate</td>
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<td>Appointment of Election Judge</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Appointment of Election Tellers</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BREAK</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Roll Call</td>
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<td>2009 Department Elections</td>
<td>Election Judge</td>
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<td>Short Form Installation</td>
<td>NEC MAN</td>
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<td>Appointment of Adjutant</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Administrative Announcements</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Post Everlasting</td>
<td>Department Chaplain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Closing Ceremonies</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Adjournment of Convention</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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#### FIRST DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
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<td>Call to Order</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Opening Ceremonies</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
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<td>Roll Call</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
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<td>Introduction of Guest</td>
<td>Department Sgt-At-Arms</td>
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<td>Minutes from 4th DEC</td>
<td>Department Adjutant</td>
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<td>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</td>
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<td>CORRESPONDENCE</td>
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<td>NEW BUSINESS</td>
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</table>
Saturday, 20th of June 2009 (Continued)

Request for Funds
Annual Appointments
Appointment of Delegates to 2009 National Convention
Appointments-Chef Delegates To 2009 National Convention
Report of 2009 Convention
Selection of 3rd DEC Site for 2007
General Announcements
Memorial To Departed Members
For The Good Of The Legion
Closing Ceremonies
Prayer
Retiring Of Colors

18:00  
18:30  
19:00  

Cocktails
Speakers and Awards
Banquet
Dancing???

Sunday, 21st of June 2009

Departure after Buffet Breakfast

**** TIMES LISTED IN AGENDA MAY VERY ****

Please fill out the included reservation form and return it as soon as possible. Minimum 50% Deposit must be received by 8 May 09 per instructions below. The sooner we know who will be attending, the sooner name tags, etc. can be made and rooms reserved. Please print clearly to avoid mistakes. Feel free to make copies as needed.

Send To:

John Fleming
Or:

Hauptstr 20      CMR 422, Box 241
D-66885 Altenglan APO AE 09067

Tel: 06381-6009404 Handy: 0163-258-8768

E-mail: adjutant@k-townamericanlegion.org

* All room payments must be in Euro. Payments made in any other currency will be returned!
* Send Euro checks and the reservation form to one of the above addresses.
* Please make checks payable to Karin Fleming. (Please watch spelling.)
* Your meals and drinks may be charged to your room during your stay, and you may pay those charges with a credit card and a VAT form.
* If any questions arise, please feel free to write or call us at any time.

John Fleming  
Department Convention Chairman “2009”
**Short Summary Of Hotel:**

* The Flockerzie family has proudly owned and operated the Barbarossahof hotel and restaurant for over 150 years.
* After the American Civil War in 1865, Georg Walter Flockerzie came back across the Atlantic Ocean to Germany. He went to Kaiserslautern-Eselsfürth, where he bought a little post station and changed it to the Barbarossahof.
* After his death in 1895 his son, Orlando Flockerzie, became the new owner. He led it in the same tradition as his family in the prior years with the guest being of the utmost concern and making the Barbarossahof a home away from home.
* His follower was Walter Flockerzie, who had the hotel after the hard times of World War II, where the Barbarossahof was occupied by the French. The Barbarossahof survived these hard times without any damages and Walter Flockerzie built one new hotel-building and added a new restaurant.
* The hotel was totally renovated in the nineties and some new buildings were added. The former post station is now a hotel with over 250 beds and a restaurant that can host up to 400 people.
* The CEO of the hotel is today Heide-Lore Flockerzie and her son Alexander Flockerzie.

**Hotel Amenities:**

* Rooms are available in Single, Double, three beds and four beds in Standard, Comfort, Junior Suite and Suite Categories. All rooms include TV, telephone, in-room internet access, WC, shower and hairdryer.
* T-Mobile provides a HotSpot for wireless high speed internet access everywhere in the hotel.
* Our guests have free parking and a fitness-center without any extra costs. Sauna and solarium are also available.

**HOW TO GET TO BARBAROSSAHOF!**

Autobahn: A6 Mannheim – Saarbruecken
Exit: Kaiserslautern Ost
A63 Mainz – Kaiserslautern
Exit: Kaiserslautern Centrum

Eselsfuertth 10
67657 Kaiserslautern
Last Name: __________________________ First Name: __________________________

Wife First Name: __________________________

First Name of Children: ____________________ Age: _______

* For use if double room is occupied by two Legionnaires:
  Last Name: __________________________ First Name: __________________________

Address (only one is needed):

City: __________________________ Country: __________________________

#: __________________________ e-mail: __________________________

Total Amount In € = __________

Arrival Date: __________________________ Departure Date: __________________________

Special Requests/Needs: __________________________

Bad Durkheim Tour (18 Jun 09) 10 a.m.: YES or NO How many: ______

USAFL Band (Hotel) (18 Jun 09) 6 p.m.: YES or NO How many: ______

K-Town Tour (19 Jun 09) 10 a.m.: YES or NO How many: ______

Steak Night at Post Home, (19 Jun 09) 6 p.m.: YES or NO How many: ______

Banquet Night (Hotel) (20 Jun 09) 6 p.m.: YES or NO How many: ______

Registration deposit of 50% due by 8 May 2009.

Make checks Payable to: Karin Fleming

Send Payment To:

John Fleming

Hauptstr 20 CMR 422, Box 241
D-66885 Altenglan APO AE 09067

Tel: 06381-6009404 Handy: 0163-258-8768

E-mail: adjutant@k-townamericanlegion.org