ALCON,

First let me thank all of you for your many phone calls, get well cards, and your best wishes for a speedy recovery. It appears that the operation was a huge success, at this point in time I am cancer free and do not require Chemo. Tomorrow the 16th of April I will be admitted into Reha Clinic in Bad Mergentheim, at the present time I am not sure how long I will be there.

The NECMan Comrade John Miller will not be available for the National Commanders visit, it appears that I will also not be available during his visit either. Therefore I have asked the VCAL Comrade Brown to get involved in finalizing the visit, and representing the Department during the National Commanders visit. If you would like to be a part of this please contact either the Department Adjutant Comrade Rice, or the VCAL.

Below I have listed some important dates for the Department of France.

1 May Boys State Application due to The Department of Maryland

25 May Memorial Day saint Avold France. We have 15 seats available for the Department, if you plan on attending please contact Adjutant Rice. If you need wreaths ordered please contact the Finance Officer Gary Miller.

26 May National Commander and party arrive Frankfurt International Airport.

31 May National Commander and party depart Kaiserslautern en-route to Brussels (BE02) and NATO Headquarters.

15 June Boys State begins Department of Maryland.

19 June Department Convention hosted by GR09 Neu Ulm.

In closing, once again many thanks for your concerns and best wishes. I wish all of you a very safe and happy summer.

James M. Settle
Department Commander
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  Joe D. Brown

THANKS TO ALL THE DEPARTMENT POSTS FOR HELPING US REACH OUR GOAL OF 100%

Membership Chairman
Charlie Brown

Membership Drive at GR06
GR06 receives 100% Membership Ribbon

GR01 Post Officer Elections

Department Awards Meeting

GR79 Easter Party

GR79 gives back to their community with a free Easter meal for the homeless
From the Editor…

Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my e-mail address by the end of the month. Please use Word document format. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

I would like to thank the Department Officers and Posts for their input that makes up the newsletter. Especially FODPAL for all their articles.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with YOUR Department you can also visit the following sites, 

David N. Greaux

DavidGreaux@t-online.de

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER  Jerry Aman

Hosting GR 13 elections
By Jerry Aman

On 19 April I attended GR 13’s monthly General Membership meeting after having been invited by Commander Rick Cervenka to conduct the post’s election of officers for 2014-15. Attendance was good and Commander Cervenka started the meeting by handing out the newly arrived Legion License plates to seven members for their support of the Post.

The most encouraging news for the membership was that GR 13 member Charlie Brown was finally released from the hospital and was at home. The Post Chaplain stated he would visit ASAP. A motion was made and approved that €uro 100 be given to Comrade Brown to help offset some of the expenses that he has incurred. It was also agreed to donate $50 to the local German/American softball team to support an “American Way of Life” activity.

Memorial Day activities and the annual picnic were discussed and plans formulated.

Several members who were not holding an elective office "stepped forward" and were voted in as new officers for the year 2014-15 and Rick Cervenka was reelected as the Post Commander.

The meeting went smoothly and I departed with the knowledge that GR 13 is a first-rate post and is a credit to the Department of France.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER  Stephen A. Ward

Greetings, Commanders & Legionnaires,

As the Department of France Vice Commander, I have been assigned the following Posts:
Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07, Thomas W. Barnett GR14, John F. Kennedy Post IR63 Facebook site: www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionIRL George S. Patton Post GR45, Rotterdam Post NL01, and Portugal (Nunv Alvares Pereira) Post PO-01. Doug Haggan (FODPAL Secretary) is asking the Department and Posts to submit pictures and small articles to the FODPAL website: http://www.legion.org Click FODPAL site listed below the Legion Homepage. FODPAL (Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion) is asking for special
programs & events and Facebook sites. The Department of France Newsletters is posted on the FODPAL website. Click Newsletters. Also, listed in the FODPAL Newsletter site is Post IR63 and Portugal Post PO01. Limerick (Ireland) International Veterans Day (May 25, 2014), RSVP: Email: lanabhiann2014@mail.com  

I conducted a briefing about The American Legion at the U.S. Embassy (Lisbon, Portugal) 4 April 14. Gilbert Wells (Portugal PO01) Post Adjutant was present. After the briefing, conducted a short recruitment drive at the NEX (Naval Exchange) located on the U.S. Embassy grounds. Recruited (3) new members. Hopefully, the new members will assist Gilbert Wells at the Post meetings. I attended the 2014 Easter Celebration at the John Wayne Post GR79 (April 19, 2014) Heilbronn-Klingenberg. Many thanks to the Commander and Post members of Post GR79; it was truly a great event. The ribs were excellent. The children loved the Easter eggs. Many thanks to Department VCAL Brown and Department Vice Commander Liam Kane for attending the Kaiserslautern Post GR01 Post Elections and Installation of Post Officers (April 26, 2014). The Department Awards Committee meets April 27, 2014.

Post GR07 is moving to Mannheim-Kafertal, date to be determined. The Mannheim Post GR07 is planning to support the Vicenza High School JROTC program this year. The next TWB Post 14 meeting is: 14 May14/7 P.M. (Buedingen) at the Gastatte Schroth (Buedingen Orleshauen). Please send your Post Americanism Reports, to Carl Hacksworth. I talk on Skype every Monday evening. You can reach me on Skype: stephenallenward  

I stress the importance of membership in the Posts, Department, and the National Organization. Membership is our Voice on Capitol Hill. Department Membership Chairman (Brown) has sent the 2014 February Membership Stats to the Posts. Please send your Post transmittal to the Department Membership Chairman as soon as possible. I encourage the Posts to transmit each month to the Department Membership Chairman (Joe Dan Brown).

The VFW Department of Europe Convention (13 – 15 June 2014) Best Western Hotel Ludwigshafen, Germany, please contact Lance Howard at lhoward88@yahoo.com

The Department of France Convention is hosted by William D. Nelson Post GR09 (19 – 22 June 2014) Neumaier’s Gasthof & Landhotel Hirsch Romerstrasse 31, 89264 Weissenhorn/Attenhofen located near Ulm, please contact Jerry Aman Daytime phone number: 07307-4492, Mobile: 0152-060 26594 email: Jerrya503@aol.com  

The Department of Europe Adjutant has sent the Department of France Convention information to the Department of Europe Officers, District Officers, Post Commanders, and Post Adjutants.

Commanders & Fellow Legionnaires, many thanks for what you do for your Posts and the communities you serve.

FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller


Gary Miller
DEPARTMENT ADVOCATE George W. Seeburger

The IRS has revised its requirement for the Posts to keep DD 214’s for all members. The following is a copy of the comment from National…

MEMBERSHIP

Legion efforts influence IRS' DD-214 revision

The American Legion has succeeded in persuading the IRS to revise Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, which requires Legion posts to keep records on file of members’ DD-214s – the separation document given by the military to prove honorable service.

The IRS had been fining posts up to $1,000 per day for not keeping records of veterans’ DD-214s or other valid documentation. The Legion felt it was wrongly targeted, and passed three resolutions at the 95th National Convention in Houston calling on Congress to look into IRS field investigations.

In December, Legion staff and legal representation met with IRS officials to request a change in its internal regulations and guidance. Effective immediately, DD-214s are only required if an agent “possesses information that contradicts documentary information provided (by the VSO) or if the organization fails to satisfy a reasonable request.”

The Legion also requested that the IRS appoint district VSO liaisons who would attend department conventions to provide training and other assistance.

In general, the requirement has been dismissed. I cannot define the exceptions listed.

George W. Seeburger
Judge Advocate
I am now set up at my home for VA, DAFS, SSA, ACG, CA. The address is AmKirchwald 3, 69251 Gaiberg

Phone H 06223 5475
Phone M 0176 7227 6350
Email hallgt@yahoo.com

Stuttgart Post GR06 Easter Party 2014
Pictures of Claudious Jackson receiving the Quilt of Honor from The Quilt of Honor Foundation. It was presented to Claudius Jackson by The Community Spouses Club from Wiesbanden. The Quilts are for Veterans of the 2nd World and Korea.
Legacy Scholarship Fund- Question To ALL Dept (FR) POSTS… Where is your Legacy Scholarship Donation Can?

Feb – August 2014- Department of France is coordinating donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund through the Department of France AL PE Messenger Service as follows:

We recruited several Post and messengers over the past years, but we are woefully short of the 100% department participation anticipated. The following is a reminder for Posts and perspective messengers:

1) Department of France Pony Express Messenger service is open for all Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. organizations, as well as their current members. Posts, Units and Squadrons serve as Way Stations on a best effort basis and collect donations from their members or their communities in their area of operation. This is on a best effort basis with no donation limits or set expectations.

2) The first two messengers from each Way Station (each Post Commander automatically becomes a Messenger for his Way Station) receive a Pony Express Badge at no cost from the Dept of France AL PE Coordinator. Department of France AL PE Way Stations and Messengers must register with the Department of France AL PE Coordinator.

Goal is to have all donations moved to any physical Department of France Post by July 31, 2014. The Post will either call me or send an email by evening of July 31st requesting pickup.

I will coordinate to have donations (Checks drawn on U.S. banks, USD money orders or pledges <keep a copy of your pledges please>) picked up to be moved to the Final Collection Point in Frankfurt Germany by August 4th. I will pick up the donations/pledges on August 5th for personal transport to the U.S.

I will ensure that the National Commander receives all envelopes that I receive from Department of France Posts and messengers.

Procedure for envelopes containing donations and pledges:

1) No cash will be moved. Only checks made out to The A.L Legacy Fund and drawn on U.S. banks, USD money orders or pledges are to be sent in an open envelope with name of Post and total amount of donations/pledges written on the front of envelope. An envelope that is sent by mail because of time constraints may be sealed. The messenger will open it to check contents before transporting.

2) Again, no cash, packages, sealed letters or other items are to be transported by messengers. All envelopes containing donations/pledges are to be left open or opened by the messenger.

3) Messengers are to ensure that they do not move instruments totaling more than $10,000 when crossing international borders.

4) Department of France Messengers are instructed to deliver any envelopes from Posts with donations/pledges to me personally, either before August 4th or at the National Convention at the beginning of the Convention First Session. These donations should be kept separate from the general Department of France donation. The department still receives credit for all amounts received from Department of France Posts. This however gives Posts the chance to receive recognition for their individual efforts. Donations of $100 or more receive personal recognition from the National Commander.

I will be in Washington, DC from August 6th to 13th. I then plan to ride straight to Indianapolis and will be at the Legacy Run hotel specified until the Run and I plan to ride the full Run, God willing. This will be my 5th full Run.

Please remember, we do God's Work in caring for our fallen heroes and their children, so let's ride safe and all get where we have to be with no accidents. Ride safe and ride with God.

Also please remember your Messenger’s oath that you took when you received your badge.

Ron “Gypsy” Moore
Department of France AL PE Coordinator

P.S. In case of late donations received after July 31, 2014, it is still possible to mail donations to me so that I receive the donations by August 12th in the U.S. for delivery to the Convention. My address there will be

Ronald Moore, ALPE Coordinator
4030 19th St. N.E.
Washington, DC 20018

Effective August 7th, my US cell phone number is 202-375-8769 and will be on 24 hours a day.

If you have any questions, please contact me under gypsy_moore@yahoo.de (underscore between gypsy and moore) or mobile telephone +49-172-741-7812.
Dear Mr. Hale,

Thank you for contacting the American Battle Monuments Commission about the 70th anniversary of D-Day and commemorations in Normandy.

In 2013, the French Government announced their basic intention regarding the 70th anniversary commemorations in 2014. In essence, this is what was announced:

- The June 6th international ceremony will be held at Ouistreham on SWORD beach.
- Two bi-national ceremonies will be held at JUNO and OMAHA beaches, respectively.

The French government is lead for planning the international and bi-national D-Day commemorations. Unfortunately, no further information has been released by the French government.

Anyone seeking further information on D-Day ceremonies can find the most recent updates on some of the websites listed below. The official French Government website has a separate section, “espace dédié” or “dedicated area,” for those who are World War II Veterans, media outlets, or tour operators.

- [http://www.le70enormandie.fr/en](http://www.le70enormandie.fr/en) -- The “official” French Government website in French. This is the best website to reference for the national-level ceremonies and other French Government supported events.
- [http://www.the70th-normandy.com](http://www.the70th-normandy.com) -- The “official” French Government website in English. This is the best website to reference for the national-level ceremonies and other French Government supported events.
- [http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/no.php](http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/no.php) -- The ABMC website in English. This is the best website for information on events happening in Normandy American Cemetery. The ABMC public affairs team plans on updating the website as new information is available.
- [http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/articles/70eme-anniversaire-de-la-bataille-de-normandie-1502-1.html](http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr/articles/70eme-anniversaire-de-la-bataille-de-normandie-1502-1.html) -- The Normandy Tourist Bureau website in French.
- [http://www.dday-overlord.com/eng/commemorations_normandy_2013_program.htm](http://www.dday-overlord.com/eng/commemorations_normandy_2013_program.htm) -- This is a private, non-government website with descriptions of some of the smaller ceremonies in the Normandy region.
- [http://france.usembassy.gov/](http://france.usembassy.gov/) -- This is the official site for the U.S. Embassy in Paris. Any American citizen traveling in France is highly encouraged to visit this website for a variety of information and news that may pertain to your visit.

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, located on the cliff overlooking Omaha Beach in the town of Colleville sur Mer, is administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. ABMC is planning a bi-lateral commemorative ceremony with the French on June 6, 2014 that will be similar to ceremonies conducted each year on Memorial Day.

- The ceremony will be open to the general public and reservations or entry passes will not be needed. Reserved
seating will be available for WWII veterans and family members accompanying them. If you are a WWII veteran you can send your request to:

Normandy American Cemetery or Normandy American Cemetery
Unit 9200 Box 1030 Omaha Beach
DPO AE 09777 14710 Colleville Sur Mer
Email: DDay70@abmc.gov

Media wishing to cover the ceremony should contact:

- If based in the U.S., please contact Tim Nosal at nosalt@abmc.gov
- If based in Europe or outside the U.S., please contact Anaelle Ferrand ferranda@abmc.gov

Please understand that the time for the ceremony has not been scheduled. Since we do not know the starting time for the main ceremony in Ouistreham, a time cannot be scheduled to avoid a conflict. As soon as the time for the Ouistreham ceremony is released, we will establish the time for the ABMC ceremony. When known, this information will be posted on our website www.abmc.gov.

ABMC’s has received many queries asking if the President will attend the ceremony in the American Cemetery. It is not known if there will be a Presidential visit and this information will probably not be released by the White House until a date much closer to the anniversary.

Having said that, should the President attend the ceremony in Normandy American Cemetery, the White House and U.S. Embassy will assume control of the event. As such, the U.S. Embassy, in consultation with the White House, will determine entry and seating requirements including media credentialing. If you have sent requests for reserved seating and passes to ABMC, those requests will be forwarded to the U.S. Embassy for consideration. Please understand that if the ABMC ceremony becomes a Presidential event, ABMC will have no control over entry passes, seating or media credentialing.

We encourage you to check www.abmc.gov and www.the70th-normandy.com regularly for updates and new information. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Sincerely,
Daniel L. Neese
Superintendent

Hello,
My name is Laurie Nedelcu and I work for the Carnavalet Museum, in Paris, France. We’re currently preparing an exhibition for the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Paris, and we’re looking for WWII American Veterans that were in Paris during the Liberation in order to collect their testimonies. Do you know of any members, or have any contacts with WWII Veterans, or know people in France or in the US that might be interested in being a part of this project? Any help will be appreciated.

Warm Regards,
Laurie Nedelcu
laurielouise89@yahoo.fr
The William D. Nelson Post GR 09, Neu-Ulm, Germany is hosting the 90th Annual Convention of the Department of France from 19 to 22 June 2014. The site selected for this event is Neumaier's Gasthof & Landhotel Hirsch, Römerstraße 31, 89264 Weißenhorn/Attenhofen. The hotel and meeting place is located 20 minutes from the historic city of Ulm.

This modern country gasthof with a typical rustic restaurant is located in the idyllic center of Attenhofen and has 30 rooms available: 22 as single and 8 as double rooms.

Convention costs, offered in “packages” are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package #</th>
<th>4 Days, 3 nights (Arrive Thursday, depart Sunday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Package for single room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Package for double room (Per person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children in parents room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 days, 2 nights (Arrive Friday, depart Sunday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 days, 1 night (Arrive Saturday, depart Sunday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 7         | Single day conference participation (No overnight, evening meal or banquet) | 16.00 |
| 7         | Single night, with breakfast (Either Wednesday or Sunday after convention) | 55.00 |
|           | Banquet only                                    | 26.00  |

“Package” includes hotel overnight stay with breakfast, morning coffee break with pretzel, conference room with beamer, flipchart, projection screen, attendance souvenir, and a 3 course evening meal which will consist of either a small salad or soup, 3 main entrees (Meat, Fish & Vegetarian) and dessert. The package also includes a tip for the waiter or waitresses which will be paid by the convention chairman at the end of the convention. Lunch will be on your own.

**Directions to the Department Convention Site**

If driving: Autobahns A 8 and A 7 are the main highways bringing you close to our location.

On Autobahn **A-8** from Stuttgart take exit **(Ulm-West)** onto highway B-10. Continue on Bundesstrasse B 10 towards **Ulm**, past Ikea, over the Danube river, and past all Ulm and Neu-Ulm exits. At this point B 10 turns into B 28. Continue for approximately 8 km to exit **Senden**. (After exiting follow directions below **“Senden exit”**).

If travelling on Autobahn **A-7** either from the North or South leave Autobahn at “**Hittistetten Kreuz**”, onto B-28, signs to Senden, Ulm, Neu-Ulm. At **“Senden exit”** leave B 28 and turn left onto Bundesstrasse, direction **Senden**. Drive thru Senden and at end of city limits at stop light turn left, direction **Weissenhorn**. Continue on to **Weissenhorn** approximately 8 km. When entering Weissenhorn stay on main road.
passing thru the traffic circle stay on the main road in the direction of Gunzberg. Attenhofen is 2 km from Weissenhorn. The total driving time after exiting the autobahn at Senden is 20 minutes.

For those arriving by train either the Ulm Hauptbahnhof or Neu-Ulm bahnhof will be your destination. A shuttle service will be provided.

The Stuttgart and Memmingen airports serve Ulm/Neu-Ulm. Contact GR 09 to arrange for pick up.

For those using a GPS the address of the hotel is Römerstrasse 31, 89264 Attenhofen (Coordinates: 48° 19’ 37.85" N / 10° 09’ 36.21" E). To locate convention site on Google Earth enter “Attenhofen bei Weissenhorn”.

In addition to participating in the convention you may wish to arrive one day early or stay an extra day and enjoy the fine sights of Ulm. Ulm has a history dating back several centuries and has the highest church steeple in the world (143 meters). For those in good physical shape climbing the 768 steps to the top offers a breathtaking view, stretching all the way to the Alps. For more information on items of interest while visiting Ulm/Neu-Ulm check their web site www.ulm.de

Mode of payment will be Bank transfer (Überweisung) to the Volksbank Senden “ULMVDE66” as follows:

**Begünstigten, Name:** Jerome Aman  
**IBAN:** DE02 630901000721989004  
**BIC:** ULMVDE66  
**Betrag:** Downpayment of one day.  
**Kunden Reference:** Convention Selection # ___  
**Angaben zum Kontoinhaber:** Your name and email address (Email address is so that a receipt/acknowledgement can be emailed to you.

Other methods of payment to be arranged with Committee Chairman

Down payment deadline is Friday, 30 May 2014.

Point-Of-Contact is Jerry Aman, Daytime phone number 07307-4492, Mobile 0152 060 26594, email: Jerrya503@aol.com.

Jerry Aman  
Convention Chairman/Post Commander, GR 09
Pre Memorial Day Grill

Sponsored by the
American Legion Family

Audie Murphy GR30 & Omar Bradley GR42

Good Old American Hamburgers, hotdogs, ribs and salads
Cost is only $5.00 or €5.00 per person
(drinks are pay as you go)

The Festivities will take place at...
“My Place”
Otto-Hahn-Str. 21
97318 Kitzingen

Saturday 24 May 2014
Starts at 13:00 hours

If you plan on attending please contact James Dennis (GR30 Postgr30@yahoo.com)
or David Greaux (GR42 davidgreaux@t-online.de)
We would like to get an idea of how many people will be attending

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
AMERICAN LEGION
100TH ANNIVERSARY
DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
COMMEMORATIVE TRIP PLAN

Presentation To 3RD DEC
15 March 2014
The attached sheets show Phase 1 of the Project’s Plan, which will allow the Department to analyze the feasibility of offering a Trip to France in March 2019 (the Trip) to all Legionnaires and Affiliates in March 2019. It will also afford the opportunity to begin the planning of the elements of the trip, and to determine the costs, outcomes, and profits that will occur.

To accomplish this, we must expend certain amounts. Since the Department budget currently does not provide sufficient flexibility to cover these costs, we will be offering the opportunity to Members in the Department, and to the various Posts. IF (re-read that – IF) the trip is successful, there should be funds remaining in excess of costs. Those Members or Posts who participate in the funding of the initial costs will share in these excess funds, pro-rata (in accordance with the amount of their investment (or participation), as determined by the total amount of participation received).

To make individual participation as easy as possible, we are asking that participation amounts be in $100.00 (US Dollars) increments. If anyone, or any Post, wishes to participate at a larger amount, that is acceptable, just make your participation at a multiple of $100.00 (US Dollars). Because of the costs involved, we can only accept checks drawn on US Banks. If a Post wants to participate, you will need to fill out the Bond Form in the name of the Post. Use whatever address, telephone, and email information you wish, but all communications will be forwarded only to that one addressee. Checks should be in multiples of $100.00 (US Dollars). If participating as a Post, be sure to create your own documentation showing what individuals, and at what amounts, participated in the Post participation.

The last page is a Form of the Bond we will be using. If you desire to participate: 1) remove, or print, or copy, this Bond Form on the last page; 2) fill it out as required, sign it and have it witnessed; 3) make a copy of the filled out Bond Form for your records; 4) then send the original of the filled out form, and a check in the amount of the desired investment (US Dollars ONLY) to the Project. Checks should be made out to: ALDOF100 Project.

The Project Address is:
ALDOF100 Project
P O Box 866791
Plano    TX    75086

Periodic Updates of the Project and the funds received and expended will be provided to each Participant. To save costs, we would prefer to communicate with all Participants by email.

Department of France, it’s your Project. Let’s make ourselves proud.

H. Ownby
Project Officer
PROJECT PLAN
BY PHASE
Budgets and Plan of Work

PHASE 1

Goal: To produce a Trip to France in March 2019 by Legionnaires and Interested Affiliated Parties to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the American Legion and Conduct relevant Ceremonies

Period: June 2014 - June 2015

Purpose: To gather sufficient Data to evaluate viability of Trip and related Ceremonies

Method: Advertise sufficiently to elicit responses to a Survey to be made available beginning at the National Convention 2014 [Charlotte, NC]. Offer, collect, and tabulate data from the Surveys, and have ready to present to the Department of France Convention in 2015.

Work Items:
1) Create advertising brochures for presentation and distribution at National Convention 2014.
2) Create Survey Form for distribution and collection at National Convention 2014.
3) Establish Domain Name [e.g. ALDOF100.org].
4) Establish Website, with intended operational date of 01 June 2014.
5) Coordinate Survey Form and On-line Survey [Survey Monkey]
6) Establish Banking Facility. [First National Bank Of Omaha, Southwest]
7) Test Website and On-line Survey with a limited roll-out. [July 2014]
8) Collect data at National Convention 2014, and begin tabulation. Make necessary corrections, adjustments, etc. to advertising and to On-Line Survey.
9) Present preliminary tabulation at DEC2 [2014-15 YR].
10) Present final tabulation at DEC3 [2014-15 YR].

Budget:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media Costs</td>
<td>$ 400.00 +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tabulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising (Other)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 4,700.00</strong></td>
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COST ANALYSIS

MEDIA COST ESTIMATES [All Phases]

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<th>Yearly</th>
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<th>6 - Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Survey Monkey</td>
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<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Various</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
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PRINT COST ESTIMATES (Approximate, Unless Otherwise Noted) [Phase 1 Only]

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>10,000</th>
<th>15,000</th>
<th>20,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Sales’ Brochure 4 x Color</td>
<td>Gatefold (8.5” x 14”; 8 Panels)</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
<td>$2,600.00</td>
<td>$3,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey Form B&amp;W</td>
<td>Bi-Fold (8.5” x 17”; 4 Panels)</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$925.00</td>
<td>$1,300.00</td>
<td>$1,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Signs - Mounted on Foam Board Announcement s, Directions, Other</td>
<td>Price (Per sf) + Tax 30” x 36” (7.5 sf) 5 Signs 2’ x 8’ 2 Signs</td>
<td>$12.25</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl Signs Booth Sign, Dept Conv Sign</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6.99</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SHIPPING
Unknown. Allowance should be made of at least $100.00 per project. All attempts will be made to secure production at or near the site where it will be used. However, allowance needs to made for ‘left overs’.

TABULATION
If tabulation exceeds a certain volume (approx. 1000 responses), it will be necessary to procure experienced clerical assistance to complete tabulation. Plan would be to retain at a contract rate per item. Preliminary estimate would be approximately $1,000.

ADVERTISING (Other)
American Legion Convention Booth: $1,000.00
Convention Center Contractor $250.00
Print in American Legion Magazine Unknown
American Legion - Department of France
100th Anniversary Project
Bond

Owner: _________________________________ Dept _______ Post _______

Address: ____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Telephone(s) ___________________________ ___________________________

eMail(s) ______________________________ ________________

Date Entered: _________________________ Amount: $____________________

This Bond is entered into on the date written above, by and between the Owner and the ‘ALDOF-100 PROJECT’. The Project is an entity separate from, but affiliated with, the American Legion - Department of France, but such Department is not responsible for the repayment of this Bond.

Owner enters into this Bond with the full knowledge that the Project will use the money received from the Bond Holders to prepare a Plan to determine the viability of promoting, preparing, and executing a Trip for Legionnaires and Affiliates to France to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the American Legion.

While it is the intent of the Project to arrange such trip and receive payment therefor sufficient to cover the expenses of such trip, and to have a remaining funds to re-pay this Bond. BUT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF SAID REPAYMENT.

In the event that such trip expenses are met, and the entirety of the Bonds issued for this Project are repaid, then any excess revenue shall be paid to the Bond Holders, pro rata. BUT THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF SAID PAYMENTS.

By entering into this Bond, Owner attests that they have sufficient assets and income to allow them to be able to suffer the complete loss of the Amount of this Bond, and will incur no hardship other than the loss of this Amount.

This Bond, and all transactions related to this Bond, shall be denominated in United State Currency, to wit: Dollars. No funds will be paid until after the completion of the above contemplated trip in March 2019.

I Do Hereby Attest As Stated Above, And I Have Read And Understand The Terms And Conditions Of This Bond As Set Forth Above. I Have Requested The Person Whose Signature Appears Below to Witness My Acknowledgment of These Attests And To Witness My Signature.

____________________________________  __________________________________
Owner                                Witness
Department Commander James Settle is presently recovering from his operation at the Reha Clinic in Bad Mergentheim.

Department Chaplain Gino Cantu is apparently still in the hospital recovering from a liver operation. Last word was he is doing better and on the way to recovery. It has been requested that he does not receive any phone calls but you may send your best wishes to Gino Cantu, Pacelli Str. 7, 68647 Biblis.

Comrade Dahan, Post Chaplain of Paris Post 1.

If Post would like to mail a card for his family they can send to:

Paris Post #1, Attn: Dahan Family
Boulevard Diderot, 22 - 24
75012 Paris, France

CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA
Site of the 96th American Legion National Convention August 22nd to August 28th 2014

If you are planning on attending the National Convention in Charlotte (and I hope to see some new faces in Charlotte) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information, THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.

Cutoff for the reservation is 14 July 2014.

Hope to see you in Charlotte, a good time will be had by all.
The route plan for the 2014 USAA-sponsored American Legion Legacy Run has been finalized. The Run will traverse 1,336 miles through eight states, eventually ending up in Charlotte, N.C., on Aug. 21, 2014.

The ride leaves Indianapolis on Aug. 17 and will make stops in Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia before ending up in King’s Mountain, N.C. The Legacy Run even will make a stop at The American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C., on Aug. 19 for the series championship game.

The route is as follows:

Aug. 17 – Indianapolis to Pikeville, Ky. (stops in Florence, Lexington and Stanton, Ky.)
Aug. 18 – Pikeville, Ky., to Danville, Va. (stops in Grundy and Bedford, Va., and Princeton/Bluefield, W.Va.)
Aug. 19 – Danville, Va., to Shelby, N.C. (stops in Winston-Salem, Statesville, Shelby and King’s Mountain, N.C.)
Aug. 20 – King’s Mountain, N.C., to Buford, Ga. (stops in Waynesville, N.C., and Rabun Gap, Ga.)
Aug. 21 – Buford, Ga., to King’s Mountain, N.C. (stops in White Plans and Rock Hill, S.C.)

Registration is available online here. A printable registration form is available here. Registration fees are $50 for riders, and $25 for passengers and supporters. The latter category is a new addition this year. Non-riding supporters provide much of the resources needed to conduct the Run each year – and all supporting registrations of $25 or greater will be mailed the full map book set and 2014 American Legion Legacy Run patches. Eight Legacy Runs have raised more than $4 million for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which was established so the children of servicemembers killed on or after Sept. 11, 2001, have the opportunity to pursue a college education.

Online registration ends Aug. 9.
DoJ Says Cross on War Memorial Should Stay

The Justice Department says a 29-foot war memorial cross on a San Diego mountain is not an unconstitutional promotion of Christianity and should remain on federal property.

The Obama administration said an appeals court ruling declaring the cross on Mount Soledad a violation of the constitutional separation of church and state undermined an act of Congress and conflicted with recent Supreme Court decisions.

But, in a filing last week to the nation's highest court, it said an appeal should first be considered by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals because there is no imminent risk that the cross is removed. Last month, the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association asked to skip the appeals court and go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court, saying it wanted to hasten resolution to a legal dispute that began in 1989.

The brief by Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr. said "additional time for reflection" may cause the 9th Circuit to reconsider its position. It says the Justice Department will appeal to the Supreme Court if it loses.

The 9th Circuit has been an unfriendly venue to advocates of the cross, ruling in 2011 that it was unconstitutional because it sits on federal property and sending the case back to U.S. District Judge Larry Burns to consider alternatives. In December, Burns reluctantly ordered that the cross be removed but said his order would be put on hold pending appeals.

"So long as the stay remains in place, this case can proceed along the usual procedural course without causing immediate harm to the public interest," the Justice Department wrote in its brief.

Verrilli added that the 9th Circuit’s earlier ruling was "wrong" and needs to be overturned, either by the appeals court or by the Supreme Court, according to The Los Angeles Times.

"The United States remains fully committed to preserving the Mount Soledad cross as an appropriate memorial to our nation's veterans," he wrote.

The concrete cross was erected in 1954 to the memory of veterans of World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The federal government seized the property from the city of San Diego in 2006 through an act of Congress in an effort to prevent it from being removed.

James McElroy, an attorney for plaintiffs who have challenged the cross, said the Justice Department made the right call by refusing to join the war memorial association's call for an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court.

"This is not a case where the cross is going to be ripped out of the ground anytime soon," McElroy said. "There's no reason to not go the normal course."

The Liberty Group, a nonprofit legal group specializing in religious liberty cases, says the Supreme Court petition has received support from 19 states, the American Legion, prominent veterans and members of Congress.

"We are encouraged by the outpouring of support that the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association has received for its petition to have the U.S. Supreme Court settle, once and for all, the constitutionality of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial Cross," said Kelly Shackelford, president and CEO of the Liberty Institute.
Congress Again Roundly Rejects BRAC Proposal

The Defense Department argued again Wednesday for another round of base closures and lawmakers roundly rejected it with explanations why Congress was unwilling to put jobs in their home districts at risk in order to reduce Pentagon spending on excess base infrastructure.

"I'm disappointed the department again requested" in its budget that a Base Realignment and Closure Commission be set up in 2017, said Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., chairwoman of the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on Readiness.

At a Subcommittee hearing with four Pentagon officials, Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., also said she was "very concerned about this proposal."

Both Shaheen and Ayotte urged the Defense Department to find other ways to cut costs, and also urged the military to spend more on the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., who has the Norfolk naval base in his state, tried to explain the political dilemma for lawmakers posed by BRAC.

"I can see why DoD likes the BRAC process," Kaine said. However, once the commission is set up, every community in the country with jobs at stake in a military base "has to lawyer up, has to lobbyist up," Kaine said.

In response, John Conger, the acting Deputy Undersecretary of Defense, said an independent BRAC making closure recommendations that would have to be accepted or rejected as a total package was the best way possible to address the problem.

If base closures were left to the normal legislative process, "you'll have more lawyering up," Conger said.

Congress has been fending off another BRAC round since the last one in 2005. In 2011, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta began making the case for another round but got nowhere against charges that the previous round in 2005 did not produce the cost savings that were predicted.

The 2005 BRAC commission originally estimated that it would cost the Pentagon $21 billion to follow its recommendations. However, a Government Accountability Office report said the real cost was about $35.1 billion.

Earlier this year, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said that he would not press for a BRAC round in 2015 or 2016, but he argued for one in 2017, which would guarantee making base closures an issue in the 2016 presidential and Congressional elections.

At the hearing, Conger rattled off statistics showing that the Defense Department currently "operates an enormous real estate portfolio encompassing over 562,000 buildings and structures on 523 bases, posts, camps, stations, yards and centers." The replacement cost of that real estate covering 27 million acres would be about $850 billion, Conger said.

"We maintain that the department has well documented the excess capacity" that now exists, Conger said. The excess capacity will only grow as the military reduces the number of troops following the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Conger said.

The most forceful case for another BRAC round was made by Katherine G. Hammack, the assistant Secretary of the Army, who has frequently clashed with Congress on the issue.

Without going into specifics, Hammack suggested that the Pentagon might have other legal methods of closing bases if Congress rejects another BRAC round.

"If Congress fails to authorize another round of BRAC, this defense drawdown is likely to repeat a very unfortunate historical pattern of hollowed-out forces dispersed across hollowed-out installations," Hammack said.
Memorial Day is a US federal holiday which is celebrated every year on the final Monday of May. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in the military service. It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Annual Decoration Days for particular cemeteries are held on a Sunday in late spring or early summer in some rural areas of the American South, notably in the mountains. In cases involving a family graveyard where remote ancestors as well as those who were deceased more recently are buried, this may take on the character of an extended family reunion to which some people travel hundreds of miles. People gather on the designated day and put flowers on graves and renew contacts with kinfolk and others. There often is a religious service and a "dinner on the ground," the traditional term for a potluck meal in which people used to spread the dishes out on sheets or tablecloths on the grass. It is believed that this practice began before the American Civil War and thus may reflect the real origin of the "memorial day" idea.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.
In 2018, The American Legion will begin celebrating 100 years of service to veterans, military personnel, families and communities. To honor the Legion’s centennial, many events at the national, department and post levels will occur starting at the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis and continuing throughout the 2019 convention in Indianapolis. Planning for these celebratory events is currently underway by the Legion’s 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, but help is needed at the post level to tell the larger story of The American Legion’s first century.

All 13,000 Legion posts worldwide, whether chartered in 1919 or 2009, have histories and a legacies that have contributed to the overall identity of The American Legion. Each post can convey its legacy by sharing historical photos, videos and print material on the Legion’s new Centennial Celebration web page: www.legion.org/centennial

How to get started

Posts are encouraged to form centennial committees now, made up of members who will collect historical artifacts and data on the post. For example, the centennial committee may identify:

- Who founded the post and when
- Who the post was named after
- Important dates in the history of the post
- Families involved with the post for multiple generations
- Notable members
- Notable alumni from youth programs such as Boys State, the Oratorical Contest or Legion Baseball
- What makes the post special or unique
- Great things the post has done for its community

If this information isn’t accessible from post archives or members, speak with the local library or media outlets (newspapers, radio, TV) that have covered events about your post.

**Share your story**

Once your post’s centennial committee has collected photos, videos and print material related to its history, share it on the Legion’s new Centennial Celebration web page.

To create a post history page, follow these seven steps:

1. Go to the Centennial Celebration web page, [www.legion.org/centennial](http://www.legion.org/centennial)
2. Register (in the upper-right hand of the page) to be an administrator. The administrator of a post’s page allows him or her to monitor all content submitted to the page before it appears to the general viewing public.
3. Click "Share Your Post History" located under "History" on the left hand navigation column.
4. Enter your department and post number.
5. Click "Yes, create post x."
6. Complete the required fields needed to start; you only need your post number, city and charter date. If you don’t know when your post was chartered, put in an estimated date until you find the answer; you can add/change information as you receive it.
7. Click "Save" when finished.

Once your post page is created, members — and those whose lives have been touched by the post — can add historical photos, timeline events (significant moments that helped build the chronology of your history) and upcoming events celebrating your history and the Legion’s centennial.

And for step-by-step instructions on how to share your post’s legacy and vision, download the Legion’s [Centennial Celebration Workbook here](#).

If your post does not have access to the technical tools or expertise needed to create a Centennial Celebration history page, the workbook features paper forms of timeline events, photo galleries and upcoming events. The forms can be submitted to a third party who is willing to create the web page and act as the post’s administrator.

For more information, please email: ledwards@legion.org
POC for the VFW Department of Europe is: Lance Howard: lhoward88@yahoo.com

BEST WESTERN Hotel Ludwigshafen
Reservation Department
Pasadena Alle 4
67059 Ludwigshafen
Tel: 0049 – 621 – 59 51 500
Fax: 0049 – 621 – 59 51 104
Email: fb@hotel-ludwigshafen.bestwestern.de

BOOKING – Department of Europe – VFW Convention 2014

Please reserve the following:

Guest Details:

Lastname:
Firstname:
Street:
ZIP / City:
State:
Telephone:
Telefax:
Email:

Room reservation:

Arrival Date:
Departure Date:

Room Type: 0  EUR 51.00 per Single room / night

0  EUR 81.00 per Double room / night

Children (0-11 years) sharing parent’s room free of charge without extra bed
Banquet - reservation:

13. June 2014: 0 x EUR 16.00 per person for LUNCH-Buffet
                0 x EUR 21.00 per person for DINNER-Buffet

14. June 2014: 0 x EUR 16.00 per person for LUNCH-Buffet
                0 x EUR 32.00 per person for BANQUET Dinner-Buffet

15. June 2014: 0 x EUR 16.00 per person for LUNCH-Buffet

Conditions:

Cancellation deadline: A cancellation free of charge is till 10th May 2013 possible.

   In case of cancellation after 10th May 2013 we reserve the right to charge 90% of the expected revenue.

Child Policy:  

Childs until 03 years are free of charge
Childs from 3-12 years will pay 50% of the price for the buffet Childs up to 12 years should pay 100% of the price for the buffet

Booking guarantee:

Credit card Details:  
Credit Card:  
Card Owner:  
Card Number:  
Valid:  

For Hotel use only:

Herewith we re-confirm the above mentioned booking:

Reservation Number: