

# DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

21 SEPTEMBER 2009

[HTTP://AMERLEGIONDEPTFRANCE.ORG](http://amerlegiondeptfrance.org)

## FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello my fellow Legionnaires. I hope all is well with everyone.

As you know, a lot has transpired since I took office. These changes were necessary for the good of the Department. Let's started by saying when I took office, I realized that changes had to be made. It's sad, as the incoming Department Commander, to take over without Vice Commanders or a Membership Committee chairman. This is the bulk of your Department Officers. I believe it was even harder for the outgoing administration to hand over the Department in such disarray. I would like to personally thank outgoing Immediate Past Department Commander Joe D. Brown, Past Adjutant James Settle, and Past Judge Advocate Keith Abernathy, for caring enough about The American Legion and the Department of France, to step up and fill the Vice Commander positions. I would also like to thank Fred Lane, GR1982, for stepping up the Membership Chairman.

I realize there is a lot of work ahead, and change is never easy. In trying to establishing a new concept and direction, I first needed to understand what I was dealing with. The more questions I asked the last administration, the more I felt that somewhere, somehow, change had to come. I felt that new blood was needed, so I accepted the resignations of Vice Commanders Abernathy, Brown, and Settle, and the resignation of James Settle as Department Adjutant and newsletter editor. I have appointed John Fleming as our new Department Adjutant and newsletter editor and James Dennis GR30, as a Vice Commander, pending confirmation at the 2nd DEC. Other appointments will be forth coming for the vacant Vice Commander positions.

With the changes of personnel, incoming and outgoing, in the Department of France, it may seem very difficult at times, confusing at best, however, we will persevere. With these



changes in the Department comes a new vision and direction in which we need to head.

I would like to see the Department conduct more family oriented activities. Our Posts have many activities that are family oriented, and these activities should be widely published so other Posts can participate as a Legion family. These activities could be conducted by a Post or we could join other community activities and organizations. For example: We could meet in Stuttgart, tour the Porsche museum and then either dine out at a restaurant or Stuttgart Post could host a BBQ; we could meet in Kaiserslautern and go on a Draisinen tour in Altenglan, just north of Kaiserslautern. These are just two

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

### Commander

Robert Gray, GR01

### Adjutant

John D. Fleming, GR01

**Vice Commander At Large** - DK 01, GC-1, PO01, NL01, FR01, IR02, IR03, & SP292

Liam Kane, IR63

**Vice Commander** - GR09, GR13, GR30, GR42, & GR79

Michael Besant, GR1982

**Vice Commander** - GR01, GR06, GR14, GR20, GR1982, & IR63

James Dennis, GR30

**Vice Commander** - GR03, GR05, GR07, & GR45

Vacant

**Vice Commander** - BE02, CP01, FR05, & IT01

Vacant

### National Executive Committeeman

William "Bill" Marshall, GR42

### Alternate National Executive Committeeman

John Miller, GR1982

### Chaplain

Ronald Moore, GR05

thoughts of things we, as a Department, could do as a Legion family. I am sure there are many great ideas out there, just waiting to be expressed.

When I went to the 91st National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, as your Commander, I felt a great pride. Pride I would like to share with you. The Department of France members are true Legionnaires in every sense of the word.

As The American Legion Department of France, we hold the frontlines for all legionnaires in the world. First, look no further than, Paris Post FR01, where The American Legion was founded. It is now the largest American Veterans organization in the Nation. As we look further, Americans greatest resources, our men and women in the Armed Services pass through the gateways of Europe, the majority of them for the first time. It's also the first time that they may get a glimpse of who and what the American Legion stands for. Another glimpse of importance is Landstuhl Hospital, where, from all around the world, money has poured in to Project Landstuhl, to support our men and women who have fallen in harm's way. There is also the Fisher House and the walking wounded detachment that The American Legion supports. We also have Posts located around Europe with their own histories. So as Department of France American Legionnaires, we have a very valuable role to play.

With all that being said, it is a privilege to be part of the Department of France, regardless of which role you play.

In the days ahead, I will be putting out more information. In saying that, I have an open door policy, so, if you have a question please, e-mail me and I will get back to you. As your commander, I look forward to serving you.

## EDITORS CORNER

All Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, Department Committee Chairpersons, Program Directors, and Post Commanders and Members are encouraged to submit information and articles to be published in the Department Newsletter.

All material submitted MUST be in my e-mail inbox by 0730, the first day of the month. The Newsletter will be published and distributed NLT the 5th of each month. These dates allow everyone to report all activities for the entire month. Send all input to the Department Adjutant e-mail address below.

Also, please read and heed the Department of France Newsletter Editor Job Description in the next column.

Thank you.

John Fleming  
Editor

[departmentadjutant@gmail.com](mailto:departmentadjutant@gmail.com)

## Department of France Newsletter Editor Job Description

**The newsletter editor has the responsibility for completing the following tasks:**

Preparing a newsletter that should be distributed by e-mail to Department Officers and Post Commanders and Adjutants for re-distribution.

Set deadlines for newsletter article submissions.

Remind Department Officers, Post Commanders and Adjutants, and Post Members of deadlines for submission.

Solicit from Department Officers, Post Commanders and Adjutants, and Post Members content for the newsletter.

Receive all articles in word processing format from Department Officers and Post Commanders and Adjutants.

Supply the content of the newsletter without violating copyright law.

Review all submissions for content and correct spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. The editor can reject articles or newsletter input if he/she feels they are inappropriate.

Edit and proofread the content of materials published in the newsletter.

Send a draft of the newsletter to the Department Commander (or his or her designee) for review before publication.

Send a PDF version of the newsletter to the webmaster after publication so that it can be posted on the Department's web site.



### Historian

Eric Thoresen, GR01

### Finance Officer

Gary Miller, GR06

### Service Officer

George Hall, GR03

### Judge Advocate

Michael Young, GR01

### Sergeant-at-Arms

Hal Rittenberg