Department Commander’s Corner

My fellow Legionaries

Oct was a very busy month for the Department. I and NECMan Marshall attended the Fall Commanders in Indy from Oct 13-17. It was a very interesting conference both I and NECMan Marshall received lots of good information pertaining to the Department of France. On the 18th we conducted our 2nd DEC in K-Town. The 2nd DEC was well conducted; however the Officers of the Department need to provide more information in their areas to the body. In the future please ensure that a copy of your reports is given to the Adjutant, and a verbal report will be given to the body. At present we have 14 posts made the November cutoff date for membership, thanks for a job well done. Those posts that have not made your cutoffs, you are behind the eight ball, and you need to get busy. If you are having problems with membership, contact your Vice Commander, Membership Chairman, Comrade Umland, or myself. Remember that transmittals should be done in a timely manner, don’t let members’ dues set on your desk; this is a disservice to your members. Pearl Harbor Day December 3rd is the 97.5 percent cutoff date. I am sure that every post within this Department will try their best to meet this cutoff date. Veterans Day is approaching very fast. I hope that your post is participating in an event to honor our veterans. Don’t forget that the 3rd DEC will be held in Paris in support of their 90th anniversary in March 2009. I attended a Retreat and a Retirement Ceremony to honor our Veterans, in Kaiserslautern on the 7th of October. The opening remarks were given by Major General Fontaine, and the guest speaker was Department Vice Commander Gray, he represented his post (GR01) and this Department in a very exemplary and professional manner. I would like to thank Comrades Rev. Chaplain Moore and Vice Commander Hanchak for traveling with me this month to support post events. Thanksgiving is approaching very fast, if your post is having a Thanksgiving Dinner, we have a lot of lonely Veterans within our communities, please do not forget to invite them to your event. In this way we are taken care of those that took care of us, and our freedoms. I would like to thank the Department, and those posts that sent condolences to the Settle family in their moment of grieve. 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. I f
you are having any problems please do not hesitate to contact your Post Officers, Department VC, or myself. For GOD and Country

Joe D. Brown
Department Commander

From the Department Adjutant:
My Fellow Legionnaires,
I hope everyone had a great time on Halloween, and were able to support their communities, with their events. The Department will be conducting the yearly Oratorical on 26 February 2009, at a time and place to be announced, National will conduct its Oratorical 17-18 April 2009. Thanksgiving is approaching, which begins the holiday season, if your post is having an event be sure to invite those veterans in your areas, who might need your support during the holidays. At this time I and my family would like to thank the department in whole for the cards and condolences received on the loss of my wife’s father. The condolences from our extended Legion Family helped soothe our grieve. A special thanks to Commander Brown, Rev. Chaplain Moore, Vice Commander Hanchak, and Comrade John Odom Sr. who were able to attend the funeral service. Those of you that supply inputs to the Department Newsletter please send your input to americanlegion@hotmail.com . In closing please, remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away pisces@t-online.de . Please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

James M. Settle
Department Adjutant

Department NECman’s Comments Re-Run for Info
Did you know The American Legion has a race car? See the attached flyer to see how you can help support our Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, by supporting the American Legions OPERATION FREEDOM CAR.
William Marshall
Department NECman

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

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Liam Kane
Vice Commander at Large

Vice Commander Shawn Ashe
GR05, GR06, GR30
Greetings my fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. Members

NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Shawn Ashe
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Robert Gray

GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14
First, let me start off by saying I wish everyone good health and spirit. We are now entering the holiday seasons, please, be safe and remember we are all legionnaire families. To GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14, and the Legion Riders, I want to extend my greatest appreciation, admiration, and devotion, to my posts being on top of everything in a timely and appropriate manner. The spirit and dedication in which the posts are operating is commendable. As a new vice commander, learning my posts, I can appreciate what I have and still learning. One of the things I’ve learned, it’s that no two Posts are a like, they all have their dedication to duty, and their love for fellow legionnaire, which beats second to none. I also like to say, on the other hand, if needing me for anything, in case of an emergency, like a legionnaire or their families are hospitalized or death in the family, please, notify me either by phone or e-mail, as soon as possible. Again, don’t hesitate to contact me. Lastly, I take full responsibility as vice Commander for all my posts. Y’all are doing a terrific job, take care and will see y’all soon.

Robert Gray
Department Vice Commander

Vice Commander Frank Hanchak
GR01, GR20, GR45
Following an American Legion function on October 4th, I travelled to Audie Murphy Post GR-30. James Dennis and his crew were at their usual top form. They served the tastiest fish this side of the Atlantic! Commander Joe James (GR-14) and Carl Hackworth (GR-14 Adjutant) accompanied me and also enjoyed the wonderful fish fry at the Kitzingen Post Home. (By the way, Carl is looking and feeling great after his surgery).

The Department of France held our annual 2nd Department Executive Committee meeting on the 18th of October. Thanks to all who were there and gave us your opinions and suggestions. It was a constructive meeting. I look forward to seeing many more of you at the 3rd DEC, which will be hosted by Paris Post 1 on March 21, 2009. Commander Geoghegan and Adjutant Canby will host a greeting ceremony on Friday, March 21st at 1600 at the Post Home in Paris. Contact your Post Commander or Department Vice-Commander for more details!

Omar Bradley Post GR-42 held their annual Early Bird Dinner on October 25th. Thanks to Chaplain Ron Moore for attending. It is always great to see the Chaplain in the crowd. After the dinner, Chaplain Moore proposed that GR-42 host a “Way Station” for The American Legion Riders for their 2009 Legacy Run. As part of The American Legion Pony Express Messenger System, Omar Bradley Post GR-42 will help the Legion Riders raise money for this event by acting as a Pony Express Collection Station. Details will be published as the event plans are made. All proceeds will go to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

GR03, GR07, GR09, GR14
Special thanks to USAG Schweinfurt Community Command Sergeant Major Earnest R. Lee for attending and being the guest speaker at the dinner. CSM Lee gave an interesting talk about Omar Bradley from when he (Lee) was a young soldier.

The Post looks forward to working with CSM Lee and the Community in the future. (Thanks to Department Commander Joe Brown, who recruited him, CSM Lee is our newest member). We are glad to have him in our American Legion Family and we welcome CSM Lee to Omar Bradley Post GR-42!

And of course… Please don’t forget to honor our Veterans on Veterans Day. November 11th falls on a Tuesday this year. Contact your Post Commander and join your Post as they honor Veterans (both living and dead). If there is a ceremony at your local community, make the effort to be there in your Legion Cap! Or, visit and decorate the graves of our Veterans who rest in your local areas. Veterans Day (along with Memorial Day) is one of the best ways to honor those who served. If you can’t visit local cemeteries or a ceremony this year, take the opportunity to personally thank a Vet today!

NOTE: New mobile phone, and new Email address!
0171 473 9782 frank.hanchak@gmail.com

Frank J. Hanchak
Department Vice Commander
Vice Commander Jerry Aman
GR13, GR42, GR79, GR1982, IR63
NO INPUT FOR THIS MONTH
Contact me at E-mail Address Jerrya503@aol.com or phone number 07307-4492 or 073075752
For God and Country
Jerry Aman
Department Vice Commander

Department Chaplain Ronald Moore
November 2008
Special Days/Legion Events: Native American Month: 11th. Veterans Day; 27th Thanksgiving;
Christian Religious Days: 1st. All Saint’s Day; 2nd. All Soul’s Day; 15th. Nativity Fast begins (Orth); 23rd. Christ the King; 30th. First Sunday of Advent; 30th St Andrew’s Day
Jewish Holidays (Year 5769): None to my knowledge.
Islamic Holidays: None to my knowledge.
Please visit the church, temple, synagogue or mosque of your choice.

PostEverlasting reported to October 31st:
Father-in-Law of Dept Adjutant James Settle
Aunt of Dept alt NECman John Miller
Comrade Jesse Strange, GR03

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 Dept Alt NECman

Phil Gatchell, GR-03
Edward Hayes, GR-03
Wife of Post GR03 Comrade Robert Pierce
Kenneth Grassr, 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
Donnie Swearengin, GR 09
Larry “Yard Dog” Ewerds, GR-07
Edwin F. Hoffman, GR-13
Robert Downs, GR-79
Brian Charters, IR-63
Michelle Gerdeman, daughter of Comrade John Gerdeman, Sr.
GR-07
Harry Hall, GR-42
Rance Cottingham, GR-09
Carl Hackworth, GR-14
Isadore Pink, GR-07
Hal Rittenberg, GR-09, Dept Sergeant-at-Arms
Niece of Comrade Dave Mendez, GR01
Wife of Comrade Robert Pierce, GR03
Cyndia, wife of Comrade Dan Halsey, FR01

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,
Greetings Sisters and Brothers of the American Legion Family,

October was a busy month again for all of us. Thank you for doing God’s Work in caring for our veterans and their families.

I am happy that I was able to visit two of the Posts of the Department of France last month and I have an invitation from another one for this month. How many Posts do we have? I am looking forward to hearing from your Post soon.

My sincerest thank you to our Dept Vice Commander Hanchak and the Post Commanders and members of Post GR01 and GR42

November is a month of remembrance, togetherness and thankfulness.

On November 11th, we remember the many servicemen and women who have served our great country. Let us also remember those who are serving now and don’t even know they are already
veterans. Buddy Poppy drives will be underway and many Veterans Day activities are planned. Let’s make it a combined celebration and make sure every veteran gets a handshake and a pat on the back with a thank you from all of us to all of them. And don’t forget to get your pat on the back and thank you too.

The third Thursday of the month of November is also a day of remembrance. The pilgrims sat down with some Native Americans and shared a meal in mutual friendship and thankfulness. Many of us will be doing the same with our families and friends. We will be “Giving Thanks” for the many gifts we have received over the year and for the freedom that we can enjoy as citizens of a free and beautiful Nation.

Have a wonderful month of November. Enjoy it and spread the joy to others. Remember to thank God for the gifts we have received and the love we enjoy. If you had or are having some bad experiences, don’t let that take control or make you blind to the actual joys and wonders around you. Sometimes we need a reminder to make us appreciate and recognize the blessings that we do have.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve. Please bless and keep safe those who leave Europe to go down range.

To all of our Post Chaplains-

Please send me an email to the below address so that I can contact you with some important information.

Service to God and Country!
Pastor Ronald Moore,
Dept of France Chaplain
Home: +49-(0)6196-569026
Fax: +49-(0)6196-569027
Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812
Email: revronmoore@yahoo.de
Rev. Ronald Moore
Department Chaplain

George Hall
Department Service Officer

Sons of The American Legion Frank Hanchak
Fellow Sons of The American Legion,
I just returned from our National Headquarters in Indianapolis. While attending the NEC meeting, I had the privilege of hearing from several past National Commanders about how the job of Detachment Commander is to be done. I took many ideas with me. Some of them I will implement, others, I will discuss with the Detachment Officers.

I was struck with the realization that sometimes the way we do things over here in the Detachment of France are necessary. Other things are done for no reason that I know of. I will take the best of both worlds and try to be an effective leader with what I have learned from National and comparing it with what I have learned over here in the Detachment. Working with the Detachment Officers, I know we will continue to serve the Detachment well as we have so many talented leaders among us!

Many of the things we do here are done because of budget and manpower. There are Squadrons in CONUS (many of them) that have more members than we have in our entire Detachment. Of course, the budget will drive much of what we do.

How does that affect us here? Well, we have to work smarter than our colleagues that are stateside. By necessity, we are forced to do more with less. While other Detachments are struggling with the high cost of conducting business, we here in France are more comfortable with working within our means. I thank all who are contributing their ideas and suggestions. More input will always be appreciated by your leaders who make decisions based on what you tell us.

This year, our membership theme is “The Greater Mattoon Open” (Think Golf!). We have already completed the first and second holes (membership cut-off dates). We, in the Detachment of France have passed 65%! Good job! Let’s keep hitting Eagles and Birdies and stay away from the bogeys…

Special thanks to KC! Your assistance was invaluable and I look forward to working with you again!
Frank J. Hanchak  
Commander,  
Detachment of France  
Sons of The American Legion  

Americanism Carl Hackworth  
NO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH  
Carl Hackworth  
Americanism Chairman  

Membership Chairman Mike Umland  
MEMBERSHIP STANDING AS OF 18 OCTOBER 2008  

MEMBERSHIP TO DATE: 2474 MEMBERS  
MEMBERSHIP STANDING: 66.06% OF LAST YEARS MEMBERSHIP  
PERCENTAGE OF RENEWALS: 62.29%  
SHORTAGE ON RENEWALS: -1412 MEMBERS  
DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 3837 MEMBERS, PRESENTLY AT 64.48% OF GOAL  
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 3650 MEMBERS, PRESENTLY AT 67.23%  
NEW REPORTED PUFL’S TO DATE: 10  
NEW MEMBERS: 141  
TOTAL POST TRANSMITTALS TRANSMITTED TO NATIONAL: 58  
DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP TODAY COMPARED TO LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME. MEMBERSHIP IS UP 458 MEMBERS WHICH IS OVER 13% HIGHER.  
NEW MEMBERS BROUGHT IN COMPARED TO LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME. NEW MEMBERS IS UP BY 27 MEMBERS.  
NATIONAL COMMANDER’S INCENTIVE PROGRAM PROGRAM: Any member who recruits five new members will receive a National Commander ”Pride and Purpose” Lapel pin. Any member who recruits five new members and renews/reinstate five current members will receive the National Commander’s ”Pride and Purpose” Lapel pin and an American Legion Lapel pin.  

Information has been sent out to all Post Commanders and Adjutants by way of email.  

THE AMERICAN LEGION BELT BUCKLE  
The National Commander will award 100 Legionnaires with an American Legion Belt Buckle. Every member who recruits 8 new members and submit’s the certification form to National will have their name placed in the drawing. These belt buckles will be awarded by drawing at the Spring NEC Meeting. There will be 20 winners drawn from each of the five regions based on the National Vice Commanders. Information has been sent out on this to all Post Commanders and Adjutants by way of email.  

I HAVE LOGGED IN 238 EMAILS ON MEMBERSHIP ISSUES FOR THE 2009 MEMBERSHIP YEAR. 25 OF THEM REQUIRED ME TO GO TO NATIONAL TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.  

PUFL APPLICATIONS: The Department has had about 5 PUFL applications rejected at National IT/Scan Operations because they were filled out Improperly. Please make sure prior to sending them to me, that you have them filled out and signed. It is not my responsibility to check them. I just make photo copies for the Department’s file and forward to National.  

Mike Umland  
Department Membership Chairman  

Rev. Chaplain Moore AL PE Coordinator  

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 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.
- 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.

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.

**Rev. Chaplain Moore**

Department AL PE Coordinator

**Department Events National Fall Conference**

National Commander with Commander Brown and NECMan Marshall
POST HAPPENINGS

Below is a partial listing of Post and their General Membership Meetings and dates. If you would like to attend a post meeting, please contact the respective Commander and or the Adjutant.

GR01: First Wednesday day of the month at Post Home
GR03: First Thursday of the month Post Home
GR06: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR07: First Tuesday of the month Post Home
GR13: Third Saturday of the month Post Home
GR14: Second Wednesday of the month Post Home
GR42: Third Sunday of the month Post Home
GR79: Second Saturday of the month Post Home
GR1982: Third Wednesday of the month Post Home
PO01: Third Wednesday of the month Past Com. House
IR03: First Saturday in April, first Sat. in Oct for elections

Editor’s Note:
Please support your Newsletter, send all inputs to the below listed E-mail address. Note new suspense date for Newsletter inputs is the 26th of the month. Remember anyone in the Department can submit inputs to the Department Newsletter.

americanlegion@hotmail.com

James M. Settle
Department Adjutant / Editor