Member Renewals, 2017: We are quickly approaching the 55% cut-off date for member renewals, an important milestone in the annual member renewal programme. Post commanders and membership chairmen should be well along in collecting and processing member renewals. Please allow me to make an important point -- don’t hold up your transmittals to Asst. Adjutant for Member Administration John Fleming. His schedule for closeout of each milestone date is published in this Newsletter. Help us meet/exceed this schedule by getting your renewals and new member subscriptions in as soon as possible.

2nd DEC, October 2016: Our 2nd DEC is coming up quickly, set for Saturday, 22 October at the John Wayne Post GR-79 post home, Heilbronn, Germany. All Department officers and committee chairmen are reminded that you are expected to be present, along with all Post commanders and delegates. We will call for reports from you and we have important business to consider. Please make every effort to attend.

Working the Department’s Membership Plan: VCAL and Membership Chairman Joe Schram and our Vice Commanders are working hard to execute the membership plan that was agreed following the last DEC. We’ve scheduled visits to Posts in need of support, set up presentations at military facilities and retirement groups across Europe and identified new opportunities for Post development that we’re exploring. Additional details are shown in this Newsletter in VCAL Schram’s report. We need you to be part of this effort and join us in recruiting new members and building new Posts.

Focusing on the Four Pillars: We build our organization and deliver our services by focusing on the Legion’s Four Pillars – Veterans Services, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. Each of these contributes to our overall mission of serving veterans and their families. Every Post needs to consider how its members can support some or all of these Pillars and build its programs around the activities described in each. In my brief tenure as commander, I’ve been especially impressed with the extent of resources available to us from Legion national headquarters and the Legion’s website (www.legion.org). I encourage all to make use of these resources and put them to work in your Post.

Reporting Results – the Consolidated Post Report: Our new National Commander, Charles Schmidt, has asked us to make a 100% goal this year in returning the annual Consolidated Post
Report. The CPR is our own report card of what we’ve done during the year. It’s used by National to make our case to Congress as to what we’re doing and why Congressional support is needed. Keep a monthly calendar of your work and results and make sure that you complete this important report.

**Visiting Posts and the Legion’s Fall Meeting:** Post visits this month include Posts FR-01 and FR-05 in France and Post IR-03 in Ireland. A personal trip to Washington, DC afforded an opportunity to visit with the Legion’s national headquarters staff and discuss improving VA support and outreach in Europe. Coming up later this month is the Department’s 2nd DEC and the Fall DEC, along with a visit to Ireland’s Post IR-02. Along the way to the DEC, VCAL Schram and I will be attending the Retirement Appreciation Day at USAG Schinnen, with the objective of revitalizing Post NL-01 with new members. You’d be very welcome to join us on Friday, 21 October for this information and recruiting program.

**Saving Pershing Hall:** Thanks to Post IR-01 Adjutant Curtis Bartosik, we had a very good meeting in Paris earlier last month with legal and operations advisors to lay out a plan of action to ensure Legion access to and use of Pershing Hall in Paris. There’s a lot of work to be done, but we have clear direction and a realistic chance of making this work. More as this develops.

**Voting 2016:** All Americans living overseas have the right to vote. Register and be sure to do so. See www.fvap.gov for additional details on voter registration.

For God and Country, John

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Department Officers - 2017 Membership Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Shanahan IR01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:jhshanahan@gmail.com">jhshanahan@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADJUTANT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maxwell Rice GR79</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:cdnhichboy@yahoo.com">cdnhichboy@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nola Maloney GR03</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:NECMaloney@gmail.com">NECMaloney@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALT. NECMAN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>James Settle GR42</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:james.settle@kabelbw.de">james.settle@kabelbw.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VCAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Schram BE02</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:joseph.schram@gmail.com">joseph.schram@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VICE COMMANDER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyndon Hudson FR01</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:lyndonandmargaret@yahoo.com">lyndonandmargaret@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Hale FR01</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:crbl@hotmail.com">crbl@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Darren Dahlke GR06</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:djdstuttgarten@yahoo.de">djdstuttgarten@yahoo.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Buckner BE02</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:04lgb@sbcglobal.net">04lgb@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<td><strong>FINANCE OFFICER</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>John Fleming CH01</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:pastcmdr.fleming@gmail.com">pastcmdr.fleming@gmail.com</a></td>
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American Legion Comrades, Auxiliary Members and all VIPs (rest of the population);

As I missed the cut off date for the September Newsletter due to miscommunication and traveling I will make this a combined article.

I was very honored on late afternoon 1 September 2016 at the 98TH American Legion National Convention, Cincinnati, OH when I was officially accepted by National as your NEC and pinned by Immediate Past NEC Miller.

I would like to applaud PDCDR Doug Haggan and Assistant Adjutant Robert Fueling for their lead work on presenting all the Delegates with notebooks that contained vital information on the National Convention Agenda, our assignments to Subcommittees, the various other meetings held during breakfasts, lunches and dinners we needed to attend, making sure we all knew where we needed to be and when, our Parade lineup, and advising everyone of what to expect during assembly in the Convention Hall. SUPER JOB!!! Thank you both very much for the invaluable assistance and information!!!

During the Convention, as a Delegate, I attended meetings on behalf of our Department. My Subcommittee on Committees was Military Benefits and Quality of Life. During the first meeting Dr. Sissler was a guest speaker. She has been given a Federal grant to study the effects of Cannabis on PTSD sufferers. There will be some drawbacks as the grant stipulates she must get the Cannabis through a NIDA provider, which there is only one - located in Mississippi. In speaking with several medical growers from Oregon and Colorado here is what I found out: Federal involvement is not as pure as State Controlled Medical Cannabis. The Fed allows the company providing the Cannabis to Dr. Sissler to supply it as a ground/almost pulverized product – stems, seeds, buds, roots (entire plant). State controlled requires extremely pure controlled growing conditions and only the buds can be used; inspections of entire growing environment is performed through each stage of growth (shoots, flowering, budding and sometimes harvest). The purity makes a huge difference in the reaction of how the Cannabis works on the patient.

In addition, during this meeting a report from the VA Administration told us 99.8% of claims are processed electronically; once claim is started you have one year to receive a timely, quality decision – this is way too long a wait. Another briefing given by the National Cemetery Administration (Diana Ohman) showed 47 National Cemeteries across the U.S.A. in 12 states; of these 24 are open and 23 are closed. President Lincoln established the first one in 1862. These are maintained by Federal funds. Other Veterans burial sites that are maintained by State or Tribal Grants are as follows: VA-130, Army 30, American Battle Memorials Commission – 24. In total there are 3.5 million graves maintained. The VA Burial benefits include: grave opening and closing, grave liner, and perpetual care of the grounds. Eligibility: Died while on Active Duty and Veterans with Honorable Discharge.

During the second meeting we met to vote on 19 Resolutions out of 200+ that were presented to the American Legion HQ. All of the 19 Resolutions in my Subcommittee were accepted. Of the 200+ presented to all the Delegates from all Departments 97% were accepted and others sent back for re-writes. ANEC Settle will have a list of the ones I dealt with and will give a report on what they were.

I attended the Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting where CDR Shanahan did a SUPERB job of representing us before the Committee – he will have that in his report so I will not use space here to expound on it. I will say this though in a quote from A.L. News Clip: “The American Legion was founded nearly a century ago to fulfill four key pillars of service:

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Youth.” Our Department can be proud – we have programs from every one of these pillars and multiple programs in several of the pillars!! CDR Shanahan and I are involved and working to help you get us where we need to be – but we can’t do it without your assistance and commitment. We all play a part in some way or another.
I visited the National Auxiliary Convention Office site. I particularly wanted to talk to the Membership Chairman but she was not attending Convention. I want to thank Elke Haggan and Dorothy Fueling for checking the mail room until Margo Moore arrived. I will get over to Auxiliary HQ while at the Fall Meeting in October. I would like to have as many Auxiliary Members as possible to attend the 3rd Department DEC in March 2017 so we could have a meeting. I have not asked yet but will ask Post 1982 (Ansbach) if we can use the same room as the DEC. Depending on the time we could have our meeting immediately following the DEC. This would leave the ladies morning free.

During the week 22-25 September I was invited and privileged to attend the China Post 1 Annual Reunion. Since their inception with Department of France they have always invited us to their affairs but I am told until CDR Shanahan visited them to attend the Legendary Fred Platt’s Funeral and my attending their Reunion no one from the Department has ever accepted the invitation. Just like all Posts, they have their own set of issues and agenda to resolve them. I was introduced to some more outstanding Veterans whom I’m proud to call Comrade’s. I hope to attend again, time permitting, during National Convention in Reno next year.

I am looking forward to attending Fall Meeting – this is where the rubber meets the road on how the decisions are made that guide us in our work as American Legionnaires and get policy changed that affect all Veterans and their Families.

Until next month - Travel safely and God bless you
All for all you do!

Nola Maloney
Your NECLady

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**Department of France Past Commanders Club**

**Who is eligible to join the Department of France Past Commanders Club?**

PAST AND PRESENT Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents...so if you were just voted into office you are eligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $25.00
Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $10.00

*Our next meeting is planned in conjunction with the Department of France Second DEC.*
NOW AVAILABLE !!!

The American Legion Centennial Coin

This special commemorative coin is issued by the Department of France, the birthplace of the American Legion from its founding in 1919.

The front of the coin is executed in a vibrant, deep blue, with gold lettering and the official logo of the Legion Centennial. The reverse shows the Legion family emblems against a bright gold background and the motto of the American Legion ringed in blue: **For God and Country – Still Serving**

**Coin prices:** €5/$5 each, plus €2/$2 shipping cost per coin, total €7/$7 for each coin if shipped. Send your order and US Dollar or Euro bank transfer payable to “**Dept. of France, American Legion**”

**Ordering By US Check (No European or Foreign Checks)**

*Send to:*
American Legion Post BE02
Attn: Centennial Coins
Unit 28100, Box 017
APO AE 09714

*Or:*
Joseph Schram
attn: Centennial Coins
Meersenstraat 33 C2
8310 Assebroek

- **PayPal:** Paypal.me/JosephSchram
- **Foreign Bank Transfer:** ING Account: IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693 -- BIC: BBRUEBBB
- **US Bank Transfer:** Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111
  American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

**Europe and All Outside USA**

*Contact:* Joseph Schram
American Legion Post BE-02
Unit 28100, Box 017
APO AE 09714

*Email:* vcal.schram@gmail.com
*Phone:* +32-479-178539

**All USA**

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Department of France NEC Rep.
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*Email:* NECMaloney@gmail.com
*Phone:* +1-928-235-1291
Vice Commander at Large

The month of September was especially busy. Other than the Post BE02 activities, I was actively working with several different military communities and American High Schools for visits during the months of October and November.

My first planned activity for the month is to revitalize Post GR45. I will be visiting USAG Bavaria for 5 days from 12-16 October to begin this process. I will have a table at the retiree appreciation day (RAD) event and I plan on meeting the garrison commander and PAO. I have also obtained permission from the garrison and the AAFES PX manager to have an information table at the local PX. During these 5 days, I also plan to visit the Vilseck and Hohenfels American Schools and coordinate, schedule and advertise for an Oratorical Contest for 12 February 2017.

On 21 October, I will be attending the USAG Schinnen RAD. Recently, on 29 September, I travelled to the USAG Schinnen/Brunssum area to start the process of revitalizing Post NL-01. I met with several retirees and the local Retirement Service Officer (RSO). This meeting has paved the way for a membership campaign during the upcoming RAD scheduled for 21 October. Initial outlook for revitalizing Post NL-01 looks great.

The last endeavor for the month of October is to visit USAG Wiesbaden and start the process of revitalizing Post GR-1983. Along with participating in the RAD, I will be meeting with the garrison PAO and the Wiesbaden American High School principal. During the meeting with the principal, I will be setting up an Oratorical Contest to be scheduled sometime in January/February of 2017. I will also be hosting an information table at the local AAFES PX.

I have scheduled the first week in November for a visit to RAF Lakenheath in England to start the process of beginning a new post in that area

Membership

While we have a good plan for membership growth, we are not reaching the target goals that we should. One problem is that we are not reaching out to our existing members. Renewals have always been a problem but this can be rectified by contacting the member by phone, e-mail and social media. We need to both maintain our existing membership numbers and focus on growth at the same time.

Information tables at Retiree Appreciation Day events, at the local AAFES PX and commissary or at information fairs are great ways to show that the American Legion is present in the community. We have to use every branding technique available to market the American Legion. This can be done by hosting events in the community or by submitting articles in the community newsletter. To recruit younger members to our Posts, we need to think outside the box. Use social media to get your message out to these potential members. Ask AFN radio if you can have an interview so that you can publicize your Post. Use the mission of the American Legion as a Veteran’s Service Organization. Our ability to serve veterans and maintain our Posts and our Department depends on strong membership. Everyone – and that means you -- is a recruiter!
Oratorical Contest
I attended the Americanism Conference at Indianapolis, IN during from 22-25 September. During the weekend, I participated in the Oratorical Contest conference where I learned some important methods to enhance our contest’s visibility. As one of our goals is to expand the Oratorical contest to more American High Schools, I will be developing a separate webpage for the Department level contest. The webpage will have information pertaining to the Post level contests being held throughout the Department’s area as well as our own Department’s contest.

Blood Donation
The use of the blood of one human being to save the life of another is one of the world’s greatest medical achievements. Thousands of people are alive today – happy children, injured service members, young mothers, accident victims, and the elderly – who have survived major operations because blood and blood components were available to support surgery and combat many types of diseases and other medical problems.

While there will always be risks associated with blood transfusions, blood and blood products from healthy volunteer donors has proven to be very safe. For this reason, your American Legion post should make every effort to recruit more healthy volunteer blood donors. Note then while Legionaries may be accepted by the American Red Cross, European Red Cross Associations may have different standards, so check with your local blood bank. Since my arrival in Belgium 5 years ago, I have donated 2 ¼ gallons of blood and 5 ½ gallons of plasma.

For more information, see http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/Blood-Program-Booklet-WEB.pdf

Eagle Scout of the Year National Scholarship
The American Legion provides for a national scholarship to be awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected “The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year.” The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year receives a $10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of $2,500 each.

The scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarship immediately upon graduation from high school (public, parochial, military, private, or home school) and must utilize the total award within four years of their graduation date, excluding active military duty or religious mission.

The scholarship may be used to attend a school selected by the student, provided it is state accredited, above the high school level, and within the continental limits of the United States, except in the case where the student may be from a possession of the United States, in which case he can select a school in that possession or in the continental United States.

The Deadline for application to Department of France’s Boy Scout Committee Chairperson is 28 February 2017. http://www.legion.org/scouting
Department of France “Adopt a High School” Program

Participating Posts would select a High School(s) in their area to support Legion Americanism programs such as the Oratorical Contest, Scouting, JROTC and the Legion’s Junior Shooting Program, where applicable.

Within the Department of France, there are 19 American High Schools. For the 2016 Oratorical Contest, there were only three students competing in the Department of France Oratorical Contest. Each of these 19 High Schools could have conducted a Post level oratorical contest and sent the winner to compete at the Department-level contest. The situation is that at a number of these High Schools, there are no Posts located nearby.

The High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest is one of the American Legion’s premier annual events. Each year, thousands of high school students compete across the USA and overseas at the Post level. Winners at these Post-level competitions move up to compete at the Department-level and in April of each year, these Department winners compete in Indianapolis, IN for scholarships valued up to $18,000.

Similar opportunities exist in each of the other youth program areas: Scouting, JROTC and the Legion’s Junior Shooting Program, where applicable.

To facilitate the development of new Posts and revitalization of existing Posts, we would use the Oratorical Contest and other youth programs as a means to market the American Legion brand. Communities and potential members of the Legion will see that we support programs for their children.

So what does an adopting Post need to do?

- First, adopt a High School and agree to support Americanism programs within that school.
- Second, agree to financially sponsor an Oratorical Contest or other youth program for those students in the High School. If necessary, several Posts can work together to facilitate a small monetary prize package.

The Department’s Vice Commanders will be part of an Oratorical Contest team that will support the actual conduct of the contest. The same principle would apply to the organization of other Americanism programs.

The adopting Post gets credit for conducting the contest or activity, with the adopting Post continuing to support the High School until a Post could be established or revitalized in the local community.

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER  Gary Miller

If you have any expenses for Department, I need them submitted to me NLT 14 October 2016. I need this to properly reflect costs Incurred on the finance report. I have said this before, DO NOT Approach me at the 2nd DEC with a bunch of receipts and expect to get reimbursed.

Gary.d.miller2.ctr@mail.mil
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER  Marcus W. Briscoe

These are the events of the last months that took place on several post which I attended and took part of...

Fishing event and membership meeting on John Wayne Post GR79 in Heilbronn.

BBQ Event and membership meeting at Audie Murphy Post GR30 in Kitzingen and Omar Bradley Post GR42.

There was a Fest in Düdelsheim which was attended by American Legion Post GR14 on 27th of August.

The American Legion Centennial Coin will be coming soon. This special commemorative coin is issued by the Department of France, the Birthplace of the American Legion from its founding in 1919.

Coin prices: €7/$7 for each coin if shipped.

New plans:
Next month’s plans are to set up an American Legion Information Table in the Tower Barracks Shopping Mall on Oct 15th. And on 22 Oct will hold a Department Executive Committee Meeting at John Wayne Post GR79 in Heilbronn. We also plan to set up Information tables in Wiesbaden at the PX and to hold a Membership Drive to get the Post started on 29/30 October 2016.

Thank you for Your Service, Sincerely...Marcus W. Briscoe / +49 1637010955
I participated in ceremonies on 17 September at St. Symphorien, France, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the first marker installed of the Liberty Highway and to inaugurate a memorial monument dedicated to U.S. Army General Walton Harris Walker. General Walker commanded the XX Corps, 3rd U.S. Armored Division during WWII. An official lunch was hosted by Mayor Michel Sciluna before the ceremonies that was attended by 28 guests including the mayor of Bastogne, Belgium, and the mayor of Saint Mere Eglise, France. Ms. Helen Patton, the grand-daughter of General George Patton, also participated in the discussions about how to best maintain the “Voie de la Liberte” and to advance the marketing of the Liberty Highway as a Patriotic Historical Trail in a manner that the young generation will be encouraged to continue learn the history and preserve the memory of service and sacrifice. Photos of the ceremonies are available on the Department Facebook page. I traveled 525 miles round-trip by car in support of this Patriotic weekend. I was supported by Lee Sperandieu, American Legion Auxiliary who was joined by Paris Post 1 Auxiliary Vice President, Ms. Ginette Crosley. Ms. Michele Crosley, GR01 member, was also present during the ceremonies. The United States of America Flag was carried by BE02 SAL member, Mr. Eric Guint. The American Legion Paris Post 1 Auxiliary flag was carried by Mr. Ginette Crosely during both ceremonies at the Patton memorial and at the unveiling of the General Walker memorial.

I completed 22 days of the project called #22Pushups for #22KILL to raise awareness about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Suicide Prevention. September was Suicide Awareness month. The Department of Defense raised awareness through Twitter and Facebook and a public service announcement by Secretary of Defense Carter on the Armed Forces Network. The 22 video messages that I completed are available to review on my Facebook page. Some were also added to the Department Facebook page. Veterans helping Veterans is basis of the American Legion.

In support of the Department Membership goals I will travel to Italy with Vice Commander Lyndon Hudson to inform the Vicenza and Aviano military communities about the support services that an American Legion Post could provide. Our goal is to establish active American Legion membership in Italy.

We will be prepared to discuss the Italy trip results and continuing project to increase active membership that advances the programs of the American Legion at the next Department Executive Committee meeting.

For God and Country. Best regards, Carl
On the 10th of September I met with Legionnaires of Riviera Post FR05 in Nice, France and conducted its first meeting since the passing of their Commander Anthony DiPietro. Efforts to recover Post property and administrative and financial records are ongoing with the assistance of local members, to include spouses. This is greatly appreciated and has not gone unnoticed.

On a more positive note, Riviera Post has tentatively scheduled a Veterans Benefits Awareness Day in coordination with the U.S. Consulate General Marseille in November, which, I and Commander Shanahan will attend. Details are still pending and will be published in next month’s newsletter, however, if you’re motivated and would like to attend and/or help out please email me: lyndonandmargaret@yahoo.com

On the 14th of September I attended GR06 Post 6’s stated meeting in Stuttgart. Newly elected Commander Tyler Johnson is doing an outstanding job and has graciously volunteered to assist me with my upcoming American Legion Awareness efforts in the Aviano and Vincenza area next month. THANK YOU Commander Johnson! Speaking of upcoming…

UPCOMING:
I’ve been invited by the USO in Vincenza to participate in their Community Information Day events at the main Exchange at Camp Ederle on the 18th of October from 11 – 13. The following day on the 19th I will attend the Retirement Appreciation Day from 09 – 14hr which is also at Camp Ederle, bldg. 300A.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming DEC, Lyndon Hudson, VC, Department of France
2017 MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTAL TARGET DATES
(Updated 17 September 2016)

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<td>3 Sep 16</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Delegate Strength</td>
<td><strong>30 Days Prior to Convention 26 Jul 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 Jul 17</strong></td>
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*This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.

Department Target dates fall on Saturday, 1 ½ weeks prior to the National Target date to insure receipt at National by the Target date.

"Attention Post Commanders and Historians: How did your post get its name and when was it established as a post in Department of France? You may bring this info to the 22 Oct DEC or send to me at 04Lgb@sbcglobal.net. Thank you. This information will be used to establish the Department history in a comprehensive manner in advance of the 100 year anniversary"
Information Fairs: Brussels American HS & US Embassy

On Thursday, 08 Sept, Post BE02 representatives participated in the Brussels American High School’s Open House. We provided students, parents and faculty with information regarding the Post level Oratorical Scholarship Contest, Boys State/Girls State program and the BSA Venture Crew 511.

On Friday, 09 Sept, a Posts BE02 representative participated in the US Embassy’s Information Fair at the residents of Ambassador Denise Campbell-Bauer. Information was provided for to staff and families regarding the programs proved by the American Legion. Special attention was given to the American Legion as a Veterans Service Organization (VSO).

American Legion / USO Dance and Borlo Liberation Ceremony
On Saturday, 10 Sept, Post BE02 hosted an American Legion / USO Dance for the community and visitors of the city of Borlo. Many of the participants dressed in period uniforms and danced the night to the music of Glenn Miller and the Andrew Sisters. During the evening, donations were collected for the USO.

On Sunday, 11 Sept, the Post Family representatives participated in the Borlo Liberation Ceremony. Representing Post BE02 were Command Schram and Comrade Greene. Representing the SAL was Carl Hale and representing the American Legion Auxiliary and the Patton Foundation was Hellen Patton.
POW / MIA Recognition Day

On Friday, 16 September, Post BE02 participated in the annual POW / MIA Recognition Day by hosting a POW table at the AAFES PX on Chiévres Airbase. Pictured here is the manager of the AAFES PX, Joseph Escobar.

2nd Annual Adopter Appreciation Day

On Saturday, 17 Sept, Flanders Field Post BE02 hosted its 2nd Annual Adopter Appreciation Day. The official ceremony began at 1100 at the Flanders Field American Cemetery and was attended by Ambassador Denise Campbell-Bauer, LTC Ed Evans and the Mayor of Waregem Kurt Vanryckeghem. After the ceremony, a luncheon was provided to the adopters at a local venue in Waregem, Belgium.
American BBQ
Bastogne
10 December
101st Airborne Museum

MENU:
PULLED PORK SANDWICHES
GRILLED HAMBURGERS
HOTDOGS
BAKED BEANS

Sponsored by:
- American Legion Post BE02
- Patton Foundation
- 101st Airborne Museum

Department of France
Second DEC
Saturday 22 October 2016
DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01

Lee Preston… Detachment of France Commander “2017”

The Second DEC was held on Saturday, 01 October 2016 in Heilbronn, Germany.

The Third DEC will be on 04 March 2017 hosted by GR42. It will be held at the GR30 Post Home in Kitzingen, Germany.
GR01 hosted a Legion Social on 24 Sept and here are some pictures of the event. Scouts were there and camped out that evening. Commander Gray and ADJ Morgen giving a briefing. Christa Purdy, Colette Young and Joe Chonko enjoying themselves, Finance Officer Terrill Roberts giving a finance briefing.
Several weeks ago Post Commander Aman was contacted by Joachim Lenk, a free-lance Journalist and writer of several books on German military activities who stated that he was preparing to write a book about the various kasernes in the Ulm and Neu-Ulm area and the Americans previously stationed there. Needless to say he was pleased to discover that a large number of American ex-service members were still in the area and he expressed a desire to meet with these individuals before they “start to forget” their experiences. His main interest was the “American way of life” as experienced by the soldiers. In the past month he has met with several of GR 09’s Legionnaires and recently attended the General Membership meeting where he met with many of our members and “picked their brains.” He plans on completing his book within two years and many of GR 09’s members will then have their names and accounts of life in Ulm/Neu-Ulm etched in history. Hr. Lenk has also contributed an article with photograph to the local newspaper for a special edition on Americans in Ulm which is to be released on 1 October.

Also during the 24 September General Membership meeting the post sadly conducted a Post Everlasting Ceremony for Legionnaire Frank Temple.
Congress Won’t Let Veterans Access Medical Marijuana After All

The legislation would have allowed Veterans Administration doctors to recommend medical cannabis to their patients.

Mollie Reilly, Deputy Politics Editor, The Huffington Post

Congressional leadership removed language from a spending bill that would have allowed Veterans Administration doctors to recommend medical marijuana to patients.

J.CASTRO VIA GETTY IMAGES

An effort to allow veterans to access medical marijuana in states where it’s legal died Wednesday night when Congress passed a spending bill without the provision included.

The Veterans Equal Access Amendment would have nullified a Department of Veterans Affairs standard that keeps its doctors from recommending medical cannabis as treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, pain and other conditions experienced by veterans. Veterans currently seeking medical pot must obtain a doctor’s recommendation outside of the VA system and pay the expense out of pocket.

The amendment, authored by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Sens. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), passed both chambers of Congress earlier this year as part of a spending package funding the Veterans Affairs department.

But in June, the provision was stripped from the final version of the bill during conference committee. Blumenauer, Daines, Merkley and other supporters of the provision lobbied their colleagues to get the amendment added to the bill again.

“We feel the failure of the Conferees to include either provision is a drastic misfortune for veterans and is contrary to the will of both chambers as demonstrated by the strong bipartisan support for these provisions,” read a letter sent to congressional leadership.

The amendment was never readded, and the Veterans Affairs spending package passed Wednesday as part of the continuing resolution to fund the government.

“It’s incredibly frustrating and disappointing that despite broad bipartisan, bicameral support, a handful of out-of-touch lawmakers put politics over the well-being of America’s wounded warriors. Our veterans deserve better,” Blumenauer said in a statement on Thursday. “We will continue to seek every opportunity to make sure they have fair and equal treatment and the ability to consult with, and seek a recommendation from, their personal VA physician about medical marijuana.”

Medical marijuana is currently legal in 25 states and the District of Columbia, and several other states will vote in November on whether to legalize cannabis for medical use.

The VA doesn’t condone medical marijuana as a treatment for PTSD or other conditions due to the lack of studies on the effectiveness of the substance in easing post-traumatic stress. Still, many veterans have turned to the substance as an alternative to prescription antidepressants or painkillers, and some states specifically list PTSD as a condition for which doctors can recommend cannabis.

The Drug Enforcement Administration announced in August it would open the door to more research on medical uses for marijuana, which could lead to eventual acceptance by the VA. However, the DEA still classifies all forms of cannabis as Schedule 1, the “most dangerous” category of drugs.

The American Legion, the country’s largest wartime veterans organization, came out earlier this month in support of allowing veterans to access medical marijuana, and urged Congress to remove cannabis from the Schedule 1 designation.
5 Things U.S. Military, Overseas Citizens Need to Know to Vote Absentee Key Reminders from the Federal Voting Assistance Program during Absentee Voting Week

Alexandria, Va. — With less than two months until the General Election on Nov. 8, absentee voters are beginning to receive their State ballots.

During Absentee Voting Week — Sept. 26 through Oct. 3 — the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) reminds military and overseas citizens to vote their ballot as soon as possible and to follow up to ensure that that their ballot is received by their election office. Here are FVAP’s top reminders for ensuring Americans vote successfully — wherever they are.

1. **Know that your absentee ballot counts the same as ballots cast at the poll site.** All ballots submitted according to State laws are counted in every election. The media often will report the projected outcome of an election before all of the ballots are counted. In a close election, the media may report the preliminary results or say that the outcome cannot be announced until after the absentee ballots are counted. However, all ballots, including absentee ballots, are counted in the official totals for every election — and every vote (absentee or in-person) counts the same.

2. **Check your State deadlines, instructions, and options.** Each State sets its own deadlines for registering to vote and its options for how absentee ballots are sent to voters. States can also differ in their requirements and deadlines regarding how to complete and submit absentee ballots. Some States require ballots to be postmarked by Election Day while others must receive ballots by Election Day. FVAP.gov has your State’s deadlines and requirements.

3. **Postmark and send your ballot on time.** Every election, States receive some absentee ballots past the deadline for acceptance — but this is easily preventable. Follow your State’s specific deadlines and recommended mailing dates for returning your voted ballot. If you’re a registered military or overseas voter and don’t receive your requested State ballot early enough to submit it on time, you can go to FVAP.gov and use the backup ballot called the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). Voters who end up receiving a State ballot after submitting a FWAB should still complete and return it, as well. States only count your backup ballot if your voted State ballot is not received by the deadline.

4. **Fill out your ballot and election materials correctly.** Many States have specific requirements for signing the envelope or an affidavit enclosed with your ballot. Be sure to follow the instructions sent with your ballot to ensure it gets counted.

5. **Check that your voted ballot reaches its destination.** If you’re wondering if your vote made it home, check the status of your ballot by selecting your State at FVAP.gov and contacting your election office directly.

For additional information, visit FVAP.gov, email vote@fvap.gov or call 1-800-438-VOTE (8683).

**Federal Voting Assistance Program**

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is a Department of Defense (DoD) organization that works to ensure Service members, their eligible family members, and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so — from anywhere in the world.

FVAP assists voters through partnerships with the Military Services, Department of State, Department of Justice, and election officials from 50 States, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. State and local governments administer U.S. elections, including those for federal offices. FVAP supports state and local election officials by providing absentee voting information, materials, training and guidance.

Voters can contact FVAP's call center at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), DSN 425-1584 or at vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at FVAP.gov. Find FVAP on Facebook at facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow @FVAP on Twitter.