

# DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

September 2025 - Vol. 23 / Nr. 9



## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2025 - 2026MY

### COMMANDER

Dennis Owens NL01

### VICE COMMANDER

Valerie Prehoda BE02

### FINANCE OFFICER

Larry Atkins CH01

### ADJUTANT

John Fleming CH01

### VICE COMMANDER

Ken Keckler GR20

### SERVICE OFFICER

Frank Phillips GR1982

### NECMAN

Hans Stockenberger CH01

### VICE COMMANDER

Kerwin L. Hester GR05

### JUDGE ADVOCATE

James Settle GR42

### ALT NECMAN

Lee Preston GR42

### VICE COMMANDER

Todd Johnson GR07

### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

James Dennis GR30

### VCAL

Jim Brotherton NL01

### CHAPLAIN

Brad Bell NL01

### ADJUTANT EMERITUS

Robert Fuelling FR01

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



Dennis Owens



Greetings Department of France,

**2024-2025, WE ARE THE #1 DEPARTMENT of all 55 Departments in the American Legion!!!**

I am writing this article as I sit in the Tampa International Airport awaiting my flight after the 106<sup>th</sup> American Legion Convention held in this beautiful city Tampa, 26-28 August 2025! I sit here now just BEAMING with a huge proud smile on my face thinking of Our Accomplishments this past year as a Department. It has been almost 10 years since we have achieved our Membership Goal of 100%. We did it!!! And, we did it

together this year! As of last week, we broke our membership goal by 103.03%. I'm even more proud that we retained 92.68% of our 2024 members. That is IMPRESSIVE!!! Only two Departments accomplished the lofty goal of 100% Membership, France and our friends from Hawaii.

We cleaned up on the National Awards at this Convention! We received the 100% Membership Award. The Culture of Growth Award which honors a Department for their hard work and dedication to growing their membership over the past year. This achievement reflects not only the

motivation of our members but also our ability to successfully implement a strategic plan. By using the 21<sup>st</sup> century report and executing the five priorities of the strategic plan, the Department of France achieved real measurable membership growth. This success is a true testament to what can be accomplished with commitment team work and a clear vision. We should all take pride in knowing our accomplishments really paid off this year! A huge surprise to me was to receive the Department Commander of the Year Award! Words of the emcee while presenting this award "Department Commander of the Year

Award recognizes exceptional leadership, dedication and the ability to inspire a Department to achieve its membership objectives.” Next, we were awarded the All-Target Date Award by meeting every single Membership Target Date to National throughout the year! Our Department also received a \$1,000.00 Check from National for this Award for a job well done. And lastly, we were awarded the Jerry L. Hedrick Membership Award. This award is presented to those Departments outside the 50 States who, by March 31st have attained the highest percentage of its membership over its previous year’s final membership. In addition to these five National Awards for our Department, we also received the 2024-2025 Robert J. “Bob” Conrad FODPAL Department Membership Award at the FODPAL Breakfast.

Representing our Department and joining me on the National American Legion Convention Stage was our NECMAN Hans Stockenberger, our Alt NECMAN Lee Preston, Past Department Commander and Past National Vice Commander Doug Haggan with National Commander Jim LaCoursiere. I was so glad they joined me on stage because, as proud as I am, it is not a Me accomplishment, it is a We accomplishment. We did it! We

should all be as proud as I am now as I write this.

I would be remiss if I did not place a shout out here to a few of our members for their outstanding work and efforts this past year. First to our Department Membership Chairman and Past Department Commander Jim Dennis. His herculean efforts were spank on, even after going through a massive surgery on Christmas Day. Jim, your dedication is second to none in our Department, I truly thank you! Many Thanks also goes out to our Department Adjutant John Fleming for keeping this Department between the rails with zero prompting from me. Commander Jeff Carson of our largest Post China Post 1, along with Legion Magazine Editor Jeff Stoffer came up with two Legion magazine articles on China Post this summer. What outstanding articles which drove up their membership. Huge thanks to CH01 Commander Carson and Jeff Stoffer for this huge effort. A couple of individuals stood out this year for recruiting, Commander Joseph Schram of BE02 recruited well over 25 individuals next to me in Spangdahlem AFB. Eifel Post GR20 Adjutant Ken Keckler, Sadie Whaley and Erin Lefever contributed greatly to the upcoming health of Post GR20! Thank you all!!!

Now what are we looking for this year? I would say the same, lets hit our 100% again for 2025-2026 membership year. That starts now. All Post Commanders, Adjutants and Membership Chairmen, lets start now. We are already ahead of our number today. There should be no reason to not hit your Post membership goal by 31 December. We do this by RETENTION! I know it is 1 September 2025, so start asking all to renew their membership for 2026 right now. Lets get ahead of this goal by starting now. This way, we are not spending valuable time chasing everyone down after 1 January next year.

National raised our Department goal by 120 members. We are now looking at 3120 for 2026. We can do it. I love recruiting, just ask GR06 and GR20. Let’s get together and I will come down to your area and help out with your awareness tables when my schedule allows me. That is how I wish to spend my time with your Posts. I would also love to be invited to attend your Elections meeting and induct your new officers. Just write to me and lets see if it fits my schedule, I sure hope so.

All, Very best wishes from the proudest Department Commander of all of our American Legion!

Commander Dennis







*Dan K. Wiley of Kansas was elected 2025-2026 national commander during 106th American Legion National Convention. Photo by Jennifer Blohm/The American Legion*

**Newly elected National Commander Dan K. Wiley pledges to continue highlighting Legion's veteran suicide prevention mission, calls for teamwork among American Legion Family.**

Upon being elected 2025-2026 American Legion National Commander on Aug. 28, Kansas Legionnaire Dan K. Wiley took the stage at the organization's 106th National Convention and thanked all of those who helped him get to this day.

And then he told a story.

It was the story of a young attorney in Wiley's hometown who, due to various circumstances, was going through a difficult time – one he thought was just physical.

When the attorney went to his doctor for some cold medicine, the doctor noticed a difference in his patient and began asking questions: “Do you value your work? Do others value your work? Do you think you are doing good work?”

Puzzled, the attorney said he just wanted his cold prescription, but the doctor didn’t let it go. He asked the attorney if he was considering self-harm and offered to provide some medication to address that.

After a week, the attorney admitted he could not think clearly, explaining, “It’s like I’m driving a car, and it is foggy, and I cannot get the defroster to work. I can stay on task and get things done, but I can’t see ahead.” He then agreed to take the prescription for 30 days, which improved his condition considerably. He was then advised to continue to take the prescription for one year.

But a few months later, the attorney decided to apply for a vacant judgeship – but then realized that the application called for disclosing current medications taken, but not past medications.

“Well, you can see this train wreck coming,” Wiley said. “It’s the most attorney thing ever: ‘I’m going to stop taking the medication, and then when I sign that form in 30 days, I don’t have to disclose it.’”

“It’s the stigma, right? It’s the stigma of mental health that we’re combating. Trying to let people know it’s OK not to be OK.”

The attorney called his doctor to inform him he was going to stop taking the medication. But the doctor wasn’t hearing it, telling the attorney that those reviewing the application would judge the attorney based on his ability and character, and would see it as a positive as someone helping himself.

Then the doctor explained that roughly 20 percent of the population will have a depressive episode in their life. “You are not alone,” said the doctor.

The attorney agreed, continued to take the medication and ended up becoming a state court judge. But that career now has come to end. Kansas Circuit Court Judge Dan K. Wiley is now American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley.

“That’s why the Be the One mission is important to me. It’s personal,” Wiley told convention delegates. “I can’t tell you that Dr. Richard Whitlow saved my life. I can tell you he made a difference in my life. He made it better.”

Continuing Be the One, the Legion’s suicide prevention program, is one of Wiley’s priorities for the upcoming. The others are his slogan “Better Together”, The American Legion legislative agenda; the Veterans and Children Foundation; celebrating America’s 250th birthday; and what he said are the three Cs: communication, community and camaraderie.

A U.S. Air Force veteran and cattleman, Wiley is a paid-up-for-life member of Byron H. Mehl American Legion Post 23 in Leavenworth and is a past department commander of the Kansas American Legion. He also served as Kansas’ National Executive Committeeman.

He spent Thursday’s remarks focusing on Be the One and “Better Together.” “Be the One is a personal and passionate mission for me,” Wiley said. “Taking care of one another is what we do. It’s who we are.”

Wiley’s theme of “Better Together” focuses on the American Legion Family. “I am a big believer in the American Legion Family,” he said. “Those posts that are successful are the ones that are inclusive and not exclusive. They’re the ones that operate in unity with the units, squadrons, and chapters. Those are the successful posts: the ones that care about the mission and helping each other. Taking care of one another.

“But better together has an even deeper meaning. We use phrases like ‘I got your 6’ and ‘I got your back’. Those are

not just nice sayings. It’s what we were trained to do when we served. It’s human nature. It’s who we are.”

To illustrate his point, Wiley told how in December 2023 he received a phone call from American Legion Past National Commander Jake Comer, who had received an email from a disgruntled former court litigant.

“My first reaction was that I’m not too worried about someone attacking me. I’m used to it as a judge,” Wiley said. “But when you start bothering my friends it upsets me. And I was mad.”

Wiley said he called Comer back, and that the past national commander could tell quickly Wiley was upset. “About 10 seconds into the conversation ... he said ‘Dan, we had that forwarded to you for your situational awareness. We’re not concerned about you. We know who you are,’” Wiley said. “And then the four words that mattered the most. He said, ‘We got your back.’ That’s all I needed to hear. Powerful words in that moment.”

Wiley plans to pay that forward to the men and women he will lead over the next 12 months. “This next year as your national commander, I got your back,” he said. “The American Legion has had your back since 1919. The American Legion had your back in the 1920s when we advocated for the creation of the Veterans Bureau, which would eventually become Veterans Affairs. The American Legion had your back in 1944 when we advocated the GI Bill of Rights. The American Legion had your back in 1983 when we alone when we funded a study on the disastrous effects of Agent Orange, which culminated with Congress passing the Agent Orange Act in 1991.

“And most recently, The American Legion had your back with the passage of the PACT Act. The American Legion had your back yesterday. The American Legion has your back today. And The American Legion will have your back tomorrow. As long as America exists, and as long as there are veterans, there will be an American Legion, and we will have your back.”



# NEW FODPAL OFFICERS ELECTED AT CONVENTION



*New Foreign and Outlying Posts and Departments of The American Legion officers were elected during the FODPAL breakfast at the 2025 National Convention. Photo by Jeric Wilhelmsen*

**Legionnaires from around the world hear from national commander candidates, present awards for membership growth.**

The Foreign and Outlying Posts and Departments of The American Legion (FODPAL) elected Bill Shetz of Post 2 in Guatemala as president for 2025-26 at the group's annual breakfast meeting Monday, Aug. 25, during the 106<sup>th</sup> American Legion National Convention in Tampa, Fla.

Members of FODPAL also heard from Dan Wiley of Kansas, leading candidate to serve as national commander of The American Legion for the coming year and unanimously endorsed him. Also speaking to the group was John "Jay" Bowen of Colorado, who is running to lead the nation's largest veterans organization in 2026-27.

Wiley told the group that the Legion's Be the One mission will top his agenda if elected national commander. "It is the most significant issue, without a doubt, facing our veterans and their families. We have to continue to have the conversation. We have to continue to listen. And we have to continue to reduce the stigma associated with mental health."

He stressed the importance of participation in the Columbia University suicide-prevention training conducted as part of the Be the One mission, which has now exceeded 20,000 trained. [Training opportunities are available online at legion.org.](https://legion.org)

Wiley also urged FODPAL members to weigh in on the Legion's national legislative priorities through the [Grassroots Action Center](https://grassrootsactioncenter.org), which provides a quick, easy way to reach members of Congress.

He also explained his theme for the year – "Better Together" – to strengthen the entire American Legion Family. "We operate better as one, right? If we operate in unity – with the (American Legion Auxiliary) units, (Sons of The American Legion) squadrons and (American Legion Riders) chapters – those are the posts that are successful. Secondly, we take care of one another. It's what we do. It's who we are."

Bowen told the group he looks forward to meeting members in their departments and expressed his passion for the organization. "It's no secret – I think everybody can tell – I love The American Legion. It has been a passion of mine for many, many years. I truly believe this is the greatest veterans organization in the

world. We do many, many amazing and important things. But, folks, we can do better. We can be better."

He said he is looking to the departments and posts for their ideas and suggestions "to take this great organization that we have and make it even better than it is."

FODPAL also presented year-end awards and a certificate of appreciation to American Legion Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer for outstanding support and mentorship.

The Past FODPAL President Appreciation Award was presented to Francis Riddell, Department of Hawaii.

Year-end awards went to:

-Enrique Rojas Post 74 in Puerto Rico for highest 2025 post membership percentage (Joseph "Joe" Craig Award)

**-Department of France for highest department membership percentage (Robert "Bob" Conrad Award)**

-Past National Commander Tony Jordan, Department of Maine, for Outstanding Support of FODPAL (Erle Cocke Award)

Joining Shetz, who leads humanitarian relief efforts for his

post and the Department of Latin America in the region, in the FODPAL officer corps for 2025-26 are:

-1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Antonio Arroyd, Department of Puerto Rico

**-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Larry Atkins, Department of France**

-3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Sharon Cherette, Department of Alaska

-Judge Advocate Jim Hussey, Department of Hawaii

**-Assistant Judge Advocate Lee Preston, Department of France**

-Historian Ramon Rivera, Department of Puerto Rico

-Assistant Historian Mark DeVirgilio, Department of Hawaii

-Chaplain Terry Huisman, Department of Alaska

-Assistant Chaplain Randall Butler, Department of Latin America

-Sergeant at Arms Juan Cruz, Department of Puerto Rico

**-Assistant Sergeant at Arms Jeff Carson, Department of France**

-Secretary Jim Pisa, Department of Alaska

-Treasurer Jimmie Foster, Department of Alaska

**-Assistant Treasurer Doug Haggan, Department of France**

**-Breakfast Chairman Doug Haggan, Department of France**

-Nomination Committee Chairman Jimmie Foster, Department of Alaska

-Nomination Committee Member Tony Jordan, Department of Maine

-Master of Ceremonies Tony Jordan, Department of Maine

---

## DEPARTMENT VCAL



*Jim Brotherton*

Good day everyone. I want to direct this month's segment to All Post Commanders, Adjutants and Membership Officers.

By now, every Post in the Department should have received their American Legion and Sons of the American

Legion membership cards for the 2025-2026 membership year. If you have not received your cards or have not made arrangements to physically receive your cards from your Department Vice Commanders please contact the respective Vice Commander for your Post and let them know.

I've already heard of one Post whose membership cards seem to have been lost in the mail system and new cards are going to have to be reordered. This is time-consuming and impacts a Posts membership stats. All cards that were mailed were required to have Track & Trace, but it seems that is not fool proof. Either way, you should either have your cards or are aware when you will physically receive them.

I ask All Posts, if you have a problem, question or concern you wish to share, please start with your assigned Department Vice Commander. If you are not aware who your Vice Commander is, please contact me and we will get that resolved. Every Post should have received an introductory email from their assigned Vice Commander shortly after the last convention.

I wish each and every one a successful new membership year. I look forward to working with you, and as they say, my door is always open. - Jim Brotherton Department Vice Commander at Large.

---

## DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER



*Valerie Prèhoda*

"Greetings from the Alps of Texas to all our DFR comrades - hope you all have enjoyed a super summer and looking forward to a fantastic fall!

After my epic (3 times a year lol) "trains, planes and automobiles" trip back to my Alpine, Texas home, I was

happy to find my TAL USA 250 t-shirt in the mail. My project is to record 250 hours towards the construction of a WWII POW/MIA memorial in my little town of Monchy-Cayeux, France, at Lt George Wilson's B-17 crash site. (If you google "Finding George", you can read all about this incredible story of bravery, his family's search efforts, and the recovery team's dedication to find and send him home.) Since I am the POW/MIA Committee lead for DFR, it also seemed fitting for me to dedicate my resources to this memorial, that will serve as a local point every year on 19 September, to honor all our POW/MIAs, and renew our commitment to bring them home.

August was a busy month, especially with my whirlwind trip to Indianapolis 7-11 Aug to represent you all, along

with our Stalwart Comrade Doug Haggan, at TAL's annual Membership Workshop. I am pleased to report that it was resources well spent, and I look forward to sharing the salient lessons-learned with you at our 2nd DEC. I was happy to bring questions with me from TH02, get them answered from the Membership chair himself, and relay the responses back.

I was also very proud to represent you all at the very start of the Workshop, as DFR was specifically recognized for our Membership accomplishments!! We are looking great for 2026 already, so keep up the good work!!!

Best regards to all, and see you in October!

For God and Country, Val Prehoda"

**DEPARTMENT  
VICE COMMANDER**



*Kerwin L. Hester*

Greeting Comrades,

I would like to address an important matter regarding The American Legion Basic Training program. It is essential for all members holding elected or appointed positions to complete this course, as it equips you with vital knowledge about our organization. If you have not yet completed the training, I urge you to prioritize it. The course has undergone significant improvements; it has been rewritten and enhanced with engaging multimedia elements such as videos, digital photos, clickable

links, and a comprehensive historical timeline. For those who have previously completed the older version, this updated program offers a fresh perspective and streamlined content. New participants can expect to invest less than two hours in completing the course. Please remember that registration on the website is required to access this valuable educational resource.

For God and Country.

## Post Everlasting



### GR03

**SFC Michael T. Paguia**, U.S. Army (Retired), of Ashburn, VA, died peacefully on Good Friday, April 18, 2025, with loved ones holding his hands.

Born on August 3, 1940, on the beautiful island of Lanai, Hawaii, Mike relocated to California in the early 1950's, where he graduated from Delano High School and was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame for his athletic achievements.

Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army and was assigned to Heidelberg, Germany. He soon met and married Ingrid in 1961, started a family and was deployed to Vietnam in 1967. After 22 years of distinguished military service, Mike retired in August 1981 as a Personnel Senior Sergeant from the 7th Medical Command in Heidelberg, Germany.

Mike received numerous military honors, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal (7th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service

Medal, Overseas Service Bars (2), and Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. Mike was awarded the Expert Qualification Badge for his marksmanship with the M-14 rifle.

Mike soon worked at the Heidelberg Military Morale Sports Branch, as a leading figure involved in organizing and promoting volleyball within USAREUR (United States Army Europe). After graduating from the Schonek Sport School for volleyball in Germany in 1978, he became the U.S. Army Europe Regional Volleyball Commissioner in July 1980. As a USVBA Certified Referee, Mike officiated many tournaments. As a three-time All-Army Volleyball selectee, Mike served as the junior varsity volunteer coach and assistant varsity coach for the Heidelberg American High School girls' powerhouse volleyball program from 1979 to 1987. In addition, he coached Military Community teams and other men's and women's teams in the German leagues.

Mike was a gifted athlete and although he was known as "Mr. Volleyball," he delighted the German basketball community with his

quick left-handed dunks, stealth passing, and ballhandling skills.

Mike also loved fishing and was a member of the Sandhausen Fishing Club where he shared Island fishing techniques. He was an avid stamp and coin collector which he learned from his older brother, Samson who co-founded the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics (PAN) in 1978. Politics interested him as well and he later supported politicians at the federal, state and local level. Mike also was a member of the American Legion Post GR03.

Privately, Mike was a gifted musician who played the ukulele and electric organ and sang and cooed just like Frank Sinatra and Johnny Mathis. As the second youngest of eleven siblings, Mike was surrounded by musical talent and endless family gatherings. For many years, he sang in the Sandhausen Germania Choir, until 2012 when he left Heidelberg after almost forty years to receive specialized care at Walter Reed Medical Center near his adult children and grandchildren in Ashburn, VA.

As a Vietnam veteran exposed to Agent Orange – a potent herbicide used for vegetation removal – Mike opted



not to pursue VA disability benefits out of respect for his fallen comrades. In 2005, Mike began a two-decade life-threatening battle with disseminated coccidioidomycosis, also known as Valley Fever or Desert Rheumatism. Misdiagnosed for two years, Mike persevered under the care of military physicians at Landstuhl and Walter Reed who called him “a true warrior and an anomaly” while also commending his self-care. Homeland Security identified this fungal spore as a potential bioweapon, and its misuse is a federal crime. Mike’s family hopes his story will highlight the need for greater awareness and accurate diagnosis of this often-overlooked debilitating and cureless condition prevalent in the southwestern United States and California.

In 2012, Mike moved to Wingler House in Ashburn, VA. Despite health issues, he was an active member of the 55+ community, helping with food deliveries, events, transportation, snow removal, and assisting residents. He also won a local poker tournament highlighted in the news. Throughout his 13 years at Wingler House, he developed meaningful relationships and remained consistently engaged in community activities.

Mike, affectionately referred to as “Opa” by his grandchildren, was a devoted grandfather who consistently provided guidance and support. His presence at their events was unwavering. Opa will be remembered

for his reliability, infectious laughter, generosity, and wonderful hugs.

Mike was raised in the Catholic tradition and served as an altar boy. After his service in Vietnam, he stepped away from his faith but returned several years ago, finding “supernatural comfort” through praying the Rosary. He passed peacefully on Good Friday after receiving the sacrament of anointing with virgin Chrism oil and was remembered at Mass “...for the faithful departed Michael Paguaia and Pope Francis.”

Mike is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ingrid Paguaia; their son, Steven Paguaia and daughter, Sandra Paguaia-Gomes (Mike); five grandchildren: Samantha, Matteus, Madeline, Chris (Mallory), and Ryan; four great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law; as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents Remedios (Tomas) Paguaia and Manuel Toyrosa Paguaia; sisters Bea Montanio and Remi Feria; and brothers Tommy, Henry, Ted, Manuel, Andy, Samuel, Samson, and Richard. As the last of eleven siblings, he reunites with his family, likely singing, fishing, and “talking story.”

Mike valued simplicity and stress-free living over materialism and social status. His infectious laugh, devotion to family, and humble service to others will be cherished and missed by all.

Rest well warrior, love and aloha, always.

Mike will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors on September 4th, 2025. A military funeral service will begin at 2:45 PM at the Old Post Chapel on Fort Myer.

For anyone planning to attend Mike's service, please make note of the following information:

All guests should plan to arrive one hour early with a valid Real ID, military ID, or passport in order to gain access to Fort Myer via the Hatfield Gate off of 2nd Street South in Arlington.

For those wishing to apply for base access online, please visit: [https://pass.aie.army.mil/s/teps/terms\\_of\\_use](https://pass.aie.army.mil/s/teps/terms_of_use) (must be submitted no earlier than Monday, August 25).

All attendees must arrange for their own transportation for the duration of the service, as the procession from the Old Post Chapel to the graveside will take place in vehicles.

Donations in his memory may be made to the AMVETS National Service Foundation, 4647 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706 (1-800-810-7148). You may place an online donation by selecting the *Memorial Donation* tab on the left-hand side of this page.

To send a flower arrangement in memory of **SFC Michael T. Paguaia, Army (Ret.)**, please [click here to visit our sympathy store](#).

## TH02



August was another eventful month for the American Legion Post TH-02 here in Pattaya, Thailand. Our month began with one of the less desirable events but a very necessary one.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of Aug members of the local Veterans community to include TH-02, VFW 9876, VFW 12146 and the 9876 Auxiliary gathered at Bun Samphan Temple for the funeral of Frank Guisto. Frank was a 24 year USAF Veteran who was also a founding and charter member of Post TH-02.







## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Frank Phillips

# The American Legion Department of France Department Service Office

### What we do

The Mission of the Department Service Office is to provide benefits information, assistance and advocacy to all who have served and their families. Many Veterans are unsure of their entitlement to VA benefits so we ask that anyone who identifies as having served to contact our office to be directed to an appropriate resource.

The Department Service Office provides services and help with the following benefits:

### VA Services:

- Comprehensive VA benefits counseling
- BDD Transition VA Claims
- Assistance with Foreign Medical Program care enrollment
- VA Claims preparation, submission and follow-up on VA decisions
- Initiate and develop appeals on unfavorable VA decisions when appropriate to include representation at VA Hearings
- Survivors Death Benefits

**\*\* We will not advise on Social Security or DoD matters. ONLY VA ISSUES!**

### What do Department Service Officers do?

A DSO will ensure that Veterans and their families receive all federal VA benefits available to them. DSO's do this by providing effective and dedicated representation to veterans and their families, free of charge. *You will never receive a bill from us!*

DSO's are trained and accredited by the American Legion to represent veterans in their claims for VA benefits. DSO's are versed in applicable federal laws to provide the best representation possible.

The Department Service Office should be the first stop for all recently discharged service members and anyone who has served in any of our armed forces branches to receive a complete VA benefit explanation.

### Department Service Office Staff

Office Visits by Appointment only:  
Please call **Wednesday OR Friday**,  
between 1300 and 1600 hours:  
**+49 964170587 1837** for an  
appointment before visiting the office.

You can also send an e mail to:  
**VSO@fphillips.de**

### Location Main Office

USAG Ansbach, Katterbach Kaserne  
Building 5818, Room 318  
91522 Katterbach-Ansbach, Germany  
Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/6XlQnGnTDu42>



### To check the status of a Claim:

Download and Install the  
VA.GOV app.  
(android and IOS)



**DEPARTMENT  
MEMBERSHIP  
COMMITTEE**



*James Dennis*

Hello Everyone.

Let's start with an explanation of the last 2 standings that were not reported. We, the Department of France, got a message from the National Hq. stating our membership goal is now 3120 members for the 2025-2026 membership year. The Membership committee has gone over the Posts to find an acceptable number for each of you. Not easy with 100 members to allocate. This report is what we came up with. There are some changes to most Posts. Remember that this is

"projected" numbers for your Posts. We, at the Department of France, hope everyone can make these goals. These were made on your last 3 years statistics. If you have questions, please ask.

So, let's get to the heart of this email. All the Posts are looking good. We are starting of as usual. 60 to 70% cut off at the 50% mark. I would like to see 75 to 80% by the 50% cut off. In doing so, we can work on getting between 80 and 90% before the next cut off (October). That means getting between 90 and 100% by November. Then for December we all have 100%. We can make this goal!

The Renewal report is out for this week due to the standing needed to be completed and it is also getting modified. Not the membership count, just the report. We found errors and it needs to be corrected.

The Department would like the Posts to inform us of any Awareness Drives your Post may

be sponsoring. We are here to assist you if needed, you only need to ask. Our Vice Commanders are waiting to hear from you.

I am in the process of making an invitation packet for Awareness Drives. It should be available by the 2nd DEC. I will have it digitally available for the Posts. Letters will be in "Word" format, Pamphlets will be in 'PDF' format and other information will be in "Excel" format. You will have to make copies of this information for your Post. Department is only making copies for Department level Awareness Drives.

Pamphlets can also be ordered from the National HQ. I also have some available if requested.

Awaiting responses.

James Dennis  
Membership Chairman  
Department of France

2026 DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS 24-Aug-25		2026 New Members	2026 PUFL	2026 Renewals	2026 HQ Transfer	2026 Actual Mbsp.	2026 Post Goal	% of 2026 Goal	Next Cutoff Date 06-Sept-25 Needed To Meet 50%	Plus or Minus to Cutoff	Members Needed To Reach 2026 Goal AHEAD/BEHIND
1	Paris FR01	0	94	69	0	163	200	81,50%	93	-70	-37
2	Rota SP292	0	6	2	1	9	16	56,25%	8	-1	-7
3	David Chavez GR1982	6	40	35	1	82	160	51,25%	77	-5	-78
4	HQ9999	0	30	17	0	47	60	78,33%	30	-17	-13
5	Flanders Field BE02	0	17	29	0	46	90	51,11%	43	-3	-44
6	China CP01	8	345	399	2	754	1062	71,00%	526	-228	-308
8	London EG01	0	18	7	1	26	34	76,47%	17	-9	-8
9	Liberty EG02	5	12	15	0	32	65	49,23%	32	0	-33
11	Athens GC01	0	0	14	0	14	18	77,78%	9	-5	-4
12	Kaiserslautern GR01	1	54	35	0	90	145	62,07%	69	-21	-55
13	Rhein Neckar GR03	0	17	26	0	43	40	107,50%	19	-24	3
14	Rhein Main GR05	0	25	27	0	52	80	65,00%	36	-16	-28
15	Stuttgart GR06	1	118	32	0	151	235	64,26%	114	-37	-84
16	Wiesbaden GR07	0	31	25	0	56	90	62,22%	45	-11	-34
17	Sgt. William D. Nelson GR09	0	29	11	0	40	56	71,43%	27	-13	-16
18	Thomas W. Barnett GR14	0	19	7	0	26	34	76,47%	16	-10	-8
19	Eifel GR20	17	16	3	0	36	100	36,00%	49	13	-64
20	Audie Murphy GR30	0	12	3	0	15	20	75,00%	10	-5	-5
21	Omar Bradley GR42	0	17	4	0	21	25	84,00%	13	-8	-4
22	George S. Patton GR45	0	7	3	0	10	10	100,00%	4	-6	0
23	John Wayne GR79	0	11	5	0	16	58	27,59%	29	13	-42
24	Pride of Erin IR01	0	8	11	0	19	27	70,37%	14	-5	-8
25	Father Francis Duffy IR02	0	3	16	0	19	23	82,61%	12	-7	-4
26	Commodore John Barry IR03	0	2	12	0	14	14	100,00%	7	-7	0
27	John F. Kennedy IR63	0	3	4	0	7	7	100,00%	4	-3	0
28	Rome IT01	0	3	5	0	8	8	100,00%	4	-4	0
29	Margraten NL01	14	29	74	1	118	225	52,44%	106	-12	-107
30	Brig Gen. Robin Olds TH01	3	15	40	0	58	80	72,50%	37	-21	-22
31	Sgt Thomas Oliver Ahlberg TH02	3	11	107	0	121	140	86,43%	68	-53	-19
GRAND TOTALS		58	992	1037	6	2093	3.122	67,04%	1518	-575	-1029



Membership Chairman James Dennis/Doug Haggan	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	% of	Next Cutoff Date	Plus	Members Needed
	New	PUFL	Renewals	HQ	Actual	Goal	2026	06-Sept-25	or	To Reach
	Members			Transfer	Mbsp.	Goal	Goal	Needed To Meet	Minus	2026 Goal
								50%	to Cutoff	AHEAD/BEHIND
1 HQ9999	0	30	17	0	47	60	78,33%	30	-17	-13
GRAND TOTALS	0	30	17	0	47	60	78,33%	30	-17	-13

Vice Commander at Large Jim Brotherton	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	% of	Next Cutoff Date	Plus	Members Needed
	New	PUFL	Renewals	HQ	Actual	Goal	2026	06-Sept-25	or	To Reach
	Members			Transfer	Mbsp.	Post	Goal	Needed To Meet	Minus	2026 Goal
								50%	to Cutoff	AHEAD/BEHIND
GRAND TOTALS		0	0		0	0	#REF!	0	0	0

Vice Commander Ken Keckler	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	% of	Next Cutoff Date	Plus	Members Needed
	New	PUFL	Renewals	HQ	Actual	Goal	2026	06-Sept-25	or	To Reach
	Members			Transfer	Mbsp.	Post	Goal	Needed To Meet	Minus	2026 Goal
								50%	to Cutoff	AHEAD/BEHIND
1 China CH01	8	345	399	2	754	1062	71,00%	526	-228	-308
2 Athens GC01	0	0	14	0	14	18	77,78%	9	-5	-4
3 Sgt. William D. Nelson GR09	0	29	11	0	40	56	71,43%	27	-13	-16
4 Omar Bradley GR42	0	17	4	0	21	25	84,00%	13	-8	-4
5 Pride of Erin IR01	0	8	11	0	19	27	70,37%	14	-5	-8
6 John F. Kennedy IR63	0	3	4	0	7	7	100,00%	4	-3	0
7 Rome IT01	0	3	5	0	8	8	100,00%	4	-4	0
GRAND TOTALS	8	405	448	2	863	1203	71,74%	597	-266	-340

Vice Commander Valeria Prehoda	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	% of	Next Cutoff Date	Plus	Members Needed
	New	PUFL	Renewals	HQ	Actual	Goal	2026	06-Sept-25	or	To Reach
	Members			Transfer	Mbsp.	Post	Goal	Needed To Meet	Minus	2026 Goal
								50%	to Cutoff	AHEAD/BEHIND
1 London EG01	0	18	7	1	26	34	76,47%	17	-9	-8
2 Liberty EG02	5	12	15	0	32	65	49,23%	32	0	-33
3 Father Francis P. Duffy IR02	0	3	16	0	19	23	82,61%	12	-7	-4
4 Commodore John Barry IR03	0	2	12	0	14	14	100,00%	7	-7	0
5 Margraten NL01	14	29	74	1	118	225	52,44%	106	-12	-107
6 Brig Gen. Robin Olds TH01	3	15	40	0	58	80	72,50%	37	-21	-22
7 Sgt Thomas Oliver Ahlberg TH02	3	11	107	0	121	140	86,43%	68	-53	-19
GRAND TOTALS	25	90	271	2	388	581	66,78%	279	-109	-193

Vice Commander Kerwin Hester	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	% of	Next Cutoff Date	Plus	Members Needed
	New	PUFL	Renewals	HQ	Actual	Goal	2026	06-Sept-25	or	To Reach
	Members			Transfer	Mbsp.	Post	Goal	Needed To Meet	Minus	2026 Goal
								50%	to Cutoff	AHEAD/BEHIND
1 Rhein Neckar GR03	0	17	26	0	43	40	107,50%	19	-24	3
2 Stuttgart GR06	1	118	32	0	151	235	64,26%	114	-37	-84
3 Wiesbaden GR07	0	31	25	0	56	90	62,22%	45	-11	-34
4 Audie Murphy GR30	0	12	3	0	15	20	75,00%	10	-5	-5
5 George S. Patton GR45	0	7	3	0	10	10	100,00%	4	-6	0
6 John Wayne GR79	0	11	5	0	16	58	27,59%	29	13	-42
7 David Chavez GR1982	6	40	35	1	82	160	51,25%	77	-5	-78
GRAND TOTALS	7	236	129	1	373	613	60,85%	298	-75	-240

Vice Commander Todd Johnson	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	2026	% of	Next Cutoff Date	Plus	Members Needed
	New	PUFL	Renewals	HQ	Actual	Post	2026	17-Mar-00	or	To Reach
	Members			Transfer	Mbsp.	Goal	Goal	Needed To Meet	Minus	2026 Goal
								50%	to Cutoff	AHEAD/BEHIND
1 Flanders Field BE02	0	17	29	0	46	90	51,11%	43	-3	-44
2 Kaiserslautern GR01	1	54	35	0	90	145	62,07%	69	-21	-55
3 Rhein Main GR05	0	25	27	0	52	80	65,00%	36	-16	-28
4 Thomas W. Barnett GR14	0	19	7	0	26	34	76,47%	16	-10	-8
5 Eifel GR20	17	16	3	0	36	100	36,00%	49	13	-64
6 Paris FR01	0	94	69	0	163	200	81,50%	93	-70	-37
7 Rota SP292	0	6	2	1	9	16	56,25%	8	-1	-7
GRAND TOTALS	18	231	172	1	422	665	63,46%	314	-108	-243

**NOTES:**

Made the Monthly % goal  
Post 9999

Still in process

IR63, and IT01

(Last Man Standing Posts)

Transferr from Post 9999

Over 100% for the year





PATRIOT DAY IS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE TO THOSE WHO DIED DURING THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN NEW YORK CITY, AT THE PENTAGON AND ON UNITED FLIGHT 93 IN PENNSYLVANIA. AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS LEAD EFFORTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES TO HONOR AND REMEMBER THE VICTIMS AND TO NEVER FORGET.

**DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN LEGION  
RIDERS DIRECTOR**



*Jim Brotherton*

Good Day Riders. Hope this finds everyone healthy and happy. I feel we have had a pretty good riding season so far. Not too much rain. Personally, I have been able to make some trips in to southern Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. Will say vacation traffic has been most unwelcoming.

I will be the first to admit I wish we had built a bigger bond over the summer and a Department wide rider program. Aside from only two Posts that have any riders to speak of, we have a few individual riders scattered around but have never been able to find that 'thing' to pull us together.

I need the Department Posts to be more pro-active. If you have Riders in your Posts, regardless of how few, I need them to reach out and help us form a more cohesive group.

If anyone has ideas or suggestions that could help us move forward please share those thoughts with me. I know even at my own Post level there is work to be done. I will do everything in my power to try and do more to pull us together, but it cannot be done by one person. You probably have heard the old statement, "... it takes a village". I

would really like to see us emerge the next riding season with plans for group rides, week-end trips. Lets hear your thoughts on this.

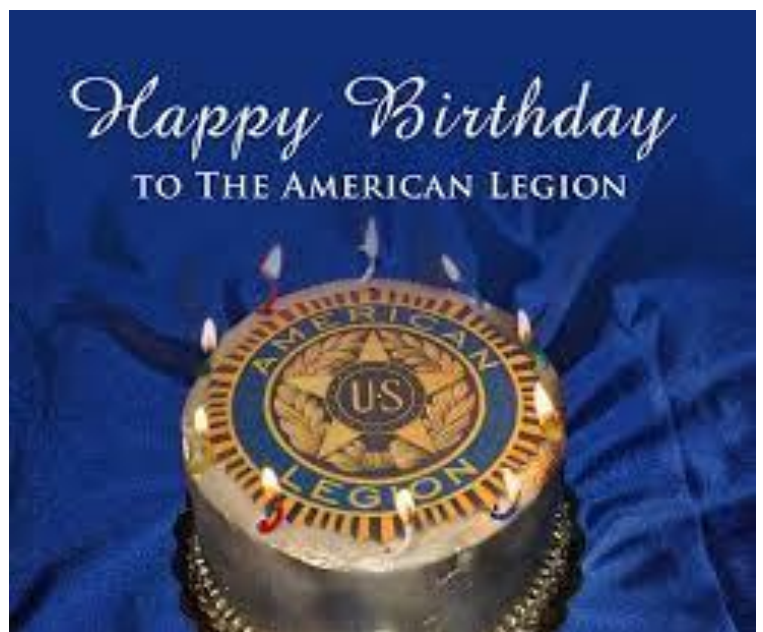
As a side note. The problem with Emblem Sales has not be resolved yet where you can order backpatches online. All orders still have to be taken over the phone. Keep in mind that there have been changes to the ALR SOP concerning the lay out. If your organization needs a copy of the new SOP, please contact me.

Closing remarks, a quote from *The Biker Code, Wisdom for the Ride*, "Beware! Every 'Cage' out there is a potential enemy".

Ride Safe Jim Brotherton, Department ALR Director

**AMERICAN LEGION DAY**

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION'S 90TH BIRTHDAY, THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SEPT. 16 AS "AMERICAN LEGION DAY." THE MEASURE WAS SHEPHERDED THROUGH THE SENATE BY THEN SEN. OLYMPIA SNOWE, R-MAINE, WHO PRAISED THE LEGION FOR ITS CONTINUED AID TO WOUNDED VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES, LEGACY OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM AND SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ESTABLISHING IMPORTANT NATIONAL LEGISLATION.**







Scouting America  
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL, BSA



Department Scouting Director  
C.F. "Trey" Jaeger, III

## LEGIONAIRE SCOUTER'S COMPASS

The American Legion Department of France Scouting Program Newsletter

September 2025

### DEPARTMENT SCOUTING DIRECTOR NOTES:

Having taken on the new Unit Commissioner role for The 802s Transatlantic Scouting Group, and soon to be the council's 2nd Sea Scout Commodore, I'm now balancing three distinct yet similar leadership positions. In all of them, my goal is to serve as a vital link between our units and the larger council. I'm dedicated to providing support, sharing best practices, and ensuring our adult leaders are properly trained, ultimately so our youth can thrive and become the next generation of leaders.



### Transatlantic Council NESA Military Affinity Network.

Also, last month we held our first TAC NESA committee meeting where it was discussed the importance of continuing to develop the **this Network**. If you are an Eagle Scout, we'd like to hear from you. Find out more at our next [TAC NESA Eagle Scout Zoom Round Up](#) on October 27<sup>th</sup>.



### Join Us for the TAC Sporting Clays Classic

**October 10-12, 2025:** This exciting weekend is designed to build meaningful connections with supporters who share our passion for youth leadership and development. Whether you're planning to shoot or

simply enjoy the networking and social events, there's something for everyone. Find out more at <https://tacscouting.org/donate/sportingclays/>.



### Transatlantic Council, Scouting America celebrates its Diamond Jubilee

November 14th is the day Transatlantic Council was founded in Heidelberg Germany and we are going to celebrate back where it all started! Over that weekend the Hotel Konigstuhl will host the Council Recognition Dinner- and TAC's birthday party! One can register at <https://scoutingevent.com/802-SLC75>. We look forward to seeing you there.

This announcement also comes with the challenge to earn the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spirit Award** that can be earned by any registered member of Scouting America's Transatlantic Council. There are specific requirements for each program level.



### ITS RECRUITING SEASON!

Youth and adults may wear this strip on the bottom edge of the right pocket. Submit your [completed form](#) and purchase the limited edition Recruiter Strip [here](#).



### The American Legion Scouting Square Knot!

This award is designed to recognize American Legion Family Members for their dedication and work required to assist in furthering the Scouting America program in The American Legion. It is open to all registered scouters who are also American Legion members. We have two applications already and we would like **8 more knots** to reach our Department's 2025/26 goal. Interested scouters should reach out for the progress record to start the journey.

### Upcoming Events

- Sep 12-14 – Frankenkasern, D  
OA Black Eagle Lodge Fellowship
- Sep 12-14 – Camp Freedom, D  
OA Fellowship Campout
- Sep 19-21 – Sembach, D  
Barbarosa MBU Campout
- Sep 19-21 – Garmisch-Partenkirchen, D  
Edelweiss Intl. Friendship Camporee
- Sep 26-27 – Westmalle, Belgium  
Charlemagne Family Cuboree
- October 10 -11 London, UK  
Sporting Clays Classic

Find Your  
Next Adventure!



### Department of France Scouting Units

- Cub Scout Pack 97 & Scouts BSA Troop 97  
Post 1982 Ansbach, Germany
- Cub Scout Pack 112 & Scouts BSA Troop 112  
Post FR01 Paris, France
- Cub Scout Pack 154 & Scouts BSA Troop 154  
Post GR06 Stuttgart, Germany
- Scouts BSA Troop 12  
Post GR01 Ramstein, Germany
- The 802 Transatlantic Scouting Group  
Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing & Sea Scouts  
Post BE02 Brussels, Belgium  
(Servicing all of Europe, Middle East,  
Central Asia & Africa)

Welcome!  
Join the Scouting  
Adventure.



## Developing Leaders for our Communities through Unparalleled Scouting!





SEPT. 18 IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE AIR FORCE. NOW THE SECOND-YOUNGEST OF THE SERVICE BRANCHES, THE AIR FORCE WAS OFFICIALLY FOUNDED AS AN INDEPENDENT SERVICE IN 1947, ALTHOUGH THE U.S. MILITARY DEPLOYED AERIAL COMPONENTS EVEN BACK IN WORLD WAR I.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY IS HELD EACH YEAR ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF SEPTEMBER. THIS COMMEMORATION IS SET ASIDE TO HONOR THE COMMITMENT AND SACRIFICES MADE BY THIS NATION'S PRISONERS OF WAR AND THOSE WHO ARE STILL MISSING IN ACTION, AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILIES. AS PART OF THE DAY OF RECOGNITION, AMERICANS ARE ASKED TO PAUSE AND REFLECT ON THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE IMPRISONED OR UNACCOUNTED FOR AS A RESULT OF THEIR MILITARY SERVICE. INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES SHOULD ALSO FLY THEIR POW/MIA FLAGS.



THIS DAY RECOGNIZES AND HONORS MOTHERS WHOSE SON OR DAUGHTER PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE WHILE SERVING IN THE U.S. MILITARY.

## LONDON POST EG01

LONDON, ENGLAND

Dear Comrades

I hope this finds you and your families safe and well.

Please take the time to open the link below regarding HR 467. If this bill is successful, it will mean any Veteran residing overseas and in the VA Healthcare system will get access to medical care, as they would if they were in the USA.

There is a link to contact your representative and your Senators, please write them to support this bill. I appreciate this is a big ask, but my life and a lot of our

fellow veterans depend on this vital piece of legislation being successful!

Yours in the Legion

Bob Davis  
Chaplain  
London Post EG01  
The American Legion

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/467>



TH02 participation in the annual remembrance ceremony hosted by the Dutch Embassy to commemorate the anniversary of VJ day at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Victory over Japan Day on 15 August marks the surrender of Japan forces, which ended the Second World War. For months after VE Day on 8 May 1945 war continued to wage in the Asia-Pacific region. It only came to an end after two atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of

Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The graves of those who died during the construction and maintenance of the Burma-Siam railway (except for the Americans, whose remains were repatriated) were transferred from camp burial grounds and isolated sites along the railway into three cemeteries at Chungkai and Kanchanaburi in Thailand and Thanbyuzayat in Myanmar.

The Commander and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander traveled for the 4 hour trip to participate in the laying of a wreath at the cemetery. The event was attended by many dignitaries and representatives of various Veteran organizations. To name some participating were members of American Legion Post TH01 and TH02, The Royal British Legion, French F.A.C.S, Thai Military and others



The highlight of the month is the monthly General Membership Meeting. We had a great turnout for the Monthly meeting. We welcomed new members, reconized Ms. Somjit Knorr, and had our after meeting food buffet. We cannot thank Somjit enough for her contrbution with the food provided.





## GR 09 ACTIVITIES FOR JULY AND AUGUST

On 19 July GR 09 together with the Donau Americans & Friends and the former Ulmer Artillerist celebrated a belated 4th of July grill fest. This much anticipated event has been ongoing since 2011 when Post Commander Aman suggested it to the German artillery group and GR 09s members and it turned out to be such a success that it has

been continuous since that date, excluding 2020 because of Covid. Sixty-four people attended that first event and 56 in 2025, and everyone present this year said they can't wait until 2026.

Legionnaires did the set-up and grilling, Donau American members performed kitchen duties, everyone

brought a side dish and Rudy Schirmer, Donau Americans member and wife Beate provided the games for kids and adults. Ideal weather, congenial people and great facilities provided for good fellowship for everyone.



*As every year, Morgan Anthony and Peter Stamper keeping the grill going for 56 hungry guests.*



*Rudi Schirmer emphasizing a point for the guests at his table*



*Perfect weather allowed guests to mingle outside*



*Whoever thought gummy sack races were out of style*



*Members preparing for a tug of war*



*Blindfolded limbo dance? Not sure how that worked out*



Rudi Schirmer, member of Donau Americans & Friends and retired Bundeswehr Officer and certified Ulm city tour guide has offered to introduce GR 09 members and friends to parts of their city they did not know existed. First stop was the Ulmer Muenster and everyone was amazed at the new information they acquired.



**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**



*John Fleming*



# DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

**DETACHMENT  
ADJUTANT**



*James Dennis*

Hello Sons of the American Legion

I attended the SAL National Convention in Tampa Florida along with Ken Kekler from GR20. We had a good time at a good Convention for our SAL. There were no Resolutions brought before the Convention. All of the reports were positive and upbeat and reflected a positive movement in our Organization. The best news from this Convention was that we made the National Commanders goal of 400,00 members. Our new National Commander is Bill Clancy III from The

Detachment of New York. Our new National Vice Commander for the Northeast is Jeremy Revell.

Lee Preston  
SAL Detachment of France  
NEC

## New National Commander



## Legion PNC John P. "Jake" Comer



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DISTRICT OF FRANCE

Hello everybody

I was with the American Legion Auxiliary District in Landstuhl and Kaiserslautern from the 5.8. - 8.8.25 to see National President Ward.

I like to thank James Settle and Christina Randel for their work in the Organization of this event. I also like to

thank everyone that assist me. I also like to thank Madam President and her Aide for their visit. We had a good time and learned about the relationship between the National Auxiliary and our District of France. I also like to thank this Soldiers and Airman who assisted us during this event.

We had Lunch with the Airman and we learned a lot about their views and need

in today's military. I like to say thank all who helped the American Legion Auxiliary District of France and all our Ladies that attended this event.



Sonja Dennis  
Past District President

**PCC President**



*Jim Brotherton*

# Department of France

## Past Commanders Club 2026MY

### 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 the 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*

**PCC Secretary**



*Richard Simmons*

**GRAND CHEF DE GARE**



*DAVID GARCIA*



**GRAND CORRESPONDANT**



*DAVID GREAUX*

LA SOCIÉTÉ DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT CHEVAUX (THE SOCIETY OF FORTY MEN AND EIGHT HORSES) IS AN INDEPENDENT, BY INVITATION, HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VETERANS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS "THE FORTY & EIGHT".

THE FORTY & EIGHT IS COMMITTED TO CHARITABLE AND PATRIOTIC AIMS. OUR PURPOSE IS TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF VETERANS, THEIR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND ORPHANS, AND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN SELECTED CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS, WHICH INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS, PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE CHILD WELFARE AND NURSES TRAINING.

MEMBERSHIP IS BY INVITATION, AND OPEN ONLY TO HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS AND HONORABLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED

<http://www.fortyandeight.org/>

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

1. There is a Cheminot planned for October 2025...the Call will be sent out!
2. 17 January 2026, Grand Wreck hosted by V1546 to be held in the Nederland.

**REMINDER... ALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY THE 28TH OF THE MONTH. I WOULD PREFER IF YOU SENT IT IN WORD FORMAT, PDF WOULD ALSO DO. GET THE WORD OUT!**

[Davidg1959@t-online.de](mailto:Davidg1959@t-online.de)

**DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR**



*David N. Greaux*