Greetings Comrades, it has been a long couple months of travel for me and I am hoping that things will settle down enough that I can start making some much needed phone calls and even conduct some visits with our members!

One common discussion during this year’s Fall National Executive Committee meetings was how we as proud Legionnaires are using our voice to positively influence our lawmakers to pay attention to Veterans and ensure that we are being properly taken care of. On mylegion.org, Legionnaires can find different campaigns which focus on Veteran-related issues and sign up for alerts. When visiting https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home you can also sign up for alerts which will notify you of important issues directly to your email and will provide you a means of communicating by email directly with the Representatives and Senators of your home state. This tool has been effective but could be even more influential if every one of our members uses it as a platform to communicate our concerns over Veteran matters to those who serve us on Capitol Hill.

Keeping ourselves informed of what is going on within our military forces should also be one of our main priorities. We can be the conduit of information for the uninformed Veterans in our communities. A great source for information is the Early Bird Brief which is available on-line at https://www.defensenews.com/ebb/ you can visit the website daily or you can also register to receive a daily email containing important news. As always, you can visit mylegion.org to get the most current Legion news. If you have not yet registered for your official mylegion.org account using your membership identification number. Having an account provides access to even more information including The American Legion Basic Training Course and a digital copy of the monthly Legion magazine!

I encourage all of the Department to use the tools available to keep ourselves better informed and to assist in preserving our rights.
Nine Legion QR codes to download and use
HOW YOU CAN BE THE ONE

What: The American Legion’s Be the One initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, service members and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.
Why: To reduce the alarming number of veteran suicides.
How: Our goal is to desegregate asking for mental health support, to provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.
Who:
Veterans
• Talk with fellow veterans about how you are feeling.
• Ask for help when you think you need it.
• Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
• Remember your family and friends care.

Non-veterans
• Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
• Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
• Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

American Legion posts
• Educate members, other veterans and civilians on the campaign.
• Display resources at your post or in your community.
• Share events or success stories at legiotiontown.org.

RESOURCES

American Legion support: Stories, videos and promotional items related to this initiative are available for posts, members and others. Visit betheone.org

For urgent help: Veterans experiencing a crisis can call 988 and press 1 for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7. They may also text 838255 or visit the VA crisis line website veteranscrisline.net.

HOW AMERICAN LEGION POSTS ARE LEADING THE WAY

American Legion posts and members are raising awareness about PTSD and veteran suicide by providing resources, hope and camaraderie for those at risk.

VETS 4 VETERANS

Who: American Legion Post 171, Crystal Lake, Ill.
What: The day-long event, which debuted in 2021, connects local veterans to dozens of local service providers that offer different resources related to mental wellness.
Impact: More than 100 veterans turned out for the most recent event. By connecting these veterans directly with service providers, the nonprofits are able to assist more veterans and, in turn, veterans are able to receive the help they need.

2.2 FOR HEROES

Who: American Legion Burrows-Young Post 114, Volga, S.D.
What: A 2.2 for Heroes event was held at the Volga Veterans Memorial where participants walked, ran, biked, roller bladed or even rode a motorized scooter for 2.2 miles. When participants crossed the finish line, they received a dog tag that featured the American flag, 2.2 for Heroes and the Legion emblem.
Impact: In its inaugural event, the post rallied its community to raise $1,000 toward local programs that assist veterans in crisis.

OPERATION IRON RUCK

Who: American Legion Department of Alabama
What: The department supports student veterans who hike 181 miles for the Operation Iron Ruck, leading up to the annual Alabama-Auburn football game in November. Each participant carries rucks weighing between 17 and 22 pounds, representing the estimated number of veterans who die by suicide daily.
Impact: In 2021, an American Legion Operation Comfort Warriors grant paid for the items in the rucks. After the march, those items—towels, socks and other comfort items — were distributed to homeless veterans.

BIGFOOT SCAVENGER HUNT

Who: American Legion Post 4, Billings, Mont.
What: After a friend’s death by suicide, Legionnaire Jim Clark created Post 4’s Bigfoot Scavenger Hunt for Halloween. Each of the 12 stops provided community resources for veterans who may not know where to go for help.
Impact: The inaugural event educated about 30 participants. “They all came up to me, gave me hugs and said, ‘Jim, we had a blast. We learned a ton about what veteran resources are available in our community. We’re going to tell everybody we know about it.’”
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

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Sons of the American Legion Detachment EOC, 15 October 2022

Commander Joe Brown
(T) Historian Stephan Somers, SAL Liaison David Greaux
(B) NECMAN Maxwell Rice, Adjutant James Dennis
HONORING AMERICAN HISTORY in FRANCE PARIS POST 1 & the ABMC WORKING TOGETHER

After recently meeting the ABMC’s new Secretary and Chairman from Washington D.C., Paris Post 1 reflects and shares special moments from the past couple of years collaborating with the ABMC in France.

Paris Post 1 was honored to attend the 2022 Superintendents Symposium at the George C. Marshall Center in the Hotel Talleyrand.

From left to right, newly appointed ABMC Secretary Charles Djou, Paris Post 1 prior Commander Bryan Schell, newly appointed ABMC Chairman Mark Hertling and ABMC Chief Operating Officer John Wessels.

OUR SHARED LEGACY

The legacy of American veterans in France began after World War I when both the ABMC and Paris Post 1 were created. Over the course of two World Wars, and many decades operating in France, we have grown our relationship together in many amazing ways.

WORKING TOGETHER

Every year Paris Post 1 attends ceremonies at ABMC sites throughout France. For over 100 years, our American veterans and auxiliary travel to ABMC cemeteries throughout France many times a year to continue the traditions of honoring those before us.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Paris Post 1 and the ABMC supported the centennial of the Unknown Soldier in 2021. 100 years ago in 1921, four Unknown Soldiers were transported from ABMC cemeteries to Châlons-sur-Marne (now Châlons-en-Champagne) where one Unknown Soldier was chosen to be buried at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Annual days of remembrance have been set up by the Society of the Honor Guard to never forget the three Unknown Soldiers who were not chosen to be buried at Arlington. Please see below more information on the ceremonies taking place this month.

Paris Post 1 Legionnaires and Auxiliary attend ceremonies at ABMC sites throughout France. Most recently for Memorial Day, Adjutant Michele Crosley and Auxiliary President Ginette Crosley (daughter and mother) laid a wreath at Suresnes American Cemetery near Paris.

The ABMC gave a special tour of the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial to our veterans, including Jeric Williamson visiting from Hollywood Post 43 in California. Jeric took lead in doing video interviews during Paris Post 1’s Centennial in 2019, and also creating our centennial documentary which can be seen by clicking the link below.
The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial is a regular place that Paris Post 1 Legionnaires and Auxiliary visit for American National ceremonies. Every year the French Air Force performs a flyover in honor of the airman of the Lafayette Escadrille who lay to rest at this memorial.

In 2020, Paris Post 1’s Executive Committee visited the ABMC Paris office to view and discuss the history of the famous Time Capsule that was located in the foundation of the post’s prior headquarters Pershing Hall. Seen here, is a medallion that was placed in the Time Capsule along with other documentation on the history and origins of the American Legion Building in Paris.

Paris Post 1 joined the Tomb Guard’s special voyage through France for the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 2021 visiting many of the ABMC’s sacred cemeteries. It was in Châlons-en-Champagne after World War I that the American Unknown Soldier was chosen in France. He was returned to the USA to forever rest at Arlington Cemetery where the Tomb Guards perform their duties guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 24 hours a day for every day of the year!

Paris Post 1 is dedicated to ensuring we support the ABMC in France. The Legionnaires and Auxiliary are honored to attend ceremonies with the ABMC, and we thank the ABMC in France for their kind and warm welcome to these special places that they guard for us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY!

Support Paris Post 1 by ordering your commemorative medallion inspired by Paris Post 1’s birth in 1919 and presence in France for over 100 years.

Special thanks to American veteran David Merrick of Merrick Designs for his stellar work in designing Paris Post 1’s Commemorative Medallion!

Encircled by olive branches on both sides of the coin, the Paris Post 1 medallion is adorned with the fleur des lis representing France, the home for Paris Post 1 for more than 100 years.

In the center of the coin are two draped American flags with a shield held in the talons of a bald eagle. This represents Paris Post 1’s allegiance to the United States of America, and our long legacy of representing American Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons in France.

The front of the coin captures our name, Paris Post 1, a registered and approved trademark of the European Union (and soon to be in the USA).

On the back of the coin is the Eiffel Tower. In 1919, within a short walk of the Eiffel Tower, The American Legion was born at the Legion’s first Paris Caucus. In 1927, just four decades after the Eiffel Tower was built (in 1887), the iconic and historic Pershing Hall was created.

For over a century, Paris Post 1 has flourished in Paris, and we have held many of our ceremonies near the Eiffel Tower. The American and French flags represent our strong friendship with France, and our long legacy of never forgetting our American veterans and their families in France.

The banner at the bottom shows Paris Post 1’s date of birth: 13 December 1919.

This medallion weighs approximately 64 grams. The size of the medallion is approximately 5cm x 5cm.

Support Paris Post 1 through purchasing our Commemorative Medallion!

To bring our history to our supporters, we are offering this unique medallion in honor of over 100 years of service to our American veterans in France. Donate $25/25 euro to Paris Post 1 to receive your Centennial Medallion!
HOW DOES IT WORK (two options)?

1. USA (mail order only): USA (mail order only): $25 + $5 (shipping) = $30 per medallion all payments are via Paypal via link provided on this email or via our website.

2. Paris (pick up in person):

PARIS (in person): 25 euro payment by check or cash in person at Paris Post 1.

All details are listed on our website under our Paris Post 1 Legacy Fund page which features our new medallion, please share with friends and family for the holidays!

The Paris Post 1 Commemorative Medallion is currently available in limited quantities so please order yours today. Shipping may take up to 3-4 weeks.

Payments made through Paypal are limited to $100/100 euro, all orders above this amount should be sent via bank transfer.

PARIS
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2022
ARMISTICE DAY

Join Paris Post 1 for a full day of ceremonies and events in Paris honoring Armistice Day (Veterans Day USA):

LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE MEMORIAL @ 9h30
PARIS POST 1 MAUSOLEUM LA DEFENSE @ 11h30
SURESNES AMERICAN CEMETERY @ 14h30

For more information or to join us, please email news@parispost1.fr.
Please arrive at least 15-20 minutes before each ceremony.

It's Buddy Check time! If not you, who? If not now, when?

Why?

• Our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans.
• It is what we do for our battle buddies.
• We need to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but do not know where to go or who to ask.

When?

• By resolution, at least twice a year around The American Legion’s birthday (March 15) and Veterans Day (Nov. 11).• As a regular part of our daily routine.
• Anytime throughout the year.

How? Download the Buddy Check Toolkit to conduct a successful Buddy Check.

https://www.legion.org/buddycheck/tools

Include all your Buddy Check activities on the Consolidated Post Report and share on
http://www.legiontown.org/share

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!
As a USAF veteran and former DOD civilian, I had the pleasure of serving with the RAF, and the British Army. As a resident of England for over 30 years, HM Queen Elizabeth II exemplified the essence of what is meant to be "British" and was a great friend to the United States of America.

I was extremely proud, and incredibly saddened to lay a wreath of behalf of the American Legion. What my family and I witnessed on the Long Walk, the funeral procession was absolutely amazing, and again incredibly sad. It will be a day that I will always remember with a very heavy heart.

Regards,

Phil De Monte
American Legion EG01 London
Phil_D11102@yahoo.co.uk
Legionnaires Fuller, Schaaff, Trahan, and Vanderboegh complete Legion Basic Training

Legionnaires Harrison Fuller, William Schaaff, Eric Trahan, and Matthew Vanderboegh of Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07 at Wiesbaden, Germany, recently completed the requirements of the Basic Training course of the Education Institute.

Fuller is a Panama, and Persian Gulf war era U.S. Army veteran and has been a member of the American Legion for one year. Schaaff is a Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and Persian Gulf war era U.S. Army retiree and has been a member of the Legion four continuous years. Trahan is a Panama, Persian Gulf, and Global War on Terrorism war era U.S. Army retiree. He has been a member of the Legion three continuous years and currently serves as a Post Executive Committeeman. Vanderboegh is a Global War on Terrorism era U.S. Army veteran. He has been a member four continuous years and currently serves as Post First Vice Commander.

The American Legion Basic Training course provides a pillar-by-pillar understanding of Legion services, programs and history. The core topics covered are History & Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth (Photos by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)
Post Histories

The American Legion strongly encourages the preparation of post histories. Such information on the post’s activities will be of considerable value in years to come.

National Headquarters is aware that a professional historian does not fill the position of historian in most posts. This need not prevent a proper recording of the post’s activities. The scope of the information included is the main consideration, keeping in mind, however, comprehensiveness, readability and arrangement, so as to make the history both an interesting account of the post and a reference source.

At the start of the new post year, the historian begin making a permanent record of the organization for the year ahead, from the installation of officers up to and including the installation of next year’s officers. To help gather specific details concerning the post, ask the post adjutant for a copy of the most recent Consolidated Post Report. The statistical summary will indicate the type and amount of activity that can help you put together as complete a picture as possible. Make plans to compile a complete post history since its founding, but focus, for the moment, on a one-year history. Then go back to the files and gradually write up the back story.

The national historian will conduct an annual one-year narrative history and yearbook (pictorial) history contest at the post level. These ongoing national contests will give stability and continuity to the recording of post events for future generations of Legionnaires. The department historian will notify posts of any national contest changes that may occur.

Included in this guide are comprehensive outlines to compile a one-year narrative history or yearbook with their respective judging standards for competition in the national contests. To be eligible for the national contests, an entry in either category must be a first-place winner in the department’s contest and must be certified as such by the department historian and forwarded to the national historian to arrive in Indianapolis by Sept 2023.

(extract from 2022 Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies)
Commanders/Adjutants/Post Oratorical Directors,

The Department of France Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Saturday 04 March. Last year we had 7 contestants. I am hoping that we have at least 12 contestants at this year’s Department of France Contest.

The number of contestants determines the venue size and number of rooms needed. Seven contestants is the maximum number for a panel of judges. If the Department of France has more than 8 contestants, the venue size must be increased. As well as the number of judges.

If the Department of France has more 7 contestants, we will conduct run-off heats “semi-finals) in the morning/afternoon followed by a final in the later afternoon/early evening.

**Venue Requirements**
To host a contest the following are needed for the venue:
- Number contestants: 7 or less
  - Minimum of 3 rooms (must be far enough away from each other so the other contestants cannot hear)
  - Holding Room
  - Assigned Topic Room
  - Contest Room
- Number contestants: 8 or more
  - Semi-Finals (3 run-off heats) - Minimum of 7 rooms (morning)
  - Holding Room (x1)
  - Assigned Topic Rooms (x3)
  - Contest Rooms (x3)
- Finals (late afternoon/early evening)
  - Holding Room
  - Assigned Topic Room
  - Contest Room

**Judges**
- Number contestants - 7 or less: 5 judges
- Number contestants - 8 or more: (total 14 judges)
- Semi-Finals-Finals: 9 judges (3 per run-off)
- Finals: 5 judges

I would also recommend that hosting Post make arrangements for hotel accommodations and restaurants.

Thank you
Joseph Schram
Oratorical Contest Director
Department of France
Joseph.schram@gmail.com
+32 0479 17 8539
All Legionars are welcome to participate in The Mid-Winter Conference. Join and attend All classes or just the classes of your interest.

11&12 February 2023

Subjects can include:

1. My Legion/Checking Post Records
2. Setting up Payments/Card/Echeck
3. Constitution and By Laws/Online meetings, Protocol, and allowed participation.
4. Post Tax Reporting

As well as several more!!

Please log on and join us for this years Mid-Winter Conference.

The link will be sent out by the Department Adjutant.

Thank you all in advance for your participation.
Good Day Legionnaires! We desperately need everyone to actively work their 2023 Membership Year renewals! I am asking all Commanders and Post Membership Chairmen to contact all of their members who have not yet renewed. If you are a member and require assistance with completing your renewal, please let us at the Department of France know!

Do you know that if your Post is at 100% Membership by 31 December 2022 the Department Finance Officer is going to happily give you $1.00 for each of your Members! Right now, we have 2 Posts that qualify for this money, let’s go people time to reenergize and get moving again.

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 Forces.

**GRAND MID-WINTER PROMENADE: Saturday 03 December 2022**

**Zum Reegen, Im Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn, Germany**

*Registration: 11:00 - 12:00 / Promenade: 12:00 / Dinner 16:00*