Hello Comrades,

I hope everyone is safe and is in good health we are experiencing a health event that none of our members have never experience before in their lifetime. The number COVID-19 cases continue to rise each day, not only in the states but here in Germany as well, it is imperative to practice prevention measures. The best way to prevent illness is to limit exposure to people who might have this virus.

That is why I decided to cancel or postpone all upcoming events until further notice. I have been watching the news and following the reports that has been put out by Base Garrison Commanders. I have also been watching and following the guideline that National has been sending out in there reports as well. The main goal is to make sure we are doing everything possible to safeguard our members, veterans and families from this virus.

We need to make sure our members know that The Department of France is still here to help support our members and veterans and their dependents. It is strongly recommended that we use the Buddy Check program to check on your Post members. I am aware that some Post have already started checking on their members and the rest of the post need to do the same. It would be nice to receive a Post Situation Report on the status of your members.

I’m aware that many cities here in Germany has started a lock down and shelter at home program to fight against the spread of the virus. They have closed all schools, bars, clubs, restaurants (you can pick up food are have food delivered to your home only) They are trying to slow the rate of exposure for many of the citizens here in Germany so remember we are guest here and we must also follow the rules they have in place. It is my understanding that you can go get groceries, go to your doctor visits/hospital and some people can still go to work if you are mission essential. My job is considered mission essential, so I am still working 8 hours days. Since I work for DOD, I just received a General Order Number 1 Memo from the 21st Commander that has ordered us to follow all the health measures that the Germans has implemented. Mannheim is on home quarantine and if you are not at work then you must remain in your home unless you go get groceries or if you have an emergency then you can go to the hospital. There is a curfew from 2200 to 0500 until further notice and we are expecting this to go on for some time.

Department Service Officer support is still available but most of the support will be done online through emails and phone calls. If you have any questions about this support, you can contact Frank Phillips the Dept. Service Officer.

I have a strong feeling that this virus might be hanging around for a while and we will need a plan to address our upcoming convention. I will start a committee working on plans if we are unable to gather for the upcoming event.

Please keep the sick and the people going through this virus pandemic in your prayers and support your fellow comrades as best you can.

Respectfully, Jimmie Dale / Commander / Department of France
IMPORTANT

ALL DATES AND LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THE NEWSLETTER MAY CHANGE DUE TO THE PRESENT CORONA VIRUS SITUATION!
UPDATES WILL BE SENT OUT AS NEEDED. STAY SAFE!

David Greaux / Newsletter Editor

David W. Craig
Department of France
Legion Riders Director
dcdavid16@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2020MY

COMMANDER Jimmie Dale  GR07  jimmiedale87@gmail.com

NECMAN James Settle  GR42  james.settle@kabelbw.de
VCAL Joe D. Brown  GR79  vcalbrown50@gmail.com
VICE COMMANDER Santos Alvarado  GR05  salvar621@gmx.com
VICE COMMANDER Liam Kane  IR63  commliam@gmail.com
SEARGEANT-AT-ARMS Andy Clevenger  NL01  clevtdy@hotmail.com
SERVICE OFFICER Frank Phillips  GR1982  filphillips59@gmail.com
FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller  GR06  billsfan_gary@hotmail.com
ALT NECMAN Hans Stockenberger  CH01  redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com
VICE COMMANDER Quincy Foster  FR05  qcfoster@yahoo.com
VICE COMMANDER Dennis Owens  NL01  info@dennisowens.com
HISTORIAN Cashy Logan  GR07  cashyj@hotmail.com
CHAPLAIN Harvey Briggs  NL01  harvey.briggsiii@gmail.com
JUDGE ADVOCATE Keith Abernathy  GR79  keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de
ADJUTANT Maxwell Rice  GR79  colwichboy@yahoo.com

REMINDER…all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to months end!

Davidg1959@t-online.de
To all Commanders and Adjutants,

As of today, I have only received 2 awards packets from posts within the Department. I sent an initial email and have sent a reminder. As the commander and the Adjutant of your posts give your deserving members rewards for their support that you receive from them to make your post successful.

ALCON, To all Commanders and Adjutants:

1. This letter constitutes notification to all addresses that the Department Awards Committee will convene on 11 April 2020.
2. Posts must submit their award packets NLT 6 April 2020. (See Department 2020 Awards Manual)
3. All Post must submit their Awards Packets to the Department VCAL by the 6th of April 2020. All packets must be submitted in hard copy. In addition electronic copies must be sent to VCAL Brown at vcalbrown50@gmail.com, NECMan Settle at james.settle@kabelbw.de and Department Adjutant Rice at colwichboy@yahoo.com. Awards submitted after the 6th of April 2020 will not be reviewed or submitted to the Awards Committee.

Address:
Joe Brown
Bambergerstr 1
74078 Heilbronn

Vice Commander At Large / Membership Chairman / Charlie Brown
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
Comrades,

I want to inform our Veterans about the current CORONA VIRUS situation and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The American Legion Department of France is still continuing to process claims.

Because of current events, the DOS / ABSO offices are closed to the public. The American Legion Regional Office is closed. Contact is available via e-mail.

All appointments that have been scheduled, will be contacted per e-mail or phone. We will try to set up a teleconference to assist you.

For new appointments, we ask that you send us an e-mail, after the 13th of May 2020. Our office has appointments (teleconference) booked through the 14th of May. We will contact you and set up new appointments.

Please do not call, as we are working with other claimants on the telephone. Send us an e-mail, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

After the 14th of May 2020, our office will take phone calls on Wednesdays or Fridays between 1300 and 1600 hours. This is for making appointments only. We will not have time to discuss your claims. We will schedule a time to call you back to discuss your claim.

The Department of Veteran Affairs is still working! Claims are still being processed. The VA is still operating. Most employees are working from home. At this time, claims are being processed normally.

As far as the Compensation and Pension exams, scheduled exams will still take place. There will be a reduction of exams, until this crisis is over. Please be patient and understand. You will be contacted by the VES as soon as C&P exams are possible.

Please stay safe and follow all advisories, regarding the Corona Virus.

Take preventative actions to include the following:

- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Washing your hands often with soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Using alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60-percent alcohol) if soap and water are not available.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched objects and surfaces.
- Refraining from touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Staying home when sick.

Do not forget our older Veterans. Please do the Buddy Check and call them. See if we can help them with their situation. If there is a way the DOS can help, please feel free to contact our office.

Excerpts from VA OCONUS Bulletin issued on 25 March 2020 at 1700 hours:

1. . . The Pittsburgh Regional Office, along with the BDD sites in Germany & Korea are currently closed to the public and will no longer accept walk-in claims assistance, scheduled

Frank Phillips (Francis Dale Phillips) Neuendettelsauer Str. 15, D-91560 Heilsbronn, Germany
Tel: 09802 83 3607 Call for appointment Wed or Fri between 1300-1600 email: Francis.Philips2@va.gov
appointments, counseling, or other in-person services. For those individuals who require assistance from the BDD offices, you may contact the Landstuhl BDD office.

VBA benefits and services provided to Veterans, families, and survivors will continue to be delivered throughout the duration of COVID-19 impacts.

2. COMPENSATION & PENSION EXAMS

- Due to COVID-19, there are instances when claimants are asking to cancel or postpone scheduling their examination appointments because of social distancing practices. VA will not deny a claim solely for a failure to report for an exam at this time.
- Veterans and Servicemembers who wish to reschedule an exam due to COVID-19 concerns should contact the exam vendor directly. Vendors will hold the exam request in their system and will reschedule appointments once it is safe to do so.
  Please also notify VA either via phone (412-395-6272) or from Germany 0800 1890363

3. BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS (BVA) HEARINGS

- Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, the Board is suspending all video and Central Office hearings through at least May 1, 2020. We understand that Veterans have been waiting for these hearings and we don't want to delay an longer than necessary. The Board will work with Veterans, VSOs, an representatives to provide virtual hearings where possible.

4. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (VR&E)

- VR&E counselors will be reaching out to establish a plan to maintain communication throughout this period and ensure there are no lapses in VR&E services or any negative impact on the processing of your claim.
- **Facilities Converting to Distance Learning Only** - In an attempt to control the spread of COVID-19, many facilities are temporarily converting to distance learning only, meaning in-residence classes are transitioning to an on-line format for a period of time. This change is not the result of a reclassification of the type of program, meaning the facilities are not officially reclassifying in-residence classes to on-line classes for VA purposes. **Therefore, there is no need to request an updated certification for the current term as a result of this change.** Also, it is VR&E's policy to pay the in-residence rate for a term that includes a combination of in-residence and on-line training. However, if this practice is still in place at the beginning of the facility's next scheduled term, an updated certification must be sent to the facility to verify the classification of the type of program.
WHAT CAN I DO?

The American Legion has been actively involved with children’s issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, the Legion has been the driving force on behalf of children on the federal, state and local levels.

In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we urge each of you to show your community that The American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth.

Each year at the American Legion's Spring Meetings, the Committee on Children & Youth focuses on three primary areas of concern: They may include:

**Child health**
- Immunization programs
- School nutrition programs
- Teen pregnancy prevention programs

**Child safety**
- Child pornography
- Drug abuse prevention
- Drug trafficking
- Alcohol abuse prevention
- Child/marital abuse and neglect
- Teen suicide prevention

**Family support**
- National Family Week Activities
- Day care safety
- Foster care
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Missing and exploited children

---

**Toolkit can help posts Conduct Buddy Checks During the pandemic**

---
WHERE: Hotel Schönblick in Wüstenrot, Germany

WHEN: 18-19-20 June 2020

Convention Package Consist of:
4 Days and 3 Nights
Breakfast Buffet
Dinner Meal
Banquet on Saturday One convention coin per registered guest

COST:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Package Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Nights with Banquet – Single Room</td>
<td>250.00</td>
<td>Euro Per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Nights with Banquet – Double Room</td>
<td>175.00</td>
<td>Euro Per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Nights with Banquet – Single Room</td>
<td>165.00</td>
<td>Euro Per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Nights with Banquet – Double Room</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>Euro Per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Night with Banquet – Single Room</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>Euro Per Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Night with Banquet – Double Room</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>Euro Per Person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Banquet Only (no overnights) Euro Per Person

Prices include Breakfast and Dinner Meals only Lunch is not included.

We need half for a down payment on all Rooms by 1 May 2020

POC - Charlie Brown  vcalbrown50@gmail.com  M-01701-888034
POC - James Settle  james.settle@kabelbw.de  H-07138-67359
POC - Casby Logan  casjlog@gmail.com  M-0173-6549691

INFO@HOTEL-SCHOENBLICK-WUESTENROT.DE

~ 8 ~
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 ELECTIONS...25 April 2020
Gaststette “Zum Reegen Im Reid”
Reidweg 52
74078 Heilbronn- Frankenbach, Germany
CORONAVIRUS SAFETY
Follow these easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.

Sneeze or cough? Cover your mouth.

Disinfect surfaces around your home and work.

If you’re sick, stay home.