We are now into the 4th month of 2021. Remember that Covid-19 is still around. We must remain safe and protect ourselves, practice social distance and wear a mask when and where required. There is also another variant of Covid-19 going around, more cases have been reported here in Germany. A Vaccine is now being distributed into Groups. The Lockdown are starting to slow down and we hope to see some business’s opening soon in stages. We still must remain open hearted and think positive.

Last month we held our virtual Oratorical Contest due to that National had canceled theirs due to the Pandemic, we also held our 3rd DEC via video conference. I suggest that all Post refrain from having any closed meetings and follow the local laws.

Department was able to make a $1,000 donation to the Landstuhl Army Fisher House.

Most of all let us not forget the Buddy Check, remember that some Post members might not have a smartphone or computer. Pay them a Visit to see how they are doing. let us not forgot those that cannot be home due to mission requirements and those that have no one or nowhere to celebrate.

Thanks.
Greetings Comrades,

April is here and I continue to stress a few items:

1. myLegion.org:
   a. Most of our active Posts are still using this tool very effectively. One active Post has not accessed their account since 3 January 2020.
   b. myLegion2021: As we all should know by now, myLegion.org is changing in the future. The announced switchover date is 1 April 2021 (and it’s no April Fools joke). The video at this link provides more information: [https://vimeo.com/showcase/4552712/video/472753331](https://vimeo.com/showcase/4552712/video/472753331)

2. Consolidated Post Report (CPR): The 2021 Membership year CPR is available on myLegion.org. We now have 16 out of 32 Posts that have now started their 2021 CPR. Great Job!

3. Certification of Officers: Reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant. Immediately after Post elections, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants form must be sent to the Department Adjutant. As soon as possible after Post elections, the Certification of Post Officials report needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant.

4. Article VIII, Section 2 states, “Any Post failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the National and Department Constitutions and Bylaws, ceasing to function as a Post for six (6) months, voluntary ceasing to function as a Post, merging with one more Posts, refusing to pay Department and National per capita dues, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary, shall upon order of the DEC, surrender its Charter for cancellation. Upon failure to surrender such Charter, immediate steps may be taken for its suspension, cancellation, or revocation. A Post shall be considered to have ceased to function when it:
   a. Has failed to hold regularly scheduled meetings.
   b. Has no American Legion programs in effect.
   c. Has failed to transmit membership data as required.
   d. Has failed to have a representative at three (3) consecutive meetings of the DEC.
   e. Has failed to obtain fifteen (15) current members by 1 February of each year.
   f. Has failed to respond to Department correspondence within 15 days of notification.
SAVE LIVES Act: Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccinations to all Veterans, their Spouses and Caregivers

SAVE LIVES Act allows VA to soon provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans, their spouses and caregivers

March 24, 2021, 03:41:00 PM

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden signed the SAVE LIVES Act into law, expanding VA’s legal authority to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all Veterans, regardless of their VA health care enrollment status, as well as Veteran spouses, caregivers and some beneficiaries.

“The SAVE LIVES Act increases the number of individuals who are eligible to get lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines from VA from 9.5 million to more than 33 million,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Meeting the task of vaccinating this expanded population will be a tremendous undertaking for the VA and will require a significant increase in our allocation of vaccine supply, but I am confident that VA’s workforce is up to the task.”

VA is providing COVID-19 vaccinations to Veterans and employees per its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. As of March 24, VA has fully vaccinated 1,594,812 individuals, including Veterans, VA employees and federal partners.

The next steps in VA’s prioritized expansion efforts are to offer the vaccine to all enrolled Veterans – approximately 9.5 million – followed by those outlined in the bill, as vaccine supply permits:

- Non-enrolled Veterans as defined in the new legislation, including those without service-connected disabilities and who have incomes above VA’s threshold.
- Overseas Veterans who rely on the Foreign Medical Program.
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 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:

Services:
- Comprehensive VA benefits counseling
- Assistance with Foreign Medical Program care enrollment
- Claims preparation and submission
- Claims follow-up to ensure final decisions
- Initiate and develop appeals on unfavorable VA decisions when appropriate to include representation at VA hearings
- Survivors Death Benefits

What do Department Service Officers do?
A DSO will ensure that Veterans and their families receive all federal 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 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 benefit explanation.

Department Service Office Staff
Office Visits by Appointment Only. Please Call +49.9802 83 2266 for an appointment before visiting the office.

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Map: https://goo.gl/maps/6XlCnGnTDu47
American Legion
Flanders Field Post BE02

Virtual Historical Roundtable Series
Escape and Evasion: Experiences of the 106th Infantry Division
with Carl Wouters

Sunday, 18 April 2021 Starts at 7 pm (CET)
Carl Wouters is a Belgian researcher on the 106th Infantry Division. He is the official Belgian liaison for the Division Association and one of the founders of the Belgian Chapter. The chapter organizes the annual remembrance ceremony at St. Vith and was also instrumental in the creation of the new POW monument in Schonberg, Belgium. He is currently working on a book about the experiences of the veterans that he has corresponded with over the years. Carl has guided families and veterans of the Golden Lion Division back to the former battlefields in the Ardennes and Eifel.

For more information, contact us at: flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION
LIBERTY WALK 2021
Saturday August 28th, 2021

Commemorate the "Battle of the Vierstraat Ridge" by the 27th & 30th US Divisions Aug/Sep 1918.

Place to be: Visitors Center Kemmel
Start walk: 09.00 - 13.00
7, 12 or 18 km
Expo visitors center: 09.00 - 15.00

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: americanlegionlibertywalk@gmail.com

The organization is not responsible for any accidents, damage or theft. Responsible publisher: Joseph Schrems, American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02
Joseph Schram  
Department Historian, Americanism Chairperson, Oratorical Director & Boys State Director

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**Oratorical Contest**

On Sunday 07 March 2021, Sydney Macaulay, a Senior at AFNORTH International School won first place at the annual Department of France’s Oratorical “Scholarship” Contest. Because of COVID restriction, the Oratorical Contest was held virtually. This however, did not prevent the contestants from delivering outstanding presentations. Unfortunately the National Oratorical Contest was cancelled but instead Miss Macaulay will receive a $5000 scholarship.

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**Eagle Scout of the Year**

Nathan Pierce from Troop 457 in Brussels and a junior at the Brussels American High School received top honors as being selected as the Department of France’s Eagle Scout of the Year. Mr. Pierce’s nomination will advance to the National contest where he will compete for the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year’s $10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of $2,500 each. Additionally, the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will travel to join the Youth Champion Delegation of The American Legion that is honored each August at the

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**Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year**

C/2dLt Charlie Livingstone from the Chièvres Air Base Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron was selected as the Department of France’s Civil Air Patrol "Cadet of the Year" competition.
BSA Troop 802 Golden Kites Seeks Additional Mentors

Dear American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members,

The Transatlantic Council BSA 802 Consolidated Units is seeking women mentors from the Department of France to voluntarily serve as Assistant Scoutmasters in our BSA Troop 802 “Golden Kites”. The troop consists of girls (Ages 11-18) residing across Europe, Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. They meet twice a month via on-line meetings and go out on coordinated adventures with their own family team. Once past COVID restrictions, the unit will also join other Scouting units at regional events like winter Klondike camp in Switzerland, spring camporee at Normandy Beach, summer camp in Croatia, or other international scouting events.

The Assistant Scoutmasters would be joining and adding depth to an already established BSA Scouts Troop program making history. No scouting experience is required, just the willingness to participate, learn the role, and enjoy the comradeship.

~ 7 ~
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Wounded Warriors and Caregivers  
American Legion Auxiliary Paris Post 1 and Military Caregiver Month

Patients waiting to take the plane back stateside for more treatment reading cards prepared by the Paris Scout Troop 112 for an Eagle Scout Project.

Chaplains who serve the hospital, USO Director and myself along with donations from the Paris Boy Scout Troop 112, the American Legion Auxiliary PP1, the VFW Post 605 and Democrats Abroad France.

Clothing donations by the American Legion Auxiliary Paris Post 1 and the VFW Paris Post 605.

Doctors and nurses in the ICU Covid ward showing thank-you cards made by the Paris Boy Scout Troop 112 for an Eagle Scout project.
The American Legion Auxiliary Paris Post 1 decided to use their donation to the Chaplain’s Closet at the Landstuhl Military Regional Center (LRMC) to commemorate Military Caregiver Month in March. These high-need clothing items, ie sweatpants and long-sleeve shirts were delivered to the Chaplains who oversee the Chaplains Closet last Thursday, March 25th, during the Aeromediovac breakfast.

The Paris Post 1 American Legion Auxiliary has been supporting wounded warriors and caregivers for many years. Before the Covid sanitary restrictions, Beth Herwood would prepare her delicious pastries for Americans who would gather at the American Church and the American Cathedral in Paris to make cards. Ginette Crosley, the American Legion Auxiliary Paris Post 1 has been supporting this effort by spearheading monetary funds for travel and the Chaplain’s Closet. Anna Marie Mattson, another Auxiliary member, delivers the donations and cards. This time, other American organizations in Paris also participated: VFW Paris Post 605, Paris Boy Scout Troop 602 and Democrats Abroad France.

Thank you for caring!

For more information about how you can donate and volunteer, contact Anna Marie Mattson, Tel: 33 6 14 16 15 16, ammattson52@gmail.com
The American Legion 2020-2021 History Book Contest

Entry certification forms are due to National Headquarters Library by 15 Sept 2021, the history book must be at the National Headquarters Library by 01 October 2021.

Post Histories (excerpt from Post Officer’s Guide)

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 begins 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 backstory.

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.

Upon completion of the national contest, all entries will be returned to their respective posts unless otherwise instructed for different shipping arrangements.

The work of collecting, preserving, and recording the activities of The American Legion is an important endeavor and demands much detail work; hopefully you will find it inspiring and rewarding. Contact the department historian for additional ideas and information regarding department contest qualifications.
Larry C. Leap, Jr. sworn in as Post Historian
Lebanon era U.S. Air Force, Gulf War/War on Terrorism era U.S. Army veteran Larry C. Leap, Jr. was recently sworn in as the Historian of Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07. Leap joined The American Legion last winter. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)

David W. Crawford completes the Legion basic training course
Gulf War era U.S. Army veteran David W. Crawford has successfully completed the requirements of the Basic Training course of The American Legion Education Institute. Crawford was subsequently elected Post Executive Committeeman. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)

Courtney A. Jimenez completes the Legion basic training course
War on Terrorism era U.S. Army veteran Courtney A. Jimenez has successfully completed the requirements of the Basic Training course of The American Legion Education Institute. Jimenez was recently appointed Post Adjutant. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)

Timothy J. Knasel sworn in as Legionnaire
Panama and Gulf War/War on Terrorism era U.S. Air Force veteran Timothy J. Knasel was recently sworn in as a member of Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07. Knasel joined The American Legion last Winter. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)

Gregory J. Pluhar completes the Legion basic training course
Gulf War era U.S. Army veteran Gregory J. Pluhar has successfully completed the requirements of the Basic Training course of The American Legion Education Institute. Pluhar was subsequently appointed Chairman of the Post Legion Riders Committee. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)

John W. Pruitt completes the Legion basic training course
Gulf War/War on Terrorism era U.S. Army veteran John W. Pruitt has successfully completed the requirements of the Basic Training course of The American Legion Education Institute. Pruitt was recently elected Post Executive Committeeman. (Photo by Todd Johnson for The American Legion)
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.

U.S. Entry into World War I, 1917

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to request a declaration of war against Germany. Wilson cited Germany’s violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, as well as its attempts to entice Mexico into an alliance against the United States, as his reasons for declaring war. On April 4, 1917, the U.S. Senate voted in support of the measure to declare war on Germany. The House concurred two days later. The United States later declared war on German ally Austria-Hungary on December 7, 1917.

DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 CIRCUMSTANCES, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, ALL FUTURE PICTURES TURNED IN FOR THE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER PICTURING GROUPS OF LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS (2 or more – Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Riders), FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN BY LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS, OUT IN THE OPEN AND INSIDE BUILDINGS. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENT GERMAN AND MILITARY POLICIES.