



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



BELGIUM-CHINA 01-DENMARK-ENGLAND-FRANCE-GREECE-GERMANY-IRELAND-ITALY-NETHERLANDS-SPAIN-THAILAND

April 2022

Vol. 20, No. 3



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *SANTOS ALVARADO*

My Fellow Legionnaires,

Again, I want to give a great thanks to Christopher Lampert from TH01 for volunteering to become the Department Newsletter Editor.

March was a busy month for the Department. We held our Oratorical Contest, IAC, and 3rd DEC. All Virtual. I congratulate the Oratorical Contest winners: 1st Place – Caden Burkman, GR06, 2nd Place – Ronnie Macauley, NLO1, and 3rd Place – William Gibbons, BE02. The 1st place winner will move on to the National Oratorical Contest. I also want to thank everyone who helped put this together, especially Frank Phillips and John Fleming for putting this virtual contest online. I also want to thank James Settle and Doug Hagen for pushing our exemption to except our virtual contest to National. Most of all, the Staff that assisted us to push this through.

As everyone is aware, we held our 3rd DEC virtual instead of in Ansbach. Unfortunately, it was held virtual due to the Garrison Commanders' policy.

Even though the count is lowering in the area, we must still abide by it.

As everyone is aware, we have hit the 5th stage of the Pandemic. Many EU countries have implemented strict rules on how people gather, and they are pushing for 100% vaccination of all residents. If you have not been vaccinated, you should get yours. We must remember that Covid-19 is still around. We must remain safe and protect ourselves, practice social distancing, and wear a mask when and where required. Follow your Host Nation's laws. If you are having in-person Post meetings, follow the local laws.

Our 2022 Membership is still active!

Most of all, let us not forget the Buddy Check. Remember that some Post members might not have a smartphone or computer. Visit them to see how they are doing. I am keeping track of the Pandemic daily, to view the Stats and the Health and Safety of all our Members which is of the utmost importance to me.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2022MY

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DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT...JOHN FLEMING

Greetings Comrades,

1. Certification of Officers: Thank you to the Posts who have recently held elections and sent in the Notification forms. I can add all Post officers to the Post Officers Roster in Nationals database. 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.
2. NOTE: If you change your email address, please let me know. If I do not know about the change, **YOU WILL** miss emails.
3. Dates to Note (these are not all-inclusive):
 - 3 April, at 1500 CET – Monthly Adjutant's and Commander's Meeting
 - 3 April, at 1630 CET – Monthly Officers Meeting
 - 9 April, at 1800 CET – Award Packets Due to Department Adjutant
 - 23 April, TBA – Awards Committee Meeting
 - 1 May, at 1500 CET – Monthly Adjutant's and Commander's Meeting
 - 1 May, at 1630 CET – Monthly Officers Meeting
 - 5 June, at 1500 CET – Monthly Adjutant's and Commander's Meeting
 - 5 June, at 1630 CET – Internal Affairs Committee Meeting
 - 15 June – Consolidated Post Report due to Department Adjutant
 - 16-19 June – 4th DEC, Convention, 1st DEC



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE... LEE PRESTON

Hello to the Members of the Department of France,

I hope that this month's newsletter finds everyone well and staying healthy. As we start a new month, I want to thank the Department Commander for giving me the opportunity to finish out the year as the Department Vice Commander at Large (VCAL).

The month of March has ended, and we begin April which brings us to the last three (3) months of the membership year. Remember, the membership year is not over yet therefore, we still need to get out and **recruit, renew**, and tell people about the great things The American Legion does for our Veterans.

Let all of us make that final big push in membership between now and Department Convention. It is not about making you, me or Department look good; it is about taking care of our Veterans. Take care of yourselves and your families as well. Make those buddy checks, call your members and, let them know that they are not alone.

Next, I want to emphasize the upcoming Department Legion Riders meeting taking place at the location of GR05 meetings, The Flying Dragon. The meeting will be held in Walldorf-Mörfelden by Frankfurt. I have sent out the flyer to all the Chapter Directors and hope that ALL the Riders in the Department have seen it. All the Riders are invited to this meeting. Please contact me if you are planning to attend so that I have a headcount. I need to know if you will be staying for dinner as well. We will order from the menu, and the dinner/drinks are pay as you go.

Finally, the Department Awards Committee will meet on April 23, 2022. They will review all the award packets submitted to determine the winners of awards throughout the various categories. We need to have all the Post awards packets submitted to the Department Adjutant no later than April 9, 2022. Please remember, if your Post does not submit an awards packet, your Post will not be considered for any awards.

Thank you all for your membership in The American Legion and the Department of France.

Lee Preston
VCAL
Lpreston1057@gmail.com

The next American Legion Riders DFR Meeting is here. This meeting is open to ALL members in good standing with the Department of France Legion Riders.

Date: 9 April 2022
Start Time: 1200 hrs.
Location: The Flying Dragon Bar (GR05 Post Home)
In der Trifft 5-7, 64546 Mörfelden-Walldorf



Please pass along this information to all your Chapter Members. I need the following information NLT 1 March 2022! Any members that want to attend should send their information to my email: lpreston1057@gmail.com.

1. The number of members planning to attend and stay for dinner.
2. The number of members that need a room to stay the night.
3. If spending the night, how many nights?





DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Detachment Commander Joe D. Brown
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2022MY OFFICERS

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Sergeant-at-Arms David Craig dcdavid16@googlemail.com

Todd Alex Johnson

Post GR07 Commander

POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN DAVID CRAWFORD REPRESENTS WIESBADEN, GERMANY POST AT THE 77TH REMAGEN BRIDGE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

Greetings Legionnaires,

Post Executive Committeeman David Crawford (second from left) represented Wiesbaden, Germany's Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07, Department of France, at a wreath-laying ceremony held on Monday, Mar. 7, 2022, where the General C. W. Abrams Chapter, Association of the United States Army, commemorated the 77th anniversary of the 9th U.S. Armored Division's capture of the famed Ludendorff Railroad Bridge between Koblenz and Bonn.



The event was made famous by the 1969 U.S. war film "The Bridge at Remagen" based on the real-life capture of the Ludendorff Railroad Bridge. It is estimated that the successful seizing of the German bridge shortened World War II in Europe by two weeks. Members of Wiesbaden's Watch on the Rhine Post No. 27, Veterans of Foreign Wars, were also in attendance.

Estus Smith

Post GR1982 Member

Legion Post 1982 Participates in Vietnam Veterans Commemoration

"A grateful nation is thankful for your service" was the message at the commemoration service.



29 March is National Vietnam Veterans Day, and USAG Ansbach participated in the commemoration this year. Members of

American Legion Post 1982, with assistance from Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 9342 and 10708, set up a static display and had a cake-cutting with coffee at the forum area in front of the Post Exchange area. Veterans and family members from the military community viewed the static display and enjoyed the free cake and coffee.



Jerry Aman

Post GRog Commander

GR og honors victims of WW II plane crash

On 22 February 2022 GRog Legionnaires, guests, and local city officials participated in a memorial ceremony at the site where a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber crashed during a bombing run on Ulm, Germany on 22 February 1945. The plane which had been "patched up" after being hit with flak on a previous flight encountered turbulence when descending to 17,000 feet and plunged to the ground after the fuselage of the plane broke apart. Three crew members were able to parachute to safety but seven were unable to exit the spiraling aircraft and perished.

In 2012 the nearby village of Pfaffenhofen erected a stone monument at the crash site and GRog members have pledged to maintain it and ensure that its appearance would always be fitting for a memorial honoring these seven Americans.

After an opening prayer by GRog's Post Chaplain Thomas Snook Pfaffenhofen's Bürgermeister (Mayor) Sebastian Sparwasser, Legionnaire Oliver Patrich and Reiner Miene, President of the 1906 formed Ulm Traditional German Artillery Association placed a floral arrangement at the base of the monument. In his speech, Herr Sparwasser recapped the history of the event and thanked all those who served their countries and gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. After the ceremony both Sparwasser and Herr Josef Walz, the previous mayor thanked GRog for their continued interest and dedication to this ceremony and hoped it would continue for many years.





[Link to Department of France Website](#)

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

Hope everyone is doing well.

If you would like an article included in the DFR monthly newsletter, please send your input to my above email no later than 10 days before the 1st of every month. If you send accompanying pictures, please make sure they are high quality.

I will surely include your input in the newsletter.