



# Legion News

## DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



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

April 2024

Vol. 22 / No. 4



Hello, my American Legion Family. I hope and trust that in April you will enjoy the holidays.

**Membership:** Comrades, we are now in 7th place throughout the Department. We were in first place, and we need to get back up into the top three. Vice Commanders, please identify your Posts that are lacking 100%, and let us help get them there. The Department of France came a long way as number one to start slipping down to 7th place. For the Posts that have a 100% or more, please continue to excel. Again, we can do this.

**The American Legion's Birthday:** The 15th of March was The American Legion's Birthday. Different events were going on throughout the weekend, and I would like to thank the Posts that participated. As for myself, I celebrated with post GR01, at the commissary. It started at 1200, and it was a fun time. We had soldiers



coming up asking questions such as who we are and what we do. We informed them of how we benefit veterans, Family members, and the 4 Pillars of The American Legion. We also had handouts and an American Legion birthday cake. We had a fun time.

### DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024MY

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**A Brussels American High School Student is the winner of the Department of France Oratorical Contest.**

The Department of France Oratorical Contest was held on the 18th of March 2024. The Oratorical Director, Douglas Clemence, and the Judges and Timers did a fantastic job. I also want to thank Adjutant John Fleming, and Americanism Chairman James Settle for help hosting this event.

Nora G. won the contest held at Stuttgart High School. Nora, a Junior, earned 1st Place, the Gold Oratorical Medal, a Certificate of Distinction, \$1,000.00, and will now compete at the National Finals on 17-19 May 2024, in Hillsdale, MI, against winners of contests from other Departments.

Each contestant delivered a prepared oration as well as an oration on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. Nora impressed the judges with her speech and the way that she presented her speech.

2nd Place Winner was Jacob B., a Junior at Wiesbaden American High School – GR05

3rd Place Winner was Bryce W., a Junior at Wiesbaden American High School – GR07

4th Place Winner was Red R., a Senior at Lakenheath American High School – EG02

5th Place Winner was Caitlyn F., a Freshman at Stuttgart American High School – GR06



Since 1938, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation’s high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills.

**3rd DEC:** On the 23rd of March, we had our third Department Executive Committee meeting (DEC ). It was a great and prosperous meeting. We accomplished a lot of things. However, I will let the VCAL and Vice Commanders discuss these matters.



In closing, please use the Buddy System. Regardless of what time of the day it is, especially at this time of the year.

I wish everyone a happy and safe Easter. Please be aware of your surroundings. I wish everyone a happy and joyous April.

## The American Legion Oratorical Contest: A Judge's Perspective

Peter Faber, 09 March 2024 USAG Public Affairs  
(Story and Fotos, Peter Faber, Stuttgart)

As a Public Affairs specialist and judge at this year's American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, I found myself immersed in a captivating display of youthful intellect, passion, and eloquence. Hosted by Stuttgart Post 6 on Panzer Kaserne in Stuttgart, the event showcased the final contest of the American Legion Department of France, drawing contestants from across Europe, each vying for the prestigious title.

Since its inception in 1938, the Oratorical Contest has served as a platform for high school students to hone their speaking skills while delving into the depths of American constitutional history. It's not just about delivering speeches; it's about instilling leadership qualities, fostering a deep understanding of the nation's laws, and cultivating the art of clear and critical thinking among participants.

One cannot underestimate the significance of judges in this contest. Tasked with evaluating speeches without bias, we were reminded of the weight of our responsibility. Before the event, we refrained from any publicity, ensuring our decisions were based solely on the merits of the speeches. During the contest, we were strategically seated apart, rendering our decisions independently, free from consultation.

Among the judges for this prestigious contest were Col. Kirk Alexander, Commander of USAG Stuttgart, Command Sgt Maj. Denice Malave,

Amy Barreiro, and Daniel Romero adding a distinguished level of expertise and insight to the evaluation process.

The criteria for assessment were rigorous and comprehensive. We evaluated speech originality,

subject knowledge, and logical organization. But it wasn't just about content; we also scrutinized delivery—volume, rate, pitch, diction, poise, posture, gestures, and expressions—all factors contributing to the overall impact of the oration.

Among the five contestants, one shone brightly—a true star in the making. Nora Gibbons, a Junior at Brussels American High School (Flanders Field Post BE02), captivated the audience with her profound understanding of the Constitution, delivering her speech with a blend of confidence, clarity, and conviction that belied her youth. But let's not overlook Jacop Barnes, a Junior at Wiesbaden High School Rhein Main Post GR05), the lone male participant, whose exceptional public speaking talent earned him a close second place. Additionally, Bryce Watts, also a Junior from Wiesbaden High School (Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR 05), secured 3rd place in the competition.



Contestants Alexandra "Red" Rossmann, a Senior from Lakenheath High School (Liberty Post EG02), and Caitlyn Fields, a Freshman from Stuttgart High School (Stuttgart Post GR06), also displayed remarkable individuality and talent, grappling with the complexities of constitutional law in a commendable and impressive manner.

In a competition where speaking for a minimum of eight minutes on constitutional matters is no easy feat, their dedication and resilience were

evident. The unexpected challenge of a non-prepared oratorical, with only five minutes to prepare on a topic like the 23rd Amendment, added an extra layer of difficulty. Yet, once again, contestants rose to the occasion, demonstrating their ability to think on their feet and deliver compelling arguments with grace and acumen.

While some contestants may have emerged as frontrunners, it's essential to recognize the talent and potential of all participants. Each one brought something unique to the stage,

enriching the contest with their perspectives and insights.

As the event concluded, it became clear that the American Legion Oratorical Contest is not just about winning scholarships—it's about empowering the next generation of leaders, scholars, and orators. And from what I witnessed today, the future looks bright indeed.

\*(Note: The Posts listed at the end of the contestants are the sponsoring Legion Posts: England, Belgium, and Germany.)



Greeting Comrades,

I hope this Newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy. If not, follow this link, Happy!

\*\*\*\***Annual Post Data Form Report:** On Monday, 29 January 2024, I emailed the newly received Annual Post Data Report 2025 Membership Year. This form is different from the Post Data Form that was previously emailed to all the Posts. This form MUST be completed

DEPARTMENT  
ADJUTANT



*John Fleming*

and returned to me by **10 April 2024**. I will be returning ALL forms to National HQs no later than **15 April 2024**, whether I receive a reply or not.

As everyone should be aware by now, National voted to increase the National per capita by \$5.00 effective 1 July 2024 for the 2025 Membership Year.

With this change, the National per capita, \$23.50, plus the Department per capita, \$6.50, will be \$30.00. **If your Post dues are \$30.00 or less, you need to update that information on the Annual Post Data Report 2025 Membership Year Form** to inform National of your Post's new annual dues amount. If you do not change your Post dues, you will not receive any dues from Annual Members beginning 1 July 2024. These forms must be returned to me by **10 April 2024** so I can ensure that we meet the National suspense date.

If you already sent the Post Data Report Form, you still need to complete the Annual Post Data Report 2025 Membership Year.

**Consolidated Post Report / Consolidated Squadron Report (CPR/CSR)** – We need to be working on these now. It is available on myLegion.org, so every time you have an event you can start filling it in. Please do not finalize it until June 2024. The final date to submit is 31 July 2024.

**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 on myLegion.org. Reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant.

1. Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants: This form must be sent to the Department Adjutant immediately (within 24 hours) after Post

elections. The form should be dated the date of the elections/appointment.

2. Post Officer Certification of Service Form: This form has been revised and sent to all Posts. It needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant as soon as possible after Post elections (within 15 days). The Effective Date of Election of Appointment is the date of the original election or appointment. For example, if an Officer was elected on 1 May 2023 and reelected on 1 May 2024, the Effective Date block will show 1 May 2023.

These forms are critical to keep the current Post Officer informed of Department news. If I do not have the correct information, your Post may not receive vital information.

Please contact me for any questions or if you need the forms.

**Dates to Remember:**

- 1 April 2024 - Award Packets are due to the Adjutant (no joke)
- 6 April 2024 - Awards Committee Meeting
- 13-16 June 2024 - Convention Weekend, in Ochsenfurt, Germany, hosted by GR30.

Thanks, and best wishes.

John Fleming  
Department Adjutant

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Greetings Department of France,

This month has flown by for me. Post Elections in my Post NL01, looks like they are stuck with me as Commander again for another year. My wife Angelika and I went down to FR01 to celebrate with them Founders Day of our American Legion with my friend Vice Commander Quincy Foster. And then last weekend was our 3rd DEC in Ansbach. I thought it went very well apart from the WebEx AV issues, I really hope this gets resolved soon.

It was nice to see so many of you at the DEC. It gets me thinking about our Mid-Winter Conference we normally hold late in the month of January or early in February

**DEPARTMENT  
VCAL**



*Dennis Owens*

since there is such a gap between the 2nd DEC in October and the 3rd DEC in March.

We, like most Departments conduct our Mid-Winter Conference over a couple of days. Fortunately, we use the WebEx platform to save on Conference Room costs and your travel and hotel costs. Unfortunately, our Mid-Winter Conference was sparsely attended. I say this because there was a mountain of effort put into it from myself and several of the other presenters. Our Department asks every Department Officer to speak about their Officer Positions and how they can assist your Officer Positions in your Posts. That said, it would make clear sense that when the Adjutant Block is being covered, then I would think that all Post Adjutants would be in

attendance to hear what is new in the Adjutant world, all Post Commanders when the Department Commander and Vice Commanders are speaking, all Post Finance Officers of each Post when the Department Finance Officer is speaking...Not only to hear what that position is putting out to each Post, but also to be able to take the time and ask questions of them. They are there for you. Please reserve time next time we do the Mid-Winter Conference. As a new Officer or even a salty experienced Officer in the Posts, one can always learn something new. We in the Department are here for all of you. How many new Post Officers jumped into their position and knew everything on how to do that job? I would guess very few of us, including me. Our Mid-Winter Conference is designed for just this purpose to share information with all Officers, new and old, of each Post.

With all that being said, please feel free to contact me to mention what your Post would like to hear presented at our next Mid-Winter Conference? What would you like to learn from your Department?

First it was great seeing everyone who made it to the 3rd DEC, whether it was in person or through video, of course in person is always better.

First, I want to address all Department of France members, to include Post participants. It is the Post members who make our Department what it is and I'm grateful that I have the opportunity to work with such a fine group of men and women.

As we head into the spring season and hopefully warmer days our commitments as American Legion members will increase. Several Posts will have a pretty full agenda as we move towards April, May and June, there will probably be several Remembrance ceremonies scheduled, depending on where you live. I urge all members to step up and support your Posts in preparing for these events.

Not only do we have Memorial Day, a day we honor our fallen comrades but there are so many other events that we will be looking back on and remember their heroic

Very Best wishes, I am off again to California to spend more time helping my elderly father. I encourage all of you if you ever get a chance to be there with your parents at the end of their time on this earth. It can be extremely frustrating, expensive and challenging, but on the other hand, it is one of the most rewarding tasks one can do. I am sure I will be satisfied when this is all done, and I look back on tis time. I do see the light at the end of the tunnel as they say, they are moving into a retirement home soon where he has 24-hour help at just the push of a button. I'll need to sell his house and take care of some of his obligations then I am back for good in Europe.

Please be nice and take care of each other. Teach the new members and Officers. But on top of it all, be nice to each other. This is a Volunteer organization of service. We lose sight of that sometimes. I wish all of you the very best in your Post and your Legion.

VCAL Dennis

DEPARTMENT  
Vice Commander



*Jim Brotherton*

actions. I have a patch I want to add to my ALR vest that says, "All gave some, some gave all", I believe that says it all. We need to honor and celebrate both groups. Without them, where would we be today?

For the Posts I'm responsible for in England. I look forward to attending the unveiling of the monument dedicated to the men of the 82nd Airborne who fought in WWII. I feel proud that we will stand, represented by all 3 English American Legion Posts and past and present Department Officers, to honor these men on 13 April. If anyone has questions or would like more information concerning this event please contact me.

Again, I ask all to step up and answer the call when your Posts plan their events in the coming months. Don't let our Heros be forgotten.

Jim Brotherton  
Department Vice Commander.

Greetings Comrades,

I hope and pray you and your families had a blessed Easter and many more in the future.

I would like to say far well to so many of our Comrades that have joined our comrades and their family members in our Post Everlasting home in the sky. May their souls rest in peace. Our condolences and sympathies go out to their families and friends.

This past month has been most pleasing to me. I had the honor of and a great time conducting the election of NL01's elections. Also, the assistance of Vice Commander Brotherton. I am proud to say the post Reelected VCAL Dennis Owens for the position of the Commander of NL01. I truly had a great time. Commander and his wife took me on a tour of their namesake Margraten ABMC American War Cemetery. I must say it was really both moving and bereft taking tour. Later the post sponsored dinner and I had the privilege to attend and talk to a lot of the members of his post.

The next weekend I and the VCAL Commander Owens were invited to represent the Department at the Founders Day celebration along with his wife Angelika. This was the 105th anniversary of the American Legion held on that very spot. We were joined by and met some very long

**DEPARTMENT  
VICE COMMANDER**



*Quincy Foster*

time members of the FR01's Auxiliary, Gary Nadolski ( wife Gigi WW11 D-Day survivor from Normandy) 23 years, Ginette Crosley the mother of Michele Crosley( who is also in the Auxiliary and the Adjutant for FR01), Charlie Dawson (who's grandfather in Paris for the 1st TAL caucus) SAL members, VFW Timothy Povich Commander Benjamin Franklin Post 605, Mark Primmer Commander for the Department of Europe. And La Souvenir Francois: Christian Carron( President of LSF in Montages, France.

My congratulations goes out to FR01 Post Eagle Scout of the Year nominee Thomas Ravel awarded the American Legion Metal with a Eagle Scout Device. Also I was one of the judges at the GR07 and GR05's Oratorical contest. Both posts went on to win ( GR05 2nd Place and GR07 3rd Places in the finals.

Earlier in the month GR05 provided a color guard to the 79th Anniversary of the Battle of Ramage Bridge and place a wreath on behalf of the American Legion.

I would like to thank all of the posts that are doing things for the good of the Legion but may not have been recognized!

God Bless you all! Quincy.

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Good Day Riders!

As we move toward the spring season and warmer days, I'm sure, as I am, you're ready to get back on the motorcycle and hit the road.

Some of you may have ridden through the whole year while others have had their bike put away in winter storage, that is the group I want to address. What I want to talk about may be old news to most of you, but it's always nice to have a reminder.

Let's discuss Motorcycle Safety as the riding season begins, before you even put that key in the ignition, there are a few things you really need to do. Start with;

- Take a walk around the bike, start by looking at every part. Look for leaks on the ground. Do you smell gas or other fluids? Examine pivot points, are any showing wear and tear? Test the lights and horn.

**DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS  
DIRECTOR**



*Jim Brotherton*

- Drain and refill fluids. Don't start the riding season with old gas, drain and replenish with fresh gas, check all fluid levels.
- Definitely check your brakes for leakage, wear and tear. Are the lines and cables in good working order?
- Give the air filter a look, either clean or replace the filter
- Make sure the battery is in good working order. How old is your battery? If around the 5 year mark you may want to think about replacing it (personal experience)
- Inspect your tires for proper inflation, check for signs of damage such as dry rot, cracks
- If applicable, clean and lube your chain.
- Give your bike a good wash and clean, also it helps to discover some of the smaller issues.
- The most important thing when it comes to motorcycle safety is to brush up on your riding skills, especially if you haven't ridden in a while. Take a few small trips around the neighborhood before tackling the highway, these small trips will help you see if everything is in working


order. Take a look at your riding equipment, helmet, jacket, boots and gloves.

Ride Safe and ALWAYS LOOKOUT FOR THE OTHER GUY (or GIRL). Don't want anything to happen to my riding buddies.

Jim Brotherton /Department ALR Director.


# Department of France Convention 2024

Other information on the Convention: All drinks are "pay as you go". You can pay with a credit card at the Hotel for your stay for the Convention, Please add any "Special" needs you or your family may need on the registration form included, and As soon as you arrive at the Convention, you need to contact Sonja or myself before paying for your stay. If you arrive a day earlier, please annotate it on your reservation for accountability (this day is not included on the Convention packet). You must pay for this day extra. I can reserve the room for you. *James Dennis / Convention Chairperson / Audie Murphy Post GR30*



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of France  
96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Hosted by Audie Murphy Post GR30



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**13 - 16 June 2024**

**Best Western Hotel Polisina  
Marktbreiter str. 265  
97199 Ochsenfurt, Germany**

**Convention Package Consist of:**

**4 Days and 3 Nights**

**One Convention Coin per Department registered guest residing at the Hotel**

**Breakfast Buffet**

**Evening Dinner Meal including the Banquet on Saturday**

**Mineral water and juice during the meetings**

**Afternoon coffee and pastry**

*13 -16 June 2024*

Complete Package - Single Room	470,00 Euro Per Person
Complete Package - Double Room	320,00 Euro Per Person

*14 -16 June 2024*

Two Nights with Banquet - Single Room	340,00 Euro Per Person
Two Nights with Banquet - Double Room	220,00 Euro Per Person

*15 -16 June 2024*

One Night with Banquet - Single Room	180,00 Euro Per Person
One Night with Banquet - Double Room	130,00 Euro Per Person

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**Following expenditures to be paid at Convention**

Attending meetings only. Not staying at the hotel. <i>(Includes use of conference room, afternoon coffee and pastry, &amp; mineral water and juice during the meetings. Please notify Comrade Dennis if you will be attending Convention Meetings only.)</i>	35,00 Euros Per person, per day.
Elections and meal, no overnight	60,00 Euros Per Person
Banquet only	35,00 Euros per person

**\* Prices include Breakfast and Dinner Meals only >>> Lunch is Not included.\***

**We need all reservations on rooms by 1 May 2024**



Please fill out included reservation form and send in no later than 1 May 2024 to ensure a reserved room.  
Please print clearly to avoid mistakes. Make copies as needed.  
If reservations are made but not able to attend, please contact a Chairman Dennis as soon as possible.  
If paying with credit card at convention, attendee must still fill out form and send in.

Convention Chairman: Jammers and Sonja Dennis  
Steigerwald Str. 7  
97318 Kitzingen Germany  
Telephone: 09321-35390 or Handy: 01705712861  
Email: audiegr30@gmail.com or sonja.dennis@t-online.de

The AMERICAN LEGION, Department of France  
96th Annual Convention, 13-16 June 2024 Room Reservation

PLEASE CHECK ONE

**EXAMPLE:** Option ONE  13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Single Room / 470,00€ Per Person  
Last Name: *Dennis* First Name: *Jammers* Post: *GRSO*

**Option One:**  13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Single Room / 470.00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Two:**  13 - 16 June 2024 / Three Nights -Double Room / 320.00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Three:**  14 - 16 June 2024 / Two Nights -Single Room / 340.00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Four:**  14 - 16 June 2024 / Two Nights -Double Room / 220.00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Five:**  15 - 16 June 2024 / One Night -Single Room / 180.00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option Six:**  15 - 16 June 2024 / one Night -Double Room / 130.00€ Per Person  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Will be paying with credit card at Convention

Special needs:(Reg. shower cabin, no shower head in bathtub, first floor access, wheel chair access, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Biosauna | Dampfbad  
Finnische Sauna | Fitness  
Kosmetik | Massage | Hallenbad**

Ein Ort der Inspiration. Nehmen Sie sich Zeit, dem Alltag zu entfliehen und genießen Sie eine Massage, eine wohltuende Kosmetikbehandlung oder entspannen Sie in unserem neuen Spa Bereich mit Hallenbad, 3 Saunen und Ruheraum.



**ANFAHRT MIT DEM ZUG:**  
Ab Würzburg Hauptbahnhof Richtung Treuchtlingen bis Bahnhof Ochsenfurt. Weiter mit dem Taxi, das wir Ihnen gerne vorbestellen.  
Telefonnummer Taxi: 09331-5570

**ANFAHRT MIT DEM AUTO:**  
Über die A3, Ausfahrt Randersacker. Auf der B13 bis Ochsenfurt. Nach der großen Mainbrücke fahren Sie Richtung Kitzingen/Marktbreit. Hinter dem Ortsende, nach ca. 300 m rechts abbiegen zur Hotelauffahrt Polisina.  
Über die A7, Ausfahrt Marktbreit. Folge der Straße Richtung Ochsenfurt/Würzburg. Den Kreisverkehr Richtung Ochsenfurt verlassen. Nach ca. 3 Kilometern finden Sie das Hinweisschild zur Hotelauffahrt auf der linken Seite.

**MIT DEM NAVIGATIONSSYSTEM:**  
Am Bürgerholz 1 | 97199 Frickenhausen am Main  
49.66479°N 10.09449°E

**Polisina**  
Hotel • Spa • Restaurant



**Polisina**  
Best Western Hotel Polisina  
Marktbreiter Straße 205 | 97199 Ochsenfurt  
Telefon: +49 (0) 9331 844-0  
info@polisina.de | www.polisina.de



**Die Küche – Einfach natürlich  
frisch & regional**

Unser Küchenchef Michel Werner und seine Mannschaft kochen fränkische Köstlichkeiten. Ob Frühstück, Kuchen oder Mittag- und Abendessen – Sie schmecken stets die Frische der Region. All unsere Gerichte werden bewusst natürlich und frisch produziert. Zudem bieten wir ebenso vegetarische und vegane Gerichte an.



**Best Western  
Hotel Polisina**

Das Hotel lebt in und vor allem von der Natur. Aus Respekt zur Tradition wurden die Zimmer im Stammhaus bewusst im fränkisch, rustikalen Stil aufgearbeitet. Gefolgt von Natur und Moderne prägen die Zimmer im Anbau den Zeitgeist mit hellen, warmen Farben und wohnlicher Einrichtung.

Wir sind zertifiziert



**Hochzeit | Tagung  
Familienfeier**

Hoch über dem Mainufer, mitten im Grünen gelegen, bietet das Best Western Hotel Polisina nicht nur einen perfekten Rückzugsort für Ruhe und Entspannung, sondern es liefert auch durch die jahrelange Erfahrung im Tagungs- und Bankettbereich ein perfektes Ambiente inmitten der schönen Natur.



**Der Biergarten**

In den Sommermonaten bietet unser Biergarten schattige Plätze, an denen Sie den Tag mit einem kraftvollen Frühstück beginnen oder die lauen Sommerabende genussvoll ausklingen lassen können. Umgeben von belebender Natur – mitten im Wald.



Trauung  
unter freiem  
Himmel

DEPARTMENT  
BOY'S STATE/HISTORIAN  
COMMITTEE



Joseph Schram

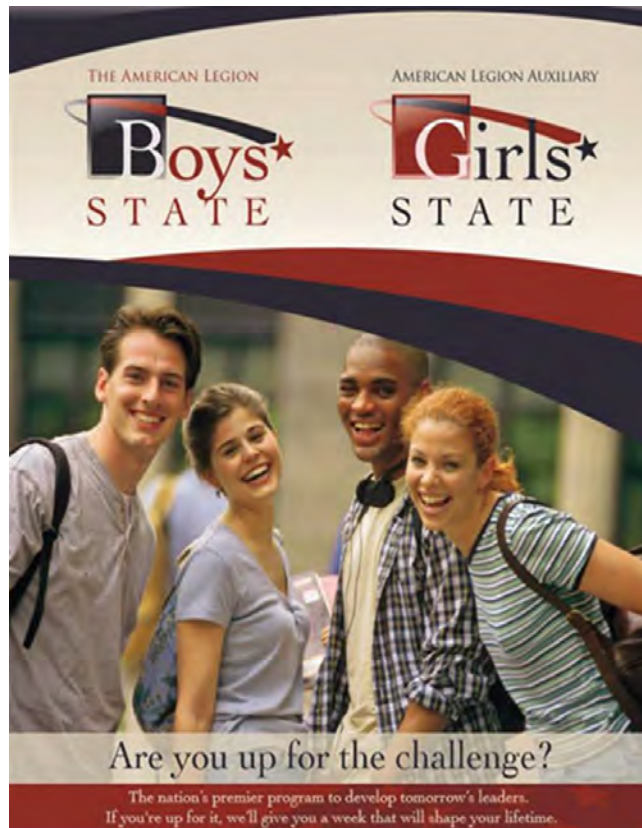
### Boys State / Girls State

Deadline for submission of candidates to the Boys State & Girls State programs has been extended to 14 April 2024. Please, submit the names to the Department's Boys State Director as soon as possible so that travel arrangements can

be coordinated. Do not go directly to the Department of Maryland Boys State or Girl State program directors.

Post's who pay for their candidate's travel expenses to the Boys State program will be reimbursed up to \$625. It is the responsibility of the Post who sponsors a candidate to pay for travel expenses.

If your Post does not have an Auxiliary chapter, the Post can still sponsor a young lady to the Girls State program. Remember that there is **NO** reimbursement for any Girls State travel expenses.



Hello Legionnaires

Easter is around the corner. Time for those egg paintings and the Great Easter Egg hunt with the kids.

Those are great times but we Christians Celebrate Easter for

another reason, we are Celebrating Easter a joyous and deeply meaningful time in the Christian faith. It is a time to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope and new life that it brings to all believers. One way to celebrate Easter is to attend a sunrise service at your local church. Watching the sun rise on Easter morning as you sing hymns and listen to a message of resurrection hope can be a powerful and moving experience.

Another way to celebrate Easter is to gather with family and friends for a special Easter meal. This can be a time of fellowship and joy as you share a meal together and give thanks for the gift of new life in Christ.



Finally, one of the most important ways to celebrate Easter as a Christian is to spend time in prayer and reflection on the significance of Jesus' resurrection. Take time to meditate on the love and grace of God as you give thanks for the ultimate sacrifice that Christ made for you.

As you celebrate Easter, remember to share the good news of the resurrection with others and spread the message of hope and new life to all who will listen and as Legionnaires let us not forget our brother and sisters that cannot be here and, on these occasions, let us Buddy check often to are comrades and friends.

Have a good Easter and God Bless.

For God and Country / Chaplain Ken Keckler



## The American Legion celebrates 105th Birthday

Since 1919, the Legion has been serving American veterans and their families around the world!



## Paris Post 1 of The American Legion celebrates 105 years in France

A historic weekend of ceremonies and events!  
Paris Post 1 wishes everyone a pleasant day honoring the founders of The American Legion.

105 years ago in Paris, France at the Cirque d'Hiver on rue Ernest Psichari, The American Legion had its first caucus meeting with American Expeditionary Force (AEF) soldiers who served in World War I in France.

This weekend Paris Post 1 will be honoring Founders Day with our annual ceremony and an historic tour of Paris for all of our visitors who joined us. Stay tuned for an updated on our historic weekend in our next newsletter!



## Paris Post 1 of The American Legion inducted into the Office National des Anciens Combattants et Victime de Guerre (ONAC-VG)

For the first time in France's history, a foreign military veterans association has been given this special honor. An unforgettable gift for Paris Post 1 and American veterans in France for Founders Day!

Paris Post 1 was accepted into the ONAC-VG as a member of their Conseil Departmental in Paris. The goal of Paris Post 1's participation will be to honor the memory and patriotism of veterans (anciens combattants) in France.

This special honor was the culmination of several years working with our local leadership in France. Paris Post 1 is very grateful to Directeur André Rakoto PhD for his extraordinary support and dedication to American military veterans and families who live in France. We are very grateful and honored to be a member of the ONAC-VG.

<https://www.onac-vg.fr/>



Photo courtesy of Massachusetts State Archives

### The Stones of St. Stephen's Church Are Still Speaking: Are We Listening?

Special thanks Dr. Heather Warfield, professor, author, and 2022-2023 Fulbright Research Scholar in France, for her continued dedication to the preservation and research of World War I American history in France.

"On a chilly, rainy day in the autumn of 1929, several thousand people converged on a sacred site 54 miles northeast of Paris, France. This scene was not one of the well-established pilgrimage locations that adorn the geography of France; rather, it was the newly reconstructed Belleau church."

"The pilgrims and attendees were a unique conglomeration of French villagers, religious leaders such as the Bishop of Soissons, military leaders including General Gouraud, former commander of the 4th French Army, and General Clarence Edwards, former commander of the Yankee Division (both pictured). That all of these individuals had gathered for a pilgrimage was not necessarily unique as many military veterans made pilgrimages to sites along the Western Front after the war."

"What made this pilgrimage notable was the site itself." Check out Heather's full article by clicking the button below:

<https://www.heatherawarfield.com/blog/the-stones-of-st-stephens-church-are-still-speaking-are-we-listening>



### Annual ceremonies at Paris Post 1

A great way to learn more about Paris Post 1 is to join us at our annual ceremonies.

Paris Post 1 is unique with three historic French non-profit associations under one post:

- American Legion
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Sons of The American Legion

Our annual ceremonies include many American and French national days of remembrance. There are new memorials and ceremonies each year, here are just a few of our annual ceremonies:

- ~ Birthday of The American Legion (March)
- ~ Memorial Day (May)
- ~ Victory in Europe (VE) Day (May)
- ~ 9/11 Remembrance Day (Sept)
- ~ Armistice Day (Nov 11th)
- ~ 4th of July
- ~ Bastille Day (July 14th)
- ~ and more..

All of our associations participate at our annual ceremonies which include all ages (youth and adults). We look forward to seeing you this year!

## KAISERSLAUTERN POST GR01

KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY

March 15 2024, Post GR01 members gathered at the Vogelweh commissary to commemorate the American Legion birthday. In attendance was Department Commander Robert Gary, Post GR01 Commander David Garcia, SAL member Hal Jarvis, Post GR01 members, Leon Robinson, Curley Morgen and Carlos Gonzalez.



Post GR01 Commander David Garcia and First Vice Commander Bruce Cole, presents Scout Master Paul Skinner and his son Ryan from Ramstein Scout Troop 101, a \$180.00 donation. The donation will be used to purchase a canvas tent for the Scouts Camping Jamboree.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

*April 1, 2024*

For more than 80 years, The American Legion has supported today's young people as we observe April as Children & Youth Month. During this month of celebration, American Legion Family members are encouraged to show their local communities our dedication to young people by hosting youth activities or by becoming involved in programs and organizations that support young people. [See the Legion's Children & Youth programs.](#)

### WHAT CAN I DO?

The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1920s. In many instances, The American 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 encourage each of you to show your community that the American Legion Family is dedicated to America's youth.

Each year 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/sexual abuse and neglect
- Teen suicide prevention

#### Family support

- National Family Week activities
- Day care safety
- Foster care
- Temporary Financial Assistance
- Missing and exploited children

 AMERICAN  
LEGION



# FLANDERS FIELDS POST BE02 WEST FLANDERS, BELGIUM

On Friday, the Flanders Field Post BE02 hosted its annual Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day event at the AAFES PX on Chievres Air Base. Department of France Commander Robert Gray and USAG Benelux Commander Matthews provided inspirational speeches to the Veterans.



**3rd Annual  
Daddy-Daughter Dance**  
*A Night in  
Wonderland*  
Sat., April 27th 2024 1700-2100  
SHAPE Events Centre

**Ticket sales**

SILVER SPOON  
MAR. 13 • 1100-1300

RENDEZ-VOUS  
MAR. 19 • 0900-1130

MAR. 28 • 0900-1600

FOR PRICES AND DETAILS, VISIT US ON FB  
@DADDY-DAUGHTER-DANCE

**DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE**  
*A Night at  
the Oscars*  
SATURDAY, 20 APRIL  
1700 - 2100  
3-STAR RECREATION CENTER

**TICKET COST:**  
COUPLE \$28  
2ND DAUGHTER \$5  
3RD DAUGHTER \$5  
4TH DAUGHTERS \$0

**TICKET SALES**

- FRIDAY, 08 MARCH  
3-STAR REC CENTER  
(1700-2100)
- THURSDAY, 14 MARCH  
ENTRANCE WAY NEXT TO  
AFSU  
(0800-1300)
- WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH  
BRUSSELS MED CLINIC  
1000-1400

**AMERICAN LEGION  
LIBERTY WALK  
2024**  
Saturday, 24 August 2024

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
americanlegionlibertywalk@gmail.com



General Membership Meeting



Post Legion Riders



Post Officers 2024-2025MY

**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*

**DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR**



*David N. Greaux*

**DETACHMENT  
COMMANDER**



*John Fleming*



## DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

**DETACHMENT  
ADJUTANT**



*James Dennis*

Hello Comrades,

I hope this Newsletter finds everyone Happy and Healthy. Please see the link from the Department Adjutant for Happy.

**Membership:** I am asking all Squadrons to check their membership roster and contact any member who has become delinquent. As of 25 March 2024, the last report I received from National, we are #7, with 96.43%. However, we only need 6 renewals/new members to hit 100%. Every Squadron which, as of The American Legion Birthday, **March 15th - 17th**, has reported a current membership equal to or exceeding its previous year's official total as of **December 31st** of the previous year will receive a Citation of Achievement. We can do this.

**Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR):** We need to be working on these now. It is available on myLegion.org, so every time you have an event you can start filling it in. Please do not finalize it until June 2024. The final date to submit is 31 July 2024.

I started my Squadrons CSR recently and received a message when I saved it stating that the final day to submit for the 2023-2024 CSR is 31/08/2024. The minimum needed to receive credit for submitting the CSR is to fill in the Paid-to-Date Membership Count, Current Year and Paid-Up Final Membership Count, Prior Year, and the contact information at the bottom of the form.

**Upcoming Events:**



1 June 2024 – 4th DEC/Conference/1st DEC, 1100 CET, 00 CET, at the Gaststätte “zum Reegen”, Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn.

Take care and be safe!

John Fleming  
Commander

**PCC President**



Tim Litherland

**PCC Secretary**



Frank Phillips

## Department of France Past Commanders Club 2024MY

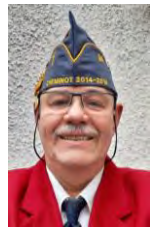
**Who is eligible to join the Department of France Past Commanders Club?**

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*



GRANDE CHEF DE GARE *DAVID GARCIA*



GRANDE 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 Forces.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Saturday, 27 April 2024** – Grand Elections, Kaiserslautern Germany/ **Saturday, 20 July 2024** – Grand Summer Wreck. Heilbronn, Germany.

## American Legion Family Day

*April 27, 2024*

The National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day at its Fall Meeting in October 2022. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April.

This year for Legion Family Day on April 29, posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary, and to bring awareness to the organization’s “Be the One” initiative to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

