National Convention

The American Legion's 103rd National Convention will take place in Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 26 - Sept. 1, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Hello Everyone,

Time is certainly flying by! Here we are in the second month of the new membership year and heading into National Convention. I know that the new slate of Department Vice Commanders has sent E-mails to their respective Posts. I am asking everyone to give this new slate of Vice Commanders the opportunity to have open and meaningful interaction with you all. If you have received an E-mail introducing themselves to you; please take the time to answer and begin a dialog with your Department representative. I would hope that all our posts in the Department of France will utilize the services of their Department representative, and their Department Vice Commander, as each of them has unique skills and experience to help you when needed. Remember, this slate of Vice Commanders is there and willing to assist you as needed.

After sending out the request for information concerning the Mid-Winter Conference, I have received many valid and very interesting ideas for the classes that you think you, your Post Officers, and your membership needs. Over the next several months I will be putting these ideas together and looking for subject matter experts to deliver this training. Thank you all that submitted ideas to this point. I am still taking ideas so if you have something to add please let me know.

During August and September, I will be traveling to National Convention as well as participating in The American Legion Riders Legacy Run leading up to National Convention. Beginning 12 October, I will be traveling for 3 weeks. During this time, I know, Hard to believe but, I will have no cell phone for WLAN communication. Going to be tough but, I think I will survive. Should you need assistance during this time, contact your Vice Commander. I will also include the contact information for the Vice Commander that will be covering for me during this time frame in the October Newsletter.

For God and Country
Lee Preston
VCAL

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2023MY

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Department of France’s Americanism Committee

Virtual Meeting

All Posts are invited

Sunday, 14 August 2022, 19:00

- Oratorical Contest
- Boys State / Girls State
- Scouting
- JROTC
- Junior Shooting
- Flag Etiquette
- Blood Donation Program
- Get Out to Vote

POC is Joseph Schram: joseph.schram@gmail.com
AMERICAN LEGION’S 2022

JUNIOR THREE-POSITION AIR RIFLE TOURNAMENT

The American Legion will be soon hosting the Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament, which provides sporter and precision competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors.

2022-2023 American Legion Three-Position Air Rifle Championships:

- Sept., 2022 – Registration opens for first round of Postal Match
- Dec., 2022 – Registration closes for first round of Postal Match
Department of France Oratorical Contest

Tentative Date: **Saturday, 04 March 2023**

Venue: **TBD**

[DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE'S 2022 ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST - Home](weebly.com)

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Eagle Scout of the Year

Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Nov

The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2023

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) or from the Dept Adjutant

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Girl Scout Gold Award “Scout of the Year”

Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Oct

The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2023

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) or from the Dept Adjutant

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Civil Air Patrol Cadet of the Year

Nomination Application Form Available as of 01 Oct

The deadline for nominations to Department Adjutant is 10 Mar 2023

Nomination forms can be obtained from Americanism Chairperson Joseph Schram (www.joseph.schram@gmail.com) or from the Dept Adjutant
NOTICE

FODPAL NATIONAL CONVENTION BREAKFAST

FODPAL President Hans Stockenberger has called for the 2022 National Convention Breakfast to be held on Monday August 29, 2022 at 0700hrs.

The breakfast will be held at Hilton Milwaukee, Juneau Room, Fifth Floor.

All FODPAL members and guests are welcome to attend.

As a reminder please don’t forget to bring your Department giveaways for the breakfast raffle, we had some very good prize’s last year.

Doug Haggan
Past Department of France Commander
FODPAL Secretary
“Still Serving America’s Veterans…Around the World”

Hans Stockenberger
FODPAL President
“Still Serving America’s Veterans…Around the World”

The Gulf War 1990-1991 (Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm)

The Gulf War (2 August 1990 – 28 February 1991), was a war waged by coalition forces from 35 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. The war consisted of two phases the first was codenamed Operation Desert Shield (2 August 1990 – 17 January 1991) for operations leading to the buildup of troops and defense of Saudi Arabia. And the second was Operation Desert Storm (17 January 1991 – 28 February 1991) was the combat phase.

The initial conflict to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait began with an aerial and naval bombardment on 17 January 1991, continuing for five weeks. This was followed by a ground assault on 24 February. This was a decisive victory for the coalition forces, which liberated Kuwait and advanced into Iraqi territory. The coalition ceased its advance, and declared a ceasefire 100 hours after the ground campaign started. Aerial and ground combat was confined to Iraq, Kuwait, and areas on Saudi Arabia’s border.
IN HONOR OF THE 4TH ARMORED DIVISION…Join Paris Post 1, the commune of Pont-Scorff and families of the 4th Armored Division for the unveiling of a new stele in honor of their family members who died at Pont-Scorff during World War II in the liberation of the Bretagne peninsula.

JOIN US AND HELP SUPPORT THIS NEW AMERICAN MEMORIAL IN BERTAGNE, FRANCE.
PARIS POST 1, THE COMMUNE OF PONT-SCORFF AND FAMILIES OF THE 4TH ARMORED DIVISION THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THE UNVEILING OF A NEW STELE.
THIS NEW AMERICAN MEMORIAL IS IN HONOR OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO DIED AT PONT-SCORFF DURING WORLD WAR II DURING THE LIBERATION OF THE BRETAGNE PENINSULA.

SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 2022
- AFTERNOON: ARRIVAL OF 4TH DIVISION FAMILIES FROM THE USA
- 17h30: “FIRST DISCOVERY” OF THE NEW MEMORIAL
- WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE TOWN HALL AND TRADITIONAL CREPES

SUNDAY AUGUST 7, 2022
- 10H15: MORNING CEREMONY AT THE NEW PONT-SCORFF MEMORIAL
- FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AT THE MANOIR DE SAINT URCHAUT
- WWII EXHIBITION OF TIME PERIOD EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

RSVP TO NEWS@PARISPOST1.FR

4th of July & Bastille Day, Independence Days in Paris!, Liberté, Égalité, Solidarité

Special thanks to Maire Francis Spziner and Adjoint Maire Kathleen de Meaux for the ceremonies and garden party celebrating Independence Day for the United States of America in the 16th arrondissement in Paris. Everyone was honored to have so many ceremonies and celebrations for Independence Day in honor of the United States of America and France in July!

OUR LONG TIME FRIENDSHIP: Paris Post 1 has had a friendship with the 16th arrondissement of Paris for a long time. Throughout the year, we join together to ensure our American national holidays are organized and celebrated.

AMERICAN MEMORIALS VISITED FOR 4TH OF JULY 2022: Washington and La Fayette Monument-Place des Etats Unis - rue Galilée / Tree of Liberty - September 11th Memorial-Place des Etats-Unis / Monument to the American Volunteers of World War I-rue de Lubeck / Plaque in honor of Admiral de Grasse-Place Admiral de Grasse / Memorial Statue to Rochambeau-Place de Rochambeau
IN THE EVENING, THE EIFFEL TOWER EXPLODES WITH FIREWORKS!
THE CHAMPS DE MARS IS PACKED WITH LOCALS WHO PICNIC THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON WITH THE HOPES OF HAVING A SPOT FOR THE EPIC SHOW THAT GOES ON EACH YEAR AFTER DARK.
WE HOPE EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL INDEPENDENCE DAY THIS YEAR!

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR... DAVID N. GREAUX

REMINDER... all newsletter articles will be turned in by the 28th of the month. I would prefer it if you send it in WORD format. If you have to, PDF will also do.

DavidG1959@r-online.de
The November issue of the Legion magazine reminded me of my own experience in Japan, and Korea, with the 40th Infantry Division, assigned to 981st Field Artillery battalion.

I was 22 years old when I reported to Fort Devens in Mass., four years after my arrival to the states from war-torn Greece. In Thessaloniki I had witnessed the night bombardment of WWII, the deaths they caused, the houses destroyed and the planes’ pieces falling down hit by the antiaircraft guns, the Jews’ collection, and their hoarding into the huge, long trucks that took them away. Surviving from hardships and my prolonged starvation, I witnessed the 1000 bombers flying over us at the northeastern direction before we were liberated in late 1945. When the Nazis left, we were notified by the US Embassy that my father was alive, and asked us to provide it with the required documents and get ready to meet him in America. In 5 months, the Navy SS Marine Carp picked us up and nonstop in eleven days brought us to New York City. My father had returned from the Battle-of-the-Bulge nine months earlier, in July 1945, with a Combat Infantry Badge and two Bronze Stars.

Re-united in 1946, I responded to the Korean war call in 1950, and with the group, reported to Fort Devens, Mass. We were processed and ordered, thousands of us, into a troop train that took us nonstop to Camp Cook to fill California’s 40th Infantry Division. In Camp Cook they made soldiers of us: Early wake-up, quick getting ready, quick chow, and running 5 miles in an hour to 15 miles in three hours, followed by classroom war tactics taught by hardened Regular Army cadre. In two months, we were given passes to visit our families for Christmas and be back on January 2nd (1951). Alert and 20 pounds lighter, I embraced my parent’s farewell and returned two days earlier. My buddies and I visited Hollywood and Pasadena. Common objectives and group behavior were already in order and, in March 1951 the division was deployed. We stopped in Japan and were properly equipped; we improved our efficiency by practicing in terrain similar to Korea’s.

In January 1952 we arrived in Inchon, Korea and through Seoul, we were taken to the frontline at the Iron Triangle. Fierce fighting was going on and we were having extremely low temperatures. Luckily, we were provided with rubber boots and two pairs of woolen socks that we could change whenever we stopped the prolonged firing of the 155mm Howitzer. Since I was the breech-block man opening it quickly when the projectile left and the tube recoiled, I was constantly on the move. The perspiration from our feet inside our boots was frozen, and if we delayed removing it, we could suffer frostbite. The drivers of the supply trucks started their engines at short intervals to prevent them from freezing and, if we found time to take a quick shower, a hole was drilled on the thick ice of the frozen river under a tent, and heated water was thrown upon us. We got dressed quickly and covered by a fur-lined parka we got outside for our dug-in bunker, where a stove burned continually to heat it. I remained there until October 1952 and, declining an offer for a field commission, my nineteen months deployment ended. I was returned to Fort Lawton for separation and transfer to the reserves.

James (Demetrios) Siotas, Post FGC01, Athens, Greece.
Hello Department, Legion Riders,

During the Department Convention in June, I was promoting the Legacy Scholarship Fund and the meaningful opportunity this was for our Department Riders to donate. I want to thank the Posts and personal donations that I received this year. I received donations from NL01, GR79, GR42, Department, some personal donations, and passing the cap during the 1st DEC. I am proud to announce to the Legion Riders that thanks to all your generous donations we will be presenting a check to National for $1,210.00.

We will be holding our 4th Department Legion Riders meeting on 1 October 2022. Please see the flyer for information. I hope that we will have the same great turnout for this meeting as we had for the last one.

Thank you all.

Lee Preston / Assistant Director / Department of France Legion Riders

Each August 4 the U.S. Coast Guard celebrates its birthday.

The Coast Guard is one of America's five armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years included humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress.

The service received its present name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, maritime, military service and the smallest of the five Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.
National Purple Heart Day 2022

Purple Heart Day is observed on Aug. 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield, or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

Purple Heart Day will be observed on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022.

The holiday was first observed in 2014, and is considered an unofficial observance meaning that businesses, government offices, etc. do not close on this day.

The American Legion Legacy Run

The American Legion Legacy Run will take place Aug. 21-25, 2022; those wanting to participate can register here.

The 1,200-mile ride will leave from the USS Alabama Memorial Park in Mobile, Ala., on Aug. 21 and travel through Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Illinois before winding up at American Legion Post 434 in Oak Creek, Wis. – a 20-minute drive from Milwaukee, the site of the 2022 American Legion National Convention.

Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel, a Legion Rider from Post 434, will await the ride on its final stop and be a part of its closing ceremonies. Later that evening, Legacy Run participants will be able to take part in a bike night outside of the nearby Harley-Davidson Museum campus upon the conclusion of activities at post 434.

If you have any questions, you can forward them to legacyrun@legion.org.

Please check the RESOURCES page for the latest available Legacy Run documents and merchandise links.
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

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 CHEMINOT: October 2022 - Heilbronn, Germany**