Wishing One And All
A Merry Christmas
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...James Dennis

Fellow Legionnaires and Legion families,
I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Sonja and I enjoyed our time with Post GR30 members and families as well as visiting Post GR 79 for their activities. We now go into the Christmas season. I ask that everyone be careful while traveling. Snow might be falling and roads might be icy. I want to see all of you at the next DEC March.
We also have our Centennial celebration one the 15-17th of March. We will have more information out the first or second week of December. I hope to see all of you there.
Please contact me for Eiffel tower pins. I still have 500 pins.
Please read the new membership initiatives from National. All renewed members from 2014 to 2016, the post will receive $5 back per member.
Sonja and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
I would like to inform the department of my agenda for the month of December.
DECEMBER 1 40/8 Grand Prom.
December 8 Luncheon in Ansbach at Post GR1982
December 15 Christmas party in Kaiserslautern.
December 25, in Gebelstadt

Please contact me in advance if you wish me to stop by. If I have missed any dates, contact me please.
James Dennis / Commander /Department of France

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS – 2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICER</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POST</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE  Joe D. Brown

This month was a busy and not so busy. I attended post GR05 GMM with Vice Commander Logan, the commander and members are heading in the right direction to getting the post re-established and becoming more involved in the community. Vice Commander Dale and myself visited Comrade Hall in Landstuhl during his stay but he was released prior to our arrival. We visited the Fisher House since we were in the area.

The ceremony at Saint Avold was a success and I would like to thank the post that were in attendance, Posts GR01, GR02, GR05, GR07, GR30, GR42, GR79, and all other posts throughout the department that participated in other ceremonies. Thanks to post GR01 for the dinner after the ceremony that was held at the post home. The post in which help thanksgiving dinners were a success post GR79 and GR30. I hope that everyone will enjoy this holiday season that we are all looking forward to celebrate the joy of giving with many blessings, joy and the celebrating with family and friends.

I hope that this year’s Oratorical will be more successful than the previous years with more schools participating. The following posts have active DOD schools located in the communities: Post GR01, Post GR02, GR06, GR07, GR1982, BE02, EG02, and NL01. These are the posts we would like have a representative participating. Post that have not had a representative visit the school and spoken with the counsellors are late but let’s get on the programs to support the students with a start in their future.

Membership is lacking but not throughout the department, there are still posts that have not submitted a transmittal to me or transmitted members online through Mylegion. If a post is in need of help with membership you can request it. The department have met all cut off dates as of now the department is at 75% of the needed membership for this membership year. As reminder for all post the national commander have established an incentive program covering membership year 2014 through 2016. Each post that news any member from this time frame will receive $5 for each member that is renewed with their actual membership number.

VCAL –Membership Chairman / Charlle Brown

Hospital visitation of Dept. NECMAN James Settle in Landstuhl, Germany
Thanksgiving Dinner at GR30

GR01 General Membership Meeting / Awards

GR05 General Membership Meeting / Awards

Saint Avold, France, Veterans Day 2018

National Commander’s Pin Incentive Program

Learn more
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

Our next meeting is planned in conjunction with the Department of France Third DEC 2019
DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER...Frank Phillips

Contact me after 1700 please or e-mail me
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Mail: fdpillips59@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/frank-phillips-2b7515bb/

Is it possible for the VA to "downgrade" my Disability Compensation?

The Department of Veterans Affairs does have the right to re-examine you, and if the facts warrant it, downgrade your disability percentage. This is generally true for any veteran whose disability rating is anything less than “P & I,” or “permanent and total,” and for veterans whose disability is not considered “static.”

“Permanent and total” is if the disability is permanent, and there is of course no point in periodically re-assessing it.

Same is true for a static disability. A static disability is simply disability that is not going to go away over time. For example, if you are missing an arm, that arm is not going to grow back, no matter how much therapy the VA throws at it. That would be an example of a static disability. The VA does not need to re-examine you in order to verify that you haven’t grown another arm since you were last evaluated.

These ratings are called “protected” ratings. The VA cannot reduce your benefit for a permanent and total or static disability. However, even 100 percent ratings that have been in effect for less than five years may be re-evaluated.

Often, the VA will call you or send you a letter informing you that you are being scheduled for a re-examination. They will normally do so about every five years, or until your condition either vanishes or becomes static or permanent and total.

If you are scheduled for a re-examination, you must go to the exam if you want to keep your disability rating. If you miss the exam, you can expect the Veterans Administration to reduce and possibly eliminate your benefits.

However, if you have been classified with the same rating for 20 years – a continuous rating in legal terms, the VA cannot reduce your rating unless they can demonstrate that you have committed fraud.

The VA should not attempt a benefits reduction if:

- The disability is static
- The disability has been persistent for at least five years without material improvement
- The disability is permanent and cannot be expected to improve
- The veteran is over age 55
- The rating is already at the minimum
- A reduced rating for a given disability will not affect the total rating.

The age 55 limitation is significant. Veterans approaching retirement age can feel reasonably confident that the VA will not move to reduce their benefits when they are too old to reasonably reenter the work force.


Frank Phillips (Francis Dale Phillips) Neuenkettelsauer Str. 15, D-91560 Heilsbronn, Germany
Tel: +49 172 687 9915  email: fdpillips59@gmail.com

Saturday, November 10, 2018
TRACKING YOUR APPEAL STATUS ONLINE

You can, now, track your appeal status online. Here’s how:

1. Log onto Vets.gov

2. Log in with your credentials

3. Under your user name, click on account

4. Under “Services” you will click on “Check your claim and appeal status”

For more detailed instructions:
Greetings Legionnaires!

It's been a very busy couple of months for Post NL01 and things are definitely not slowing down!

Margraten Post NL01 Oct/Nov Newsletter 2018 is Out!!
This two-month issue is packed! I really hope you like it.

In This Issue!
The 2nd DEC @ Van Der Valk Hotel
Veterans Day @ Margraten
Veterans Day @ Henri-Chapelle
Veterans Day @ Oud Beijerland
Margraten: To Become Silent by Wil Jansen
Legionnaire Spotlight "Allen B. Wusterbarth"
William Leonard Eagle Scout Ceremony
Trunk or Treat/B-17 Commemoration/Linnich Rememberance
Bagger for a Day/Irish Post Visit/Tribute to Robert Lee Smith
Words from SO Ron
Monthly Meeting Photos
Faces of Margraten Initiative
Enjoy #LegionStrong #GoForward

Remember to "LIKE" our FB page

Link to the Newsletter:
https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/MYLEGION/newsletters/FRNL01NEWSLETTER.PDF

Thank you all for great participation in all the meetings and ceremonies! It was an outstanding effort from everyone! I couldn't be prouder!!

Your Commander / Ray Perez
MEMBERSHIP BOUNTY

No, we’re not talking about Paper Towels.

We’re talking about a real BOUNTY a MONEY BOUNTY.

Starting now and going until 1 June 2019 The American Legion National Headquarters is going to give every Post in The Department of France for every 2014, 2015, and 2016 member they sign back up into The American Legion

In the week to come National Headquarters will modify MyLegion.org so everyone can see your membership rolls from 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019

Please be reminded that this is an American Legion National Headquarters incentive plan and no money will be coming out of The Department of France account.
In mid-June National Headquarters will issue a check to each Post in The Department of France that participated in this incentive plan.
Community Monuments and Memorials

https://www.legion.org/honor/memorials

We have Monuments and Memorials in The Department of France that need to be publicized.

It’s as easy as clinking on the above link and it takes 10 minutes to fill out the form. It’s that easy.

Let’s not hesitate to show the world who we are.
This program may generate outside interest in The Department of France and a possible gain in membership.

You might be interested in...

Legion Website
Legion Facebook
FODPAL Website
FODPAL Facebook
Alaska Website
France Website
France Facebook
China Post 1 Website
Hawaii Website
Hawaii Facebook
Puerto Rico Facebook
South Korea Post 37 Facebook
South Korea Post 38 Facebook
* The Third S.A.L. DEC is scheduled for 09 March 2019 hosted by GR79

* The S.A.L. Convention will be hosted by GR07 on 08 June 2019

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**Volunteers for Holidays Needed in Germany**

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**Rhein Main Post GR05**

GR05 Post meeting will be held on Saturday @ 2 pm, 8 Dec at the Bistro Blitz on Am Oberwald.2 64546 Walldorf. Women’s Auxiliary will be held at 1 pm

All members are asked to arrive at least 30 mins early for social hour, as the Meeting starts promptly at 1 or 2 pm. If you intend to be late or not attending call me at 015114959970, meeting will also will available by Skype for GR05 on rheinmaingr05

If you have anything you want to add into the Dec Newsletter, please send to me, as I want to send it out by Thanksgivings.

If you have not renewed your 2019 membership dues, please pay them as soon as possible. We would like to meet our 100% goal by the end of the year. 3 options are available online by going to mylegion.org, setup an account using your Membership number, by check mailed to our address or bank transfer to the Post account. We prefer payment by mylegion.org

*Sincerely, Santos Alvarado / Commander Rhein Main Post GR05*
On 18 November, German Volkstrauertag (Memorial Day), members of the William D. Nelson Post GR09, Neu-Ulm, participated in a wreath laying ceremony together with members of Germany’s Traditionasverein Ulmer Artilleristen (Traditional Association of Ulm Artillery soldiers) at the Ulm memorial honoring fallen soldiers and persons who have suffered at the hands of oppressors.

Guest Speaker Bundeswehr Oberst (Geman Military Colonel) Joachim Renner thanked the Legionnaires for their support of this important memorial service.

The Traditional Ulmer artillery Association was formed in 1909 and GR 09 has participated in this somber affair since 1998. With this comradeship the American Legion also transmits the understanding of the Legion’s principles to our German hosts and as in years past the members of the Vereine expressed their gratitude to GR 09 for their participation.

**Review Finds 'Sufficient' Evidence Linking Hypertension to Agent Orange Exposure**
Hi All Legion Riders,

Well, another month has gone by and it is time again for the department newsletter. I am asking that all posts try to get donations for the Legacy Scholarship fund. Please put a donation can out at your post meetings as well as your membership awareness drives. Explain the fund to the people that you speak with and let them decide to donate. This is a great cause and we need to get as much as we can to send to National at the next National Convention. I have stated before that I am willing to come pick up the donations or you can mail me a check (please put checks payable to Lee Preston as I would like to write one check at the end of July for the complete donation from the Department) or you can send your donation with your delegation to the Department DEC or Convention in June. I will be sending a list of the posts along with the donation of those posts that donated. I will also keep everyone informed as to the amount and posts that have donated to this point. To this point we have $60 total from two posts; GR42 and GR1982. Thank you all for your support for this program.

The National Commanders visit information is out and Department Commander Dennis has made the request that the Legion Riders provide bus escort during this visit. I will need at least 4 riders for each of the areas being visited within Germany. This visit will take place during the month of May. I will send out E-mails to those Post Legion Rider Directors with information as soon as I have nailed down the exact times and date’s we are needed. Please speak with your riders about this visit and let me know if you have any riders that might be interested in supporting this event. This will be great visibility for our Legion Riders program and the Department. Thank you for your support!

The next DEC will be hosted by GR 1982 in Ansbach. It will be on 23 March 2019. I hope to see more Legion Riders at this DEC. Again, please bring any donations your post and chapter should have for the Legacy Scholarship fund. Can’t wait to see everyone at this DEC.

Again, should any chapter in the Department of France like me to attend a function please let me know with plenty of time for me to plan. I will do my best to attend. Thank you all again for being a part of the Department Legion Riders program.

“For God and Country”

Dental Coverage for TRICARE Retirees
Update on member James McAndrews...

James McAndrew’s brother Tom and two of his sisters arrived in Germany and stayed with him till 16 November 2018. We visited Past Commander McAndrews. Due to Jim’s medication dosage being increased, it has taken a lot out of him but he is able to eat a little.

James McAndrews: M-0152-52908124

Franken-Hospiz
Gemeinnützige GmbH
Schwabstraße 12
74189 Weinsberg
It seems that the VA has published the new Disability Rates that shall take effect on 12/1/18 and which we shall begin to receive in January 2019. For your information…

Here is the 12/1/18 Rate Table that takes effect 01 December 2018

https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp

Here is the 12/1/17 Rate Table so you can compare https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp0117.asp

This concerns those of us that are obtaining Disability Compensation from the VA. Or any who plan to file a claim! Right now, on their website the VA shows these Rates-

Veterans Compensation Benefits Rate Tables - Effective 12/1/17

https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp

The reason for sending you this Memo is the fact that soon we should see a new Rate Table effective 12/1/18 If you recall past messages on the topic of COLA increases it was based on the MOAA website. Once it’s up on the VA website then it’s Official.

The final FY 2018 COLA, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2019, is 2.8 percent

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**VA hosted groundbreaking ceremony for New Mexico’s first Fisher House**
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.

**Grande du Germany Mid-Winter Promenade / 01 December 2018**

*Hosted by Locale V1524*