DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2023MY

COMMANDER Joshua Steinlicht
   NL01 dfrcdrjsteinlicht@gmail.com

ADJUTANT Dennis Owens
   NL01 dfx-adjutant@dennisowens.com

NECMAN James Settle
   GR42 james.settle@kabelbw.de

ALT NECMAN Hans Stockenberger
   CH01 redsea_diver2000@yahoo.com

VCAL Lee Preston
   GR42 lpreston1057@gmail.com

VICE COMMANDER Jim Brotherton
   NL01 jim.brotherton01@gmail.com

VICE COMMANDER Peter Mock
   GR07 vonschauenburg@hotmail.com

VICE COMMANDER Todd Johnson
   GR07 amaroc.legionnaire@gmail.com

VICE COMMANDER Valérie Prehoda
   FR01 valeriehawk@icloud.com

CHAPLAIN Quincy Foster
   GR05 qcfoster@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN Joseph Schram
   BE02 joseph.schram@gmail.com

FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller
   GR06 billsfan_gary@hotmail.com

SERVICE OFFICER Frank Phillips
   GR1982 francis.phillips2@va.gov

JUDGE ADVOCATE James Settle
   GR42 james.settle@kabelbw.de

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS James Dennis
   GR30 departmentdennis@gmail.com

ADJUTANT EMERITUS Robert Fuelling
   FR01 herman40153@gmail.com

~ 1 ~
Department of France
American Legion Riders

This is the official notification that the Department of France, American Legion Riders will be holding their official meeting for the purpose of elections.

Date: 15 April 2023
Time: Registration 1200
Meeting Begins Promptly at 1300
Place: GR01 Post Home
Rhein Ordonance Barracks
Kaiserslautern, Germany

Elected Officials: Department Director
Department Assistant Director

Other positions may be filled through appointment by the newly elected Director.

Please let me know no later than 1 April 2023 if you are coming so that I can plan for meals: lpreston1057@gmail.com

Eddie Kane
Director

Lee Preston
Assistant Director

---

Even though it’s not a federal holiday, the birthday of the U.S. National Guard — celebrated on December 13 — is an important event to note. Established in 1636, the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America. Its members serve during times of war and emergency. Take time to honor those who have protected our country for centuries.
Comrades,

Upon request from Commander Steinlicht and PNVC Haggan, I will be making a weekly report for the Department. To my knowledge, the Posts requested it.

Update:

1) The Posts can see all the reports that the Department can see now. YEA!!!!!!!

Please do the following in "My Legion". (Note: these are read and copy only!)

Enter "My Legion" with your email and password.
Click on "My Account" in red
Go to "My Groups" in the middle of the page and pick your Post/ Squadron name then click the "My Group" in blue.
Do not pick "Leadership"
To your left, under Membership, click on "Reports/ labels"
Go to the left under "My Views" down to "Members" find "Reports/Labels". Click "Reports/Labels"
You will enter into the "Bl Lanch Pad". This is where all the reports are.

2) Bl Lanch Pad.

Go to the file " TAL Departments". Double click the file icon.
Go to the "Membership " File and double click the file icon.
In this file you will find the Department goals, membership roster, members who paid National, etc.

Look at it and let me know what you think.

James Dennis
Membership Chairman
Department of France

---

**Department of France Boys State/Girls State Fundraiser**

I thought you might be interested in supporting this GoFundMe, [https://gofund.me/f19fce87](https://gofund.me/f19fce87)

Click on the above link, your Donation will go to help defray some if not all of the Transportation costs to Maryland and back.

Even a small donation could help Gary Miller reach their fundraising goal. And if you can't make a donation, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word.

Thanks for taking a look!
Armistice Day in Paris

An armistice was signed in France at the end of World War I, below are photos from our members at Paris Post 1 honoring this historic day from France and the USA!

Paris Post 1 is dedicated to never forgetting the atrocities of World War I by remembering Armistice Day every year in France by representing American veterans at ceremonies and events. Our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of Paris Post 1 live not only in France, but around the world! We are lucky to have members and supporters who represent Paris Post 1 in their hometowns throughout France and the USA.

The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial (above) commemorates the birthplace of American combat aviation, and it is a symbol of a French and American collaboration that continues to shine bright to this very day.

Built in 1928, the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial (LEM) was constructed on land donated by the country of France, and with money given by many, including the families of the Lafayette Escadrille pilots and members of Paris Post 1. Pictured above, Commissioner Darrell L. Dorgan of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), who gave an amazing speech at the LEM for November 11th.

Beth Herwood of the Paris Post 1 Auxiliary and Legionnaire Bryan Schell laid the American Legion wreath at the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial for November 11th. Legionnaire Schell gave a speech honoring the pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille.

Two ceremonies took place at the Paris Post 1 mausoleum for Armistice Day for 2022!

This year, a special ceremony was held for the Mairie of Neuilly in the early morning by Auxiliary President Ginette Crosley and Legionnaire Adjutant Michele Crosley.

A little later in the day, the rest of the Paris Post 1 group arrived at the mausoleum (after the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial ceremony was finished) to have a second ceremony at the mausoleum.

A special ceremony was held with Paris Post 1’s wreath being laid jointly by Auxiliary President Ginette Crosley, Legionnaire Adjutant Michele Crosley and Legionnaire Bryan Schell.

Sharing our experiences with our community and members is very important. Every year we have Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and supporters of Paris Post 1 who travel to France to spend time with us. American and French national holidays in France are special for many at Paris Post 1 who draw significant meaning...
The final event of the day in Paris was our annual visit for Armistice Day to Pershing Hall. This year Paris Post 1’s visit to Pershing Hall was supported by Kith and Sadelles’s restaurant on the main floor of the building. Manager Atilla (left), pictured above with Legionnaires Ken Jasper (middle) and Bryan Schell (right), provided Paris Post 1 with tasty food and beverages on the upper floor of Pershing Hall overlooking the courtyard. Thank you for your support Atilla! Legionnaire Ken Jasper flew out from Pennsylvania, USA to Paris to spend time with his post, and he was able to visit Pershing Hall for the first time. Thank you for visiting us Ken!

**Armistice Day in Montélimar**

Paris Post 1 Legionnaire David Bruce represented American veterans at the Armistice Day ceremonies in his hometown of Montélimar. Thank you for your hard work and support for Paris Post 1!

As part of the 104th anniversary of the signing of the 1918 Armistice, the commemoration of Victory and Peace, and the tribute to all those who have died for France, commemorations took place November 11th at the Military Square of the cemetery of Saint-Lazare then to the War Memorial of the City of Montélimar.

Laurence Gleizal (president of the Union Fédérale Montélimar) and the Mayor, Julien Cornillet, gave two speeches to remember these heroes. Thank you very much Legionnaire David Bruce for representing The American Legion and Paris Post 1 at this ceremony!

**Armistice & Veterans Day in the USA**

Special thanks to Paris Post 1 Legionnaires Gavin and Amy McIlvenna for sharing their ceremony day with us in The Dalles in Oregon!

As seen in the photo caption above, “The body of America’s "Unknown Hero" being borne to the caisson after the ceremony at the Capitol on November 11, 1921.” Tomb guards have provided a 24-hour watch at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier since 1930. Paris Post 1 and the Society for the Honor Guard have a close partnership since the Tomb Guards and their families visited France for their centennial in 2019.

We are grateful to have the continued support of Gavin, Amy and many other veterans from the USA!

Veterans and family gathered at the Old St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in The Dalles, Oregon to remember service and sacrifice on November 11th.
LCDR (Ret) Jerry Fraizer, Navy veteran of Vietnam, talks about the history of the National Salute at the Old St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in The Dalles, Oregon.

SGM (Ret) Gavin McIlvenna, Army veteran of Iraq, rings the Old St. Paul’s Church bell 21 times with his granddaughter keeping count. Special thanks to all of our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons in the USA who represent Paris Post 1, and continue their service for the American Legion and their communities.

HELP SUPPORT OUR TROOPS IN EUROPE!

Paris Post 1 helps gather donations and supplies for our wounded warriors and hospital staff:
Support our troops in the hospital at Landstuhl Germany
Donate today to help for the holidays!

Did you know that the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is an overseas military hospital operated by the U.S. Army, and it is the largest American military hospital outside the continental United States?
Many military service members who are wounded overseas are transported to Landstuhl for medical treatment and recovery.
Photo of last year’s giving of holiday gifts to the staff and troops at the Landstuhl.

Every year during the holidays, Paris Post 1 members visit the medical center to bring donations and gifts to help support their mission.
Who receives these donations and gifts?
We support the military troops currently in the hospital plus organizations at the hospital that help support our troops at Landstuhl. We also offer small gifts to the medical staff who work very hard to help our troops, and are often working long hours during the holiday period away from their families.
Check out a photo above of last year’s giving of holiday gifts to the staff and troops at the Landstuhl!
If you would like to help support our troops for the holiday, please email commander@parispost1.fr.

NEW PARIS POST 1 COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION
Donate and help support Paris Post 1:
Historic commemorative medallion available in limited quantities
Proceeds will go towards Paris Post 1’s Legacy Fund

Nine Legion QR codes to download and use
GR 09 members participate in German Memorial Day

On 13 November 2022, German Volkstrauertag (Memorial Day), seven members of the William D. Nelson Post GR 09, Neu-Ulm, Germany participated in a wreath laying ceremony together with members of Germany’s Tradition-verein 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.

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 promotes 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.

Department of France
Past Commanders Club 2023MY

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
How to Keep Existing Members
1. Create a District/Post Membership Team
2. Train existing members, and new Officers on membership recruiting and retention.
3. Improve Post Appearance
4. Recruit from Available Pools of Veterans
5. Review Expired Member List from www.mylegion.org
6. Keep your Post and Membership in the good eye of the General Public, dress the part at Post Meetings and in Public
7. Importance’s of Welcoming & Mentoring New Members

How to Retain Existing Members
1. Ongoing Mentoring
   - Good officers just don’t fall from the sky armed with the knowledge necessary to do the job. Like new members, officers who have never been mentored remain as wet behind their ears as they were when they first joined the Legion. If they were never mentored or asked to be on a committee, then the office will either go vacant or be held by someone not fit for the job. In either case, the Post will gradually wither away like an unattended garden.
2. Active & Rewarding Committee Assignments
3. Importance of an Interesting Annual Calendar of Events
4. Advanced planning to encourage attendance at Post meetings and Post functions.

Who is Responsible for Getting the Word Out?
You!
The Legion Must Not Die on Our Watch!
We Owe Growth to Our Predecessors, Current Veterans, and Those to Come

How to Recruit & Retain Members
1. Educate yourself as to the Legion’s Missions. Know the purpose of The Americans Legion Four Pillars.
2. Educate yourself on the past and present services to our Veteran’s, our Children, our Community, and Nation
3. Form a Membership Recruitment Team
4. Ask Wartime Vets to Join Your Post

Welcome the New Member
1. Find out His/her area of interest and expertise
2. Assign new members to a committee
3. Continue to mentor and teach new members about Legion
4. Elect new member to Post Office

London Post EG01

A look into our Department’s History…Members of UK Post 1 (EG01) participating in a remembrance ceremony in London. The exact date is unknown, but it is in the 1920’s. A Veterans Day picture that portrays the age and traditions of our Post.

James FitzGerald, Commander American Legion UK Post 1 (EG01), London England

Free Lifetime National Parks Passes Are Coming for Veterans and Gold Star Families

9 Nov 2022
Military.com | By Amy Bushatz
Wreath Ceremony – Veterans Day and the 104th anniversary of the end of the World War I marked at U.S. Army Europe and Africa

By Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07 Nov. 10, 2022

WIESBADEN, GERMANY – On November 10th, U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Andrew Rohling, American Legion post commander Todd Johnson (second from left), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post quartermaster David Cain participated in a ceremony to honor veterans and mark the 104th anniversary of the end of World War I. The wreath ceremony took place on Freedom Field at Lucius D. Clay Kaserne.

Photo by Volker Ramspott for USAREUR-AF

Post adjutant represents Legion at Veterans Day cake cutting ceremony in post exchange

By Riley L. Pitts Post No. GR07 Nov. 11, 2022

WIESBADEN, GERMANY – Several veterans and Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) officials gathered to partake in a cake cutting ceremony on Veterans Day. This ceremony marked the second such event for veterans at U.S. Army Garrison, Wiesbaden.

"I’m honored to be here at the PX to mark the celebration of Veterans Day and to represent The American Legion," said post adjutant Courtney Jimenez (third from right), who helped cut the cake.

Photo by Stanley Brooks for AAFES
Commanders/Adjutants/Post Oratorical Directors,

The Department of France Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Saturday 04 March. Last year we had 7 contestants. I am hoping that we have at least 12 contestants at the year’s Department of France Contest.

The number of contestants determines the venue size and number of rooms needed. Seven contestants is the maximum number for a panel of judges. If the Department of France has more than 8 contestants, the venue size must be increased. As well as the number of judges.

If the Department of France has more 7 contestants, we will conduct run-off heats ‘semi-finals) in the morning/afternoon followed by a final in the later afternoon/early evening.

**Venue Requirements**
To host a contest the following are needed for the venue:
number contestants: 7 or less
- Minimum of 3 rooms (must be far enough away from each other so the other contestants cannot hear)
  - Holding Room
  - Assigned Topic Room
  - Contest Room

number contestants: 8 or more
- Semi-Finals (3 run-off heats) - Minimum of 7 rooms (morning)
  - Holding Room (x1)
  - Assigned Topic Rooms (x3)
  - Contest Rooms (x3)
- Finals (late afternoon/early evening)
  - Holding Room
  - Assigned Topic Room
  - Contest Room

**Judges**
- number contestants - 7 or less: 5 judges
- number contestants - 8 or more: (total 14 judges)
  - Semi-Finals-Finals: 9 judges (3 per run-off)
  - Finals: 5 judges

I would also recommend that hosting Post make arrange for hotel accommodations and restaurants.

Thank you
Joseph Schram
Oratorical Contest Director
Department of France
Joseph.schram@gmail.com
+32 0479 17 8539

---

**The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program**

- $203,500 in scholarships awarded each year
- High school students under age 20 are eligible (Freshman to Seniors)
- Speak on any U.S. Constitution subject
- Competition begins at the Post level
- For more information: oratorical.contests@gmail.com

---

**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 must, PDF will also do.

Davidg1959@t-online.de
All Legionars are welcome to participate in The Mid-Winter Conference. Join and attend All classes or just the classes of your interest.

11&12 February 2023

Subjects can include:

1. My Legion/Checking Post Records
2. Setting up Payments/Card/Echeck
3. Constitution and By Laws/Online meetings, Protocal, and allowed participation.
4. Post Tax Reporting

As well as several more!!

Please log on and join us for this years Mid-Winter Conference.

The link will be sent out by the Department Adjutant.

Thank you all in advance for your participation.
### Department of France Mid-Winter Conference 12 February 2023

**Sunday 09:00-12:00**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-09:45</td>
<td>Effective Communication and Post Meeting (Communication Matters, Advice on Running Post Meetings)</td>
<td>VCAL Preston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:45-10:00</td>
<td>Questions (5min) / Break (10min)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:45</td>
<td>Post Responsibility for Taxation</td>
<td>VCY Todd Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tax Reporting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TIN Request</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:00</td>
<td>Questions (5min) / Break (10min)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:45</td>
<td>Post Officers</td>
<td>VCY Valerie Prehoda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commanders Responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vice Commander Responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45-12:00</td>
<td>Questions (5min) / Break (10min)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - U/C</td>
<td>Closing Comments</td>
<td>Department Commander</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2023 OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST GUIDELINES

Trust Fund Members
Consists of the current National Commander of The American Legion, who shall be chairman, and the immediate Past National Commander of The American Legion and his or her predecessor, who shall be known as the Trustees, and who shall serve respectively for three, two and one years to be calculated from the last day of the national convention of The American Legion. The American Legion National Adjutant will serve as recording secretary, The American Legion National Treasurer will be Financial Advisor, and the Chairman of the Finance Commission who shall serve so long as he or she remains as chairman. Each retiring trustee is released from any and all liability by reason of his acts as trustee. The Trustees are charged with the custody, control and administration of the fund, the income of said fund are used to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves of those U.S. Veterans who served in the World Wars, Conflicts, and Hostilities and who are buried overseas.

Purpose
Rather than barbecues, races or even parades, the real idea of Memorial Day is to remember those who served their country in uniform and are no longer with us. The American Legion has been in the forefront of such efforts since its existence – no matter how far-flung the fallen comrade.

The American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund was established in the 1920s, and provides all U.S. flags – from Emblem Sales, made in the USA – flown at cemeteries and burial sites in foreign countries where American troops are buried or otherwise memorialized. The first fundraising for the decoration of overseas graves took place in 1921-1922, and its current organizational plan has been in force since 1935.

The Trustees shall use the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and of those who served during the period of the Vietnam Hostilities, who lie overseas. The Trustees shall use the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves of those U.S. Veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and of those who served during the period of the Vietnam Hostilities, who lie overseas. They may adopt and use such methods and means as they may deem advisable, including the active cooperation and aid of overseas Departments and Posts of The American Legion and any other agencies, and in pursuance thereof may prescribe details, methods, and practices deemed necessary, expedient, or convenient. The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part thereof for any other purpose.

In addition to the above guidelines this fund will financially aid Departments and Posts outside the continental United States of America to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.

Funds Request Procedures
Fund requests will be sent to The American Legion National Treasurer (See Accompanying Application Form) at OverseasGravesTrust@legion.org and CC’d to dhaggan@sbcglobal.net

The following information is required for each request for funds.
1. The name of the Veteran.
2. The cemetery name and location (city and country) where the veteran is at rest.
3. A quote in writing (not to exceed $50.00) from a local florist, for flowers to decorate each veteran’s grave.
4. A mailing address for Emblem Sales use so they can mail each Department or Post “U.S.A. made American flag” for each grave to be decorated.
5. A mailing address for The American Legion National Treasurer so he can mail each Department or Post the requested funds for each grave to be decorated.
6. Request for fund will be made on the accompanying Overseas Graves Trust Grant Application form.
7. Request for grants will go out on 1 November. December 31 is the request cutoff, unless there are funds remaining, then submissions received after the deadline may be considered.
8. Grant Awarded is based on Merit and Availability of Funds.
9. Those who receive grants must provide a timely written report. If you do not provide such a report, you are not eligible for additional funds in succeeding years. After Action Reports will be forwarded to the National Adjutant d.wheeler@legion.org in a timely manner after Memorial Day Ceremonies, for filing and further distribution.
10. Final Approval authority will be the Trust Fund Members.

OPENING DATE TO REQUEST OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND MONEY IS 1 NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR
The below are appointed to act in the following capacity: Executive Office Secretary Mary Rooney is the Overseas Graves Decoration Meeting Secretary, PNVC Doug Haggan is the Overseas Graves Decoration Liaison.
It is Money Time

Did you know December 31st it is **MONEY TIME** what does that mean? Well, I will tell you, if your Post hits the 100% membership mark by December 31st you will get $1.00 back for EVERY MEMBER in your Post.

**We have 2 Posts over 100%**  
Copenhagen Post DK01       Rome Post IT01

**We have 13 Posts that are within 10 members of going 100%**.
- Isabel La Catolica Post SP292
- Molesworth EG303
- Ramstein Post GR02
- Sgt. William D. Nelson Post GR09
- Audie Murphy Post GR30
- George S. Patton Post GR45
- Brig. Gen. Robin Olds Post TH01
- London Post EG01
- Athens Post GC01
- Rhein Neckar Post GR03
- Eifel Post GR20
- Omar Bradley Post42
- Pride of Erin Post IR01

**We have 3 Posts that are within 15 members of going 100%**.
- Thomas W. Barnett Post GR14
- Father Francis Barry Post IR02
- John F. Kennedy Post IR63

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 Mid-Winter Promenade: Saturday 03 December 2022**

Zum Reegen, Im Riedweg 52, 74078 Heilbronn, Germany  
*Registration: 11:00-12:00 / Promenade: 12:00 / Dinner 16:00*