Hello Comrades,

I want to thank everyone who attended the annual Convention this month and look forward to a great year serving as your Commander. Change is inevitable and with change comes new opportunities and a fresh new perspective when approaching our normal business. I want to congratulate and thank all of the outgoing officers, your service to the Department was instrumental in ensuring the sustained operations of the Department of France in what was surely one of the most challenging years that we have ever faced. I would also like to congratulate all of the newly elected officers; I look forward to working with everyone as we navigate through returning to more traditional activities.

During the annual caucus, I was able to address the points that I want to focus on during this year’s administration. For those who were not in attendance, I will list them here.

**Helping Veterans**
One of the key factors in generating interest in new membership is Veteran’s access to our Service Officers. To reduce any backlog that might exist, I intend to work with Frank Phillips, our Department Service Officer Director to get more Service Officers trained and certified. This will allow us to better serve our Veterans by filing their VA Claims. I also would like to assist our less active Posts with becoming more active in their communities to raise awareness for The American Legion, there are numerous Veterans living throughout Europe who are not even aware of The American Legion’s existence here and it is up to us to attempt to reach out and find all of them! If the Department needs to provide training on how to conduct an awareness table, this is something that we have more than enough experienced personnel to assist with and are willing to help.

**Communications**
Communication is one of the largest contributing factors to the success or failure of an organization. I want to improve the overall communications between the Department officers and the Post leadership. I intend to do this by ensuring that all our members have access to the elected officers of this Department and that our officers assist our members when requested. It is important that information that is disseminated is both clear and concise, I strive to also improve the quality of communications at the Department level to reduce confusion. The membership truly runs The American Legion, I want to make sure that everyone understands that they all have a voice with me, I want everyone to understand that I am accessible and approachable, and I will give as much time as I can to listen to our members.
Meetings
Our meetings need to be better so that we are not wasting time. To improve our meetings and attendance, I am focusing on what I call the 3 Ps. Predictability, Planned and Productive. Having a schedule for our events through the next year will allow for a predictable schedule, and I hope that this will allow Posts to present delegates during the executive committee meetings and maximize participation in the bi-monthly Department Commander/Adjutant meetings. Meeting agendas will be planned out and followed to keep meetings on track. Meetings must be productive to provide value to what we are doing. Again, staying on topic and on track with the scheduled agenda will make our meetings more productive and encourage even more participation. Our virtual platform needs to be improved; I have appointed an IT committee to advance the meeting platform, this might come at a cost to the Department, but I feel that it will probably be money well spent if it helps to improve the quality of our meetings for those tuning in virtually. Lastly, every participant in meetings should arrive prepared to present their information or reports during meetings and they should be brief and succinct so as not to waste time.

Membership
We need to get active in our target-rich environments (Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Spain, Vicenza) to provide the opportunity for members to grow in those areas. Standing up a Post in Poland is still on the table, but this might be a few years down the road for us. I encourage every member to recruit this year! Membership is how we can sustain our voice on Capitol Hill. Without a strong membership, that voice becomes weaker, this is even more important now when there are fewer Veterans in Congress than ever before.

Thank you for your support, I look forward to meeting and working with all of you this year. As the new membership year begins, I hope that we are all able to support the Department’s recruitment goals and reach 100% membership!

Joshua E. Steinlicht

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2023MY

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IMAGES FROM OUR 96TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 16-19 JUNE 2022

PICTURES PROVIDED BY VICE COMMANDER JIM BROTHERTON
Hello all Department of France American Legion members, this will be the first of many articles I will pen for our Department newsletter. It is a newsletter I enjoy reading as it has so much great news from the National and what our Posts all over Europe, Thailand, and China Posts are up to. Glad to see my friend David Greaux back at the helm of this newsletter, he has always done a brilliant and timely job.

Now with that said, I wish to let you all know that I am very new to this job as Department Adjutant. It will take me some time to get to know my job. Right now, I feel like I am drinking from a firehose. Big thanks to James Settle, Doug Haggan, and James Dennis for their kindness in teaching me my new position. I would like to personally and publicly thank our outgoing Adjutant for his kindness in the transfer of equipment and files along with a lot of corporate knowledge. I sincerely hope he continues to support me in the coming months, or when he sees I need it. Speaking of our Past Department Adjutant Comrade John Fleming, I would like to give you a huge salute here in public as you kept a tight ship, you were always on time with your tasks to National and our Posts. I have some very big shoes to fill as I follow your act. Thanks John.

So, please be a bit patient with me as I learn my job. Please do respond in a timely manner if I ask you or your post for information. I will normally be writing to your Post Commanders and Post Adjutants. I am a man of few written words, so if you received a request from me, please take the time to answer it as soon as you can. Thanks in advance for that.

I am delighted to be a Department Officer again, I feel I have a lot to give back to The American Legion. After being a Post Commander, a Veteran Service Officer, Department Vice Commander, Department Vice Commander at Large, I am eager now to learn the duties of the Department Adjutant as well as my duties as Assistant Membership Chairman. I am delighted that my Post Commander, my friend, and a downright great leader has been elected as our Department Commander, Josh Steinlicht. I thank him for having enough trust in me to be his adjutant. I hope not to let him or any of you down.

I do travel back a lot to the States to my Ranch in Colorado, so please shoot me an email prior to cold calling me. If you have ever emailed me before, then forget that email address, and please only use DFR-Adjutant@dennisowens.com while I am the Department Adjutant.

Thanks in advance and best wishes,

Dennis P. Owens
Department Adjutant
Department of France
The American Legion

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Tel. EU: +49 175 360-4353
Tel. US: +1 (719) 507-9096
Hello Everyone,

As we close out the membership year 2022, we have finally held a Face-to-Face convention for the Department of France. New Officers were elected with some new faces amongst us. I want to thank everyone involved in putting together this convention. As most people know, this is no small task. We have elected a new slate of Department Vice Commanders and the Post assignments have been made. I am sure that in the coming days you will be hearing from your Department Vice Commander. I would hope that all of 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.

I will be sending out an e-mail to the Post Commanders within the Department right after the 4th of July requesting information from you all as to the subjects that you feel would be helpful and interesting to you for the purpose of setting up our Midwinter Conference. I would like to have this information no later than the end of September. Please put some thought into the subjects as I would like to make this Midwinter Conference a value-added experience for all that attend. There will be more information sent out once we have finalized the date and time of the Conference.

I want to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to be the Vice Commander at Large for the Department of France. I believe that we have a great team of Vice Commanders again this year and am looking forward to working with each of them. I am also looking forward to working with the Post leadership and the new Department Leadership to make this a great year.

For God and Country
Lee Preston
VCAL

End of Korean War (1953)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Korean War Timeline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea is divided on the 38th parallel</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 25, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Korea invades South Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>America joins the war and fights North Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China joins North Korea and attacks American troops</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Korea and South Korea in stalemate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armistice signed and fighting stops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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End of Korean War (1953)
Jul 27, 2022
Greetings Comrades,

First, I want to say I hope and pray you all to have a Safe and Happy 4th of July. Remember this is the day we observe as a legal holiday in the U.S. in commemoration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Next, I want to say I am proud to have been elected as the Department’s Chaplain even though no one else ran against me. However, I have solemnly pledged myself to perform faithfully and impartially my duties as Department Chaplain to the best of my ability. To all the Post Chaplain let’s come together and form a team that will embrace all religions, and faiths, and within its ranks as it is said in the Chaplain's Handbook. As Chaplain of the American Legion and all Chaplains, we are asked to care for everyone. Our service is to God and Country.

Remember this; When people bring up your past tell them Jesus dropped the charges. So do judge me by my past. I don't live there anymore.

Thank you all for your service and for what you are doing now. We are a Military Family and as a Family, we need to help each other.

Keep the Faith!

God Bless you and your families!!!!!!

Quincy Foster
Dept. of France, Chaplain
Commander Rhein-Main, Post GR05
Handy: 0178-3989509/E-mail: qcfoster@yahoo.com
Greetings all,

I would like to start by saying "thank you" for your hard work for the 2022 year. We did not make 100% but we still have the 2023 year to make it. I have been asked to continue with the Department's membership and accepted. Please send me the new or old membership chairman/chairwoman for your Post. Also, I am aware that you may not be the Commander or Adjutant anymore, please forward this message to the new officers.

Back to work;

There is a change in the "my legion" format that is going into effect in the next few weeks.

1) The "FR Post GR30 leadership" will be replaced with "FR Post GR30 Officers". This will open up more positions for the posts to identify. National is going with the officers in the Officer's Guide.
2) The "FR Squadron GR42 leadership" will stay the same for now. This will change at another time. I will keep you informed on the change.
3) The Department and Detachment leadership will change to "Officers and Chairmen." This will cut down the time of looking for these officers and completing better officers’ lists.

Please be advised. I use my Post and Squadron as examples. Please place your Post and Squadron number in place of mine.

As I said, these are coming into effect. When? Soon! Be on the lookout. You can not get into these lists yet, but you can see them. Yes, there are double and incorrect officers. National is working on it. Be patient like me.

Lastly, the 2023 Membership year will start at 1 July. On this date, your Adjutant should be able to start renewing members online for your Post. I will keep you informed if this changes.

I wish to have a “My Legion” class at the end of July if possible. This is for the members only. It will get the members familiar with the portal. In August, I want to do a class on “My Legion” for the Posts. This will give the Adjutant and Commander’s a better idea on how to use the Portal. I wish to know if any one is interested? I will send out the link a few days before the class. Both classes will be about 2 hours long.

James Dennis
Membership Chairman
Department of France
Email: departmentdennis@gmail.com
JOIN Paris Post 1 FOR A DAY OF CEREMONIES AND EVENTS!

Place de Etats-Unis (USA), Washington-Lafayette Memorial, WW1 American Volunteer Memorial, Arc du Triomphe, and more!

Francis Szpiner, Maire of the 16th arrondissement, Conseiller de Paris, and Katherine de Meaux, Adjointe au Maire, kindly ask you to honor us with your presence at the ceremony celebrating Independence Day on Monday, July 4, 2022, starting at 16:00 in front of Washington and La Fayette Monument at the Place des Etats-Unis (rue Galilée) followed by a Garden Party.

--- Programme ---

Monument Washington et La Fayette
Place des Etats-Unis - rue Galilée

Arbre de la Liberté - 11 septembre
Place des Etats Unis

Monument aux Volontaires Américains
rue de Lübeck

Plaque en hommage à l’Amiral de Grasse
Place de l’Amiral de Grasse

Statut de Rochambeau
Place de Rochambeau

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DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR... DAVID N. GREAUX

Reminder... all newsletter articles should 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@t-online.de
Post GC 01, Athens, Greece attend on Tuesday, 31 May 2022 a special ceremony in Thessaloniki, Greece to commemorate Memorial Day 2022. Our Post was represented by Dr. Vasilis Ballis, Post Adjutant who laid a wreath of honor and gave the main speech for the event.

The ceremony took place in a cemetery in central Thessaloniki in front of the cenotaph of Legionnaires of the 1st and 2nd World wars.

The USA Consul General in Thessaloniki, Mrs. Elizabeth Lee, was in attendance as well as members of US military stationed in Greece and local and national Greek dignitaries.

Best personal regards,
Nikos Papadopoulos, Commander Post GC 01, The American Legion, Athens, Greece
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 Promenade / Wreck - 16 July 2022
Hosted by Voiture Locale 1467 - Kaiserslautern, Germany