American Legion posts and family members provide service year-round to veterans and their families, active-duty servicemembers, youth and community members. And The American Legion wants to hear these stories.

The Legiontown U.S.A. website has recently undergone a redesign that showcases multiple stories at once, allows Legion Family members to feature links to YouTube videos created by them, and enables stories to be shared throughout social media. This nationwide sharing will promote the many ways Legion Family members dedicate themselves to a cause greater than themselves.

The Legion wants you to share your good experiences, whether it’s welcome-home celebrations for returning servicemembers, membership drives, honor and remembrance stories, visiting patients at a VA hospital, sponsoring young men and women to Boys and Girls State, hosting fundraisers, donating to Legion charities, or converting a post into a makeshift shelter for victims affected by a natural disaster. Posts, Sons of The American Legion squadrons and Auxiliary units are turning an ordinary community into a Legiontown every day.

For many Legion Family members, these services go unnoticed, but not for those who share their stories on Legiontown — www.legiontown.org.

Tell the story of Memorial and Monuments in your Post area. I know Rhein Main Post GR05 has the Lutfbruecke Memorial, David Chavez Post GR1982 has Memorials on Post, Generals Ward & Chenault & Helseth Post CP01 has a monument in China in honor of General Ward, and the list goes on and on. GR79, BE02, GR14, FR01, FR05 just to name a few. It takes five minutes so let’s tell the World the stories of The Department of France.
Columbus Day History

Columbus Day is the celebration of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Christopher Columbus was an Italian-born explorer who discovered the Americas for the Spanish King in 1492. King Ferdinand of Spain sponsored the expedition west in the hopes of sailing to India. In August of 1492, Columbus set off into the Atlantic with three ships, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. Two months later he would set foot on the Bahamas and establish settlements on Hispanola Island (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic). Upon his return to Spain, he spoke of gold in the New World and thus the Americas were opened up for European colonization.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared October 12th every year as Columbus Day. In the US, Columbus Day is celebrated by all US states except for Hawaii, South Dakota and Alaska. Columbus Day now occurs on the second Monday in October each year.
Greetings Comrades,

I hope everyone is safe and well as we continue to live with this Pandemic.

As we begin October, I would like to stress a few items:

1. myLegion.org: Most of our active Posts are using this tool effectively. A few Posts need to please step up their game and start using this tool to assist them in reaching their 2021 Membership Goal. I and other Department members are here and willing to assist anyone who needs any help.

2. Consolidated Post Report (CPR): The 2021 Membership year CPR is now available on myLegion.org. It has been recommended, and I agree, that you access the CPR as least once a month and enter everything your Post has done for the last month. This ensures that your Post gets credit for your accomplishment and someone does not have to sit down at the end of the year and try and figure out what your Post did all year.

3. Certification of Officers: A reminder that after Post elections it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant. Immediately after Post elections, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants form must be sent to the Department Adjutant. This is needed so that rosters, in particular my e-mail list, can be updated and new commanders and adjutants can be notified of upcoming events. This form needs to be completed even if there is no change in Officers. As soon as possible after Post elections, the Certification of Post Officials report needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant. This is needed so that I can update the National Officer/Committee data base. It is understood that this form requires some time to gather all the necessary information, but please try to submit it within 30 days of elections.
The American Legion
Department of France


Celebrate 100 Years of Service to Veterans, God, and Country

23 September 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, Post Commanders and Delegates, Committee Chairpersons and Program Directors

SUBJECT: Official Call for the 2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting

1. REFERENCE: Department of France Constitution, dated June 2018 and By-Laws, dated October 2019

2. This letter constitutes notification to all addressees that the 2nd Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting will convene on 24 October 2020, at 1300, at the Hotel-Gasthaus Windmühle in Ansbach, Germany.

3. The agenda of business to be considered at the meeting will be provided at the registration desk. Registration of DEC delegates will begin at 1200 hours, Saturday, 24 October 2020.

4. Representation for the DEC is covered by the Department Constitution, Article IX, Section 2, “two (2) representatives from each Post of the Department which shall be members in good standing within their own Post and have written delegation authority from their Post Commander or Post Adjutant.”

5. A quorum for the DEC is covered by the Department By-Laws, Article II, Section 4, “not less than fourteen (14) voting members, to consist of not less than nine (9) Posts represented and five (5) voting Department Officers.”

6. Due to COVID19, those who are not able to physically attend may join via GoToMeeting. The link for the meeting will be sent on Friday, 23 October 2020.

7. The schedule of events follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 October</td>
<td>1100 –</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1200</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1115 –</td>
<td>Past Commanders Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1145</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1200 –</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1300 –</td>
<td>2nd DEC</td>
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John D. Fleming
John D. Fleming
Adjutant
Department of France
James W. Oxford, National Commander of The American Legion

James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization’s 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation’s largest veterans organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cajah's Mountain, N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service.

Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons, Isaiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

Clint D. Bolt, Sons of The American Legion National Commander 2019-2020

Clint D. Bolt was elected National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion in Indianapolis during the 48th national convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

Clint is a proud member of the Sons of The American Legion John D. Sudduth Squadron 72 in Warrenton, Va., where he has been a member since 1998. Clint married his wife Becky in 1987, and they have one son named Jason. Jason is married to his wife Rachel, and they have a daughter named Ella Marie, who is 1 ½ yrs. old. Clint has two stepsons, Greg and Josh. Greg has a 12-year-old son named Caleb James. Josh is married to his wife Racheal.

Clint is a restoration carpenter. His most notable work is on North Wales, a 1750’s Country Estate in Warrenton, Va., once owned by Walter P Chrysler Jr. This home is listed on the National Registry of Historical Places and is one of the largest homes in Virginia.

Other prominent work is on the c.1858 private residence of The Gray Ghost, Colonial John Mosby. This home served has a museum for the town of Warrenton for several years. Now a private residence, the home is part of the Civil War history of the town and the State of Virginia.

Clint’s other interest in old things extends to classic cars. He is a member of the Vintage Chevrolet Car Club of America. His current project is a 1935 Master Sedan. His goal is to have the car completed by the Memorial Day parade next year. There is nothing he likes more than going to car shows and seeing all those beauties.
Clint has served his squadron and detachment at all levels. Clint is most proud of the detachment scholarship program he started in 2003.

Clint served as national vice commander in 2010. He served as Children and Youth Commission chairman, VA&R Commission chairman. He was the national representative for the Sons of The American Legion on the VA Volunteer Service National Advisory Committee. This is the only outside organization that the Sons belong to with full voting privileges to assist The American Legion.

Clint is eligible for membership through his grandfather Kennard "KC" Bolt. He served honorably in the United States Navy during World War II and was stationed at Norfolk, Va.

Clint is very proud of his grandfathers service in the war but is also just as proud of his grandmother Marie Bolt’s service. She, like so many women at that time had to raise the family and work toward the war effort. She not only had her husband in the war but also had three brothers and many other family members serving. Remarkably, she managed to keep the home going raising little children, the oldest was his dad, William Bolt, but she was a lathe operator at the torpedo factory in Alexandria, Va.

National President, Nicole Clapp, Department of Iowa: Ehrig-McTurk Unit 127

Eligibility: Through grandfather, Roger Schroeder, a seaman in the Navy during World War II.

Offices Held: Served in several unit, district, and department level positions. National: served as Honorary National Junior President 1987-1988, national Finance chairman five of seven years on the committee, Children & Youth chairman, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation chairman, Human Resources Committee member, Finance Committee liaison to Audit Committee, Finance Committee liaison to the ALA Foundation, Future Focus Committee vice chairman, ALA Foundation Board of Directors member, and National Executive Committee member.

Professional/personal background: Raised by her parents, Darrell and Jeanne Paustian, on a farm outside Gladbrook, Iowa. Nicole’s passionate journey for helping others came to fruition with a health care career following the achievement of both a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing administration from the University of Iowa in 1993 and 1996, respectively. She is board certified in health care management and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Nicole climbed the corporate ladder of expanded responsibility, supervision, management, and leadership over the past 22+ years; preparing her for the administrative stepping stones of middle management, onto the role of vice president and ultimately, president and chief executive officer of a hospital. She has served on many health care boards at the local, state, regional, and national levels. In addition to volunteering for the American Legion Auxiliary, she enjoys assisting the Lion’s Club, PEO International, and the Peace United Church of Christ. In her spare time, Nicole loves cheering on her alma mater, the Iowa Hawkeyes!

Front row (from left): Kathy Daudistel, national vice president; Nicole Clapp, national president; and Sara Riegel, immediate past national treasurer. Back row: Peggy Monroe, national historian; Mary Anne Casadei, national chaplain; Ruth Gott, Central Division national vice president; Carolyn Baranowski, Eastern Division national vice president; Rhonda Larkowski, Northwestern Division national vice president; Noemi Burgos de Paneto, Southern Division national vice president; and Cheryl Park, Western Division national vice president.
11 things you need to know about the LEGION Act

The American Legion
JUL 30, 2019
Never Forget 9/11

In Paris, France, we joined Ambassador Howery from the U.S. Embassy in Sweden who was visiting France to honor those who perished during 9/11.

We were honored to have such a beautiful ceremony with the new Mayor of Paris' 16th arrondissement, Monsieur Francis Szpiner, in Paris where the 9/11 Memorial is located. He spoke of the centuries old relationship between Paris and NYC, and the devastation that it brought to the French people when 9/11 occurred.

It is an honor to share this ceremony with them. Here are a few photos from our ceremony.

Department of France’s Americanism Committee Virtual Meeting

All Posts are invited

Sunday, 18 October 2020, 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
Scholarships
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of France

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

Department of France’s Scholarship Awards

1st Place: $1,000  
2nd Place: $750  
3rd Place: $500

National Contest Scholarship Awards

1st Place: $25,000  
2nd Place: $22,500  
3rd Place: $20,000

Eligibility: Students in Grades 9-12

Home School / Public School / International School

Contestants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States

https://froratoricalcontest.weebly.com/

Jim Brotherton
Department of France
Legion Riders Director

Jim.brotherton01@gmail.com  
+31 6 29553832
August 12, 2020

To: Department Commanders
    Department Adjutants

Subject: National American Legion College Eligibility Change

Recently we reviewed the National American Legion College eligibility and selection criteria. Previously, it was encouraged the primary applicant served during the Lebanon/Grenada era or later and a second seat can be filled with any war era. Upon the passing of The Legion Act in 2019, defining war eras has now become irrelevant. Anyone who served December 7, 1941, and later, and an acceptable discharge, is now eligible to be a member of The American Legion.

Based on our review and discussion with senior leadership, the American Legion College eligibility criteria is now changed so anyone can apply for the college via their departments regardless of war area. The following pre-requisites have not changed. The applicant must be a member of the American Legion for a minimum of three years, and they must have completed Basic Training, not ALEI. It is still recommended departments screen and vet their applicants thoroughly for leadership qualities and their potential for service for the next ten years since you are investing in the future.

The selection process has not changed other than the era of service is no longer considered. The department will still rank their applicants, and the top seed will have a seat at the college. All other applicants will be reviewed and ranked by the Legion College review committee based on their submitted applications. Seats remaining unfilled will be filled from the rank and order list from the review committee. However, each department will have no more than two seats for each class so that each department receives a fair share of attendees. Between now and the October 1, 2020 deadline, please confirm the ranking of your applicants or re-rank your applicants so that we can make the proper adjustments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ken George at kgeorge@legion.org or 317-630-1376.

Robert E. Newman, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

Newsletter Editor…David N. Greaux

REMEMBER…all newsletter articles should be turned in PRIOR to month's end!

Davidg1959@t-online.de
GR79 General Membership Meeting

Post Fish Fest

GR79 Riders

11 September 2020
The American Legion
John Wayne Post GR79

Sons of the Legion
Cordially Invites You To

Annual Pumpkin Carving
(For Children 4-12 Years Old)

When: 31 October 2020
Location:
Gartenfreunde Klingenberg
Im Bruch
74081 Heilbronn - Klingenberg

Time: 1400-1800

Menu:
Hot Dogs and Fries (For Children)
Chili (For Adults)

POC: Commander Charlie Brown
Email: vcalbrown50@gmail.com
Cell/Handy: 0170-1888034
2021 MY OFFICERS

Commander Joe D. Brown vcalbrown50@gmail.com
Adjutant James Dennis detachmentdennis@gmail.com
NEC Maxwell Rice colwichboy@yahoo.com
Alternate NEC James Dennis detachmentdennis@gmail.com
First Vice Donald Chamberlain chamberlaidw@hotmail.de
Second Vice Alexander Chastain alexanderchastain@hotmail.com
Chaplain John Portale johnportale@arcor.de
Historian Stephan Somers stef.ss17@gmail.com
Judge Advocate James Dennis detachmentdennis@gmail.com
Sergeant-at-Arms David Craig dcdavid16@gmail.com

2nd Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, 10 October 2020 in Heilbronn, Germany
1200-1300 Registration
1300- 2nd DEC

GR79 Legion Garden, IM Bruch, 74081 Klingenberg Heilbronn

POC is Commander Joe Brown / 01701888034 / vcalbrown50@gmail.com

!!! THIRD SAL DEC is scheduled for 6 March 2021 !!!
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 MID WINTER PROMENADE !!!

Saturday, 19 December 2020

Halloween History

Halloween, also called All Hallow's Eve, occurs on the eve of the Western Christian celebration of All Hallow's or All Saints Day - a day set aside to honor all the Saints of Christendom. Halloween is also a popular celebration with ties to the Celtic festival of Samhain, a celebration of the end of the harvest. The name Halloween comes from the longer name 'All Hallow's Eve'. In the US, this is a popular holiday for young and old and involves dressing up in costumes, harvest parties, and 'trick or treating'. It is celebrated every year on the 31st of October.