Department Commander John Shanahan

Thank You: Thank you for your confidence in me and for electing me as your Department Commander for this coming year. I embrace the challenge of leadership and I look forward to working with our new officer team to address immediately the challenges that we discussed in the weeks leading up to the Department Convention in June.

Thanks as well to all of our outgoing officers. They’ve given much of their time and energy over this last year and their work remains very much appreciated. For me and for all on our new Department Executive Committee, we are taking over at a time when we’ve experienced very good results with our annual member renewals and in the growth of both new posts and new members. We intend to keep that momentum going and to work with all members to build a cadre of Legionnaires in Europe that is strong, looks after our own, reaches out to all veterans and their families in need, and reflects positively on our United States of America and the values that have made our country great.

Happy Independence Day: This newsletter reaches you just as we prepare to celebrate America’s Birthday on July 4th. With thanks to the leadership of Paris Post #1 for their kind invitation, I will be joining our American comrades in Paris to celebrate the day with our country’s oldest and very valued ally. We will be the special guests of the mayor of the 16th Arrondissement, the lovely district of Paris that lies between the Eifel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe. We start the day off with ceremonies and wreath laying at the Place des Etats Unis – the Park of the United States. This wonderful park features two large bronze statues of President George Washington and the Marquis de LaFayette, standing arm-in-arm and holding the flags of their respective nations. It is a special treat to be in this place and to join with our French friends to remember our shared history that goes back for over 240 years of unbroken loyalty and mutual support. Later, in the evening, we move to the Arc de Triomphe, to join in the national ceremonies of laying wreaths at the monument to remember the sacrifices made by Americans and all of our Allies to ensure the freedom and security of France. In all of this, we will remember each of you and your own service in the American Armed Forces, without which there would be no peace and security in any place in this world. So as we are grateful for our liberties on this day, wherever we are, let’s be reminded of the lasting values of peace, friendship and unity among all nations that are the critical elements of international security.

A New Approach to Preserving and Growing Our Membership: We can only do our jobs as Legionnaires as long as our organization stays strong and vital, and we are reminded every day of the continuing pipeline of young man and women who come out of military service with the same needs that we have seen before. We are going to take urgent steps to support current posts that are struggling with membership growth and retention and to identify new areas in Europe with large American expat/retiree communities and bring them on board with new Post creation and member growth. I have appointed Vice Commander at Large Joseph Schram as Membership Chairman and charged him with organizing “Tiger Teams” to target critical Posts and areas. We will focus our financial resources in the most effective
way – to go where we are needed most. We had our first strategy session immediately following the convention banquet and have been working on a membership support and expansion plan that you’ll be hearing a lot more about in the coming weeks. I have a lot of confidence in this new team – and I invite you to send us a note and join in. There’s plenty of work for all!

**And a New Approach to Member Administration:** I have appointed John Fleming as Assistant Adjutant for Member Administration. He will be your principal contact for member records management, including member card distribution, submission of member transmittals and the timely execution of our membership programme with the National office. Look for more on John, his work and his contact details in this edition of the Newsletter.

**Help Wanted!** This is your Department and we’re all in this together! I’ve held off on Committee appointments and want you to answer the "Help Wanted" ad that appears in this Newsletter. Please send in a note to me outlining your interest and how you might contribute!

For God and Country, John

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**Help Wanted.** Department committees and activities that need volunteers to staff them. No experience necessary. Your compensation: the personal satisfaction of serving your fellow veterans and representing your country. Please reply by e-mail to Department Commander John Shanahan (jhshanahan@gmail.com) by July 15th latest. Come join us!

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<th>SAINT AVOLD ACTIVITIES</th>
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<td>Christopher Buchanan, Team Lead</td>
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<td>AMERICANISM COMMITTEE</td>
<td>SAL LIAISON COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>David Greaux</td>
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<td>HOMELESS VETS SUPPORT TEAM</td>
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<td>VA SUPPORT &amp; VETERANS SERVICES TEAM</td>
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<td>Paul Claybough, Team Leader</td>
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<td>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</td>
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<td>Nola Maloney, Chair</td>
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<td>SCOUTING COMMITTEE</td>
<td>CHAPLAIN’S PROGRAM COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>Casby Logan, Chair</td>
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<td>CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>JROTC SUPPORT COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>Ronald Moore, Chair</td>
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<td>HOMELAND SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY &amp; NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE</td>
<td>LORRAINE AMERICAN CEMETERY – SUPPORT TEAM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Douglas Haggan</td>
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<td>FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK</td>
<td>FLANDERS FIELD CEMETERY – SUPPORT TEAM</td>
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<td>MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE</td>
<td>HISTORICAL COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>Laura Buckner, Chair</td>
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<td>BOYS’S STATE PROGRAM COMMITTEE</td>
<td>AMERICAN LEGION CENTENARY COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>Curtis Bartosik, Chair</td>
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<td>ORATORICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE</td>
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National Commander Visit to Department of France
Germany - Belgium 2016
American Legion Department of France Convention 2016...
Hello to All.
I would Like to take the opportunity to thank all Post for the work last year, and am looking forward to working with you all again this year. You are the Eyes and Ears for the Department. Your Post Information is Important for the Department. The Department must submit reports to National on a monthly base and we need that Input from your post, with your Monthly reports.
The Post Consolidated Report is Do. You can do this online at My Legion if your Post is Registers. If not, then you need to send me your hard copy by the 10 of July.
If you are not on My Legion this is how you do it. Go to myLegion.org and click on the red field. Fill this out and send it to me and I will send it to National. They will send you an E-mail with your password.

Should you have any problems fill free to contact me under colwichboy@yahoo.com or give me a call at 049 1622587299.

Variously known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.
Department of France 2016-2017
MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTAL TARGET DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Due</th>
<th>Holiday/Activity</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Early Bird/NEF Kickoff</td>
<td>3 Sep 16</td>
<td>*14 SEP 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Fall Meetings</td>
<td>8 Oct 16</td>
<td>19 OCT 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td>5 Nov 16</td>
<td>16 NOV 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor Day</td>
<td>3 Dec 16</td>
<td>*14 DEC 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Mid-Winter</td>
<td>7 Jan 17</td>
<td>19 JAN 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>President’s Day</td>
<td>28 Jan 17</td>
<td>*08 FEB 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Legion Birthday</td>
<td>4 Mar 17</td>
<td>15 MAR 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>1 Apr 17</td>
<td>*12 APR 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Armed Forces Day</td>
<td>29 Apr 17</td>
<td>10 MAY 17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delegate Strength</td>
<td>15 Jul 17</td>
<td>30 Days Prior to Convention 26 Jul 17</td>
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*These dates are also a renewal notice cutoff date.
Department Target dates fall on Saturday, 1 ½ weeks prior to the National Target date to insure receipt at National by the Target date.
First of all, my congratulations to the newly elected 2016-2017 Department of France officers and the Commander and members of BE02 for hosting such a great Department Convention. My personal thank you also, to the officers and members of the Department of France for their work and support during 2015-2016. The current NEC positions, including my job as alternate NEC, end with the closing of the National Convention on September 1, 2016. The new NEC’s will be installed during the Post NEC meeting after the close of the National Convention.

What does it mean for us to be the Department of France? Fairly easy, the American Legion really started in Paris which is why the Department took the name again. It seems quite a few people don’t understand the importance of history, Legion ritual, and the socio-political ramifications (and advantages) of having a full Department operating outside of U.S. borders in this area. The importance of the Department of France basically rests in the fact that we are in the middle of all troop movements to and from Europe, Africa and the Middle East. All wounded and seriously ill military personnel transition through the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, right down the road from our American Legion Posts in Ramstein and Kaiserslautern. Their continued support of Wounded Warriors is highly appreciated by base commanders and military personnel. That makes it imperative that we have Department officers located in Europe to serve the Department and the troops located or transitioning here.

My position as alternate NEC ends on September 1, 2016, but I am available to any Post with my experience as a Past Department Commander, Department Legion Rider Director, Past Post Commander or just an American Legion Legionnaire, throughout the year to help support your Post or Community functions. It is surprising how one or two motorcycles and a trike attract attention at Legion Information Fairs on the military bases here in Germany. I also ask any Post that does not have a military community to join forces with the Posts that have them, to supply support and funds for our Four Pillar programs in Europe.

As I continually mention, we are The American Legion Family and each Department of France Post should be the proud display of all four symbols of that family. If necessary, please reactivate or establish an Auxiliary Unit, Sons Squadron and Rider Chapter. If you need assistance, just call.

I hope to see most of you during 2016-2017 and please remember our service personnel and their families in your prayers.

For God and Country!

Rev. Ronald Moore, American Legion
Department of France alternate NEC 2015-Sep 1, 2016
Mobile: +49-(0)172-7417812
Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

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2016 Legacy Scholarship Run
It’s For Our Children – It’s for Our Servicewomen and men! Let’s do what we can to help! Yeah, let’s catch the Spirit!

Greetings American Legion Family,

We talk about helping veterans and their families and we do a good job of it. We also know that our servicemen and women lay their lives on the line to help and protect our Nation from present and future dangers. The War against Terrorism is by no means won and it will take time to adequately train forces to take the place of our troops on the ground.

What can you do to help? Catch the spirit of the ride. Become part of the necessary group of people getting donations from one place to another so they can be taken to the National Convention for delivery to the National Commander.

The check you may write from your Post is a big donation already. But put a can out for the Legacy Scholarship Fund at all of your meetings and functions. Use other ideas to raise donations for these children. And remember, every little bit counts. And remember also, we only have a month to get those donations to the final collection point.
Just make sure all final donations are in check form in US dollars, made out to American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund and drawn on a U.S bank.

I will be participating in the 2016 Legacy Run in August. I will be carrying the donations that I receive from the collection points within the Department of France directly to the National Convention and handing over your donations to the National Commander personally, for you and in your name. Please be sure to write your Post name and address on the envelope. And you will be riding across the United States with me in spirit at least and I will think about the important task you have given me to do.

If you need a donation pickup, please contact me as soon as possible. Deadline for pickups will be August 7, 2016. You can also mail U.S. checks and money orders, but they need to reach me by end of July 2016.

God bless our servicemen and women, as well as their families, no matter where they serve. Please bless and keep safe those who deploy or support those troops down range.

And God bless you for your service to the Department of France.

Service to God and Country!

**Ronald Moore, Dept. of France AL Rider Director / Dept of France AL PE Coordinator**

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**DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE  Joseph Schram**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Department of France for allowing me the opportunity to be the next Vice Commander at Large (VCAL). This is a challenging position within the Department and I look forward to the challenge. I look forward to working with Commander Shanahan and the four Vice Commanders. We have an excellent team and I envision success in all of our endeavors.

I will be taking a different approach this year as the VCAL. Our focus this year is on the revitalization of current Posts whose membership have significantly decreased. We will also be looking for areas of opportunity such as the establishing new posts in Italy, Netherlands and Great Britain. We will reach out to military communities, Embassies and retirees where we do not have a footprint. This is a huge endeavor where our Vice Commander’s expertise will be greatly needed. While our membership teams will go out and recruit new members, our Vice Commanders will also assist the new Post leadership in developing a sound and functional Post.

Membership is not the only metric that we can measure the successfulness of our Department. We will attempt to build a better Oratorical Contest program by contact all DoD High Schools and by assisting Post in conducting a sound Post level contest. We will also assist Post in establishing other American Legion programs such as Boys State.

But with all of this in mind, we will not forget about the Department’s well established Posts. We are they to assist you when and where needed. Just ask.

I have asked the Vice Commands to ‘think outside the box’ and come up with great ideas of how we can strengthen the Department of France. If this means going outside your lane, then please do so. I will support your efforts 100%. I look forward to a year of challenges and successes. Thank you

VCAL Joseph Schram
Hello Comrades,

I was elected Vice Commander for The Department of France. My assigned Posts are:

- GR02 Ramstein
- GR03 Rhein Necker
- GR07 Riley Leroy Pitts
- GR20 Eifel
- GR45 George S. Patton

I am looking forward to visit each and every Post. If I haven’t already contacted your Post, please send me an e-mail to vice-commander.dahlke@outlook.com / Mobile: +49 160 90189072

I need from each Post: A point of contact - Post Election dates - Major events - Retirement Appreciation Days…Etc.

It’s Who We Are and What We Do
That Makes The Difference
ON CALL TO SERVE
A New Beginning

Comrades, a new season is upon us and once again I've been entrusted with the duties of Vice-Commander for the Department of France. Our duly-elected VCAL, VCAL Schram has made some minor changes to areas of responsibility for the VC’s and my posts are as follows:

GR01, GR06, GR09, GR13, GR1982, IT01, SP292

Calendar...

Heading into the new year VCAL Schram is asking that each Post provide him its recurring meetings and scheduled events in order to populate a Department calendar. Please submit your input to: vcal.schram@gmail.com and/or your respective Department VC.
Retiree Appreciation Day

An area of special emphasis this year is the American Legion presence at all Retiree Appreciation Days throughout Europe. I'd kindly ask that Legionnaires please assist by attending Retiree Appreciation Days whenever possible.

RAD -- Stuttgart

On the 23rd of June I attended a Retiree Appreciation Day on Panzer Caserne. As the event was about to start, it became apparent to me that they (Retiree Council) were in trouble; their guest speaker was a no-show. Et voila, it was my moment to shine, game on the American Legion saved the day.

Vets and Widows

...after I gave the audience why I was there and what the American Legion can do for them, I was inundated with VA claims questions from veterans, retirees and widows of retirees. I'd like to inform all in the Department-of-France that almost all attendees at the Retiree Appreciation Day personally thanked me and the American Legion for being there. As discussed with the VCAL and Commander, this is a scenario I highly suspect will be replicated throughout Europe.

Thank you for your support and I very much look forward to the upcoming year.

Lyndon Hudson, VC, Department-of-France
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER  Carl Hale

As a recently elected Department Vice Commander I have been assigned to the serve the Ireland Posts, IR01, IR02, IR03 and IR63, the Belgium Post BE02, and the France Post FR05. With the exception of the French Riviera Post FR05 I have written introductory emails to each Commander and Adjutant to learn more about each Post and the members. With the passing to PEL of the Post FR05 Commander I am in search of current contacts to learn how the Department could help the Post.

I asked about the Legion Post issues that could benefit from our offer to listen and assist as best as possible.

I asked about the Legion Youth and Americanism programs offered within the community. Are there Scouting units? Is there a local annual Oratorical contest? Are there Youth that would be interested in participating in the Legion Boys State program? How can we assist with growing the local Legion membership? Is there a Sons of the American Legion or an Auxiliary unit? What are other good questions to ask in order to help?

I have previously served as a Department Vice Commander and also the VCAL back in 2005 - 2007. I am happy to return to Department of France service for this 2017 membership year.

I live and work in Brussels, Belgium. I am a member of Paris Post 1 where I was the Post Commander from 2010 to 2015. www.facebook.com/parispost1

I use Facebook (Carl W. Hale) and Skype (Halecw) for free internet video discussions. My cell phone number is +32-485-33-88-67. My email is CRLHL@HOTMAIL.COM

Please let me know how I can best serve your Legion Post. Send photos of your Post activities that we could include on our Department website or Facebook page.

If you will be in Paris on 4 July, the Paris Post 1 has organized ceremonies at the Place des Etats Unis and at the Arc du Triomphe.

This past June I had the honor to escort the National Legion Commander, Dale Barnett, and the National Legion Auxiliary President, Sharon Conatser, during their ceremonies and events planned at St. Mere Eglise, Pointe du Hoc, the Normandy American Cemetery, Omaha and Utah Beach. We ended the National Delegation visit to the Department of France with ceremonies in Paris at the Paris Post 1 Mausoleum and the Arc du Triomphe. Photo albums are uploaded on the Department Facebook page.

For God and Country. Best regards, Carl.
**Department of France Past Commanders Club**

**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

*Due to circumstances we were not able to conduct a PCC meeting at our Annual Convention. Our next meeting is planned in conjunction with the Department of France Second DEC.*

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**New Centennial items available from Emblem Sales**

American Legion Emblem Sales has rolled out a pair of additions to the merchandise list for the Legion's upcoming 100th anniversary.

A Centennial coin, for $4.95, features The American Legion emblem on one side and the Centennial logo on the other. A new Centennial patch, for $1.95, is specially sized to fit on Legion caps.

Emblem Sales previously introduced hats, apparel and more featuring the Centennial logo; they are all available on the Emblem Sales website.
Hello Fellow SAL Members,

Well, the year has come and gone! The Detachment held the 4th DEC, Convention, and 1st DEC in Schweinfurt on 4 June 2016. Again the turnout was not as good as it could have been but, we did get more membership there than last year. I want to thank those in attendance for giving me their trust to lead this Detachment again for another year. I also want to thank everyone for taking positions to enhance the productivity and secure the future for our Detachment. We did pass a budget for the 2016/17 membership year and I am proud to say that this budget should get us back to doing the things we have done in the past. There are things that we have donated to in the past that we should do again but, I feel that those donations should be done through a motion and not set in stone through the budget. I want to challenge each Squadron to donate $1.50 per member to the Child Welfare Fund (CWF) this year. We have always made a good effort to this cause and I know that we can get this going again. Membership; WOW, what a great job all of the Squadrons did in this area last year. My hat goes off to you all for this accomplishment (107%, first in the East). Let’s continue those efforts and maintain 100% for this year. I would like to visit your Squadron’s as much as possible but, I will not come to your location unless I am invited. Please let me know if you would like me to attend a meeting or your elections as well as functions you might have. I will put my utmost effort in being there. Again, I thank each one of you for everything you do for the Detachment and hope to see you at your Squadron and the next DEC.

Lee Preston
Detachment Commander

DETACHMENT OFFICERS 2017 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

COMMANDER-Lee Preston
lpreston1957@gmail.com

ADJUTANT-James Settle
james.settle@kabelbw.de

NECMAN-Ronald Moore
gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

ALT NECMAN-Casby Logan
casbyj@hotmail.com

1ST VICE COMMANDER-Joe Brown
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2ND VICE COMMANDER-Jonathan Settle
johnny1286@hotmail.com

CHAPLAIN-Donald Chamberlain
chambelaindw@hotmail.de

HISTORIAN-Stephen Somers
stef.ss17@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE-James Dennis
orphff@gmail.com

SGT AT ARMS-David Greaux
davidg1959@t-online.de
Pictures taken in Paris for the last day visit of the National Commander & President party. In the new cemetery of Neuilly at the AL Mausoleum & under the Arc of Triumph (signing the golden book). Thanks Ginette.

Happy 90th Birthday!

PUFL member Mr. Maurice Sperandieu of Paris Post 1 celebrated his 90th birthday on 30 June 2016. He served in Charlie Company, 512th Military Police Battalion, 3rd U.S. Army, during World War Two.
From the Post Commander: Welcome to the first edition of our Post newsletter. As this goes to press, we have just completed our initial organization year that began St. Patrick’s Day, 2015, held our first Post elections in March of this year and are now preparing to attend and participate in the annual Department of France Convention in Houffalize (Flanders Field), Belgium during this coming week of June, 2016. It has been a busy year for the Post and I’d like to recap our accomplishments:

Membership: 43 new and transfer members joined the Post this year as Charter Members. Congratulations to all. Most of you have received your received your Charter Member certificate and Post ball cap. We had to re-order the Post ball caps, so if you’re one of the small number of members who has not received it, please be patient, as they are now in and will be shipped within the next 10 days.

Organizational Meeting: We held our initial organizational meeting on 12 March 2016 and accomplished a number of things: (1.) elected Post officers; (2.) adopted a Post constitution; (3.) agreed on a Post name, and (4.) set an annual meeting date to coincide with the week of St. Patrick’s Day of each year.

2016-2017 Membership Year: Beginning July 1st, we start the new membership year. While your membership runs for the full calendar year, the Legion begins the membership renewal process six months early to ensure that all have a chance to keep their membership current and their publications coming. You may renew your 2017 membership as early as July, 2016 – and we encourage you to do so. And here’s the good news: even though the Legion has increased its National dues by $5.00/yr (which means we have to send the additional money in from your subscription), we’re keeping your 2017 membership renewal the same: $40/€40. And here’s even more good news: if you choose to pay for two years in advance (2017 & 2018), we’ll freeze your dues at $40/€40 through the end of 2018!

Member Services: A key function of your Post – and the real reason behind the American Legion and any veterans’ service organization – is to ensure that your veteran’s rights and benefits are protected and delivered. Just today, I talked to a retired E-9 veteran of the Vietnam War who was trying to claim for Agent Orange benefits (and who showed me his recurring rash) and who was getting nowhere with the VA. I told him about our Service Officers and our work to get the VA to review disability claims and the military to review discharge physicals and to amend discharges and upgrade disability ratings. This week, Service Officer Shane O’Reilly is attending a special workshop organized by the Legion’s Department of France to brief Service officers on claims procedures and rules for appeals. Please let us know the particulars of any questions or concerns you may have about how to claim or to upgrade/appeal any claim that you may be entitled to.

Americanism: As a foreign Post of the Legion, one of the things we do is to promote Americanism and try to help local folks understand a bit more about the United States and the respect we have for the values of democracy and the principles of freedom. We’re coming up on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I (and the founding of the Legion). The world remembers that our grandfathers and great-grandfathers put on our country’s uniform and came to their aid when imperialist expansion and National Socialism threatened the integrity and security of their countries, from France to Britain to Poland and to our own Pearl Harbor.

You are encouraged to wear your official Legion cap and to join in with local events marking the 4th of July, Constitution Day, Veterans Day and the very worthy Wreaths Across America, a Christmas project that our Baltimore Irish community members are active in. Dublin-area members did that recently to welcome the cadets of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Cutter EAGLE to Dublin Port. We also had the opportunity recently to join with veterans of the Irish Defence Forces and Allied nations (Norway and Holland) for a ceremony of remembrance for two Irish U.N. veterans murdered while on peace-keeping
duty in Lebanon. Post Adjutant Frank Ekstrom and Service Officer Shane O’Reilly carried our colours; Sergeant-at-Arms Mark Halpin and wife Maria came in from Kilkenny to join us for the event.

**Member Recruiting:** Recruiting co-chairs Jamie Whyte, John Shanahan and Janis Jaworsky continue the mission of inviting new prospects to become part of our world-wide Post. Growth is important, not just for the sake of numbers but because it means that we are bringing services to more veterans. Each of us can support this effort. Wear your ball cap at public events. Talk to veterans, especially ones who might be interested in being part of a non-traditional Post that focuses on extended outreach to veterans. Invite them to join our Post and let us know who might need an application.

**Permanent Charter:** We’ve completed our probationary period as a Post and expect to be given authority to apply for our Permanent Charter at our Department Convention coming up next week. This is an important milestone in our history and we look forward to receiving our Permanent Charter (with your name on it!) from the American Legion’s national office.

**Post and Legion Facebook Page/Website:** We keep our members and others updated on Post activities and events on our Post website which is maintained on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AmLegionIreland. We also post information on VA programs and initiatives and reports of activities by the American Legion to support members and their families. There is an extensive range of benefits available to you -- and your family -- as a Legion member, with information on these benefits shown at www.legion.org

**Post Banner:** We’ve put your member dues to work with our first major purchase of a custom-made Post banner and U.S. flag, both to display at American Legion events. We’re proud of this banner and thank you for the support your dues provide that makes this sort of thing possible.

**Upcoming Post Events:**
- Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, Islandbridge, Phoenix Park, Dublin, July 9th, 2016 – Noon (Members seated by 11:30 AM)
- National Day of Commemoration, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin, July 10, 2016 – 11:00 AM (all Members must be seated by 10:00 AM)
- Visit of USS Mason (DDG 87) to Derry – Arrangements TBA, July 2016

**Meet the Members:** All members are respectfully requested to e-mail a short bio outlining (1.) the branch of service that they served in, (2.) the dates served, (3.) the units served in, and (4.) their civilian occupations after completion of military service. Also, we’re like to have two photos – then and now – of you in your military uniform (any one) and a photo of you today. We’re going to put them in a “Meet the Members” album on our Facebook page (please advise if you wish to opt out of this for privacy concerns). Please send your info and photos to Post Commander John Shanahan at jhshanahan@gmail.com.

**Web-Based Communications Technology:** Post Adjutant Frank Ekstrom and Communications Officer Michael Quinn are exploring options for voice and voice/video meeting technology that we can use for our web-based meetings. Look for more details from them soon on the preferred option and how we might use it.

**Upcoming Post Meeting:** We’d like to hold a Post Meeting at 7:00 PM (Irish Summer Time) on Sunday, 26 June. For Eastern Daylight Time, that will be 2:00 PM on the day – and folks living in other time zones, please adjust your local time to 2:00 PM EDT. The meeting will be held electronically and contact or dial-in details will be sent out by Post Adjutant Frank Ekstrom.

With best wishes to all, for God and Country,

John Shanahan

POST ELECTED OFFICERS, 2016

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People’s Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American officials were concerned, it was a war against communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China—or even, as some warned, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some 5 million soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the war. The Korean peninsula is still divided today.
National Commander Belgium Visit

National Commander Dale Barnett and National Auxiliary President Sharon Conatser visit Belgium from 01-04 June. On day one, the group first visited the Luxembourg American Cemetery, followed by a luncheon at the SHAPE Club. The Commander and President were nested briefed by COL Lee Fleming and Col Marvin Vannater on the current situation at SHAPE and USAG Benelux. After the briefing, the group were given a tour of the SHAPE American High School. The tour was followed by an interview on AFN BENELUX radio. The day concluded with an outing in the city center of Mons.

On Day two, the group traveled to the WWI Ieper salient where they had the opportunity to tour the Passchendalle museum and the Ieper salient. Later that night, Commander Barnett and President Conatser laid wreaths at the Menin Gate during the Last Post ceremony.

On day thee, the group moved to Bastogne to participate in the memorial Day ceremony. They concluded with the Commander’s Dinner at the 3-Star Lounge in Brussels. On day four, they concluded their Belgium visit with laying wreaths at the Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem.
This year, Post Be02 was able to send two young men and a young lady to the Maryland Boys State / Girls State program. Shamus Phelan and Andrew Morrison from the SHAPE American High School completed a week long Boys State Program at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland while Josie Whitaker also from the SHAPE American High School attended the Girls State program at Salisbury University, Maryland. "Girls State has taught me so much about the American government that I did not know before. I have learned a lot, made some amazing friends, grown confidence in my public speaking skills, and overall had an amazing week. I would also love to thank everyone in charge who made it possible for me to attend this incredible program" stated Josie Whitaker.
GREETINGS TO ALL-YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR
4th of JULY CELEBRATION 2016

*When*: 9 July 2016

*Where*: Gartenfreunde Klingenberg; Im Heilbronn - Klingenberg. Bruch 74081

*Time*: 1400

RIBS - HOT DOGS – HAMBURGERS - CHICKEN
SOFT DRINKS – WHISKEY - WINE - BEER- WATER

The cost for the meal will be 15 EURO, and free for all kids attending that is under 12 years of age.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP by 4 July 2016 with one of the committee members…

First Vice Commander Charlie Brown  *vcalbrown50@gmail.com* / 0170-1888034
Second Vice Commander Van Knutson  *vanable@msn.com* / 0179-2633993
Cincinnati Ohio
Site of the 98th American Legion National Convention
August 26rd to September 1st 2016

If you are planning on attending the 98th National Convention in Cincinnati OH (and I hope to see some new faces in Cincinnati) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information,

THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.

The room cost per night is $155.61 all included. Cutoff for the reservation is 15 July 2016.

Hope to see you in Cincinnati