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2012 Fall Meetings

In attendance are from bottom left: Adjutant Max Rice and NECMan John Miller; from top left: Alt NECMan H. Ownby, Past Department Commander Doug Haggan, Assistant Adjutant Robert Fuelling and Commander Ron Moore
Commanders Corner

First of all, please let me correct a mistake I made in writing the caption under the front page picture of the October newsletter. The family name should have been Fitzgerald for Howard “Fitz” and Susie, rather than Fitzhoward. I know them well, but the mistake still managed to creep in. My sincere apologies to the Fitzgerald family for the mistake.

I don’t know why I go on about calendars, but it helps me to concentrate on the month ahead and on what we should be concentrating. So, Nov. 4 is the end of U.S. Daylight Savings time, Nov. 6th Election Day (Don’t forget to vote, I already sent my absentee ballot), Nov. 8 Veterans Day (Armistice Day 1918),Nov. 15th 65% membership target date (Dept France Posts should be at 70% at a minimum), Nov. 18th -24th National Family Week, and Nov. 22nd Thanksgiving Day. Time to vote, to honor all uniformed service members and veterans, to be at or close to 102% membership, to honor families and to be thankful for our blessings. It’s a busy month and brings us close to the end of 2012.

No need to talk about voting, just make sure everybody does vote. Veterans Day honors all active and reserve military personnel and veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Legion.org has recommendations for Veterans Day ceremonies. The Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and 40 & 8 will be laying wreaths at Lorraine Military Cemetery on November 11th at 1111 hours before stopping by Kaiserslautern Post GR01 after the ceremony. GR01 Commander White has kindly invited all attendees to stop by.

I can’t stop reminding the Department of France Legion Family that we are not alone. Your Post, Unit and Squadron are part of an international organization composed of 55 departments and more than 14,000 Legion Posts. Our National Commander, Vice Commanders, National Auxiliary President and National Sons Commander travel thousands of miles to visit departments and show that we are part of a great family. In addition, our Post officers and members work unceasingly under the principle “For God and Country” and “For the Good of the Legion”. Under these principles, there is no longer an “I did”, but only, “We did”. The front newsletter page picture shows Department of France Legionnaires who received Letters of Appreciation and Letters of Participation from Department Adjutant Rice and me for their service to the Department of France for being delegates to the 2012 National Convention and/or turned over Legacy Scholarship donations as Department Messengers.

NECman John Miller, alt. NEC H. Ownby, Adjutant Max Rice, assistant Adjutant Robert Fuelling, Past Department Commander Doug Haggan and I attended the 2012 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, along with practically all the TAL department NECmen, alternates, commanders and adjutants. We had vast amounts of information literally pounded into us and learned more about the goals of the Legion, with personal discussions with National Commander “Jim” Koutz and our National Vice Commander John Neylon. A few pictures are included from the Fall Meetings. We also had a chance to thank National Commander Secretary Nancy Vaughn and Executive Director Marty Justus, both of whom are retiring this
Greetings Commanders & Comrades,

I stress the importance of membership in the Posts, Department, and the National Organization. Membership is our Voice on Capitol Hill. Post GR05 is over 104% membership, Post GR07 is at 60%, GR14 is over 100%, IR02 is at 50%, IR03 is at 51%, and IR63 submitted their transmittal. I encourage Posts to transmit each month to Department Membership Chairman Joe Brown.

The next GR07 Post meeting is 6 November 12. The next GR14 Post meeting is 14 November 12.

I would like to thank Kaiserslautern Post GR01 for hosting the 2nd DEC. I would also like to thank the Officers, Committee chairs and Executive Committee members for their attendance and input at the DEC where we were able to handle business with a quorum. This was my 2nd DEC as commander and I thank the Committee members for their support and advice. Both Adjutant Rice and I returned from five days of Fall Meetings the day before the DEC. Future meetings will be more structured.

Last month’s newsletter was late, so please refer to it concerning reports that were due at the 2nd DEC. Please send the reports to the indicated chairs with a copy to Adjutant Rice as soon as possible.

Membership-
We should be at 65% already since the next target date is basically Veterans Day. October 20th was the due date for 2013 membership dues, so talk to those members who haven’t paid yet please. To be honest, I would rather that the department was #1 or #2 (#2 tries harder), rather than our present standing close to the bottom. Let’s show some pride for the Department comrades and remember, it’s not for me, but for us.

The American Legion Programs-
In last month’s newsletter, I wrote that we should be fully working on Oratorical, Boys State and School Education programs. Chairpersons/Program Directors should be getting information to the Posts concerning how, when and where so that we can coordinate in a timely manner.

Please remember to continue to pray for the safety and health of our servicewomen, servicemen and their families, no matter where they serve. Don’t forget to thank a serviceperson and veteran for their service on Veterans Day. Thank you for your service and may God give you strength to continue your service to our service personnel, Veterans and America.

For God and Country!

Rev. Ronald Moore,
GR05 Commander
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e-mail: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Vice Commander
Greetings Commanders & Comrades,

I stress the importance of membership in the Posts, Department, and the National Organization. Membership is our Voice on Capitol Hill. Post GR05 is over 104% membership, Post GR07 is at 60%, GR14 is over 100%, and IR63 submitted their transmittal. I attended John Barry Post IR03, Claremorris, Annual Meeting and Post Elections 7 October 12, at the Dalton Inn. I performed the installment of the newly elected officers for the term 2012 – 2013. Also present were Post IR63 representatives Liam Kane and Michael Coyne.

I’m impressed with the grave site ceremonies Post IR03 performs with the assistance of other Legionnaires from Post IR02 and Post IR63. After the elections, IR03 Post Commander Ron Howko offered us to visit the statue of U.S. Medal of Honor (twice) John King at the town of Ballinrobe. The first Medal of
Honor received in 1901 signed by President Theodore Roosevelt and 2nd MOH by President William Taft. It was an honor to stand with fellow Legionnaires at this great statue. On 27 October 12, Johnstown, Co., Kilkenny, John Barry Post IR03 has been invited to unveil a bronze plaque attached with the family headstone honoring Michael K. Holmes, a soldier assigned to 165th Infantry, 42nd Division (Rainbow) who went Missing In Action and presumed dead in the Meuse Argonne area of France, World War I. I plan to visit John F. Kennedy Post IR63 for their Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Party, 22 November 12, Dublin, Ireland. The Irish Posts website is: www.americanlegion-ireland.com

I attended the 2nd DEC, 20 October 2012, at the Hotel Restaurant Barbarossahof, Kaiserslautern, Germany. Legionnaires, we must conduct ourselves in a professional manner. The negative comments are non-productive to the Department of France and to the members present at the 2nd DEC.

VFW District III, Frontiersmen, is hosting the Veterans Day Observance at Rokycany, Czech Republic, 9 – 11 November 2012. The group is staying at the Bily Lev Hotel, Rokycany. Tony Classe is the Committee Chairman. His email address is: avclasse@web.de. The event consists of: Social gathering in the dining room at the Bily Lev Hotel, 9 November, 6:30 p.m. Wreath laying ceremony at the Demarcaration Memorial, 10 November, 10 a.m., outside Rokycany (leave the Bily Lev Hotel parking lot at 9:45 a.m.) The banquet, $25.00 per person, with bus departing the Bily Lev Hotel at 5:45 p.m. to the Barbecue at the “Ranch” near the town of Hradk. Blessing of the Flags, 11 November, at the Rokycany city square church, 9 a.m., depart the Hotel Bily Lev 8:45 a.m. Lying of the wreaths at the Rokycany city town hall, afterwards, lunch at the Hotel Bily Lev. Please contact Tony Classe for the information forms (Hotel reservation, banquet tickets, agenda, and Welcome Letter).

Commanders and Fellow Legionnaires, many thanks for what you do for your Posts and the communities you serve.

Stephen A. Ward, GR01
Vice Commander
Phone: 06322-68168
Cell: 0171-4378855
E-Mail: wardtrans@yahoo.com

Nation Executive Committee Man

As you all know, I, along with the Department Commander and Adjutant spent the week of 13 thru 18 Oct 2012, at the American Legion HQ's fall meetings. For me this was a very busy week and I partook in my first NEC meeting. All the resolutions voted on by the various committees during the National Convention were presented for approval or disapproval of the NEC. The one I was watching for was one approved at Convention from France and that one passed. That being mail at embassies for retired military members residing in that country. The NEC meetings go all the way to the end on 18 Oct 2012, and therefore I was unable to get back in time for our 2d DEC. The next big push for all of us is coming very fast and I hope all of you have taken the necessary steps and paperwork so you can VOTE in the upcoming elections. You’re looking at just a little over a week until the country decides on the president for the next four years, and there are also several House and Senate seats up for grabs during this election and their outcome may tip the balance of power. I took the time while in the USA to stop in my hometown and Voted. This is the chance for us all to have our say, so let’s get out and Vote. I hope that you all have a nice Halloween and that all our Posts took part in community activities. I was going to include the National Security briefings but see that our Department Adjutant has already posted them; interesting reading. In closing, I want to remind all our Legionnaires that Veterans Day is approaching and hope that all our Posts and members interact with their communities in paying respect to our Veterans.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

John H. Miller, PDC
National Executive Committee Man
miller-roth@t-online.de
From the Chaplain’s Desk

Fellow Comrades:

This November, we will once again celebrate Veterans Day with a lot of different celebrations all over this world. It is good that we honor all of our veterans, both the living and the dead, for their great service to our country. It is also time to think of ourselves, because at one time or another, be it peace or war time, we too served in this great military family. So let me be the first to thank you, my fellow comrades, for a job well done.

Please keep the following people in your prayers and your thoughts;

GR05 Past Commander Jerald Bass, GR05
GR05 Past Chaplain John Haake, GR05
Dallas Smith, GR05
Carlos Rawls, GR05
Wife of Harvey Schulz, GR05
Karin, Sister of John Odom Sr., GR07
Peter Arenz, GR09
Orlando Dunn, GR09
Donnie Swearengin, GR09
Charity Boedeker, GR1982
Brenda Dearborn, Dept. of Maine AltNEC
NECman Robert Proctor
PNC Keith Kreul

If I have forgotten anyone, please excuse me.

Again, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you as your chaplain.

As always, your faithful comrade:

David Boedeker
Chaplain
Phone: +49 (03221) 2274818
E-Mail: Dbgubfighter4@gmail.com
Each year during the fall season, in preparation for Veterans Day, Kaiserslautern Post GR01 conducts Grave Registration throughout the Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC). The KMC includes the cities of Kaiserslautern, Ramstein, and several smaller communities in the area. To register a grave, a US Flag is placed on the graves of US Veterans, their family members, and any other US personnel that are buried in the cemeteries. Detailed information is retained so that the grave can be found in future years. All previous flags are collected and replaced with a new flag. The removed flags are retained and burned during a flag retirement ceremony during Flag Day, 14 June, the following year.

Demetrius R. White, Commander of the Kaiserslautern Post GR01, led the Grave Registration program this year with the assistance of Comrades Michael Young, Joseph Chonko, Robert Leist, David Sears, and Djuan Stenson. They recruited several private organizations and members of the community to participate in the program to honor deceased US Veteran’s and their families. Some of the private organizations include the Boys Scouts of American, the Germany Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Germany Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Forty and Eight, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

According to Mr. White, the 2012 Grave Registration started at the Kaiserslautern City Cemetery on October 06, 2012 with more volunteers than the Post has had in recent years. The Kappa’s and the Deltas in the local community brought their families and friends to support this great cause. Partnering in community service has been the key to the program’s success!

Kaiserslautern Post GR01 would like to thank all participants for their hard work and dedication to our community and our deceased Veterans.

Author: Demetrius R. White
I'm on the BOD of the Mayo Peace Park Garden of Remembrance (MPP) in Castlebar Co. Mayo, Ireland. Just under three years ago the BOD asked me if our American Legion Post would help with a families request to honor a loved one that had been killed in WW1 and had been with the US Army.

On 21 May, 1922 an English ship called the HMS Stilwater sailed into Dublin harbor with the remains of 62 Irish men that had been killed in action in 1917-18. The Irish families had requested that there loved ones be brought back to home soil for burial again. Until the American Legion and MPP got involved these men laid for over 90 years in unmarked graves. Because of the all political unrest here in Ireland during the 20's, these men that were in the US forces were painted with the same dirty brush as the men that were in the British forces. So far, of the 62 souls, our Post here in Mayo have had 12 WW1 graveside services and one WW2, and he was 33 years in an unmarked grave. The first graveside service Ireland 03 performed was 12 years ago for US Navy man Michael Gibbons, who died in 1942 and was in an unmarked grave for 66 years. Michael was a Medal of Honor recipient during the Spanish American war.

PVT Michael Holmes left Ireland for America in 1914, got drafted in 1916 and was hit while standing next to a truck by a very large shell and never found on 27 October 1918. Ireland 03 with the great help, as always, of JFK 63 Dublin performed the grave side services on 27 October 2012.

Ron Howko
Commander Ireland 03
FODPAL Recipient 2012

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### GIBBONS, MICHAEL

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**Citation**

On board the U.S.S. Nashville during the operation of cutting the cable leading from Cienfuegos, Cuba, 11 May 1898. Facing the heavy fire of the enemy, Gibbons set an example of extraordinary bravery and coolness throughout this action.
Attached pictures of the Annual Meeting of John Barry Post IR03 held 7 October 12, at the Dalton Inn, Claremorris, Ireland, and the statue of John King, twice awarded the Medal of Honor, in the town of Ballinrobe, Ireland.