2012 Scholarship Fund Drive

GR07 American Legion Riders Russ Junkin, Susie and "Fitz" Fitzhoward acting in their roles as Department of France Messengers for the 2012 Scholarship Fund Drive in Germany.
Commanders Corner

I’m finally finding out what a calendar is for. You look at it and it shows all the events you’re either going to miss or stress out trying to get to.

Our German calendar shows a German holiday on October 3rd (Unification of East and West Germany) and the end of German daylight savings time on Sunday October 28th.

Open up a U.S. Veteran’s calendar and you find Columbus Day on the 8th, Cuban Missile Crisis began on the 16th, U.S. invaded Granada on the 23rd and Halloween on the 31st. Oh boy, watch out for the witches and goblins and please make sure our youth stays safe (remember Halloween Safety program).

Our Legion calendar shows the 7th as the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom (2001), the 14th as meeting of Child Welfare Directors and 21st as Notification of CWF Grants and 27th as start of Legion College.

My personal calendar shows a funeral tomorrow, Church Services on each Sunday, Post meetings on 2nd, 10th; a meeting with GR01 for 2nd DEC pre-discussion, Fall Meetings in Indy from 12th to 19th, 2nd DEC on the 20th, 2nd SAL DEC on 27th. These are not complaints, just showing that we are never still during the month.

If we look at next month’s calendar, Election Day, November 6th (continue your Get Out and Vote Program), Veterans Day with our Department ceremony at St. Avold/France and Thanksgiving, all of which we, as Legionnaires, should be preparing for. Remember, if you vote this year, you have done all that you can to help our Nation go forward. Just remember, the person who was elected was chosen based on our democratic system and it is our duty to ensure that we support our Commander in Chief. We may sometimes disagree with a political idea, but, “We are the people”; and we have senators and congressmen/women who are supposed to represent us. Does anyone re-member who said, “The pen is mightier than the sword”?

Speaking of calendars, please remember that our 2nd DEC is being held on October 20, 2012 at the Hotel Restaurant Barbarossa in Kaiserslautern. Please ensure that your DEC delegates have a Post delegate letter signed by either Post Commander or Post Adjutant. No letter, no vote.

Your Post Committee reports should be sent to the Department Program Director with a copy to the Committee Chairman. All reports should be written and sent to the Department Adjutant by October 8th (Department Adjutant will be attending Fall Meetings from Oct 12th to 19th) If not, please bring enough copies with you to the DEC for the officers and delegates. A verbal update of maximum 2 minutes length may be made to the written report.

Your Committee Chairpersons/Program Directors are:

Americanism- Chairperson Carl Hackworth carl@hackworth.de

The following Americanism Program Directors should receive your Post reports (with copy to your Department Vice Commander and Department Adjutant), then consolidate and send to the Americanism Chairperson:

Boy’s State/Boy’s Nation- Chris O’Neil

Education- David Boedeker- dbugunfighter4@gmail.com

JROTC- Johnnie Walker- walker@hrb.de

Messenger Service- Howard Fitzgerald susiefitz@t-online.de

Oratorical- Gary Miller- billsfan_gary@hotmail.com

Sacred Torch- John Odom- john-libro@googlemail.com

St. Avold- John Miller- miller-roth@t-online.de

Scouting- David Sears- legion.sears@googlemail.com

From the Editor

Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my e-mail address by the 26th of the month. Please use Word document format. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

Thank You.

John D. Fleming
Editor
E-Mail: pastcmdr.fleming@gmail.com
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 103%, Post GR07 met the 50% cut-off with 58%, and GR14 with 96%. I encourage Posts to transmit each month to Department Membership Chairman Joe Brown.

I attended Leroy Riley Pitts Post GR07 Post Meeting, 4 September 12, with four Legionnaires present. The next GR07 meeting is 2 October 12.

Thomas W. Barnett Post 14, Buedingen, meets on 10 October 12.

Post IR03, Claremorris, performed a ceremony 15 September, at King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, where the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) was awarded posthumously to Corporal Michael J. O’Connell, for actions in World War I. Corporal O’Connell is buried at Moore cemetery near Ballinasloe Co., Roscommon. LTC Sean Cosden, USAF, representing the U.S. Ambassador, presented the award at the ceremony. Many thanks to Legionnaires Sean Tahaney, Michael Smyman, Ron Howko, John Martin, Brendan Dodd (Dublin), Liam Kane (Dublin), John Casey, Gerry Duignan, Tom Kelly, and Michael Noon, who conducted a flag folding ceremony and presented it to Mr. Frank Turley, nephew of Corporal O’Connell. The Irish Posts website is: www.americanlegionireland.com. I plan to visit John Barry Post IR03 for their Annual Meeting at the Dalton Inn, Claremorris, 7 October, at 1500. I hope to see you at the 2nd DEC 20 October 2012. Location: Hotel-Restaurant Barbarossahof, Eselsfurth, Kaiserslautern, Germany. Registration is from 1100 – 1200 with the 2nd DEC starting at 1300. I will be at the Hotel Barbarossahof early evening the 19th and after the 2nd DEC. The hotel website is: http://www.barbarossahof.com. Don’t forget to bring your Post delegate letter to the 2nd DEC, signed by the Post Commander or Adjutant.

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 pray for the safety and health of our servicewomen, servicemen and their families, no matter where they serve. Thank you for your continued service to our Veterans and America.

For God and Country!

Rev. Ronald Moore, GR05 Commander
Mobile: +49 (0) 172-7417812
e-mail: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Continued on page 4
banquet cost $25.00 per person and the bus departs the Bily Lev Hotel at 1745 to the Barbecue at the “Ranch” near the town of Hradk. Blessing of the Flags, 0900, 11 November, at the city square, Rokycany church, depart the Hotel Bily Lev 0845. Lying of the wreaths at the city town hall, Rokycany. 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

Nation Executive Committee Man

I’m back from the 94th National Convention in Indianapolis, and have caught up on the jet lag. I mentioned in the last newsletter that the high point of the convention was to be the Legion Riders Legacy "Run Home" and I can attest that it was a spectacular event. The high light being the "Legacy Memorial" which was held Saturday evening in downtown Indianapolis. This was an event to see. The Indianapolis Metro Police Motorcycle Detachment Drill Team also partook in this event and gave a demonstration on Sunday during the annual Legion parade. Our own DCDR, Rev Ron Moore, was the official Chaplin for the "Legacy Run Home".

The Department delegates were very busy and active attending various committee and commission meeting on Saturday and Sunday and then preparing for the parade Sunday afternoon. I have to say Thanks to our Convention Chairman Doug Haggan and Convention Secretary Bob Fueling for all their hard work behind the scenes getting everything lined up and ready for the delegates arrival which took a lot of stress off the delegates.

On Monday morning we attended to FODPAL breakfast meeting and I presented a handmade Pewter goblet from the Department for the drawing. During the meeting Bob Fueling was elected President of the FODPAL for the coming year and Doug Haggan appointed Secretary, a post he has held for many years.

On Tuesday morning National CDR Fang Wong opened the convention in the convention center. That afternoon the DCDR Rev Ron Moore, I the VIP Chairman, Bill Marshall Assistant VIP Chair, H. Ownby, Doug Haggan, Bob Fueling and Liam Kane met with the incoming National CDR James E. "Jim" Koutz and his staff in reference to his planned visit to the Department in May/Jun 2013. We established his priorities and wishes and will set the wheels in motion to ensure a smooth visit.

The convention was hammered closed at noon on the 30th and the 1st NEC meeting was held immediately thereafter. During this first meeting the new NEC's and Department CDR's were introduced and one resolution was presented for approval. It was approved and the meeting was adjourned.

The week was a very busy one with meetings and get-togethers with various departments, visiting with Legionnaires from around the globe, making new friends and renewing ties with old friends. The 95th National convention will be held from 23 - 29 Aug 2013 in Houston, Texas, and if you have never been to one I highly recommend you plan on attending. You can gather a lot of information and have a bit of fun at the same time. Start planning and saving now and you will be ready next August.

The "Fall Meeting" for the Department Commander, Adjutant and NEC will be held 15 - 18 Oct 2012 in Indianapolis, IN and I'm looking forward to representing the Legionnaires of the Department of France.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

John H. Miller, PDC
National Executive Committee Man
miller-roth@t-online.de
Fellow veterans'

My Dear Comrades;

Here it is the end of summer and the beginning of fall. What a beautiful time to contemplate what we have done so far this year, both for the Legion and ourselves. Have we made this world a better place by our actions or have we just been going through the motions. Remember that a simple act of kindness can bring happiness not just to that person to whom we have shown the kindness to but also to ourselves.

Let us think now about what we can do to make our Legion a better organization, our nation a better place to live and our Armed Forces a better life for the past, the present and the future soldiers. Our nation and our Armed Forces need us more now than ever before. So with this in mind, think about this coming November’s Elections. Are we registered to vote and to fulfill our obligations that was won for us by those who served before us. It doesn't matter what political party any of us belong to, as long as we get out there and vote. Many have fought and died to get us this right, so please use it. Have a voice in our government, we have earned it.

I hope this letter has found everyone as well as possible and I will keep each and every one of you in my prayers. I will be getting cards this month, so starting next month, I will be able to send out "Get Well" and "Sympathy" cards.

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

Past Commander Jerald Bass 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 Swarengin GR09
Charity Boedeker GR1982

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.

Sincerely yours;

David Boedeker
Chaplain
Phone: +49 (03221) 2274818
E-Mail: Dbgubfighter4@gmail.com
GR01 Recruitment Drive

Paris Post #1 donates $500 to the Boy Scouts (with $100 of it personally funded by Mr. Claude Dahan).

Paris Post #1 participates in an Information Fair in Brussels to spread the word of The American Legion, Veterans Service Organization -- how we are chartered to assist our community and keep the memory alive of those who served.

Paris Post FR01 Commander at their Scout table at the Info Fair....He was working double duty.

Paris Post FR01
Attached are some photos from the ceremony at King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon where the Distinguished Service Cross (DFC), awarded posthumously to Corporal Michael J. O'Connell, a Roscommon native, for actions in WW I was donated by his family to the Connagught Rangers Military Museum at the King House. Corporal O'Connell, while serving with Company D, 101st Infantry Regiment, 26th Division, AEF near Epieds, France on 23 July 1918, along with two fellow soldiers, volunteered to cross an open field in front of their Company to ascertain the location of enemy machine-guns. While engaged in this endeavor, all three were shot and killed. Corporal O'Connell is buried at Moore cemetery, near Ballinasloe, Co. Roscommon. The US Military Attaché, Lt Col Sean Cosden, USAF represented the American Ambassador at this historic event. Legionnaires, Sean Taheney, Michael Slyman, Ron Howko, John Martin, Brendan Dodd (Dublin), Liam Kane (Dublin), John Casey, Gerry Duignan, Tom Kelly and Michael Noone conducted a flag folding ceremony and presented same to Mr. Frank Turley, nephew of Corporal O'Connell. Brendan Dodd sounded TAPS on his trusty bugle. Ed Sommers, Royal Australian Army, a Vietnam Veteran and Sergeant John Waller, Royal Air Force (retired) were also present. A display case containing the DFC, a Purple Heart and other memorabilia associated to Corporal O'Connell was accepted by Mr. Tom Crosby, CC, Mayor of Roscommon on behalf of the people of County. Deputy Frank Feighan, TD, who, if you recall, was our host at the Dail Trip on 7 December last year, also attended. American Legion Post 76 in Jamacia Plains, Massachusetts in named in honor Corporal O'Connell while Post 64 in Middleboro, MA is named after Sergeant Simeon L. Nickerson one of the soldiers killed alongside O'Connell. There is a serious move in Massachusetts piloted by well known State politicians and Bob Lessard, Commander, American Legion Post 64, to have the DSC awarded to all three heroes upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

A special recognition and thanks to the Turley family for graciously donating their cherished mementoes.

Michael Noone