



## DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE

BELGIUM-DENMARK-ENGLAND-FRANCE-GREECE-IRELAND-ITALY-NETHERLANDS-PORTUGAL-SPAIN-CHINA 01-THAILAND-GERMANY

Volume 17 / Issue 01 -- January 2019



*Happy New Year!*



## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER...James Dennis



Fellow Legionnaires and Legion families,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. Now is time we get back to business.

I have asked the Posts in the Department to send in invitation letters from the installations in their areas where the National Commander wishes to visit. To my knowledge, none have been sent to the Department Adjutant or Assistant Adjutant. I do not know where the problem is. We need these documents by the end of the month. They all still need to be sent to National. If we do not receive them, it is a possibility that the National Commander can not visit your area. Then the

Department must make other plans for the National Commander's visit. Please get those documents in by the end of the month.

We are doing a few Awareness drives this month. VCAL. Brown has the list and dates. This does not mean that your Post can not do an Awareness drive on your own. The Department is always available to assist you if needed. I challenge each post to do an Awareness drive in the next couple months. Why? Every post wants to grow in membership and continue their programs. Without members, your Post will disappear as many before you. We have many Posts in this position today. Therefore, we are working hard to keep as many Posts up and running.

We, as the Department, only need 600+ members for the 100%. This may look like a lot of members but if every post would recruit 5 members and renew members from your Post, we would be well over the top. Looking at the Department membership report, 11 of our Posts have made their 100% for this year and 6 Posts have not made 50% yet. Those who have not made at least 50% is sad. I would like to know why. If you need assistance, ask. You are only hurting your Post and your members.

I hope to hear about some Oratorical contests and winners for the Department contest in February. 23 February 2019 in Stuttgart is our Oratorical Contest, place it in your calendars. Please send the name of the contestant, Post representing the contestant, and the School the contestant is representing to the Adjutant and assistant Adjutant. We hope to have 5 or 6 contestants this year.

Let us not forget that March is around the corner. We have:

*9 March 2019 Detachment Executive Meeting in Heilbronn, Germany*

*15-17 March Centennial in Paris, France (More information as I receive it)*

*23 March 2019 Department Executive Meeting in Ansbach, Germany*

Other programs coming up in the few months

*Boys and Girls State*—please contact Terrill Roberts at [robertszoo2@earthlink.net](mailto:robertszoo2@earthlink.net)

*Memorial Day in Saint Avoild, France*—If you are going to lay a wreath in the ceremony, contact the Department Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant to get your information in.

James Dennis / Commander / Department of France



## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS – 2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

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Newsletter Editor...*David N. Greaux*

**REMINDER...all newsletter articles should be turned in prior to months end!**

[Davidg1959@t-online.de](mailto:Davidg1959@t-online.de)



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE *Joe D. Brown*

*GR01 Christmas Party...Three new members in front row*



*GR01 Christmas Party...Auxiliary members in attendance*



*GR05 Membership Meeting*



*GR07's newest member*



*GR14's Christmas Party*



# Department of France Past Commanders Club



PCC President Leland Zickuhr

[zickuhr.leland@gmail.com](mailto:zickuhr.leland@gmail.com)



PCC Secretary Raymond Perez Jr.

[Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com](mailto:Raymond.perezjr@yahoo.com)

## 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

Our next meeting is planned in conjunction with the Department of France Third DEC 2019



## Margraten Post NL01

Greetings Legionnaires!

Remember to "LIKE" our [FB page](#)

Link to the Newsletter:

<https://www.members.legion.org/IMAGES/MYLEGION/newsletters/FRNL01NEWSLETTER.PDF>

Thank you all for great participation in all the meetings and ceremonies! It was an outstanding effort from everyone! I couldn't be prouder!!

Your Commander / Ray Perez





## **DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE 2019 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

**By now most everyone knows about the new American Legion Membership Incentive Program, (to each Post a \$5.00 bounty for every 2014, 2015, and 2016 delinquent member that a Post signs up).**



**Well, the Department of France is going to take this Membership Incentive Program one step further.**

**If the Department of France surpasses the 105% National Membership Goal by close of business (1700hrs Central European Time) on May 1, 2019, each Post in the Department of France will receive a \$1.00 rebate for each of it's members.**

**This incentive program is totally separate from and is not connected in any way to the Department of France monetary award program as set forth in the Department Awards Manual.**





# THE AMERICAN LEGION *Centennial celebration*

*e-newsletter*



Eddie M. Guevara / Chairman Homeless Veterans

## **Department of France Chairman Homeless Veterans**

***Did you know:*** Veterans make up 16 percent of our nation's total adult homeless population?

The American Legion understands this cause is a huge concern and has put forth the Homeless Veterans Task Force to urge each State Department to work with their local public and private sector agencies and organizations to ensure local services and resources are available to homeless veterans and their families.

To help our struggling brothers-in-arms, the Legion works on a global level, lobbying for legislation affecting veteran homelessness, and acts on a local level, directly assisting veterans who have fallen on tough times and are without a place to live or facing the prospect of it.

Our Department Homeless Veterans Chairman, Eddie Guevara collaborates with homeless service providers and veterans' service organizations to develop and implement initiatives that will help homeless veterans.

A veteran who is homeless or facing possible homelessness can contact our Department Chairman or their local [American Legion Post](#), who will provide guidance and assistance to the veteran and his or her family.

For all inquiries on veteran homelessness and Legion outreach efforts, contact:

**Department Homeless Veterans Chairman Eddie Guevara**

**Email:** [ps0.guevara@gmail.com](mailto:ps0.guevara@gmail.com) /Cell Phone: +15121244628



# *National High School* **Oratorical Contest**

*The Department Oratorical Finals will be conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, of February 2019. The location of the Department Oratorical will be Panzer Kaserne at the New High School (Böblingen by Stuttgart) . The event will begin at 1300 hours, and the Oratorical contestants must be present NLT (Not Later Than) 1200 hours all times are in CET (Central European Time)*

*Those Post that have contestants participating in the Department Oratorical Finals, please provide me with their Names, affiliated schools, and Post. Please provide this information to me NLT 25 January 2019. If your Post Oratorical Contest is conducted after 25 January 2019 please let me know and we will extend the required provide date.*



*James M. Settle  
NECMan Department of France  
Assistant Adjutant*



A program of  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Americanism and Children & Youth Division

Article# 133AC10995



# Department of France



President / Sonja Dennis

Dear Legionnaires and Auxiliary...Happy New Year

First, I like to say Thank You for all the best wishes from my sickness and inviting for the Christmas party's I enjoyed the days and the food was very good. I hope you had a good Christmastime and all your dreams and wishes came through.

I had a bad year with all the sickness. I wanted to do so much, but the doctor did not allow me to. I was in danger of having a heart attack. I felt so bad about it. But now I am back, and I can do a lot more. I will check with my doctor to find out when I can do more because of my operation.

So, back to work we have a lot to do. I would like the Post Chaplains, Unit Chaplains, Squadron Chaplains, Department Chaplain, Detachment Chaplain, and District Chaplain to send me a list of your members that has gone to Post everlasting this year (June 2018- June 2019). I need the Name of the member, the Post/ Unit/ Squadron, and if a member from the Post/ Unit/ Squadron will be attending the Department Convention. I want to start to get ready for the Memorial Service by preparing the flowers. It takes me time to do this. I found out a lot of members passed away already. I want to be ready before the Convention. This coming Convention I like to do the Memorial Service a little different.

Also, I like to go back to Landstuhl USO with Cakes. A Flyer will be sent out when that will be happening, and it will be in the Newsletter. So, you will have time to talk to your Unit and Post. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members are welcome to go with us to this function. The Veterans were so happy when we came by. If you would like to join us, let us know. If you will like to bring a cake, that would be nice but please let us know what kind of cake so we do not have all the same cakes there. Please only bring home made cakes without alcoholic. Alcoholic cakes are not allowed. They do like German chocolate too. The last function was donated from the Auxiliary's. If you don't want to make cakes you can bring chocolates, too. It would be nice to make little present (like in a nice little package). Please no Überraschung eier. They are not allowed.

We have a program, Girl State. If anybody interested to help or donate, please contact me or Secretary Mattson. We have to talk about Girls State at the next DEC and decide on this program. If you don't know about Girl State is in your handbook side 68-69. They explain to you what Girl State means.

Here are our fines in our DEC's and Convention Meetings. Our District Sergeant at arms has this been informed, and will take care of this:

1. Not having Membership Card – 1 Dollar or 1 Euro
2. Not having Membership Pin – 1 Dollar or 1 Euro
3. Being late (depends on circumstance) – 2 Dollar
4. Talking in the meeting – 1 Dollar or 1 Euro

The money we collect will go support the District. We will inform the Ladies at the next DEC about some ideas. We will than incorporate them in the following DEC's and Convention.

I wish you Happy New Year. Be save and carefully driving. Don't drink and drive because I like to see you at the next meeting

God bless you and be save

*Sonja Dennis / President / District of France*

# MEMBERSHIP BOUNTY

**No, we're not talking about  
Paper Towels.**



**We're talking about a real BOUNTY a  
MONEY BOUNTY.**

**Starting now and going until 1 June 2019 The American Legion National Headquarters is  
going to give every Post in The Department of France**



**for every 2014, 2015, and 2016 member they sign back up into The American Legion  
In the week to come National Headquarters will modify MyLegion.org so everyone can see your  
membership rolls from 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019**

Please be reminded that this is an American Legion National Headquarters incentive plan and no money will be coming out of The Department of France account. In mid-June National Headquarters will issue a check to each Post in The Department of France that participated in this incentive plan.

## Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07



### In Memoriam Legionnaire John Odom Sr. Post Everlasting



On 5 December, 2018 Mr. John Odom Sr., a Life Member of American Legion Department of France, Post GR07 joined Post Everlasting. During his numerous years in the legion he served in various positions, including GR07 Post Commander, GR07 Vice Commander, GR07 Chaplain, GR07 Sergeant-In-Arms, GR07 Finance Officer, GR07 Ways & Means Chair, Sons of American Legion (SAL) Commander, and GR07 Auxiliary Chair. He also served as a Department of France Vice Commander and Chaplain, and he was a dedicated Forty & Eight (40/8) member and served as Grande Chef, Grande Amonier and Grande Ritual Director in the 40/8.

John called Mannheim, Germany his “home away from home” and he always participated in military community events to help improve quality of life for Veterans, Service Members and Family Members. He ensured Post GR07 sponsored annual events with the local Department of Defense Schools Europe (DoDDS-E) including American Legion Oratorical Contests, Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) events, and Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances. He was often recognized by military leaders as a VIP at major events such as the naming of “Riley Leroy Pitts” Street at former Funari Barracks in Mannheim, Germany, and at the inauguration of “Riley Leroy Pitts Hall” at Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany.

John leaves behind his family in the United States and he always spoke of his unwavering love for his children, grandchildren and relatives. Our brother, John Odom Sr., will be deeply missed by his fellow Legionnaires, Veterans, Military Service Members, Family Members and Friends, especially in the German communities of Worms, Mannheim, Heidelberg and Wiesbaden.

#### “Eulogy for a Veteran”

From: Post GR07 in Remembrance of Mr. John Odom Sr.

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the Gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the mornings hush, I am the swift uplifting rush,  
of quiet birds in circled flight, I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I did not die.



Source/Author: Unknown; “A Collection of Soldier’s Poems”  
<https://sites.google.com/site/inhonorofourmilitary/a-collection-of-soldier-s-poems>



## Post GR07 General Membership Meetings!

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 3pm at GR07 Post Home

Bldg. # 07005, Crestview Housing Area

Marsweg 3, 65191 Wiesbaden, Germany

Interesting in joining or attending a meeting? Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPostGR07/>



### Riley Leroy Pitts Post GR07

Honors Army Captain Riley Leroy Pitts

An American Hero

Post GR07 is proudly named in honor of Captain Riley Leroy Pitts who was mortally wounded in Vietnam and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. After his company landed in an airmobile assault, several enemy forces opened fire with automatic weapons. Captain Pitts led an assault which overran the enemy positions to reinforce another company engaged against a strong enemy force. As his company moved forward intense fire was received from within 15 meters of his position. His rifle fire proving ineffective against the enemy due to the dense foliage, Pitts picked up an M79 grenade launcher and began pinpointing the targets. Seizing a grenade taken from a captured Viet Cong, he lobbed it at a bunker to his front but it hit the foliage and rebounded. Without hesitation, Pitts threw himself on top of the grenade which, fortunately, failed to explode. He then directed the repositioning of the company to permit friendly artillery to be fired. Upon completion of the fire mission, he again led his men toward the enemy positions, personally killing at least one more Viet Cong. Displaying complete disregard for his personal safety, he maintained continuous fire, pinpointing the enemy's fortified positions, while at the same time directing and urging his men forward, until he was mortally wounded. (Source: Wikipedia)

### Wiesbaden Veterans Affairs Representative Services

Wiesbaden Army Garrison has a Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Advisor located in Building 1023 East, Room 169, on Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany. For more information regarding services and appointments to discuss VA Claims, benefits etc. just call 0611-143-5481323.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Observance

Martin Luther King Holiday will be observed as a U.S. Federal Holiday on 21 January, 2019. Most Wiesbaden Army Garrison facilities will be closed for the holiday, however AAFES, Commissary and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities may be open during limited hours. For more information, please check the Wiesbaden Army Garrison website at:

<http://www.wiesbaden.army.mil/>

**Happy New Year 2019 from Post GR07!**

## Community Monuments and Memorials



<https://www.legion.org/honor/memorialsmonuments>

We have Monuments and Memorials in The Department of France that need to be publicized.

It's as easy as clicking on the above link and it takes 10 minutes to fill out the form. It's that easy.



Let's not hesitate to show the world who we are.

This program may generate outside interest in The Department of France and a possible gain in membership.

*You might be interested in...*

[Legion Website](#)

[Legion Facebook](#)

[FODPAL Website](#)

[FODPAL Facebook](#)

[Alaska Website](#)

[France Website](#)

[France Facebook](#)

[China Post 1 Website](#)

[Hawaii Website](#)

[Hawaii Facebook](#)

[Puerto Rico Facebook](#)

[South Korea Post 37 Facebook](#)

[South Korea Post 38 Facebook](#)

## Ramstein Airmen Embrace Surprise Visit by President Trump, First Lady



*President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump greet members of the military at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)*





## DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

*Detachment Commander Joe D. Brown*  
[ycalbrown50@gmail.com](mailto:ycalbrown50@gmail.com)

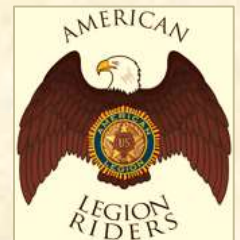


- \* The Third S.A.L. DEC is scheduled for 09 March 2019 hosted by GR79
- \* The S.A.L. Convention will be hosted by GR07 on 08 June 2019



**Lee Preston**

Department of France  
Legion Riders Director  
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Phone: +49 176-70599666



Hi All Legion Riders,

As we all know, not very much has happened this month. We celebrated Christmas and New Years and I hope that everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Upcoming Events; my wife and I will participate in the Erlangen Toy Run again this year. The date for this event is 4 May 2019. I believe that I have located a place for the riders to get together on a weekend this year. I need to get information as soon as possible about riders that would be interested. I am thinking about a season end get together in the September time frame; after the school vacation times end. Please give me an indication of how many would be interested.

As I mentioned last month, the National Commanders visit information is out and Department Commander Dennis has made the request that the Legion Riders provide bus escort during this visit. I will need at least 4 riders for each of the areas being visited within Germany. The National Commander will visit Wiesbaden and Kaiserslautern May 27 – June 1, 2019. I have sent out E-mails to those Post Legion Rider Directors requesting support for this visit. I will send out another E-mail within the next week to confirm the dates. Please speak with your riders about this visit and let me know if you have any riders that might be interested in supporting this event. This will be great visibility for our Legion Riders program and the Department. Thank you for your support!

The next DEC will be hosted by GR 1982 in Ansbach. It will be on 23 March 2019. I hope to see more Legion Riders at this DEC. Again, please bring any donations your post and chapter should have for the Legacy Scholarship fund. Can't wait to see everyone at this DEC.

Again, should any chapter in the Department of France like me to attend a function please let me know with plenty of time for me to plan. I will do my best to attend. Thank you all again for being a part of the Department Legion Riders program.

“For God and Country”



# John Wayne Post GR79

*Flag Disposal Ceremony*



*Dinner for the homeless*



*General Membership Meeting*



*Members visiting Legionnaire McAndrews*



*Christmas gravesite visits*





# FOREIGN AND OUTLYING DEPARTMENTS AND POSTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ALASKA • CANADA • FRANCE • HAWAII • MEXICO • PHILIPPINES • PUERTO RICO • CHINA POST

*Still Serving America's Veterans... Around the World*



It seems that the VA has published the new Disability Rates that shall take effect on 12/1/18 and which we shall begin to receive in January 2019. For your information...

Here is the 12/1/18 Rate Table that takes effect 01 December 2018

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources\\_comp01.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp)

Here is the 12/1/17 Rate Table so you can compare [https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources\\_comp0117.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp0117.asp)

This concerns those of us that are obtaining Disability Compensation from the VA. Or any who plan to file a claim! Right now, on their website the VA shows these Rates-

**Veterans Compensation Benefits Rate Tables - Effective 12/1/17**

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources\\_comp01.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp)

The reason for sending you this Memo is the fact that soon we should see a new Rate Table effective 12/1/18 If you recall past messages on the topic of COLA increases it was based on the MOAA website. Once it's up on the VA website then it's Official.

**The final FY 2018 COLA, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2019, is 2.8 percent**



### **Eagle Scout of the Year...2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship**

Nominations for the 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year are open. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March, 2019. The nomination packet judged best by each respective American Legion Department (state) Selection Committee, along with a list of the members serving on that Selection Committee, must then arrive to American Legion National Headquarters no later than 1 April, 2019.

The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of \$2,500 each. The scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarship immediately upon graduation from high school (public, parochial, military, private, or home school) and must utilize the total award within four (4) years of their graduation date, excluding active military duty or religious mission. Additionally, the American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will join the Youth Champion Delegation that is honored each August at the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

Applicants having questions or seeking additional information about their application or the application process should contact their respective American Legion department (state) headquarters. Contact information for American Legion department (state) headquarters may be obtained at [www.legion.org/departments](http://www.legion.org/departments).

[Download Nomination Form](#)



# David Chavez Post GR1982

## Department of France Conducts PSO Training

*By Estus Smith, Post Adjutant, Post GR1982*

ANSBACH (Germany) - The American Legion Department of France continued its training of Post Service Officers with two days of training in Ansbach-Katterbach, Germany on 1 and 2 December 2018. This training was a follow-up to the one day initial training conducted in March 2018. The training was conducted to get Post Service Officers (PSO) from the various Posts throughout Germany up to date on the latest disability claims information and requirements from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The training took place next door to the newly established offices of the Department Service Officer. The new office is located in the Welcome Center, Building 5818, room 317, 318 and 319, in the USAG Ansbach Katterbach Kaserne. This was a great way to introduce the PSOs to the new DSO facilities.

The primary purpose of the training was to offer deeper training to those Post Service Officers and advance their knowledge, so they can better assist our Veterans. All PSOs within the Department who had completed the first course, offered in March this year, were offered the training.

Department Service Officer (DSO) Frank Phillips and Guest Speaker VA Representative Joshua Gregory conducted the training. Joshua is a Rating Specialist with VA but is currently working as a VA Outreach Officer in Germany for a six-month period.

A total of five PSOs from various areas of Germany attended this training.

The VA Outreach Program is a relatively new program offering Veterans in Europe direct access to VA personnel who can more effectively assist them with questions about disability claims. Veterans in the United States have much more access to the VA programs, as well as direct access to personnel who can answer their questions.

Joshua started the training on Saturday with discussion about the Death and Indemnity Claim (DIC). He also discussed the differences between the DIC and the VA Survivor Benefit or Death Pension. He then went into an extended discussion of some best practices, or as he called it "Do's and Don'ts from a Rater's Point of View".

The next subject was the various ways to submit a claim, including the pros and cons of submitting via US Mail or Fax, as opposed to the online submission. It was explained that any of these methods can be used, but the online submission is usually timelier. Additionally, with the online submission; there is no worry about mail possibly not getting to its destination, or fax machines on either end jamming during transmission.

DSO Frank Phillips discussions started with several forms. Each of these forms was discussed in detail, including which areas the PSOs should watch for problems of omissions or conflicting information. Either of these issues might cause delays in completing the adjudication of a claim by VA.

He also explained several systems available to the PSO/DSO to review Veterans files and to help track the progress of a submitted claim. The individual Veteran can use eBenefits, but the DSO also can access the VA Stakeholders Enterprise Portal (SEP), the Regional Office Cloud database system in Pittsburgh (VetraSpec) and the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) in order to upload files and track progress of submitted claims.

The training entailed how to take care of the Veteran from the very first meeting with the PSO up to their current status. Topics that were also covered were presumptive disabilities (Agent Orange!), education, and almost all the entitlements a Veteran is entitled to.



The Foreign Medical Program portion of the training was taught in depth. This program is not widely known to Veterans and is a tremendous advantage to Veterans living overseas.

The final examination was a combination of live exercises, (Assisting a Veteran from day one to present, including their enrollment in the Foreign Medical Program) and verbal communication skills in answering the examination questions.

DSO Phillips discussed the importance of being a Post Service Officer. He emphasized the importance of the Service Officers role in the community and Post. The PSO is a valuable asset to the Post and is a great instrument for membership enrollments.

The training was very well received by the PSOs. Harvey Briggs, PSO from Gelsenkirchen, GE, expressed his feelings with the comment "This is good training! There is so much positive energy in this group. You can feel it!"

DSO Phillips is already feeling the effects of the better training of PSOs. His workload is increasing. Since the word has gotten out that knowledgeable PSOs are locally available to assist Veterans with claims, there has been a substantial increase in claim submissions.

As DSO, he reviews each claim submission sent by PSOs before they go to VA. The "second set of eyes" on the forms minimizes minor errors which could delay adjudication.

"Previously it was primarily Retired Soldiers and older Veterans who submitted claims. Now, we are getting an increase in Active Duty Reserve Soldiers. Especially those nearing retirement are talking with us and starting to get their information together for a claim." expressed DSO Phillips.

"The biggest selling point for us; is that claims are being adjudicated and that Veterans and Soldiers are getting disability payments in a timely manner." He stated. He explained that such success stories move through the Retired Soldier and Active Duty community very fast. This, of course, brings in additional "customers" with their questions and claims.

He was also quick to mention that the services are available to all Veterans who request assistance. He reminded all PSOs of this fact.

"You can tell them that you are an American Legion PSO, but they are not required to be a Legion member to get your help." Stated Phillips. "Of course, if they express a desire to join, you can certainly assist them with that procedure."

Department Vice Commander Dennis Owens attended the training and was impressed. "With this advanced training, I can apply for my VA disabilities the smart way, and we can actually do what the American Legion is best at - Veterans helping Veterans. I am looking forward to using this new information."

Harvey Briggs also felt good about the training. "This is amazing and it inspired the hell out of me! I left feeling like I wanted to pull in every Vet I see and get them compensation. I truly enjoyed the classes."

The training was completed Sunday afternoon. It appeared that everyone had learned much about the claims process, and how they could better assist Veterans with this process. All who attended returned to their home Posts with an expanded knowledge base, and with an increased desire to assist fellow Veterans.

This advanced level of training will be offered again, hopefully in the Spring of 2019.



David Fredlund, Harvey Briggs, Ross Shepard III, Dennis Owens, Eddie Guevara



VA Rep Joshua Gregory leading the discussion.



Department of France Vice Commander Dennis Owens, VA Rep Joshua Gregory, DSO Frank Phillips



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.

**The next Grande du Germany Promenade is planned for 19 January 2019**

**Hosted by Locale V1467**