



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year. As we have reached a 100th member, 2016 will see many of our membership moving back to the USA. We must maintain vigilance that our membership may significantly decrease. Therefore, I ask each of you to help the Post by becoming a recruiter. If each one of us recruits one new member, we can maintain our membership status.

Another situation I have noticed over the past year is communication to the membership. I had started this newsletter back in April and hopefully kept everyone abreast of the events that we participate. In addition, Vice Commander Paul Dun has initiated a closed Facebook page for information regarding events. At this time we have 58 members in the group. I realize that many members do not do Facebook and that is OK. However, if you do, I welcome you to this page. The last thing I want to do is to inundate everyone with e-mails. As for participation in the Post event, I have stated in the past that I don't expect everyone to participate in the Post events but I do ask if you have the time and opportunity, help where you can.

I wish to personally thank everyone for being a member of the Flanders Field Post BE02.

Oratorical Contest

With the Oratorical Contest, is now less than 3 weeks away (Sat, 23 January), it is time to ask for volunteers for timekeepers, escorts and usher duties. For those members who are working the contest, the rehearsal will start at 0900. The judges and contestants will arrive at 1200 and the contest will begin at 1300.

Needed: Timekeepers (2), Escorts (3-5), Ushers (1-2)



AMERICAN LEGION "FLANDERS FIELD" POST BE02

POST BE02 OFFICERS

Commander: Joseph Schram
flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

1st Vice Commander: Paul Dunn

2nd Vice Commander: Mike Metelko

Judge Advocate: Jeremy Clark

Historian: Karen Himmelheber

Finance Officer: Vacant

Chaplain: Vacant

Post Service Officer: Vacant

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jeff Andrews

LEGION RIDERS

President: Paul Dunn

LEGION AUXILIARY

President: Sarah Dunn

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle

Vice Commander: Carl Hale

FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

Superintendent: Christopher Arseneault

Commander's Vision for 2016

With the arrival of a new year, we look forward to a very active year full of ceremonies, programs and projects. We also look forward to a year of camaraderie with social and fun activities. I have included a list of big activities that we are planning. The events in red are tentative and will depend on the participation of the membership. I believe that 2016 will be an exciting year for the Flanders Post BE02.

1. Post Level Oratorical Contest (23 Jan)
2. 4 Chaplain Sunday (07 Feb)
3. Department Level Oratorical Contest (20 Feb)
4. American Legion Birthday (15 Mar)
5. Spin-a-Thon (12 Mar)
6. EGGtravaganza – Chièvres (19 Mar),
7. Spring Event - Brussels (26 Mar)
8. Boys State / Girls State Selections (31 Mar)
9. Annual General Meeting – Elections (23 Apr)
10. Mother's Day Breakfast at 3-StarLounge (08 May)
11. U.S. Memorial WERETH ceremony (21 May)
12. Chièvres American-Belgium Fest (May)
13. Memorial Day Ceremonies (27-30 May)
14. JROTC Awards Ceremonies – SHAPE (May)
15. JROTC Awards Ceremonies - AFNORTH (Jun)
16. National Commander's Visit (01-04 June)
17. Relay for Life (Jun)
18. Tour of the Alps – Riders (Jun)
19. Department Convention – Bastogne (16-19 June)
20. 4th of July Celebration (04 July)
21. SHAPE Fest (02-04 Sept)
22. American Legion / USO Dance – Borlo (10 Sept)
23. POW/POW Recognition Day (16 Sep)
24. Adopter Appreciation Day (17 Sept)
25. Retiree Appreciation Day – SHAPE (01 Oct)
26. Autumn Fest / Trunk or Treat (31 Oct)
27. Veterans Day Activities (11 Nov)
28. Holiday Party (03 Dec)
29. Bastogne Nuts Parade & BBQ (10 Dec)
30. Orphanage Christmas Party (14 Dec)

National Commander Visit to Belgium , 01-04 June



Dale Barnett of Douglasville, Ga., was elected national commander of the 2.2 million-member American Legion on Sept. 3, 2015, in Baltimore during the 97th National Convention of America's largest veterans organization.

Barnett graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served as an Army infantry officer from 1974-1996, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. A member of American Legion Post 105 in Fayetteville, Ga., he served The American Legion at every level, including Department Commander Georgia from 2007 to 2008. After leaving the military, Barnett taught high school social studies and coached basketball, baseball and cross country. He was the Creekside High School Teacher of the Year in 2005-2006 and a national board certified social studies teacher in 2003.

Post Historian Karen Hemelheber



As 2016 marches in, our Flanders Field chapter approaches its 3-year anniversary of revival after a 20-year break of existence. It is also typically a time of reflection and planning for the future. As I reflect on my first year with BEO2 and look forward to this year, I think about the change we will go through, and I can't help but feel hopeful and excited. This past year, our chapter reached an incredible mark with our number of new members, which I find comforting, as I will be one of the many chapter members who will be moving on by the end of this summer. So what do I believe this will mean for Flanders Field Chapter this year?

Just as any unit, our chapter will change, which is so important for lasting growth. As members of a unit PCS and move to new assignments, units receive 'new blood' as new members arrive. These new troops bring new experiences, new energy and especially new ideas and goals, which will build onto the existing base of civilian and military member and leadership foundation. This year our chapter is looking forward to hosting the regional oratorical contest and the visit of the national commander and our traditional events supporting Flanders Field American Cemetery, the Boy Scouts, Relay for Life, as well as other Legion activities with our BEO2 Riders and Auxiliary groups.

So as we kick off a hopeful new year with American Legion BEO2, we first and foremost thank our members for all the great support and camaraderie during 2015. Then as we will say a fond farewell to quite a few members this year, including my daughter and me, who are moving back to the States or on to new assignments in Europe, I'm personally excited about meeting, welcoming and getting to know our new members. I feel so good about the experience, energy, ideas and memories you will bring to BEO2 continuing to create an exciting history for our Flanders Field Chapter. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Your Historian,
LTC Karen Himmelheber
Chapter BEO2
American Legion, American Legion Riders, American Legion Auxiliary

Voter Assistance

Elections are important and as citizens of the United States of America, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well

We are working with the USAG Benelux Voting Assistance Office to encourage all Americans to register and vote in all elections. Our trained Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) ensure that citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) understand their voting rights, how to register and vote absentee, and provide accurate nonpartisan voting information and assistance.

If you need any assistance with your with registration or voting, please contact us at:
flanders.fields.post.beo2@gmail.com

Hail & Farewells: Oct-Dec

Hails:

New Members:

- Velma Haggan
- Sunny Anderson
- Brent Pena
- Mark Vaynberg
- Stacy Turnipseed
- Miguel Gonzalez
- Ivory Bibbs
- David Caranci
- Petra-Michelle Altmeyer

Veteran's Day, 11 Nov

Members of the American Legion Post BE02 family participated in this year's Ieper (Ypres) parade and ceremony. Each year the post represents the United States at this ceremony at the Menin Gate. VIPs included the US Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Belgians, Denise Bauer

At a second ceremony at the Flanders Field American Cemetery; Boy Scouts, local citizens and members of the American Legion Riders paid tribute to our fallen during the Veterans Day 2015 Ceremony.

A Young Lady from Waregem adopted a grave (American Legion Post BE02's Adopt-a-Grave program) of a US Soldier at the Flanders Field American Cemetery:

<http://www.een.be/progr.../iedereen-beroemd/een-graf-adopteren>



Post 3E02 Holiday Party

Each year, the members of the post and their families come together for holiday cheer and friendship. This year the Post's membership met at the 3-Star lounge at the USAG Brussels facility. We enjoyed a meal of turkey, ham and pulled pork along with the holiday trimmings. The junior auxiliary members helped bring cheer to the event by wrapping gifts for the upcoming Orphanage Christmas



Bastogne: 12 Dec

Commander Schram and SAL Vice Commander Hale participated in the Bastogne Nut's parade and a ceremony held at the Patton memorial. They had the opportunity to honor the sacrifice of the soldiers who fought during the defense of Bastogne in December 1944 by laying a wreath.



ORPHANAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

58 children received a special visit from Santa and received gifts during the annual Orphanage Christmas Party on Chièvres Airbase on Wednesday, 16 December. Before Santa arrived, the children had the opportunity to participate in a number of activities arranged by our Legion Auxiliary. The children also had the chance to eat American style cuisine (Hotdogs and Hamburgers) prepared by our own Legion Rider. Santa arrived this year by motorcycle and presented the children with holiday cheer.



Upcoming Events & Activities

How you can help.

Saturday, 23 Jan: Post Oratorical Contest

Needed: Timekeepers (2), Escorts (3-5), Ushers (1-2)

Sunday, 07 Feb: Four Chaplain's Sunday

We are planning with the community chaplains to conduct a Four Chaplains Sunday event. We need help conducting this event at the USAG Benelux chapel and at the USAG Benelux Chapel. More details to follow.

Saturday, 20 Feb: Dept Oratorical Contest

Post BEO2 is hosting the Dept level Oratorical Contest at the Brussels American School. For those members who can help work the contest, the rehearsal will start at 0900. The judges and contestants will arrive at 1200 and the contest will begin at 1300.

Needed: Timekeepers (2), Escorts (3-5), Ushers (1-2)

Saturday, 19 Mar: EGGtravaganza – Chièvres

The event is an Easter Egg hunt of the children of the SHAPE / Chièvres community.

Saturday, 26 Mar: Spring Event - Brussels

The event is an Easter Egg hunt of the children of the NATO/USAG Brussels community.

Department of France Convention

Houffalize, Belgium, 16–19 June

The Flanders Field Post BEO2 will be hosting the 2016 Department of France convention in Houffalize (the Bastogne area) from 16-19 June 2016. We need help members to help set up the meeting rooms, transportation, reception., etc.

Preamble to the Constitution

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE
ASSOCIATE OURSELVES
TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING
PURPOSES:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- To maintain law and order;
- To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- To make right the master of might;
- To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



**American Legion
Boys State / Girls State**

The American Legion Post BEO2 and the American Legion Auxiliary would like to announce their sponsorship of their 2016 Boys State and Girls State program. American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are the premier programs for teaching how government works, while developing leadership skills and an appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

LINKS

American Legion Post BEO2 Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbeo2/home>

Flanders Field Post BEO2 Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Flanders-Fields-Post-BEO2/152286224925159

American Legion Riders - Flanders Field Chapter BEO2

www.facebook.com/legionridersflandersbeo2

Flickr account: (Pictures of Post BEO2 events)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/130086797@No8/sets/>

Flanders Field Post BEO2 Youtube website (Videos of Post BEO2 events):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHayGVazQv_uT-7u7Dy7Z8g

Adopt-a-Grave program's website:

<http://www.sitemn.gr/adoptagraveflandersfield/HOMECONTACT.php>

The American Legion Centennial Celebration

<http://centennial.legion.org/>

Event Calendar: January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Post Level Oratorical Contest
24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29	30