The American Legion
Flanders Field Post BE02

COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

We started September with a membership / information table at the SHAPE fest on Saturday, 05 September. Comrade Wellington was very helpful throughout the day however after sitting there for 5 ½ hours no one visited our table.

Post BE02 was honoured to be part of the Borlo liberation ceremony conducted on Sunday, 13 September. Commander Schram had the opportunity to meet with Helen Patton, the grand daughter of General George Patton of WWII fame.

To remember POWs and MIAs, Post BE02 presented the table of the missing Soldier at the AAFES PX on Chiévres on Friday, 19 September.

The September general meeting concluded with a BBQ hosted by the Legion Riders. It was a great day for membership with the recruitment of 6 new members and 1 transfer.

The will be a general meeting and a BBQ on Saturday, 24 October starting at 10:30. The meeting will be in the 3-star lounge on USAG Brussels. Families are invited as well as future members. Please join us for some great fellowship.

Increase in Dues

A $5 per-capita annual national dues increase was passed at the 97th National Convention in Baltimore. It takes effect Jan. 20, 2016. The new rate is projected to last 10 years without another increase. The last national per-capita dues increase was passed in 2006 and took effect in 2007; it will have lasted nine years.

This increase in national dues would affect the amount of revenue that we obtain from our dues. At present the $30 dues, the post is able to retain $10.50 from each member. With this increase, we would only retain $5.50.

Therefore, at our last meeting on Saturday, 26 September, we voted for an increase dues to $35 per year. This will take effect on 01 January 2016.
The American Legion Auxiliary, Flanders Fields Post BE02, has been focusing its efforts on recruiting and developing active membership. The Auxiliary faced its first challenge when it lost three key executive board members due to relocation back stateside. This occurred almost immediately after receiving its charter in June and, as such, has been working hard meeting recruitment goals. Since then, the Auxiliary Post BE02 has grown from the original 11 founding members to 21 senior members and three junior members. The President, Sarah Dunn, and the Treasurer, Beckie Metelko, will be representing the American Legion Auxiliary Post BE02 for the first time at the Department Executive Committee, scheduled to take place in Heilbronn, Germany on October 17th. Also in October, the Auxiliary will support activities for the American Legion Riders BBQ at the Brussels community Trunk or Treat event and hold elections of executive board members for the 2016 calendar year.

Chaplain’s Corner

Chaplain Gavin Wainwright is leaving us and heading back to the USA. He joined the American Legion in 2013 as the third member of the newly revitalized Post BE02 and has been instrumental in the growth and accomplishments of the post. I would like to personally thank Chaplain Wainwright for his help and guidance for the past 3 years. Without your faithful service and dedication, Flanders Field Post BE02 would be far less then it is today. Gavin is truly symbolizes the American Legion motto:

Veterans serving Veterans

Auxiliary President Sarah Dunn

"The American Legion Auxiliary, Flanders Fields Post BE02, has been focusing its efforts on recruiting and developing active membership. The Auxiliary faced its first challenge when it lost three key executive board members due to relocation back stateside. This occurred almost immediately after receiving its charter in June and, as such, has been working hard meeting recruitment goals. Since then, the Auxiliary Post BE02 has grown from the original 11 founding members to 21 senior members and three junior members. The President, Sarah Dunn, and the Treasurer, Beckie Metelko, will be representing the American Legion Auxiliary Post BE02 for the first time at the Department Executive Committee, scheduled to take place in Heilbronn, Germany on October 17th. Also in October, the Auxiliary will support activities for the American Legion Riders BBQ at the Brussels community Trunk or Treat event and hold elections of executive board members for the 2016 calendar year.”

Legion Riders

The American Legion Riders held a ride following the American Legion BBQ on September 26, 2015. The ride was an excellent success, with 13 motorcycles in attendance; traveling to the Open House event hosted by the Harley Davidson West Flanders Dealership and the Harley Owners Group (HOG) Flanders Field Chapter. There were hundreds of bikers at the event, with live music, food and drinks available. In addition to the American Legion BBQ ride, the ALR had other various destinations throughout the month, including representation at the HOG Rally in Aviemore, Scotland. The American Legion Riders are always planning small rides and welcome all bikers to join us in this experience. Simply request to be added to our Facebook "Open Rides” page at the following address:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/378780348939404/
The American Legion held a General Meeting on September 26, 2015 at the 3-Star Lounge on the Brussels Garrison; with representatives from the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Riders in attendance. Upon completion of this meeting, the American Legion Riders hosted a BBQ, free to all potential American Legion Members and their families. The BBQ was an incredible success, in which the American Legion signed 6 new members, the American Legion Riders transferred one new member, and the American Legion Auxiliary signed one new member. Everyone had a great time; with music, darts, billiards, and even movies for the kids. With such a successful event, the American Legion has decided to repeat this event at the next General Meeting, scheduled for October 24, 2015. The Meeting will be held once again on the USAG BENELUX – Brussels site at the 3-Star Lounge with a BBQ to follow. The BBQ will be free to all Legionnaires and their families, as well as all potential American Legion Members. That said, make sure you bring a friend!
Hail & Farewells: Sept

Hails:

Transfers:
- Jose Lopes
- Clyde McNally

New Members:
- Eric Welch
- Anthony Nasuti
- Audrey Nasuti
- Joseph Perkin
- Jared Christopherson
- Autumn Gebolys
- David Coldwell
- Thomas Buckner
- Laura Buckner

Last month I wrote about the eligibility requirements to become a SAL member. As an easy reminder, if you are a son or a grandson of a U.S. Military veteran who served during a time of war then you are eligible to be a SAL member. If you are a daughter or granddaughter of a U.S. Military veteran then The American Legion Auxiliary is your path to supporting your military community within the American Legion Family. The Flanders Field Post Legion Family includes the SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Riders – a truly great community organization very much worth supporting.

You are probably asking what is the mission of a SAL member. The Duty of SAL members can simply be to support the Legion Post in its activities. SAL members honor the military service and keep alive the memory of their mother or father, grandmother or grandfather. SAL members meet together and decide together on their activities, either together with the Legion Post or as separate SAL hosted activities.

SAL members can be a wreath bearer or an usher at Patriotic ceremonies. SAL members can read the prayer or a special poem during the ceremonies. They can help install the flags at the cemetery before the Memorial Day ceremony. Or volunteer to help an older veteran who has no other family members. SAL members can also plan their own events like fundraisers for a good cause or fun activities together. They can decide to participate in The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports program or American Legion Baseball. SAL members compete for scholarships within the Legion Youth programs like the annual Oratorical contest or the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout of the Year award.

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) is organized with it’s own “Squadron” Commander, Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplain, and other Officer positions similar to a Legion Post. The SAL Squadron should meet monthly or at least quarterly to plan activities and coordinate support plans of the Legion Post. If you would like to learn more about the SAL and receive a free electronic copy of the SAL Squadron Handbook, please send an email to me at CRLHL@HOTMAIL.COM and I will happily reply to your email. Thank you for your time. I look forward to meeting you one day. For Veterans, God and Country.
Upcoming Events & Activities:  
How you can help.

Saturday, 24 Oct: General Meeting & BBQ

Saturday, 31 Oct: Trunk or Treat - Chiévres Airbase

We are planning to have a membership table at the AAFES PX before the Trunk or Treat event. We will need help at this table as well as during the Trunk or Treat. We are also looking for donations of candy.

Tuesday, 10 Nov: Passchendaele Evening Ceremony

Wednesday, 11 Nov: Veteran’s Day Poppy Parade - Ieper

We will be representing the United States during this event. We need 11 members to help carry the flags (US, 4 Divisional flags, Legion Family: Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Riders, POW/MIA). The parade starts at 11:00 at the Cathedral. We will meet at the train station at 10:00.

Saturday, 05 Dec: Holiday Party at the 3-Star Lounge on USAG Brussels.

Saturday, 12 Dec: Bastogne Nut’s Parade

This is the first year that we will be represented at this event. We will begin by helping with the perimeter walk registration. We will then march in the Nut’s Parade latter that day. I need at least 5 people to help with this events.

Wednesday, 16 Dec: Orphanage Christmas Party

The Flanders Field Post BE02 will be hosting this event this year. We will be working closely with the Benelux PAO to provide a memorable experience for these children. We would like to provide a BBQ (hotdogs & hamburgers), games and other activities for the children. We will also try to get other organizations involved with this event.
SHAPE Fest, 05 Sept

Comrade Wellington Jose at SHAPE Fest

Borlo Liberation Ceremony, 13 Sept

Borlo Liberation Ceremony

Borlo’s Wall of Honor

Commander Schram & Helen Patton

POW/ MIA Recognition Day, 19 September

POW/ MIA Recognition Day
GENERAL MEETING & BBQ, SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, USAG BRUSSELS

Comrade Taylor

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.
ORATORICAL
CONTEST

23 JANUARY 2016

Our 3rd annual Post Oratorical Contest is scheduled for Saturday, 23 January 2016 at the Brussels American High School. This is our signature event for the year so your help would be greatly appreciated. We will also be hosting the Department of France’s Oratorical Contest sometime in February.

LINKS

American Legion Post BE02 Website:
https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbe02/home

Flanders Field Post BE02 Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Flanders-Fields-Post-BE02/192286224925159

American Legion Riders - Flanders Field Chapter BE02
www.facebook.com/legionridersflandersbe02

Flickr account: (Pictures of Post BE02 events)
https://www.flickr.com/photos/130086797@N08/sets/

Flanders Field Post BE02 Youtube website (Videos of Post BE02 events):
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCavGVazOtq77Dv72Z8g

Adopt-a-Grave program’s website:
http://www.sitemn.gr/adoptagraveflandersfield/HOMECONTACT.php

The American Legion Centennial Celebration
http://centennial.legion.org/

Event Calendar: October 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Retirement Appreciation Day: SHAPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brussels Info Fair @US Embassy</td>
<td>Retirement Appreciation Day: Schinnen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Department Executive Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>General Meeting &amp; BBQ USAG Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Briefing: Brunssum</td>
<td>VA Briefing: Brussels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trunk or Treat - USAG Brussels</td>
<td>Trunk or Treat - Chiévres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>