



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I must first apologize to the membership for not providing a newsletter for some time.

Working as the Commander for Post BE02 is like a full time job. Each day, I coordinate and attend a number of events, rectify situations, and take care of the daily business of the Post. But I love doing what I do. It is a passion because I believe in what we do and what the American Legion stands for.

I would like to thank to our members who have stepped up and helped us during the past year. Your contribution was paramount to our success. We understand that we are in Europe, you have families and you work.

Membership: Last summer's PCSs and PPDs were a devastating blow to our membership. Almost half out the Post's membership moved back to the USA. However, this does not prevent our Legionaries in the USA from being a part of our Post. Your dues help us maintain our Americanism and Child & Youth programs. And your membership adds to voice of over two million Legionaries in Washington

Communication: As many of you are aware, Post BE02 uses Facebook as a communication tool. In our closed site, we provide information regarding upcoming events and activities. We also use Facebook messenger to communicate in a one-to-one basis. While Facebook is a social media site, it has proven to be an effective communication tool. If you have a Facebook account and want to be added to this Post BE02 closed site, contact Commander Joseph Schram or 1st Vice Commander Paul Haney.

Another communication tool is the use of e-mails. We have a least one e-mail account. This newsletter and any updates will be sent out by e-mail. Hopefully, I can keep the e-mails down to a minimum. As for the monthly newsletter, I have been amiss in getting this out on time. If you would like to help with the monthly newsletter please let me know.

Needed: Webpage manager



AMERICAN LEGION "FLANDERS FIELD" POST BE02

POST BE02 OFFICERS

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

1st Vice Commander: Paul Haney

2nd Vice Commander: Thomas Buckner

Judge Advocate: Jeremy Clark

Historian: Miguel Gonzales

Finance Officer: Laura Buckner

Chaplain: Josh Alo

Post Service Officer: Joseph Schram

Sergeant-at-Arms: Tony

LEGION RIDERS

President: Paul Dunn

LEGION AUXILIARY

President: Morgan Buckner

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle

FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

Superintendent: Christopher
Arseneault

Commander's Vision for 2017

With the arrival of the 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. I believe that 2017 will be an exciting year for the Flanders Post BE02.

1. Post Level Oratorical Contest (28 Jan)
2. 4 Chaplain Sunday (07 Feb)
3. Department Level Oratorical Contest (25 Feb)
4. Boys State / Girls State Selections (28 Feb)
5. American Legion Birthday (15 Mar)
6. Adopt-a-Grave Ceremony—Ieper (06 Apr)
7. EGGtravaganza – Chièvres (15 Apr),
8. Spring Event - Brussels (15 Mar)
9. Annual General Meeting – Elections (May)
10. U.S. Memorial WERETH ceremony (13 May)
11. Mother's Day Breakfast at 3-StarLounge (14 May)
12. Chièvres American-Belgium Fest (May-June)
13. Memorial Day Ceremonies (25-30 May)
14. JROTC Awards Ceremonies – SHAPE (May), AFNORTH (Jun)
15. National Commander's Visit (06-08 June)
16. Relay for Life (Jun)
17. Department of France Convention – Ludwigshafen, GE (15-18 June)
18. 4th of July Celebration (01-04 July)
19. SHAPE Fest (02-04 Sept)
20. American Legion / USO Dance – Borlo (10 Sept)
21. POW/MIA Recognition Day (16 Sep)
22. Adopter Appreciation Day (17 Sept)
23. Retiree Appreciation Day – Schinnen (Oct)
24. Retiree Appreciation Day – SHAPE (Oct)
25. Autumn Fest / Trunk or Treat: Brussels (31 Oct)
26. Trunk or Treat: Chièvres (31 Oct)
27. Veterans Day Activities (11 Nov)
28. Holiday Party (Dec)
29. Bastogne Nuts Parade, BBQ & USO Dance (Dec)
30. Orphanage Christmas Party (Dec)

National Commander to Visit Belgium , 06-08 June



Charles E. Schmidt was elected national commander of American Legion on Sept. 1, 2016, in Cincinnati during the 98th national convention.

Schmidt enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1965 and served on active duty until his retirement in 1993. During that time he advanced from an administrative clerk to a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Officer Training School, earning a commission and assignments to Executive Support Officer positions at major headquarters. His Air Force assignments took him to Oregon, California, Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, England, Germany, Philippines and Vietnam.

Schmidt served as the Department of Oregon commander from 2004-2005, and he's served at every level of the Legion, including National Executive Committeeman from 2005-2016.

What It Means to Recruit by Paul Haney, 1st Vice Commander Post BE02

Before I worked for the civil service I was involved in the insurance industry and maintained several positions such as District Manager for one company and Area Director over the State of Mississippi for another. One of my main functions was to recruit new agents to my company. I was quite successful but many of my colleagues and peers struggled with their recruiting numbers. They would constantly ask me, "How in the world are you so successful at recruiting and we struggle every month?" My first answer to them was always, "I recruit where I stand and I am always looking for those who are looking for me". Their response was always an emphatic "WHAT???" What in the world does that even mean???"

Once I explained what I was talking about, they completely understood. Essentially I told them that I sold out to the insurance company. I WAS the insurance company and I was always looking for new talent. Even more, I was looking for those who were "hungry" and searching for a different, if not better, opportunity to change their and their family's lives. It didn't matter if I was standing in line at the checkout in Kroger or having dinner at a restaurant, I was always searching for the best and brightest.

The second thing I would tell them is that I enlisted help from those agents who were successful within our company (essentially I was creating new leadership within our ranks). The third thing I would tell my colleagues is that you have to fully understand and embrace why recruiting is so important. Recruiting is the lifeblood of every organization and without it, attrition will take its toll. I took that to heart and prided myself in insuring that I did my part to help grow the companies I worked for.

Part of my responsibility as an American Legion officer is of course recruiting and during the course of the last year or so, we lost a great number of members to...you got it, that nasty word "attrition". It has been a daunting task to replenish those numbers. We are making headway but we could use your help. As members, we joined for our own personal reasons. For me, it was because I wanted to give something back to those who have provided me with so much. I want to always have an outstretched hand for my brother and sister Veterans who paved the way for us, those who I served with as well as those who are serving and yet to serve. I also want to set an example and have a positive influence on the young people we make contact with through our volunteerism for they are our future. Just like when I worked for those insurance companies, I've sold out. I've sold out to the American Legion. I AM a Legionnaire.

As I stated before, we could use your help. I'm not asking anyone to set the world on fire or set new records. What I am asking is if each one of you would commit to recruiting one person in 2017...two if possible. What are we looking for? We are looking for those who are looking for us.

Will you join me?

Membership

Membership in The American Legion for year 2017 is already going into its third month. At this time Flanders Field Post is at 81% renewal compared to last year's 120%. Some of our members have moved back to the USA and may think that they cannot be a member of our Post. We have a number of members from the US who have remained members of Post BE02. Theirs and your dues help us with our Americanism and Child & Youth programs. We would like to keep you as a member of the American Legion and especially Post BE02. Help support our effort, renew today.



1. The easiest and fastest method is to go to <http://www.legion.org/renew> and renew on line.
2. The second method is to deposit your dues (\$35) in our Andrews Federal Credit Union account (820191021). If you opt for this method, please ensure that you have the teller put your name on the transaction. In this way, I can determine who has deposited the funds.
3. And finally, you can mail me a check for \$35 at one of the following

Joseph Schram
attn.: American Legion
Unit 28100, Box 017
APO AE 09714

Joseph Schram
attn.: American Legion
Meersenstraat 33 2C
8310 Assebroek
Belgium

Oratorical Contest



Post BEO2 conducted their 4th annual Oratorical Contest on Saturday, 28 January. Our Flanders Field Post BEO2's 2017 Oratorical Contest winner is Amanda Macauley from AFNORTH American High School

Amanda went to compete at the Department Oratorical Contest on 25 February against contestants from Lakenheath High School (EG02) and Ansbach High School (GR1982)

Amanda outstanding performance won her a second place and a scholarship of \$750. We wish Amanda all the best in her future endeavors.

Congratulations to our 2017 Boys State / Girls State Candidates

Girls State:

Grace Baxter - BAS
Melany Macauley – AFNORTH

Boys State:

Dominic DeFazio - BAS
Kylar Cade - Lakenheath

Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors.

The Girls State program will be conducted from June 18 - 23 at Salisbury University , Maryland

The Boys State program will be conducted from June 18 -24 at McDaniel College, Westminster, Maryland

American Legion Post BEO2 2017 Kickoff Meeting

This will be our kickoff meeting before the Taste Testing that begins at 6:00 p.m. We will be getting together for a low key event to have a couple of drinks, talk shop and maybe shoot a game of pool afterwards. We are looking forward to seeing you. Feel free to invite a friend.

Saturday, 25 March at 4:00 pm

Jurbise Conway's

Route d'Ath 366, 7050 Jurbise



Post BEO2 Tasting Party

You are cordially invited to join the Flanders Field Post BEO2 for a night of taste testing on Saturday, March 25, 2017 beginning at 6:00 p.m. where you will have an opportunity to share and taste all of the favorite liquors (whiskey, vodka, etc.), beers, wines and cheeses among our membership, so bring your favorite. There will be appetizers and setups as well. Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can get an accurate count of those participating. We look forward to sharing the evening with you.

The address and phone number is:

Rue du Chat Sauvage, 9

7050, Herchies

0470/57.87.31

Please RSVP to Paul Haney: haneyps@gmail.com



Happy Birthday 98th Birthday

The American Legion will be 98 years old on 15 March and Flanders Field Post BE02 wants to celebrate this event

On Wednesday, 15 March, we will provide a birthday cake from 1100-1400 at the following places:

- 3-Star recreation lounge, USAG Brussels compound
- AAFES PX, Chièvres Airbase

Come out and join us for this delicious event



If you are a SCUBA diver or want to be one, join our new activity. If interested contact either Laura Buckner or Commander Schram



This year the ceremony will take place at Wereth, Belgium on Saturday May 13th, 2017 at 11 AM.

For more information and a RSVP form go to: www.wereth.org

A tribute to eleven WW II G.I.s of the 333d U.S. Field Artillery Battalion and to all African-American soldiers who served during World War II.

On Sep 11, 1994, Hermann Langer erected a small stone cross to remember the eleven black G.I.s of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were murdered by German SS after they had surrendered during the second day of the Battle of the Bulge.

The U.S. Memorial Wereth is a non profit association founded by private citizens, all volunteers. Their goal is to sustain a permanent memorial to honor and remember these men.

The Memorial is located in Wereth, Belgium, which is a tiny hamlet in Eastern Belgium, on the

Adopt-a-Grave program



On Thursday, 06 April at 8 pm, the American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02 will be laying a wreath at the Menin Gate, Ieper during the Last Post Ceremony. This is in commemoration of the centennial of the United States entering WWI. We will also presenting the US Flag and representing the US government during the ceremony.

This event will also be the initiation of our second part of our Adopt-a-Grave program. We have received permission from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to begin an adoption program for the Americans who fought and died for the British Commonwealth forces here in Belgium during WWI & WWII.



American Legion Post BE02 fundraiser

Any purchase helps out our American Legion Post here in Belgium. We earn \$7 on every unit sold. One unit equals either 4 cups or 2 travel mugs. Free shipping and no tax to APO's. There are cups for each military service as well as the NHL, NFL, NCAA and MLB. Thank you for your support!

If anyone needs help navigating the site, please don't hesitate to speak up. These are GREAT products! I have had a number of them for years. They are durable, especially in the dishwasher, and great looking.

Bastogne BBQ & Borlo USO Dance



Upcoming Events & Activities

How you can help.

Wednesday, 15 Mar: American Legion Birthday

Post BE02 will be celebrating the American Legion's 98th Birthday at both AAFES PX on Chièvres and at the 3-Star on USAG Brussels from 1100-1400. Come and get some cake.

Saturday, 25 Mar: Tasting Party

Come join the Post membership in a night of fun and comradery. All members and their spouses are invited

Saturday, 01 April: EGGtravaganza – Chièvres

The event is an Easter Egg hunt for the children of the SHAPE / Chièvres community. To be held at the Chièvres Community Center.

Saturday, 06 April: Menin Gate Wreath Laying

The Post needs members to help lay the wreath and carry the flags during the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ieper.

Saturday, 15 April: Spring Event - Brussels

The event is an Easter Egg hunt for the children of the NATO/USAG Brussels community. To be held at the USAG Brussels Compound

Department of France Convention

Ludwigshafen, Germany , 15-18 June

The Department of France will be hosting their 2017 at the Best Western Lasso, Ludwigshafen, Germany from 15-18 June 2017. We are authorized 4 delegates to this convention. If interested contact Commander Schram at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com.

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 Blood Program

Post BE02 Auxiliary President

Morgan Buckner



LINKS

American Legion Post BE02 Website:

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

Flanders Field Post BE02 Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pages/American-Legion-Flanders-Fields-Post-BE02/152286224925159

American Legion Riders - Flanders Field Chapter BE02

www.facebook.com/legionridersflandersbeo2

Flickr account: (Pictures of Post BE02 events)

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

Flanders Field Post BE02 Youtube website (Videos of Post BE02 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: March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Membership Drive at AAFES PX
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 American Legion Birthday	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Tasting Party
26	27	28	29	30	31	