



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



We will be having our Post elections on 23 April and I am hoping that we can fill all of our Post officer positions. Within this newsletter is a description of each of the officer positions. If you need more information on the duties of each position,

With all that this Post does, we need more members to become active. I am not saying that this will take up your days with work, but ask for a little of your time to help with our many programs and events. We have a number of committees that need help and if you can assist as a member, let us know. We try not to have a lot of meetings and use the internet (i.e. Facebook) as a medium to get information out to the membership. But when we do have meetings, they are important because we are voting on financial issues and other important topics. Out of 105 members, we can get maybe 10 members to participate. Remember this is your American Legion Post. Help make a difference. This summer the Post will be losing a lot of its members to PSC and PPP. Membership will drastically drop and it will take all us to rebuild. If you know someone that is eligible, ask them to join. The worse they can say is NO.

As you will read in this newsletter, June is a busy month. The Post will be hosting the visit of the National Commander from 01-04 June. We will also be hosting this year's Department of France's Convention. If you have time to attend the convention be do so and help be a delegate.



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:

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle
Vice Commander: Carl Hale

FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

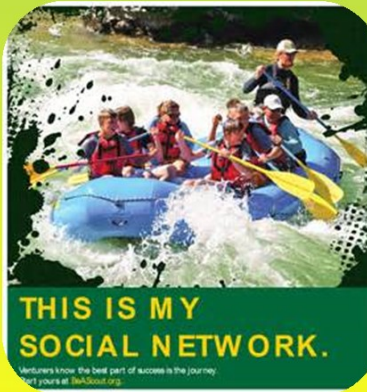
Superintendent: Christopher Arseneault

DO YOU WANT MORE ADVENTURE?

**The Venture Crew is a program for young Men & Women
ages 14-21 from the U.S. and international communities**

Experience a program that is fun and full of challenge and adventure

Venture Crew 511 Open-House



Where: 3-StarLounge, USAG Brussels
When: Friday, 29 April, 1830-2030
Refreshments

For More information contact:
flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com



Post BE02 would like to invite everyone interested in becoming part of the Venture Crew to our open-house on Friday evening at the 3-star lounge on USAG Brussels. While based out of Brussels, the Venture Crew is for any youth that wants to join, either American, Belgian or any other nationality.

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 13 and have completed the eighth grade, or age 14 through 20 years of age.

Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth, adult leaders, and organizations in their communities. Local community organizations establish a Venturing crew by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of exciting and meaningful activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become good citizens.

Boys State / Girls State

The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary would like to announce this year's candidates for the 2016 Boys State / Girls State program. **Shamus Phelan** will be representing Post BE02 at the Boys State and **Josie Whitaker** will be representing the Auxiliary at the Girls State program. Both are juniors at the SHAPE American High School.

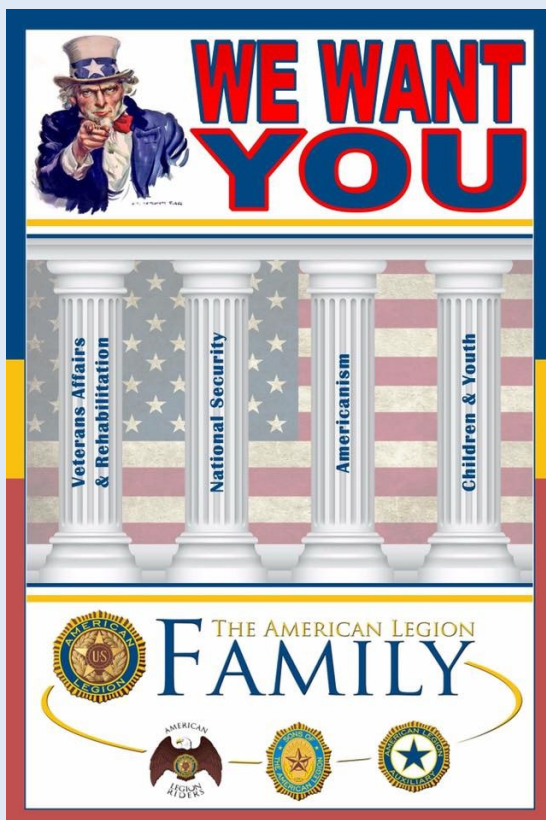
The programs will begin on Saturday, 18 June and conclude on Saturday, 25 June. The Boys State program will be located on the campus of McDaniel College and the Girls State program is located on Salisbury University, Maryland.

In this exciting summer program, the candidate can run for office, learn public speaking, draft and debate legislation,

and actively participate in all phases of creating and running a working government. Many colleges and universities offer scholarships or admission preference to attendees of the Boys State /Girls State programs. Only young men and women who are currently completing their junior year of high school and who have at least one more semester remaining (including home-schooled kids) are considered.

The Boys State / Girls State programs will take place in Maryland from 19-25 June and the candidates are chaperoned while there.

The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary will cover the cost of both transportation and the camp.



Membership

It is never too late to renew your membership or recruit a new member.



American Legion
National Commander Dinner
Friday, 03 June

Chicken & Ribs Dinner

Members, Family & Friends

Everyone Welcome

Starts at 18:00

3-Star Lounge, USAG Brussels

RSVP to the 3-star by 20 May

reservations3star@yahoo.com or

Call: +32 (0)27-17-9822

Price: \$15



Information:

flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com



National Commander Visit to Belgium , 01-04 June

The National Commander Dale Barnett and National Auxiliary President Sharon Conatser will be visiting Belgium from 01-04 June. We are planning to have a dinner at the 3-Star on Friday evening. We would like to invite all members of the American Legion family, their families and their friends. We would also like to invite the community and leadership to meet with the National Commander.

We are planning a Chicken & Rib dinner with all the fixings. Please RSVP no later than 20 May to reservations3star@yahoo.com or call +32 (0) 27-17-9822



Post BEO2 & the USAG Brussels BOSS Program

We are happy to announce that through the American Legion and Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW), the USAG Brussels BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers^o) program will receive a new Home Theater system. Included in the package is a projector, 120" screen, all-around sound system and a VCR/DVD player. It is our plan to present this new Home Theater to the BOSS program on Friday evening, 03 June during the National Commander Dinner.

Officer Elections

On Saturday, 23 April Flanders Field Post BE02 will conduct its annual meeting and officer elections. Of all of the meetings that we conduct, this meeting is the most important. It is the membership's opportunity to select the Post officers who will lead the Post for the next year.

For those members who are interested in an officer position, the duties are indicated below. This past year we had 3 positions that went vacant and had to be directed by another Post officer.

If you are interested in a Officer position and want more information, contact Commander Schram

Duties of the Post Commander: The Post Commander shall preside at all meetings of the Post and have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post. He/she will be the Chief Executive Officer of the Post. He/she shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds, and shall make an annual report covering the business of the Post for the year. He/she shall make recommendations for the ensuing year which shall be read at the annual Post meeting. He/she shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Duties of the 1st Vice Commander: The 1st Vice Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence of or disability of, or when called upon by the Post Commander. He/she shall be the chairman of the Membership Committee and shall perform such other duties as the Post Commander may specify.

Duties of the 2nd Vice Commander: The 2nd Vice Commander primary interest shall be Ways and Means. He/she shall perform such duties as the Commander shall specify.

Duties of the Judge Advocate: The Judge Advocate shall advise on the construction and interpretation of the Post Constitution and By- Laws. He/she shall act as the parliamentarian at Post meetings. He/she shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to his office.

Duties of the Finance Officer: The Finance Officer shall have charge of all finances. He/she shall see that they are properly deposited in the bank and accounted for. He/she shall report once a month to the Executive Committee on the condition of the Post finances. He/she shall make recommendations as he deems expedient and necessary for raising funds with which to carry on Post activities. He/she shall sign all checks disbursing Post monies ensuring all checks are countersigned by the Commander or Adjutant. He/she shall furnish such surety bonds in such amounts as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.

Duties of the Post Historian: The Post Historian shall be charged with all individual records and incidents of the Post and Post Members. He/she shall preform such duties as may properly pertain to the Post as determined by the Executive Committee.

Duties of the Post Chaplain: The Post Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post Legionnaires. He/she will offer divine but non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals or public functions. He/she will adhere to all ceremonial rituals recommended by National and Department Headquarters.

Duties of the Service Officer: The Post Service Officer shall offer his greatest assistance to achieve the betterment of his fellow veterans, the Post and the Community. He/she shall be responsible for doing his/her utmost to promote the general welfare of the individual, and thus, the group.

Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at all meetings and serve as the keeper of the Colors. He/she shall validate membership and attendance at all meetings. He/she will act as the official greeter of the Post and be familiar with all American Legion rituals. He/she shall perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Post Executive Committee or the Commander.

FLANDERS FIELD POST BE02

PROUDLY PRESENTS



The Department of France
92nd Annual Convention
16-19 June 2016
Houffalize, Belgium



Convention reservation letter can be found at the Flanders Field Post BE02 webpage:
<https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbe02/department-convention>

Reservations Deadline: 01 May 2016

POC: flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com



Department of France Convention / 16-19 June 2016

Flanders Field Post BEO2 is proud to host this year's Department of France's 92nd Annual Convention. We have selected the city of Houffalize for the convention site which is approximately 10 miles north of the city of Bastogne, Belgium. The city and surrounding area was directly involved in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944.

We will be staying at the Vayamundo Houffalize and have planned a number of activities throughout the Convention. We will be presenting the Emmy award winning documentary "*The Forgotten Angel of Bastogne*". On Friday afternoon, we are planning an afternoon/evening excursion to the City of Bastogne. And during the Saturday evening banquet we have the Emmy award winning historian Martin King as our guest speaker.

We will also offering training opportunities during the convention. The Department Service Officer Paul Claybaugh will provide a workshop for Post Service Officers and anyone else that may be interested. Addition training opportunities are still be worked and will be posted.

1. **The Convention Registration Letter** can be found at the Flanders Field Post BEO2 webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpostbeo2/department-convention>

Deadline for Reservation letters is Sunday, 01 May

2. Hotel:

Vayamundo Houffalize, Ol Fosse d'Outh 1, 6660 Houffalize - Belgium

Tel: +32 61 288801

Map Location:

www.google.be/maps/place/Vayamundo+Houffalize/@50.1320254,5.7945635,16.75z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x47c015f3ff

[fffff:0x9e2a79d9a342ceb4?hl=en](https://www.google.be/maps/place/Vayamundo+Houffalize/@50.1320254,5.7945635,16.75z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x47c015f3ff:0x9e2a79d9a342ceb4?hl=en)

3. Post BEO2 is planning a Friday afternoon / evening activity in the City of Bastogne. If you are interested in participating in the following activities, please inform us at so that we can arrange transportation: flanders.fields.post.beo2@gmail.com

Afternoon / Evening Activity

1500 Depart for Bastogne

1530 Wreath Laying at the Mardasson Monument

1630-1830 Tour of 101st Airborne Museum

1830-2000 Dinner in Bastogne

2200 Depart for Hotel

Major General (USAF, Ret.) Charles (Chuck) Wilson



The American Legion Post BEO2 family mourns the death of Major General (USAF, Ret.) Charles (Chuck) Wilson on March 27 at 6:30 a.m. at the Edith Cavell hospital in Brussels, Belgium. General Wilson was born in Paris, Texas, June 15, 1924 and enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 19. A year later, in 1944, he was commissioned 2LT in the U.S. Army Air Corps. During WWII, General Wilson served as a C-46/C-47 pilot in the Pacific Theater. He was recalled to active duty in 1951 for the Korean conflict and eventually became a Command Pilot with over 5,000 hours. General Wilson further served in increasingly responsible positions, capitalizing particularly on his

technical background, noting his Master of Science degree in aeronautics and astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1963. From 1974 to 1978, General Wilson served at SHAPE as Chief, Spec Projects Office, Static War Headquarters. Upon his retirement in 1980, he came back to Europe and spent some time cruising the European rivers. In 1990, he bought an apartment in Brussels and established his own local firm, European Engineer Consultants and became involved in local retiree affairs. He raised money to repair U.S. monuments at the Normandy beaches, presided over the organizations and councils of U.S. military retirees in Europe to defend their privileges and benefits, and participated actively in the Memorial Day ceremonies to honor the 14,000 fallen in the three

American cemeteries in Belgium. In his 90th year, he led other U.S. WWII veterans in Belgium to meet with Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell, Jr. Commanding U.S. Army Europe, in Wiesbaden, Germany.

General Wilson joined the American Legion Paris Post 1 in 2000 and transferred to the Flanders Field Post BEO2 in 2014.

He is survived by his wife Andrée, sons Barry and Chuck and daughter Becky.



Upcoming Events & Activities

How you can help.

National Commander's Visit: 01-04 June

This is the opportunity to meet the National Command and National Auxiliary President. We will need help to get the commander's party into SHAPE. We will need help coordinating a luncheon on the Wednesday while at SHAPE.

Department Convention: 16-19 June

We need help with a variety of tasks during the course of the convention. Because Post BEO2 has over 100 members, we are authorized to have 4 delegates to the convention. Let us know if you can attend.

Boy Scouts / Venture Crew

Comrade Laura Buckner has volunteered to be the Post Boys State liaison. With 105 members, we collectively have a wealth of knowledge. Help by being a merit badge counselor.

JROTC Liaison

While we give out annual awards to the JROTC units, we should be doing more for the cadets. Both AFNORTH and SHAPE have JROTC units. We need a liaison with these units to see how we can help.

Oratorical Contest Team

Now that the Oratorical Contest is done, we now start planning for next year's event. It seems odd that we had only 2 contestants this year, when we invite students from 6 different school systems. We need to do a better job of getting the word out to the student, parents and faculty. We need help to liaison with the different school systems.

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.



Paid Up For Life Membership

Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

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: April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 VA Briefing USAG Brussels	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 National Oratorical Contest
17 National Oratorical Contest	18	19	20	21	22	23 Annual General Meeting -Officer Elections
24	25	26 AOMDA Meeting @ USAG Brussels	27	28	29 Venture Crew Open House 3-Star Lounge 1830-2030	30