



The American Legion Flanders Field



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This was probably the hardest newsletter that I had to put together.

There are so many things to share with the membership and only so much space in the newsletter. If anyone wants to be the newsletter editor, please let me know.

As you have seen by my e-mails, I have been concerned with membership. Last year, we had a large turnover of members because of PCSing. We had about a 70% renewal rate, which put us at the bottom of all Posts in the Department of France. So my goal this year is to get that renewal rate up to around 90%. This is addition to recruiting for new members. My goal for the overall membership for 2018 is 125 members. And we are on the way to reach that goal. We have scheduled for the next couple of weeks the following membership drives. If you can help, please do so.

- Tuesday, 22 Aug at the Chièvres AAFES PX
- Friday, 25 Aug at the 3-Star Rec Center on USAG Brussels
- Saturday, 02 Sep at the Chièvres AAFES PX

In addition, we are planning to build our membership in the Legion Auxiliary and in the Sons of the American Legion. As a family, each of these organizations work together and at the same time, has their own independent agendas. Membership in either one does not depend on age. Children as well as adults are welcome to join.

Please review the calendar on the back page and the upcoming events and activities. These events are for the whole family. Hope to see you at the next general meeting.



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: Kevin Jordan

Judge Advocate: Vacant

Historian: Vacant

Finance Officer: Laura Buckner

Chaplain: Thomas Buckner

Post Service Officer: Kevin Jordan
be02.service.officer@gmail.com

Sergeant-at-Arms: Matt Riehm

LEGION RIDERS

President: Paul Haney

LEGION AUXILIARY

President: Morgan Buckner

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle

FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

Superintendent: Richard Arseneault

Department of France Service Officer



Post Finance Officer and Dept Service Officer, Laura Buckner recently completed Dept Service Officer School in Indianapolis. The three day course covers all aspects of helping veterans submit claims to the VA. She met many other experienced Service Officers and learned how much work is ahead to get the Dept of France up to snuff on vet benefits. She joined the National Association of Dept Service Officers and discussed getting Service Officer training here in Europe. As Dept of France Service Officer she will be establishing office hours during the week at the USAG Brussels garrison

American Legion room as well as speaking at TAPS courses. If you know of a veteran or surviving family member who might need assistance. please send her word at serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com.

Membership Renewal

Payment Methods for Dues: (Include a message with Your Name)

\$35 - American Legion

\$25 - American Legion Auxiliary

€20 - Sons of the American Legion

(1) **Renew online at:** <https://www.legion.org/renew>

(2) Visit the Post BE02 information table

- Tuesday, 22 Aug at the Chiévres AAFES PX
- Friday, 25 Aug at the 3-Star Rec Center on USAG Brussels
- Saturday, 02 Sep at the Chiévres AAFES PX

(3) By Check (only US checks, no Foreign checks)

Send to:
American Legion Post BE02
attn: Post Dues
Unit 28100, Box 017
APO AE 09714

(4) Foreign Bank Transfer

ING Account:
IBAN: BE98 3774 3999 7693 BIC: BBRUBEBB

(5) US Bank Transfer or cash deposit

Andrews Federal Credit Union – Routing #: 255074111
American Legion Post BE02 - Account #: 82019102

Post BE02 General Meetings

We have changed the dates and times for our general meetings. This will enable the membership to attend and allow them to spend their Saturdays without interference from Post meetings.

Dates

06 September—USAG Brussels, Post BE02 Office

04 October—SHAPE, Bldg. 313, Main Gym

01 November—USAG Brussels, Post BE02 Office

December — Date TBD — Tentative Holiday Party

03 January—USAG Brussels, Post BE02 Office

07 February —SHAPE, Bldg. 313, Main Gym

07 March—USAG Brussels, Post BE02 Office

04 April —SHAPE, Bldg. 313, Main Gym

02 May —USAG Brussels, Post BE02 Office (elections)

06 June —SHAPE (budget vote), Bldg. 313, Main Gym

SCUBA Diving



If you are interested in SCUBA or are already certified, we are forming a Legion Divers unit here in Belgium. With the North Sea and the numerous fresh water lakes and quarries, the opportunity to dive to here are endless.

Sometime in September, we are planning to host an initial dive event at Nemo 33 in Brussels.

We are planning to send a schedule of possible dates and times. If interested complete and send back to Commander Schram.

Friends of American Legion Post BEO2



We would like to congratulate two of our “Friends of the American Legion” on their recent marriage.

Kristine Eetezonne and Phil Colinet were officially wed on Friday, 14 July. With a small reception held at the Canadian Museum in Knokke.

Phil was instrumental in establishing the Venture Crew 511 and having Post BEO2 charter the group.

Both Kristine and Phil have been integral to the management of your adopt-a-grave program for the Flanders Field American Cemetery. With our new initiative, the Adopt a US Tommy program, both have taken the lead to ensure that this program is also a success

We wish them both the a great life together and look forward to see them at many of our events and activities.

Welcome to our New Members

Joy Atkins

Anthony Atkins

Kurt Connell

Robyn Connell (Auxiliary)

Hussein Hamdan

Amanda Hawkins

Reginald Hawkins

Cheryle Hess

Ronald Hess

Candace Macken-Ruiz

Daniel McDonald

Heidi McDonald

Joel Moore

Anthony Naumcheff

Matthew Riehm

Robert Sherrer

Elizabeth Sherrer (Auxiliary)

Ryan Tatton (SAL)

Michail Tempelton

Venture Crew 511



V E N T U R I N G ® · B S A

School will be starting soon and BEO2 will be recruiting students, both boys and girls, aged 14 or older for the Flanders Field Venturing Crew. A crew is part of Boy Scouts but it is coed and its members are aged 14-21. Among the activities in store for the Crew are rock climbing, introduction to SCUBA, and planning a hiking trip. Once the crew is trained, youth members will determine their focus and when they want to meet. If you know of any boys or girls who might be interested in joining the crew, please notify Commander Schram, who is the link between the crew and the post, or Morgan Buckner.

Merit Badge University

Our Venture Crew (along with the Post members) will be hosting the 2018 Merit badge university in February in the Brussels area. We will in need of merit badge counsellors. If interested, contact Laura Buckner, Tom Buckner or Morgan Buckner.



The **Merit Badge University** helps Boy Scouts advance and learn about different fields of knowledge and assists Boy Scouts to locate Merit Badge Opportunities outside their own troop



Post Oratorical Scholarship Contest

The Post is seeking members (and non-members) who would like to assist in the planning and execution of the 2018 Post Level Oratorical Contest. We need help contacting schools, arranging for judges, advertising as well as other functions. If you are interested contact either on Facebook or at

flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

Our tentative dates for the contest is either in December or January.

American Legion hosted USO Dance

Borlo, Saturday Evening, 09 September

We are again this year hosting a USO Dance at Borlo, Belgium on Saturday evening, 09 September. Last year's was a huge success and we are hoping this year's dance will be bigger and better. As a fundraiser, we will be asking for a donation of 1 euro at the entrance of the dance hall, the recipient will get 1 raffle ticket. If the attendee would like more raffle tickets, each ticket would be available for 1 euro. Depending on the number of items that we obtain, we could pick a raffle ticket every 15 or 30 minutes for a prize. We will also be selling cava (champagne) and food items during the dance.

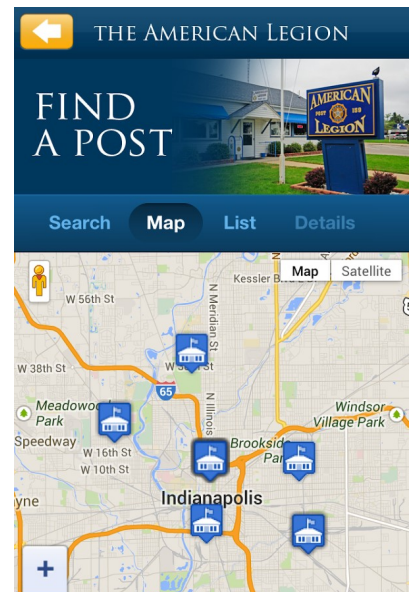
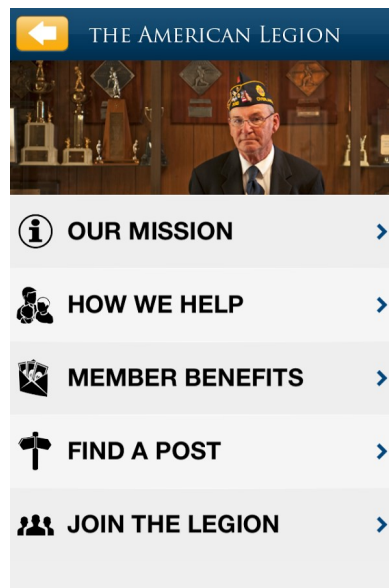
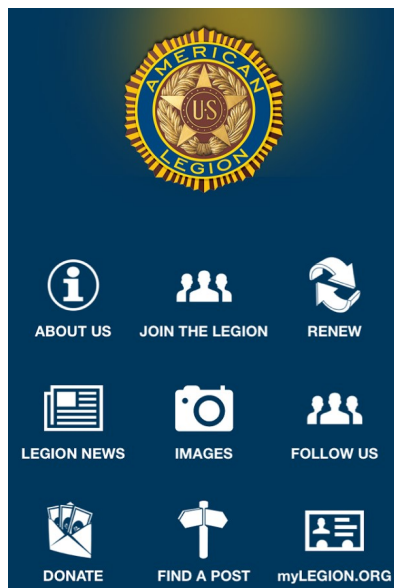
Come out for the evening and dance!



The American Legion Mobile App

This app offers a succinct description of the Legion's forms of advocacy, opportunities to join, donate and find nearby posts.

<https://www.legion.org/mobileapps>





American Legion Auxiliary

Honor Our Female Veterans

For Female Veterans who join as new members for the 2018 Membership Year, the national portion of dues (\$9.00) will be waived for their first year of membership.

FEMALE VETERAN DISCOUNT: The “Honor Our Female Veteran” Discount is YEAR ROUND. It can be for either eligible female veterans that are no longer in the service OR active duty females or military academy cadets. They can be dual members of both TAL and ALA or one or the other.

**We waive only the National portion of dues for new members (not rejoins or renews). They would still owe their unit and department portions (\$16) of their dues.

VMIS: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

VMIS provided the necessary tools to manage volunteerism in the local Army community, including online recruitment, volunteer records storage and easy communication with volunteers and staff.

Volunteers can

- Manage their Volunteer Service Record
- Locate and Army Volunteer Coordinator
- Apply for volunteer opportunities
- Record and track volunteer hours

Post BEO2 gets credit for our volunteer activities and is recognized each year by the USAG Benelux commander.

Procedures:

go to: www.myarmyonesource.com

Click: volunteer tools

Click: volunteer opportunities

Type: Brussels in the community box

Click: American Legion Post BEO2 in the organization box

Click: search

Click: general member / Legionnaire

Click—apply

Complete the document and send

OUR QUEST....



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017





The American Legion



The USO



Present their
2nd Annual
USO Dance

Pachthof, Borlo

Sat, 09 Sept

9 - 12 pm

Free Admission



Adopt A U.S Tommy Program

The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

Announces its "Adopt a U.S. Tommy" Program

The initiative provides an opportunity to honor those Americans who fought and died while serving with the British Commonwealth during WWI and WWII

We launch the new program to keep the memory alive and to pay our respect to these fallen Soldiers

Anyone can adopt a grave as long as they respect the policy of the program

For more information: send an email to
adopt.a.us.tommy@gmail.com





Flanders Field Post BE02

presents

American Legion Night

3-Star Recreation Center

Salsa



& Salsa

**Like to make Salsa or dance the Salsa, then the
3-Star Rec Center on USAG Brussels is the place for you**

Friday, 13 October

Salsa making starts at 17:30 with judging at 19:00

Salsa Dancing starts at 18:30 with a dance contest starting at 20:00

For more information and contest rules, contact us at:

Flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

We are looking for members to help with our many activities. Please indicate which of our activities you would like to participate and help (check all that apply)

- American Legion Nights (3-Star Lounge)
- Orphanage Christmas Party
- Bastogne BBQ Weekend
- National Commander's Visit
- Memorials / Ceremonies
- Membership Drives
- Fundraising
- Borlo USO Dance
- Junior Shooting Sports
- Bowling League
- Legion Divers (Scuba)
- Cycling Tour
- Spin-a-Thon
- Volksmarch

Fundraising

We are currently looking at several fundraisers in the next 4 months. One of these is the "Ping Pong Ball Toss". Post GR1982 used this game and raised \$1500 in 5 hours during the Independence Day activities in Ansbach. For us to do this, **we need donations of beer glasses and mugs.**

Another fundraiser we are looking at is a "Book & Bake Sale" at NATO. We have done the bake sale in the past and each have been successful. **We do need donations of books.**

We are also looking at food sales during the Borlo "USO Dance", "Trunk or Treat" at USAG Brussels and at our Bastogne BBQ in December

If you have any ideas to help us raise funds, please let us know.



Upcoming Events & Activities

How you can help.

Friday, 25 August: “Welcome to Brussels”

The NATO Top III is hosting a event to welcome new people to the area. We will host an information table and providing food for the potluck

Saturday, 02 September: Membership Drive

We will host an information table at the AAFES PX from 1000-1700.

Fri/Sat, 08-09 Sept: SHAPE Fest

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our participation at SHAPE. We had 2 events going on at the same time and could not get the help to do both.

Saturday, 09 Sep: USO Dance

We are again this year hosting a USO Dance at Borlo, Belgium on Saturday evening, 09 September. We are looking for donation to raffle.

Friday, 15 Sep: POW / MIA Recognition Day

We will again have a exhibit at the AAFES PX for this event. We are hoping that we can get the garrisons to have a small ceremony during the flag raising in the morning.

Friday, 13 October: American Legion Night

We are proposing to the 3-Star recreational center to have us host a “Salsa & Salsa” night. Come out and make your best salsa and later learn how to dance the salsa

Friday, 27 October: Trunk or Treat

We are looking a having a Trunk at both the Chiévres and USAG Brussels event. In addition, we are planning to sell food at the USAG Brussels event. We need help to give out candy to the kids.

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
Veterans Service Organization
Accredited Service Officers**

The Department Service Officer, Laura Buckner is located in Brussels. She will be posting Office Hours for appointments and walk-ins at our USAG Brussels Office. Laura can be reached at: serviceofficerdofr@yahoo.com

Post Service Officer Kevin Jordan will be posting office hours in the SHAPE/Chièvres area once we have obtained a location in those areas. He can be reached at: be02.service.officer@gmail.com

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: August / September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22 - VA Briefing: Chièvres - Info Table @ AAFES PX	23	24 Brussels American HS Welcome Back Event	25 Welcome to Brussels event @ 3-Star Rec Center	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 Sept	2 Info Table @ AAFES PX 1000-1700
3	4	5	6 General Mtg USAG Brussels @1930	7	8 SHAPE Fest	9 - SHAPE Fest - USO Dance: Borlo, BE
10 Borlo Liberation Ceremony	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 POW / MIA Recognition Day - Exhibit at the AAFES PX	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23