



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Measuring the success of an American Legion Post is difficult. While there are many metrics that can be used to determine a successful post, most post use the membership and renewal rates as an indicator. I find that only using membership as a metric tells a small part of the success of a post. For instance, we conduct an oratorical contest ever year and a metric that might be used is how many contestants compete in the contest. We could also use the Annual Consolidated Report to find indicators on our success but these seem to general to help.

You may ask why we need to have metrics to show how well we are doing. To answer this, we would use the chosen metrics to determine our strategy for the upcoming year. An example of a strategy would be how we communicate our Oratorical Contest to the students, their parents and the schools.

We are doing great as a post however we can always do better in our projects and programs. Using metrics will help us determine our success and weaknesses; and the strategies we need construct for our future endeavors.

I want to personal thank our membership for their help on making Flanders Field Post BE02 a very success post.

Department Oratorical Contest

With the Oratorical Contest, is now less than 3 weeks away (Sat, 20 February), 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:

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander: Paul Vande Walle
Vice Commander: Carl Hale

FLANDERS FIELD AMERICAN CEMETERY

Superintendent: Christopher Arseneault

Four Chaplains



Join us on Sunday, 08 February at the AAFES PX on Chièvres Airbase to commemorate the 4-Chaplains Sunday.

February 03 marked the historic 73th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the legendary acts of selflessness of four Army chaplains who were aboard. The four U.S. Army Chaplains gave up their life jackets and prayed together when their transport ship, the U.S.A.T Dorchester was torpedoed eighty miles south of Greenland on February 3, 1943. The Four Chaplains – sometimes called the Immortal Chaplains – were men from four different religions who sacrificed their lives for men of all faiths. John P. Washington was a Catholic Priest from Kearny, New Jersey, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode was a native of York, Pennsylvania. Clark V. Poling was a minister in the Reformed Church in America at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York. George L. Fox, a decorated World War One veteran, was a Methodist minister in Gilman, Vermont

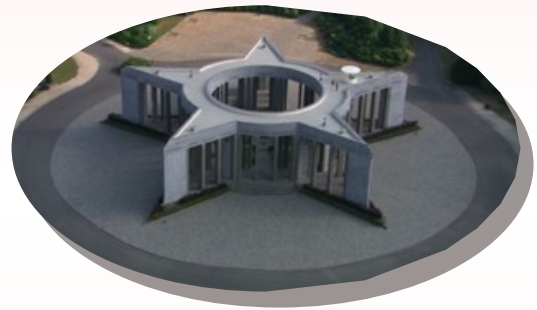
National Commander Visit to Belgium , 01-04 June

Weds 1 Jun 16		Fri 3 Jun 16	
0800hrs	Arrive LUX Cemetery	0700hrs	Breakfast
0930hrs	Depart for SHAPE	0900hrs	Arrive Bastogne - Museum Tour
1130hrs	Arrive SHAPE	1100hrs	Lunch in Bastogne
1200hrs	AFN Radio Interview	1300hrs	Bastogne Memorial Day Ceremony Lay Wreath
1300hrs	Lunch	1700hrs	Depart for Bussels
1430hrs	SHAPE Briefing	1830hrs	Arrive Brussels
1630hrs	Depart for Brussels	1900hrs	Travel to Brussel's Center - Dinner & Tour
Thu 2 Jun 16		Sat 4 Jun 16	
0800hrs	Depart for Ieper / Zonnebeke	0700hrs	Breakfast at 3-Star Lounge
0900-1000hrs	Tour Passenchaedale Museum	0830hrs	Depart for Waregem with Legion Riders Escort
1200hrs	Lunch Ieper	0930hrs	Arrive Flanders Field Am Cemetery - Lay Wreath
1300-1700hrs	Ieper Salient Tour & Flanders Field Museum	1030hrs	Depart for Normandy
1700hrs	Depart for Brussels		
1830hrs	Arrive Brussels		

*This schedule may change as we get near the actual dates

Department of France Convention—Bastogne

Flanders Field Post BE02 will be hosting the 2016 Department of France's Annual Convention from 16-19 June. The convention will be held at the Hotel Ol Fosse d'Out, in Houffalize, Belgium which is about 10 miles north of the city of Bastogne. In addition to the meetings, we are planning activities in the Bastogne such as a visit to the Bastogne War Museum. To make this event successful, we need help from the membership, specifically with transportation, greeting the Department membership when they arrive. And other tasks. This is the opportunity to show the Department how well we work as a team. If you can help, contact Commander Schram.



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.be02@gmail.com

Hail & Farewells: Jan

Each year will learn that members of the Post move to new locations. This may be because of reassignments or inking to return back to the USA. Whatever the motive, please let us know of your pending move.

Hails:

New Members:

- Paul Haney
- Scott & Carolyn Morrison

Fare Wells:

Sarah Dunn

Post Oratorical Contest

On Saturday, 23 January, the American Legion “Flanders Field” Post BEO2 conducted their 3rd Annual Oratorical Scholarship Contest. After delivering the speeches, the judges moved to a secluded area to determine the winners of the contest. Our first place winner is Austin Muraille from the International School of Brussels with Beautiful Lawson from SHAPE American High School taking a close second.

We would like to thank the judges who contributed their time to assist us in conducting the oratorical contest: Marie-Lise Baneton, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux; Conrad Payne, DOD Financial Manager, U.S. Air Force Retired; Tracy Moreno, Community Liaison Officer, U.S. Embassy and William Bergman, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired



Paid Up For Life

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.

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"
- Join the other 180,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."
- Avoid future dues increases. No matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.
- Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!
-

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

To get your Paid Up For Life membership now:

<http://www.legion.org/join/pufl>



BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM

Currently there exists a need for blood & plasma donations. If you are healthy and able, please consider giving. The American Legion is the largest collective blood-donor to the Red Cross. The most important part about donating blood is to remember that it saves lives. Waiting for an emergency to donate will not get the blood to the receiver in time.

There are several ways we can help. You can be a donor, recruit donors and/or offer to sponsor a blood drive at your post. Don't

assume you're not eligible because of your age or medications or previous deployments. There is no age maximum for donating and in most cases, as long as you feel healthy, you can donate. Belgium's donation rules are more specific than those found in the USA allowing for many of us who are deferred in the USA to donate here in Belgium. For more information about blood & plasma donations in your area contact us at

flandersfields.post.be02@gmail.com.

BOYS SCOUT MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

The merit badge counselor is a key player in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever your area of expertise or interest—whether it is a special craft or hobby or perhaps a life skill as a merit badge counselor, you can play a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about that particular topic. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest.

As a merit badge counselor, your mission is to join fun with learning. You are both a teacher and mentor to the Scout as he works on a merit badge and learns by doing. By presenting opportunities for growth via engaging activities like designing a Web page or fabricating rope you can pique a young man's interest in the merit badge subject. Just think: Your hands-on involvement could inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, pursue a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult. A Scout first expresses an interest in a particular merit badge by letting his unit leader know. To get him started, the leader may give him a signed Application for Merit Badge (blue card) along with the name and telephone number of a district/council approved merit badge counselor. The Scout then contacts the merit badge counselor and makes an appointment. The merit badge counselor sets a date and time to meet with the Scout and his buddy, and may suggest the Scout bring the merit badge pamphlet along with the blue card.

With 132 different merit badges, the need for counsellors is great. If you are interested in helping check-out the following webpage:

<http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx>



Crime Prevention



Radio



Digital Technology



Cooking



Public Speaking

Upcoming Events & Activities

How you can help.

Sunday, 07 Feb: Four Chaplain's Sunday

We are planning to conduct a Four Chaplains exhibit at the AAFES PX on Chièvres. In addition we will have an information table and try to announce our Boys State / Girls State program to the community. We need help conducting this event.

Saturday, 20 Feb: Dept Oratorical Contest

Post BE02 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.

Donations

Paris Post #1 donated \$500 towards our Post's Boys State / Girls State program. Our candidates will participate in the program from 18-25 June in Maryland.



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: February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 VA Briefing - Chièvres	6
7 Four Chaplain Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16	17	18	19	20 Department Oratorical Contest
21	22	23 AOMDA Meeting	24 ARMAF-B Luncheon @ 3-star lounge	25	26	27 General Meeting
28	29					