



The American Legion Flanders Field Post BE02

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



It is amazing how fast the year a gone by and we have done so much to make a difference in our communities. Next month, Post BE02 will conduct its yearly elections for the 2016-2017 year. I recommend to anyone who has an interest in making a difference in the Post to run for an officer position. This year will be a challenge for the Post because we will lose almost a third of our members to new assignments.

For those members who have yet to renew their membership, there is still time to do so. To renew go to the following website: <http://www.legion.org/renew>

With only three weeks to go until deadline, we have yet to receive any applications for the Boys State / Girls State program. It would be awful if we did not send a candidate to the Maryland program. If you know of a young man or woman who is currently a junior in High School, let them know of the program.

I want to personal thank our members who helped with the Department Oratorical Contest.

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

If you need any assistance with your with registration or voting, please contact us at:
flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com



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 Sunday

On Sunday, 07 February, the Post membership commemorated the four Chaplains (Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic). Who gave their lives to help others.



**Our newest member of
the American Legion
Family**

James A. Scott Jr.



Hail & Farewells: February

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:

- Mark Angerhofen

Farewells:

- Jessica & Brian Pate
- Jason Wiland

Boy Scouts and the American Legion



As the Post Boy Scout Liaison, my job is to identify areas where the American Legion can support Boy Scouts in the Transatlantic Council. (TAC) Nationally, the American

Legion is the largest civic sponsor of scout units with over 2500 chartered units supporting over 68,000 youth. Here in the Transatlantic Council, no Boy Scout units are currently chartered by the Legion, although Crew 511 in Belgium is being processed under Post BE02. We can do better.

Transatlantic Council includes all countries from the western borders of India and China to the islands in the Atlantic Ocean. This includes Europe, Russia and all the former USSR countries, Africa, the Middle East and Iceland, the Azores, etc. We cover half the world. And we support youth on military bases, in expat communities, in English speaking churches and in more remote places in isolated units or as Lone Scouts. Where could the Legion fit in this enormous area?

Let's start with the one on one level. As a member, do you have special skills or knowledge that might fit the requirements of being a merit badge counselor? There are over 100 merit badges and we need counselors throughout our area. Working with a unit or individual scouts over SKYPE, Facebook or other internet options provides a huge service to the council. There are no fees to be a Merit Badge Counselor although you do have to fill out an adult application and a Merit Badge Counselor form.

Second, posts can support units or families by subsidizing fees for scouts. Currently, both of the overseas councils- TAC and the Far East – need to charge an overseas council fee for budgetary and legal

reasons. DOD allocates MWR funds to scouting programs but only if non-DOD youth are charged a fee comparable to the amount MWR provides. This is \$72 a year for a non-DOD scout in a full service area like Brussels or Germany. In isolated locations the fee is \$36. These amounts are on top of the \$25 BSA registration/insurance fees. A Post or Auxiliary fund raiser could really help families who must pay the higher fees.

Posts could support activities in the Council by becoming event sponsors and underwriting costs. Members could serve on camp staffs. Members could serve on Eagle Scout Boards of Review. You could even join a unit as a committee member. Posts can always charter units and as military bases close down and limit scouting presence, Post chartering becomes a vital need. Posts can continue to support the Eagle Scout of the Year and help potential Eagle scouts with their service projects.

Finally, as Post and Auxiliary members, who do you know who was a scout and could join the BSA Alumni Association? Who could become a Friend of Scouting and make a financial pledge? Who in the expat community or business world do you know who has deep pockets and could make corporate gifts to TAC? Major donors are often the difference between TAC having just one or two summer camps versus four or five. Put us in touch with the folks you know.

Scouting instills character, resourcefulness, stewardship and integrity in boys as they become man of worth. The American Legion seeks the same values in its members. Lend your support and help build a better future.

Laura Buckner,
Post BEO2 Boy Scout Liaison
TAC Office/Program Manager

Department Oratorical Contest

On Saturday, 20 February, the American Legion “Flanders Field” Post BE02 hosted the Department of France’s Annual Oratorical Scholarship Contest at the Brussels American High School. The Contest results:

First Place Winner
Austin Muraille,
Flanders Field Post BE02
Senior, International School of Brussels

Second Place Winner
John Casey Jr.,
Kaiserslautern Post GR01
Junior, Ramstein High School

Third Place Winner
Juliana Saunders,
David Chavez Post GR1982
Junior, Ansbach High School

Serving as judges were:

- (1) Joseph Rees, Customs and Border Protection Attaché at the U.S. Mission to the European Union and at the U.S. Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium
- (2) Lyndon Hudson, US Army Retired, Vice Commander, Department of France
- (3) Helen Patton, granddaughter of General George Patton of WWII fame
- (4) Garrett Jones, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, Deputy Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation for Belgium & Luxembourg
- (5) Bernardo Fuller, Staff Sergeant, US Army, Broadcast Journalist, American Forces Network Benelux

An AFN radio announce of the Oratorical Contest can be heard at the following link:
www.dvidshub.net/audio/43253/oratorical-contest#.VtG8k_krKM9



Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/afn-benelux/albums/72157664533536230>

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 are still coordinating some the details of the schedule below but hope that each one of the members have an opportunity to meet the National Commander and the Nation Auxiliary sometime during their visit President.

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
1300hrs	Lunch	1630hrs	Depart for Bussels
1430hrs	SHAPE Briefing	1800hrs	Arrive Brussels
1630hrs	Depart for Brussels	1800hrs	Dinner with membership at the 3-Star on USAG Brussels
Thu 2 Jun 16		Sat 4 Jun 16	
0800hrs	Depart for Ieper / Zonnebeke	0830hrs	Depart for Waregem with Legion Riders Escort
0900-1000hrs	Tour Passenchaedale Museum	0930hrs	Arrive Flanders Field Am Cemetery
1200hrs	Lunch Ieper	1030hrs	Depart for Normandy
1300-1700hrs	Ieper Salient Tour & Flanders Field Museum		
1700hrs	Depart for Brussels		
1830hrs	Arrive Brussels		

Department of France Convention—Bastogne

Flanders Field Post BE02 is hosting the 2016 Department of France's Annual Convention from 16-19 June at the Hotel Ol Fosse d'Out, in Houffalize, Belgium which is about 10 miles north of the city of Bastogne. We will need support from the membership to help with transportation issues and with a welcome station at the hotel. If you can help, contact Commander Schram.

Officer Elections

On Saturday, 23 April Flanders Field Post BEO2 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 Position Officer position and want more information, contact Commandner 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.

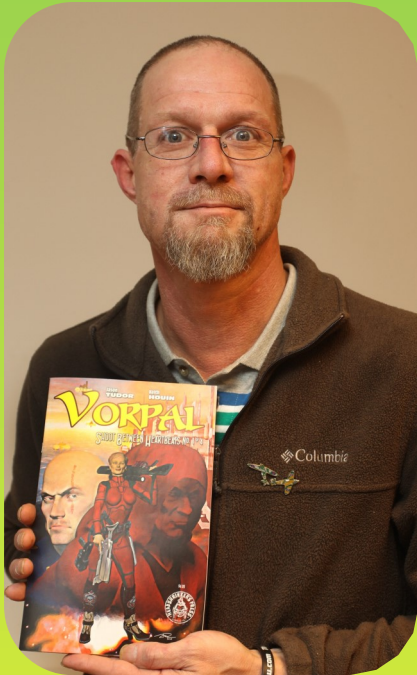
Duties of the Post Historian: The Post Historian shall be charged with all individual records and incidents of the Post and Post Members. He/she shall perform such duties as may properly pertain to the Post as determined by the Executive Committee.

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.

COMIC BOOK



Legionnaire Keith Houin and his friend Jason Tudor have fulfilled a lifelong dream of publishing their own comic book.

The two retired Air Force master sergeants, recently finished work on “Vorpai.” Tudor, who lives in New York and works for the Department of Veterans Affairs, wrote and illustrated the comic. Houin, who lives near Mons, Belgium, works as a public affairs specialist for USAG Benelux, co-wrote the comic. The book is published by Headshrinker’s Press, based in Cincinnati, Ohio.

As a teen, comic books were a big part of Houin’s life.

His path, however, changed and he joined the Air Force in 1986. Instead of panels of ink and color, he focused on his career in military public relations. Still, comics were close to him.

“I continued writing, but never had the chance to put my back into it,” said Houin.

He met Tudor as a result military service. “We just clicked,” Tudor, a 21-year Veteran, said of their relationship. “We always wanted to do something together and that something became ‘Vorpai.’”

Vorpai grew from an idea Tudor had in 2010. The project began in earnest in 2014. Final illustrations wrapped up October 2015. That’s when Headshrinker’s Press offered to publish the book with them.

Nichi Hawkins, co-publisher for Headshrinker’s Press, said “We were excited by the project and where it could go. Plus, it fit into our larger goal as an independent small publisher,” Hawkins said. “Vorpai rocks and we’re excited to see another great comic book join our family.”

Print and digital copies of the comic are available from Headshrinker’s Press at www.headshrinkerspress.com.

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 we have 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.



**American Legion
Boys State / Girls State**

The American Legion Post BEO2 and the American Legion Auxiliary is still accepting applications for the 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@N08/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: March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 General Mtg - Brussels
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 American Legion Birthday	16	17 St. Patrick Day	18	19 3rd Dept Exec Cmt meeting EGGtravaganz - Chievres
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Spring Event - Brussels
27 Easter	28	29 AOMDA Meeting	30	31		