



# Hayes-Velhage Post 96

## The American Legion

45 Raymond Road

West Hartford, CT 06107-2211

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www.post96.org

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Editor

## Newsletter

### ★ Fall - Winter 2015 ★

Wednesday, Sept, 9 '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting and Installation of Officers
Saturday, Oct. 3, '15 – 10:00 a.m.	Park Road Parade
Wednesday, Oct. 14, '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 7, '15 – 9:00 a.m.	Placement of flags at Fairview Cemetery
Wednesday, Nov. 11, '15 – 11:00 a.m.	Veterans Day Ceremony Connecticut Veterans Memorial West Hartford
Wednesday, Nov. 11, '15 – 1:30 p.m.	Monthly Meeting following Veterans Day Luncheon
Wednesday, Dec. 9, '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 13, '15 – 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Holiday Buffett Sorry, no guests. For member and spouse or significant other. Call Post to reserve a time.

### Commander's Message

As I begin my term as your Post Commander, I want to express my appreciation for your support and I pledge to continue the efforts of my predecessors in making Hayes-Velhage Post 96 the best Post in Connecticut.

Our Post, like many Posts, faces a new challenge as our membership ages. Currently, over 85% of our members are 65 or older. Our challenge moving forward is to reach out to veterans and reservists who are eligible for

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

★ A Strong National Security ★ Taking Care of Veterans ★ Mentoring Youth ★ Promoting Patriotism and Honor ★

(Commander's Message Continued)

membership and invite them to join our Post family. If you know of someone who is eligible please invite them to join.

On page 7 of this newsletter you will find a membership survey form. PLEASE complete the form and return it to the Post. Your input is critical as we develop a Strategic and Business Plan for the Post.

I am looking for volunteers to fill two open positions at the Post for the next year. The first is Adjutant. This position involves recording minutes at monthly Post meetings and managing the correspondence of the Post. The second is editor of our newsletter. The letter is published three times per year and involves formatting the newsletter and delivering it to our printer. If you are interested in either position please contact me at 860-729-3724 or email at [mfradette@comcast.net](mailto:mfradette@comcast.net).

Lastly, please support the Post by visiting for lunch or dinner and bring along family, friends, and fellow Veterans.

Fraternally,  
Moe Fradette  
Post Commander

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## American Legion Auxiliary

(Jeanne Berry, Contributor)

What a year for the American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 96. We accomplished most of our goals. All of the programs, donations, and events we did last year, we'll plan to do again this upcoming New Year.

Unit 96 would like to "Thank" everyone that came out to support "Movie Night" and "Celebrate West Hartford". The post Legionnaires met with unit members to prepare the goody bags for the Celebrate West Hartford. A special "Thank You" to Commander Ken Hungerford, Moe and Sue Fradette, Rita Kirby, William Tacy, Jeff Cole, Bob

Hyland, and Chuck Berry. This team also covered shifts in the hot sun, for the two days of the event, along with Shelly Walter, David Albert, Blake Leonard, Rocky Goodwin, and Pat Harrell. Job Well Done!

Class of 2015 Girls State was a success. Details are in this newsletter.

Membership cards for 2015 are available at each meeting. You can make check of \$25.00 to ALA Unit #96, give to the bartender or mail to:

Jeanne Berry  
110 Castle Road  
Bristol, CT 06010-5301.

Your dues help the Auxiliary in numerous ways. The ALA National President represents you in Congress, or wherever needed when veteran issues arise. Each vote is important.

You may not have time to attend a meeting or participate in an event, but just by being a member you do make a difference. If you have a friend or family member that hasn't joined yet, call me or give them an application. They're available at the Post bar. By 2020 we plan to be more than 1 million strong. Our next meeting date is Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm at the Post home.

Our purpose is to assist veterans, military and their families. "In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God & Country."

Visit [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) for more info or contact President Jeanne at 203-715-2336 [jeanneberry@comcast.net](mailto:jeanneberry@comcast.net). Thank You & God Bless America.

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## Boys State and Girls State

Thirteen incoming seniors from West Hartford's high schools were sponsored by American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 to attend the 2015 Girls and Boys State conventions recently held at ECSU.

The Boys State program was held at ECSU June 20-28. Recipients of the Boys State awards were: Conard High School, Isaac Gilles and Gabriel Turco; Hall High School, Adam Maidman and Ian Enders; Northwest High School, Timothy O'Donnell, Ian D'Arcangelo, and Ryan Rich.

Isaac Gilles, a senior at Conard High School, was elected by the Boys State Convention to attend Boys Nation which was held in Washington, D.C., July 17-24. Isaac was the third Post 96 representative of Boys State/Girls State chosen to attend the Boys Nation/Girls Nation in the last three years.

to this position over twenty years of experience and leadership as a commissioned officer from both the Active Duty and the Air National Guard.

Congratulations to a LCDR Jay Haran, son of Post 96 Finance Officer Frank Haran, recently promoted to LCDR and currently serving in the Medical Service Corps, USN in Gorton, CT as Research Psychologist / Project Officer in the Warfighter Performance Dept. at the Navy Submarine Research Lab.

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## 2015 Installation of Officers

The installation of Officers for the 2015-16 year will be held September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Post Monthly Meeting. The following were elected at the May meeting:

Commander	Moe Fradette
Sr. Vice Commander	Rocky Goodwin
Jr. Vice Commander	Jeff Cole
Finance Officer	Frank Haran
Judge Advocate	Bob Hyland
Chaplain	Barry Leghorn
Executive Committee	Ray Jean
Executive Committee	Dave Albert

## Board of Trustees

Blake Leonard	Phil Kelly
David Lutz	John Parenti
Greg Stevens	John Pappalardo
Powell Schunder	

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## Leesa Philippon Recipient of State Americanism Award



The Connecticut Department of the American Legion awarded Leesa Philippon the 2015 Americanism Award at its 97<sup>th</sup> Department Convention held July 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> in Trumbull, CT. Leesa was also presented a U.S. Senate Certificate of Special Recognition by U.S. Richard Blumenthal in recognition of her Americanism award. Senator Blumenthal, who has known the family for many years, also acknowledged the dedication the Philippons have for their community and nation.

Dana Murphy, Department Chairman for the Americanism Award, stated in his presentation remarks, “Leesa Philippon, a Gold Star Mother, represents every definition of Americanism associated with the Connecticut Department Americanism Award.” Leesa was nominated for the award by Hayes-Velhage Post 96.

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## Promotions

Congratulations to Post member Lt Col Jeff Cole recently appointed as commander for the 157th Operations Support Squadron. Lt Col Cole brings

## Shelly Walter Appointed As Post Service Officer



Post 96 has appointed Shelly Walter to serve as Post Service Officer. A veteran of the Marine Corps, Shelly served 4 years during the Gulf War era, later serving with the National Guard and Reserve. She has been an employee at the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2010 working for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) as a vocational rehabilitation counselor (VRC). She holds a Bachelors Degree in Sociology and a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. In her current position Shelly assists Veterans with service connected disabilities to prepare for, obtain and/or maintain suitable employment.

As Post Service Officer, Shelly and her committee will be available to provide assistance to veterans and their dependents to insure they are aware of the rights and benefits granted by law. Veterans needing assistance should contact Post 96 at 860-233-9029 or via email at [alpost96@comcast.net](mailto:alpost96@comcast.net).

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## American Legion 2015 School Awards

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 has awarded its 2015 School Awards which are presented annually, recognizing students who posses high qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship, and Service.

The 2015 recipients are: Conard High School, Andrew Sesta, Medal, Cierra Hungerford, Certificate; Hall High School, Kyle Jeter, Medal,

Emily DiMatteo, Certificate; American School for the Deaf, Catherine McKay, Medal, Hunter Oren, Certificate; Northwest Catholic, Michael Valentine, Medal, Angela Miguel, Certificate ; Intensive Education Academy, Jonathan Lambertson, Medal, Max Sznaj, Certificate.

Recipients of School Awards for the Middle Schools are: Bristow Middle School, Isabella Guajardn o-Moore, Medal, Bryant Caron, Certificate;

King Philip Middle School, Colin Horan, Medal, Elizabeth Pillow, Certificate; Sedgwick Middle School, Matthew Vitelli, Medal, Annika Ligon, Certificate.

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## American Legion Baseball

(Ken Hungerford, Baseball Commissioner)

**Senior Team** – Zone 7 Record 16 - 6, Overall Record 18 – 8

Led by head coach Elliot Lane and his assistant coaches, Sean McCann and Rick Sanford, the Post 96 Senior Team ended the season in second place in Zone 7 competition qualifying for section playoffs. The team won their first and second rounds (Wins over Hartford 8-5 and Waterford 11-10) but had to face their nemesis RCP, first place winner of Zone 7, in a two out of three games qualifier to advance to the State Tournament. Unfortunately RCP took two straight eliminating Post 96 (9-1 and 9-0). For the season RCP took 4 games over Post 96 in Zone 7 play. RCP went on to win the American Legion State Tournament and advanced to the American Legion World Series in NC.

Outstanding players on the 2015 Post 96 Senior Team were: Neil Kelly, CF, Alex White, LF, Danny Roth, SS, and pitchers Max Vogel-Freedman and Patrick McHale.

(American Legion Baseball continued)

### **Junior Team** – Record 12 – 12

Led by head coach Dennis Hannigan the Post 96 Junior Team had an outstanding season. Their season led to a final series when they needed to win two of three games but fell short eliminating them from playoffs.

### **Prep Team** – Record 13 - 5

Led by Coach Rick Sanford, in its inaugural season for Post 96, the Prep Team made it into the sectional playoffs by winning two games but then lost to the first place team from Stamford. For their first year in this division Coach Sanford said there is a lot interest in this age group and he was proud of all his players for all their accomplishments this season.

A special thank you to Coach Elliot Lane's commitment as coach of our Senior Team for the past two years. Coach Lane has decided to retire from coaching baseball after two and one-half decades. Jim Hungerford will be head coach of the Senior Team next year. Coach Hungerford comes to our program with an outstanding winning record.

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## **Michael Wieczorek Appointed to Commission on Veterans' Affairs**

In 2004 his unit was mobilized and he served a year in Baghdad, Iraq as the Director of Support Operations for the United States Embassy Complex. Upon redeployment he assumed a full-time position with the CT Army National Guard and has served as the Director of Logistics and Director of Operations. He currently serves as the Chief of Staff.

The West Hartford Town Council recently approved the appointment of Post 96 nominee Michael Wieczorek to the Town's Commission on Veterans'

Affairs. He served on active duty for 11 years serving in Germany, Ft. Meade, Ft. Carson and West Point. He joined the US Army Reserves in 1996 and served as an Exercise Observer Trainer in Bristol, RI. In 1998 he transitioned to the CT Army National Guard and has served as a staff officer, battalion commander and brigade commander.

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## **Annual Dues**

All members should have received their dues notification for 2015-16 dues. Dues can be mailed to National or paid online. We request that you pay your dues no later than December 15, 2015. Any dues paid after January 1, 2016 will cost the Post an additional \$5.00 as National dues will increase on that date. If you have not paid your dues they can also be sent to:

Chuck Berry  
110 Castle Road  
Bristol, CT 06010

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## **Post 96 Now Official Lottery Agent**

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 is now an official Connecticut Lottery agent. Buy your lottery and Powerball tickets at the Post! Bring in the below coupon between September 1, 2015 and November 30, 2015 when you come in for lunch or dinner and receive a free "Play 3" lotto ticket.



## 2015-2016 Hayes-Post 96 Budget

The Post 96 budget for the next fiscal year will be presented for approval at the September monthly meeting. If you wish to review the budget it will be available at the Post during normal business hours.

## Happenings At Post 96

Have you tried the *Fish and Chips*? The last Friday of each Month the menu special for lunch and dinner is the best *Fish and Chips* in town. Don't miss this great special.

### Post Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 13, 2015.

There are two times available for the dinner, 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm. Call the Post to make your reservation. Sorry, no guests. For member and spouse or significant other.

The Post will close at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed Christmas Day. The Post will also close at 4:00 pm New Years Eve and will be closed New Years Day.

Also, don't forget to check the Post website, [www.post96.org](http://www.post96.org), for other dinner specials and events at the Post.

	Bar	Kitchen
Sunday	Noon to 6 pm	Closed
Mon.-Tues	4:00 pm to 11:00 pm	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Wed. – Fri.	11:30 am to 11:00 pm	11:30 am to 2:00 pm 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Saturday	4:00 pm to 11:00 pm	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm



**We love Post 96! Come join us!**

## POST 96 HONORS OFFICER DAVID MICHAEL AS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Post 96 has recognized West Hartford Police Officer David Michael as the “2015 Police Officer of the Year”. Each year the American Legion honors one individual as the Police Officer of the Year, chosen and recognized by fellow officers.

Officer Michael grew up in Granby and joined the Marines upon graduating from high school achieving the rank of Sergeant. He served in both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Fallujah.

He joined the West Hartford Police Department in 2007. In his eight years with the Police Department he has served in the Patrol, CIT, and Traffic divisions. In his presentation remarks Police Chief Tracey Gove stated, “Much of Dave’s skill comes from the fact that he has not only the formal police training, but also the instinct to immediately discern when something seems out of place. He also has a great facility for names and faces. He has been called a “tenacious investigator” and an “excellent street cop”. Officer Michael has been awarded 2 Merit Awards and 6 Unit Citations while serving with the West Hartford Police Department.



## Hayes-Velhage Post 96 2015 Member Survey

A committee of Hayes-Velhage Post 96 will be developing a five year Strategic Plan and a one year Business Plan to insure the objectives defined in our By-Laws and wishes of our membership are being achieved. Your input is vital to development of these plans. PLEASE take a few minutes to complete the below survey and return it to the Post in person or by mail to the address listed below.

1. How many times have you visited the Post in the last year?  
More than 10 times \_\_\_\_ More than 5 times \_\_\_\_ Have not visited the Post \_\_\_\_
2. If you have not visited the Post in the last year, what has kept you away?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you feel our current location at 45 Raymond Road meets the needs of the Post?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If no, why? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you attend the monthly Post meetings? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
If not, is there any specific reason why you do not (e.g, inconvenient day or time accessibility of the facilities, parking etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you asked a veteran friend, who is not currently a member, to join our Post?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
6. Do you feel the prices for food and drinks at the Post are reasonable?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
7. Is 3 hours of free parking in the Isham Garage an issue for you?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, please state why. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you feel the Post should hold more special events (i.e. Family Nights, special speakers, etc.)? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . If yes, do you have suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
9. Are you available and interested in working on committees of the Post?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
10. Do you use email? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ . Does the Post have your email address?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ The ability for the Post to use email for correspondence is a major cost savings for the Post.

Thank you for completing the survey. Please return to the Post or mail to:

Post 96 Survey  
45 Raymond Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



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**Veterans Day Ceremony  
11:00 AM  
November 11, 2015  
Connecticut Veterans Memorial  
West Hartford**

