



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

45 Raymond Road
West Hartford, CT 06107-2211
860.233.9029
www.post96.org

Newsletter

Commander Andy Battistone
anjoba30@aol.com

Sr. Vice Comdr. Brendan Boyle
bpboyle542@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Comdr. Chris Conlin
cjconlin@gmail.com

Adjutant Charles Berry
cberry1@comcast.net

Finance Officer
PPC Richard Hennessey
richardhennessey@sbcglobal.net

Judge Advocate
Robert Hyland, Esq.
rehyland@travelers.com

Chaplain Barry Leghorn
bleghorn@snet.net

Executive Committeeman
Francis X. Gallagher
Phone 860-521-3634

Executive Committeeman
Brendan Roberts
Brendan.Roberts11@gmail.com

Chair, Facilities and
Operations Committee
Ray Gmeindl
rgmeindl@snet.net

Chair, Finance Committee
Robert Kulak
rjkulak@att.net

Editor Richard Hennessey
alpost96@comcast.net

★ ★ ★ FALL 2011 ★ ★ ★

Wednesday, Sept. 14, '11 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 12, '11 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 8, '11 – 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Election Day
Wednesday, Nov. 9, '11 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Friday, Nov. 11, '11 – 11:00 a.m.	Veterans Day Ceremony W. Htfd. Veterans Memorial
Wednesday, Dec. 14, '11 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

It is a great honor and privilege to represent Post 96 as your Commander for the coming year.

The Post has much to do to persevere in its present vitality to assure its future status as an organization dedicated to veterans rights, their families and community. It has to continue to fulfill its commitment for God and Country and the U. S. Constitution. There is only one America - the greatest country in the world - and it is up to us to promote and further the ideals it represents.

I am sure the newly elected officers will prove themselves competent to execute their duties and conduct themselves for the good of the legion.

However, it is no small task to uphold and promote the traditions of The American Legion. Therefore, I humbly request that each member participate in our post's endeavors to realize its goals. You are important to its success!

Respectfully,

Andrew J. Battistone, Commander

★★★★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★★★★★

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

THE "GUIDING LIGHTS" OF POST 96

At our annual Post meeting in May, the following members of Post 96 were elected to the offices indicated: Commander Andrew J. Battistone; Senior Vice Commander Brendan Boyle; Junior Vice Commander Christopher Conlin; Finance Officer Richard Hennessey; Judge Advocate Robert Hyland, Esquire; Chaplain Barry Leghorn; and two Executive Committeemen, Francis X. Gallgher and Brendan Roberts. The following members were elected to a two year term office to the following committees: Facilities and Operations Committee: Rocco DiTarranto; John J. Farrell; Maurice J. Fradette; Raymond A. Gmeindl; David R. Lutz; William G. Reardon; and Robert T. Walsh. Finance Committee: Thomas Desmond; Robert J. Kulak; and William Tacy. Commander Battistone appointed Charles R. Berry as the Post Adjutant and Brendan Roberts as Sergeant-at-Arms.

PPC KEN HUNGERFORD HONORED AS "STATE LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR"

At our State Convention in Rocky Hill, PPC Ken Hungerford was selected and honored as the State Legionnaire of the Year. Through his involvement in Legion Baseball Ken Hungerford has instructed generations of West Hartford youth on the values and importance of teamwork, discipline, leadership and good sportsmanship. For the past decade he has chaired the School Awards Committee and school visits on Veterans Day. Commander Battistone said it all; "I can't think of a more deserving candidate for this award than Ken Hungerford." Those who know Ken Hungerford agree with Commander Battistone's comments.

BOYS STATE AND GIRLS STATE

Post 96 and Auxiliary Unit 96 had the privilege and honor to sponsor the following West Hartford high school students to attend Connecticut Boys and/or Girls State: From Conard High School: Peter Andrews, Ronan Lucey, Jennifer Huynh and Christie Merino. From Northwest Catholic High School: Cedric Henderson, Stephen Kozak and Caroline Davenport. From Hall High School: Conor Proft, Brett Ranllieri, Melissa Keeley and Delaney Patterson. Hopefully, the civic values gained by these students will stay with them for many years. In both Boys State and Girls State a \$1,000 Samsung-American Legion scholarship is awarded to one member. Our congratulations to Delaney Patterson from Hall High School, who, from a field of 185 candidates, was elected the Secretary of the State and won the Girls State Samsung-American Legion Scholarship.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

We tip our legion cap and salute the following members of our Legion Family for their thoughtful donations to the Post 96 Baseball program. Herman Anderson ★ Gary Andrews ★ Bill Barry ★ Andy Battistone ★ John Paul Berard ★ Bob Berglund ★ Jeanne and Chuck Berry ★ Bill Cannon ★ Jean and John Carr ★ John Cashman ★ Paula Casey ★ Ernie Cermola ★ David Clay ★ Brad Collins ★ Andrew Cudo ★ Jeffrey Darling ★ Dwight Davies ★ Alan Demers ★ Harold Ducey ★ Mort Dunn ★ Jim Ellis ★ Gary Eseplin ★ Jack Facey ★ James Farrell ★ Richard Foster ★ Moe Fradette ★ Ed Friedman ★ Frank Gallagher ★ Mark Gallagher ★ John Gaudiana ★ Mike Golas ★ Joe Glowacki ★ Natale and Ray Gmeindl ★ Edmund Grandahl ★ Bob Gulliksen ★ Marty Guyer ★ Denise Berard Hall ★ Al Harrison ★ Chris Healey ★ Mark Hennessey ★ Richard Hennessey ★ Bob Hyland ★ Dan Hyland ★ Jay Jaffee ★ Eddie Janiszouski ★ Charles Jones ★ Gary Kirsten ★ John Larew ★ Joseph LeClerc ★ David Lutz ★ Gordie and Cheryl MacKenzie ★ Vincent Marandola ★ Robert Martin ★ Edward Mascolo ★ William McCarthy ★ John McCormick ★ Rev. Gary and Beth Miller ★ Paul Morrill ★ David Muir ★ Jim Mullin ★ Peter Negrola ★ Pat Nolan ★ Billy "Red" Noonan ★ Henry Otte ★ Bob Ouellette ★ Robert Paulson ★ Robert and Geraldine Pizzella ★ Mark Proft ★ Bill Reardon ★ Sam Runde ★ Michael Scanlan ★ Paul Sevarino ★ Stephen Sinatro ★ John Small ★ Charles Srams ★ Cliff Thomas ★ Jim Tierney ★ and Ronald Wright.

POST SCRIPT: Congratulations to our Senior Team in winning the Zone 7 Championship and to our Junior Team in capturing second place in their league. Both teams played well in the play-offs but unfortunately they didn't make it to the winner's circle.

CHANGE TO THE CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART

The Pentagon has announced a change and clarification in its guidelines for the award of the Purple Heart, with an emphasis on battlefield concussions being eligible for the medal. Official guidelines have long considered combat-sustained concussions a valid injury worthy of the Purple Heart, but in practice, it has been left to doctors or battlefield commanders to decide whether a blow to the head during combat warranted the medal. With recent studies on brain trauma, however, the rules have been revised to state what constitutes a concussion, with symptoms including momentary loss of consciousness or memory, dizziness, headache, nausea or light sensitivity. Medical treatment, also required for the medal, is defined by the rules to include merely rest and Tylenol. Army veterans can call 888-276-9472 or email hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil. Phone numbers for the other services are: For Marine Corps veterans: (703) 784-934-9342; Navy veterans: (314) 592-1150; and for Air Force veterans: (210) 565-2751.

RESERVE RETIREMENT AGE SNAFU

A key portion of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act reduced the age that retired Guard or Reserve members can become eligible to receive full military retirement benefits. However, a glitch in the law's language, which authorizes three months' retirement-age credit for each 90 days served on active duty "in any fiscal year," is being interpreted by DoD to mean that each 90-day period must fall entirely within a single fiscal year. This would mean that a Guard or Reserve member would have to start an active duty tour on the first day of a given quarter to ensure all 90 days would count. Many Guard and Reserve retirees are not likely to notice this accounting glitch until their early retirement check doesn't arrive when they expect it. The legion is working to have DoD's interpretation changed to meet the intent of the law.

PATRIOT EXPRESS PILOT LOAN INITIATIVE

The Small Business Association (SBA) has a program called the Patriot Express Pilot Loan Initiative. This program is designed especially for military members and veterans who wish to start or expand a small business. There are multiple advantages for veterans who own their own businesses to participate in this program. The Patriot Express is not a guaranteed loan. The veteran who wishes to gain the loan must meet veteran status eligibility, as well as any requirements in place from the loan servicer. These additional requirements can include business management training or experience, a solid and well-developed business plan with financial predictions, and of course good credit. Eligibility for the Patriot Express initiative is restricted to veterans, including service-disabled veterans; active duty military members who are eligible for the military's Transition Assistance Program; reservists and National Guard members and current spouses of any veteran in these categories. Widowed spouses of a service member who died during service or a veteran who died of service related causes are also eligible to participate in this initiative. Like most business loans, there are certain restrictions on what the loan proceeds can be used for. There is more information available on the internet at: <http://www.vabenefitblog.com/patriot-express-initiative-sba-loans-for-veterans/#ixzz1IsyZhR92>.

NEW GI BILL EXPANDS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING BENEFITS

The Post 9/11 GI Bill has expanded the benefits for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veterans. Veterans in this category owe it to themselves and their families to seriously look at the educational and training opportunities available under this new GI Bill. Your benefits can be used for non-degree programs, certification programs, on-the-job training programs, apprenticeships, correspondence courses and flight school. Also covered are national exams for SAT, ACT, GRE and LSAT. Some of the provisions in the bill are effective August 1, 2011, while other parts of it begin on October 1. For further information visit the VA's web page at <http://inquiry.vba.va.gov>.

If you paid your dues on-line by credit card, you must forward your receipt to the Post in order to receive your 2012 membership card.