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# Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

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

## Newsletter

### ★ Fall 2012 ★

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Firefighter of the Year

**Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Veterans Day**

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting

## Commander's Message

Dear Comrades and Members of the Legion Family,

Thank you for entrusting me with the position of Commander of Post 96. I am privileged to have inherited a job that has been done so well by my predecessors.

The contributions made by our members are invaluable to its current operation and the future of our Post. Our Post Home is a comfortable meeting spot, with a friendly clientele and an excellent and hospitable staff. We are fortunate to have such a place and staff.

We are recognized as a valuable asset to our community and it is important that we continue to project a favorable image of The American Legion here in West Hartford. To perpetuate this standard, we all have to work together to insure the future of Post 96. The key to the future is recruiting new members and the retention of current members. Getting eligible members to join the legion today is a lot more difficult for us today. The current generation of new veterans is a lot smaller percentage of the population than it was in the days of the draft.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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

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

## Report on the Annual Election of Officers

At our annual Post meeting in May, the following members of Post 96 were elected to the offices indicated:

Commander Christopher Conlin; Senior Vice Commander Maurice J. Fradette; Junior Vice Commander Brendan Boyle; Finance Officer Raymond Gmeindl; Judge Advocate Robert Hyland, Esquire; Chaplain Barry Leghorn; and two Executive Committeemen, Jeffrey Cole and Brendan Roberts. The following members were elected to the Board of Trustees for a two year term of office: Andrew Battistone; Rocco DiTarranto; John J. Farrell; Richard Hennessey; Andrew Lutz; David R. Lutz and William Reardon. The trustees elected David Lutz as their Chairman. Commander Conlin appointed Charles R. Berry as the Post Adjutant, Harold Ducey as Post Historian/Publicist and John Larew as Sergeant-at-Arms.

## Veterans' Excellence Scholarship Fund at CCSU

We have been participating in the Veterans' Excellence Scholarship Fund at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, for the past few years by providing \$200 to the scholarship fund. To be considered for this scholarship a veteran must have a GPA above 3.0. This year's recipient was Ricky Lee Kitts who had served as a Quartermaster 3d Class in the US Navy. Kitts graduated in May 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Systems.

## 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 that totaled \$2,253.

Herman Anderson ☆ Anonymous ☆ Andy Battistone ☆ Jean Paul Berard ☆ Robert Berglund ☆ Ted Calabrese  
William Camora ☆ William Carpenter ☆ Jean & John Carr ☆ John Cashman ☆ David Clay ☆ Brad Collins ☆ Chris Conlin  
Andrew Cudo ☆ Marty Cunningham ☆ Lee Damuth ☆ Harry Davidson ☆ Alan Demers ☆ Tom Desmond  
Rocco & Carol DiTaranto ☆ Mort Dunn ☆ Jim Dyber ☆ Jim Ellis ☆ Gary Espelin ☆ Jim Farrell ☆ Fred Ferace  
Moe Fradette ☆ William French ☆ Frank Gallagher ☆ Mark Gallagher ☆ John Gaudiana ☆ Joe Glowacki  
Natalie & Ray Gmeindl ☆ Mike Golas ☆ Leonard Gregory ☆ Marty Guyer ☆ Alfred Harrison ☆ Mark Hennessey  
Richard Hennessey ☆ Doug Hodlin ☆ Fred Houghton ☆ Ken Hungerford ☆ Bob Hyland ☆ Dan Hyland ☆ Jay Jaffe  
John Johnson ☆ Stephen Johnson ☆ Jere Johnston ☆ Charles Jones ☆ Philip Kelly ☆ John & Corky Larew ☆ Joseph Leclerc  
Barry Leghorn ☆ Joseph Long ☆ Eric Lund ☆ Joanne & David Lutz ☆ Tom Lynch ☆ Cheryl & Gordon MacKenzie  
Vincent Marandola ☆ Robert Martin ☆ John McCormick ☆ Robert McKone ☆ John Midney ☆ Bob Moylan  
David Muir ☆ Peter Negrola ☆ Paul Noel ☆ Billy "Red" Noonan ☆ Robert Ofstein ☆ Bob O'Leary ☆ Henry Otte  
Bob Ouellette ☆ Mark Proft ☆ John Ramezzana ☆ Bill Reardon ☆ Roger Reynolds ☆ Winslow "Sam" Runde  
Raymond Ryea ☆ Michael Scanlan ☆ Dan Shea ☆ Stan Sliva ☆ Joe Stafford ☆ John Timko ☆ William Tully  
David Ward ☆ Bill Wilson ☆ Bob Wright ☆

## Commander's Message *(Continued from Page 1)*

In reflecting on the time when I joined the Post, I, like many of you, did not have a keen interest in joining any veterans organization after leaving the service. It was a friend and co-worker, who dragged me into the old Post and signed me up. Once there, I felt right at home. Perhaps you can do the same with one of your co-workers.

We all need to personally recruit not just for the legion, but also for our Auxiliary Unit 96 and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 96 – future members are just an invitation away. We have the nicest Post Home I've ever seen, and we need more people to be a part of it, to insure its future.

Thank you for doing your share and thank you all for your service.

Chris Conlin, Commander



*Past Commander Andy Battistone passes the gavel to his successor, Commander-Elect Chris Conlin, upon his election at our Annual Meeting on May 9, 2012.*



*National Commander meets with Post 96 members at the Armed Forces Day Luncheon, May 20, 2012. Left to right: Sr. Vice Comdr. Moe Fradette, John Johnson, National Commander Fong Wong, Jeff Cole, Pat Sinatro and Philip Kelly.*



*Police Officer of the Year Award presented to Detective-Brian Hill of the WHPD on May 23, 2012 in our Post Home. Left to right: Commander Chris Conlin, Chief Tracey Gove and Detective Brian Hill*



*Governor Dannel Malloy and Mayor Scott Slifka at the Commander's after-the-parade reception on Memorial Day at our Post Home.*





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## **Post Scripts**

**COMMAMNDER CONLIN ENERGIZES THE POST'S P.R. EFFORT!** Concurrent with the appointment of Harold Ducey as Post Historian, Commander Conlin assigned him the additional duty as Public Affairs Officer and asked Ducey to work with Sr. Vice Commander Moe Fradette to publicize a fundraiser for the 143rd MP Company's Family Support Center. The 143rd is a West Hartford based Army National Guard unit and is scheduled for imminent deployment. The Family Support Center provides a resource for the families of the deployed National Guardsmen in family emergency situations. Our P.R. team launched a media blitz that resulted in raising \$1,300+ for the 143rd Family Support Center.

**POST 96 SENIOR BASEBALL TEAM.** Once again our baseball program brought Post 96 accolades from legion baseball fans when they closed out the season with a record of 19 wins and 5 losses that earned them another Zone 7 Championship.

**CONNECTICUT BOYS STATE** is among one of the most respected and selective educational program available to high school students. This year we sent seven students to Boys State from Conard, Hall and Northwest Catholic high schools. Attorney Kevin Reynolds, Legislative Counsel to the American Legion, Department of Connecticut was invited to make a presentation on state government as pertains to lobbying and advocacy. We asked Attorney Reynolds his opinion of CT Boys State. He responded: "I have to tell you how impressed I was by the students attending CT Boys State. I've spoken to law schools and college classes. The sophistication and thoughtfulness of the questions from CT Boys State was far beyond the law school and college classes. It was a real pleasure to speak with them."

**CHEF KEVIN MADIGAN** has prepared a new Bistro Menu, which is enclosed to this newsletter. Lunch is served Monday thru Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Dinner is served Monday thru Saturday, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.