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Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

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Newsletter

★ Spring 2012 ★

Wednesday, Mar. 7, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 11, 2012 – 7:30 p.m. (Nomination of Officers and Trustees)	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, May 9, 2012 – 7:30 p.m. (Election of Officers and Trustees)	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, May 23, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.	Police Officer of the Year
Monday, May 28, 2012 – 10:00 p.m.	Memorial Day Parade West Hartford Center
(There are no Post meetings in the months of June, July and August)	
Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting

Commander's Message

My fellow legionnaires,

In reviewing my tenure as Post Commander, I can express it as being the “best of times and the worst of times.” For the best of times I take great pride in being a member and commander of one of the finest American Legion posts in the Northeast, if not the nation. On the flip side, is the fact that brick and mortar does not make a legion post, it's the members that do. To this end, I am disappointed that we do not have more members stepping forward to serve Post 96. The work falls on the shoulders of a few, for which I am very grateful for their help and service.

The future of Post 96 rests with the membership. The “ball is in your court” in determining the future of Post 96.

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

Post Oratorical Contest

The Legion's Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among high school students. To this end, the candidates participating in our Post contest in January demonstrated that they are clearly well versed in the U.S. Constitution. The judges concluded their deliberations by awarding first place to Chris Zinzarella and the runner-up prize to Louis Bernard. Both of these students are from Hall High School. Post 96 Americanism Chairman Chris Conlin presented these students with checks for \$500 and \$300 respectively. This contest would not have been possible without the help of volunteers. In addition to our volunteer judges as noted below in the photo, the contributions made by our Timekeeper Eileen Hurst, Senior Vice Commander Brian Boyle and Legionnaires Moe Fradette and Bill Reardon was most commendable and appreciated.



Oratorical Contest participants (Left to right): Moderator Junior Vice Commander Chris Conlin; John and Marianne Zinzarella with their son Chris Zinzarella; Louis Bernard and his mother, Mrs. C. C. Clark.



Judges for the Oratorical Contest were (L to R): Noel Radigan, Cate Kulak, Brian Baummer and Legionnaire Ernie Cermola

Connecticut Legion Hall of Fame

By Mark Hennessey, Member of Post 96 and Webmaster of the Post 96 Webpage.

I was asked by Commander Battistone to write an article on the Connecticut American Legion Hall of Fame. Why? Because my father, (who is the editor of this newsletter), was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 38th Annual Mid-Winter Conference of the Department of Connecticut. Dad produced a four-line copy that Commander Battistone rejected and passed the task onto me. With that out of the way, I can say that my father was truly surprised and overwhelmed with being chosen for the Hall of Fame! Likewise our entire family was overjoyed to learn that our father would be honored. This was the Sixth Class of the Hall of Fame. It consisted of seven legionnaires, three of whom were posthumous, (Father Robert Keating of Post 45, PDC Henry Mayer of Post 111 and George Collier of Post 195), along with



The Award



*“A Proud Father –
With his sons at his side in their Air Force Blues”*

Thomas Lopez of Post 177, Frederick Treat of Post 9, George Allard of Post 113 and my father, Richard Hennessey of Post 96. My mother insisted that my brother Eric, who resides in Fredericksburg, VA and is a retired CMSgt and myself wear our uniforms as a tribute to my father's 21 years of active duty service with the USAF. Our family had an entire banquet table adjacent to the podium. We all agreed that Dad was proud as a peacock with Mom at his side with that special twinkle in her eye. On behalf of a grateful family, we thank the legionnaires responsible for honoring our father who truly enjoys working in the legion vineyard for “God and Country.”

“Stay in the Loop” of Post 96 Happenings

Some years ago, many of our older members from the World War II and the Korea War era thought they would never see the day when they would use a personal computer to communicate with by email or to shop on-line. Whether they learned by osmosis or were taught by their grandchildren, we now know many of our senior citizen members have mastered the rudiments of the PC much to their own surprise.

We urge all legionnaires that have an e-mail address to send an email to ALPost96@comcast.net. Type “Add my Email Address” in the subject block. We need your help in order that we can expand our database to keep you informed of Post activities. Some examples of past use of this database were to inform our members that Ocean State Job Lot was offering all veterans a 30% discount on the week leading up to Veterans Day and free admission to a University of Hartford basketball game.

As a point of information, we protect all email addresses. These emails are sent to all addressees as a “blind copy- (bcc).” This means that the recipient is the only address on the copy of the email that the member receives.



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Update on Post 96 Baseball Team

With spring training underway in sunny Florida, this signaled the time to set our sights on our Senior and Junior Legion baseball teams. To start with Commander Battistone appointed Eric Lund as the Chair of the Baseball Committee with the parenthetical job title as "General Manager." Escalating costs of umpire fees, (\$4,800 last year) and an insurance premium of \$1400 lead the expense side of our baseball budget. Chairman Lund and the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) are planning a Pancake Breakfast as a fundraiser for our legion baseball program on Father's Day, June 17th. Any SAL members that want to volunteer to help with the breakfast should send an email to ericlund@comcast.net. We expect and hope that many dads when asked: "What do you want for Father's Day?" We hope many will answer: "Breakfast at the Legion."

Post Scripts: We doff our legion caps and salute the **West Hartford Firefighters Association Local 1241** for their donation to the veterans of Post 96 on Veterans Day. Bill Reardon received the donation on behalf of Post 96 from Command Sergeant-Major James Matthews representing Local 1241.

Ms. Jean Watters, our esteemed manager, who has been out on sick leave for this past year, received some bad news last month. Her cancer has metastasized and she is scheduled to undergo another series of radiation treatments. Please remember Jean in your prayers.

Odds and Ends: The Constitution and Bylaws change that restored the Board of Trustees passed at our February 8 Post meeting... **Past Post Comdr. Ken Hungerford** is planning to move back to West Hartford after living the past few years in Amesbury, MA. Ken's return is good news for our Baseball and Americanism committees as he has been a great part of their success over the past decade... **The Lutz's, (David and Joanne)**, top the list of having the most members from one family. Wouldn't it be nice to have a husband and wife team, (i.e. David and Joanne), as Commander of the Post and as President of the Auxiliary?