



Commander Christopher Conlin
cjconlin@gmail.com

St. Vice Comdr, Maurice Fradette
mfradette@comcast.net

Jr. Vice Comdr, Brendan Boyle
bpb Boyle542@gmail.com

Adjutant Charles Berry
Cberry1@comcast.net

Finance Officer Raymond Gmeindl
rgmeindl@snet.net

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

Chaplain Barry Leghorn
bleghorn@snet.net

Executive Committeem an
Jeffrey Cole
topeffc@aol.com

Executive Committeem an
Brendan Roberts
brendanroberts11@gmail.com

Historian/Publicist Harold Ducey
idaducey@aol.com

Sergeant-at-Arms John Larew
John Larew - 860-521-3516

Chairman, Board of Trustees
David Lutz
David_r_lutz@sbcglobal.net

Trustee Andrew Battistone
anjoba30@aol.com

Trustee Rocco DiTaranto
roccoditaranto@hotmail.com

Trustee John Farrell
jff103@gmail.com

Trustee Kenneth Hungerford
860-906-8134

Trustee Andrew Lutz
alutz2@sbcglobal.net

Trustee William Reardon
jreardon0719@sbcglobal.net

Editor Maurice Fradette
mfradette@comcast.net

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

45 Raymond Road
West Hartford, CT 06107-2211

860.233.9029
www.post96.org

Newsletter

★ SUMMER-FALL 2013 ★

Wednesday, May 15, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 27, '13 – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 16, '13 – 10:00 a.m. –
1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 11, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 23, '13 – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 11, '13 – 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

–There are no Post meetings in the months of June, July and August–

Monthly Post Meeting

Election of Officers

Police Officer of the Year

Memorial Day Parade

Pancake Breakfast to benefit

Legion Baseball

Monthly Post Meeting

Monthly Post Meeting

Firefighter of the Year

Veterans Day

Monthly Post Meeting

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As Spring arrives, a sense of rejuvenation and new life is felt by all of us. We were honored to have National Commander James Koutz visit our Post on March 28th for lunch and a dialogue with Post members. Read more about his visit in this issue. Another baseball season is around the corner, and our Senior and Junior teams look forward to another successful season. Let's support our players and coaches with our Spring pancake breakfast, and taking in some ball games. Eric Lund has passed the team manager job onto Nick Winn this season. Thank you Eric, for a job well done.

Both Nick and Eric are part of our Sons of the American Legion Squadron. Keith Barry, a member of our Color Guard and SAL, and his wife Sue (a member of the Auxiliary), have contributed significantly to our

★★★★ 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)

Post's efforts in supporting the 143rd MP Company, deployed in Afghanistan. Our Auxiliary members, coordinated by Jeanne Barry, helped prepare flags for shipment to the 143rd. The efforts of our SAL, Auxiliary, and regular members, all working together, are what keep our Post a vibrant and growing entity. Together with Hannon Hatch VFW Post 9929, our Post membership is actively supporting our Troops serving overseas.

Kim Fallon has begun managing our club operations; we're pleased to have her. Our bar and kitchen staff make our Post Home a comfortable place to enjoy camaraderie and something good to eat and drink. Stop by - bring a friend.

Come to a meeting; we're doing good things - get involved!

Fraternally,
Chris Conlin
Post Commander

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Welcomes National Commander Koutz

National Commander of the American Legion James E. Koutz visited Hayes-Velhage Post 96 on March 28th for lunch and meeting with post members and members of the Department of Connecticut. An official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly was presented to Commander Koutz by Post 96 Commander Chris Conlin.

In the citation the General Assembly acknowledged Commander Koutz's service to our country and to American veterans and extended the State's welcome on behalf of the 20,000 Connecticut legionnaires.

In his remarks to the Post members, Commander Koutz said, "Every day is Veterans Day" and that all Legion members need to be active in their Post

and in their community to champion the service and benefits of all veterans.



Commander Koutz accepting Connecticut General Assembly citation from Post Commander Conlin.

Commander Koutz also discussed other organizations promoting the support of veterans. He was not supportive of the Wounded Warrior Project because of the disproportionate allocation to administrative overhead and not to veterans. He was supportive of programs such as Fisher House. After his visit to Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Commander Koutz was scheduled to meet with VA representatives in Newington to discuss the backlog in VA claims.



Post 96 members at luncheon with National Commander Koutz.

In his closing remarks Commander Koutz stated he welcomes every opportunity to meet with the Legions "blue hats" and thanked everyone for their hospitality and warm welcome.

Veterans can now have their status recognized on drivers' licenses, state issued ID cards

Gov. Malloy and Lieutenant Governor Wyman announced that military veterans can now apply to have their status marked on a Connecticut Driver's License or state-issued ID. The DMV and AAA offices on January 2, 2013 began issuing drivers' licenses and ID cards that include the symbol of an American Flag to identify veteran status.

"The veteran identifier on the CT driver's license or state-issued ID card will help first responders, emergency rooms and healthcare providers to identify veterans that are eligible for programs and services from both the CT Department of Veterans' Affairs and the VA. We hope that veterans will see this as a symbol of our pride in them," Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz said.

At least 30 days prior to visiting a DMV or AAA office, veterans must submit a completed application and proof of honorable discharge, such as a DD-214, to the state Department of Veterans' Affairs (CT DVA). The CT DVA will verify the veteran's military status and electronically notify DMV of the request prior to the driver's license or ID card being issued. The application can be downloaded online at www.ct.gov/ctva under the "Application for Veteran's Flag" link. The flag symbol will be added to veteran's license or ID card at no additional cost at renewal time or when it is first issued.

For more information on DMV services and office locations, please visit www.ct.gov/dmv.

Requirements and process to obtain Veteran's exemptions

(Harold Ducey, Contributor)

Honorably discharged veterans who served ninety days or more during time of war, and vets with a service connected disability rating who did not

serve for ninety days or more during time of war are eligible for exemptions. The discharged veteran is required to file their DD 214 in the office of the Town Clerk in their town of residence. Applicants should also stop in the assessor's office and identify property the exemption should be applied against, if applicable, the name of spouse. The exemption may be applied to a leased automobile in the absence of real estate or an owned automobile. If a DD-214 is lost after filing, a certified copy of the original can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office.

Active duty service personnel are also eligible for exemption on their motor vehicle but must first obtain a statement from their commanding officer specifying their active duty status as of October 1st. An application with the town for the exemption is also required. The letter and application should be mailed to the assessor in the town of residence. This must be done each year and must be filed prior to October 1st while on active duty to maintain the exemption. A service connected disability rating, determined by the Veterans Administration, or any change in rating should be documented with the Town Assessor to insure the maximum amount of exemption is being applied. If a disability rating is less than one hundred percent, the exemption changes to one hundred percent when a Veteran turns sixty five years of age.

Disabled veterans who were blinded, lost a limb, or both, receive an additional exemption as required by state law. The spouse of a deceased veteran who is receiving a pension or compensation from the United States is also entitled to the exemption as are parents of a deceased Veteran who are receiving compensation

American Legion Baseball Season Near

(Nick Winn, Contributor)

POST 96 LEGION BASEBALL will open their 2013 summer season with a few non zone games against Simsbury, Meriden and Berlin before they

start their zone play with a home opener on June 12th. The defending zone seven champs will have a solid returning core and with the addition of a few Junior Legion players should have a solid roster that will again contend for the zone championship.

Coaches Rick Sanford (7th year), Steve Meucci (12th year), Tom Miceli (8th year), Elliott Lane (6th year) and Sean McCann (3rd year) are all returning to lead the team and defend their title. Nick Winn Senior will take over in the front office as General Manager. On the Junior Legion side Coaches Dennis and Steve Hannigan return with Greg Damato to lead the Juniors into the States once again while making a strong bid for the zone 17 championship. Zone 17 is a combination of zone seven and zone one teams. Schedules for both teams are still in the works and when the final schedule is published, it will be posted at the Legion. Over 65 players from WH have expressed interest in playing for this year's program.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

We tip our legion cap and salute the following members and friends of our Legion family for their thoughtful donations to the Post 96 Baseball program:

Jim Alissi ★ Herman Anderson ★ Gary Andrews ★ Andy Battestone ★ Jean-Paul Berard ★ Bob Berglund ★ Chuck Berry ★ James Burns ★ Ted Calabrese ★ Richard Camargo ★ Bill Canora ★ William Carpenter ★ John Carr ★ Willard Censak ★ Thomas Chrosniak ★ David Clay ★ Brad Collins ★ Chris Conlin ★ Frank Costello ★ George Cour ★ Lee Damuth ★ Jeffrey Darling ★ Harry Davidson ★ Alan Demers ★ John DeSimone ★ Tom Desmond ★ Rocco & Carol DiTaranto ★ Harold Ducey ★ J. Morton Dunn ★ Norman Duquette ★ Jim Ellis ★ Fred Ferace ★ William French ★ Ed Friedman ★ Holger Gadegard ★ Frank Gallagher ★ Mark Gallagher ★ Ed Goldenberg ★ Joe Glowacki ★ Natalie & Ray Gmeindl ★ Edmund Grandahl ★ Marty Guyer ★ Brian Hill ★ Ken

Hungerford ★ Dan Hyland ★ Bob Hyland ★ John Johnson ★ Charles Jones ★ John Larew ★ Barry Leghorn ★ Steve Lishmak ★ Joanne & Dave Lutz ★ Tom Lynch ★ Vincent Marandola ★ Robert Martin ★ The McCarthy Family ★ John McCormick ★ Dave Muir ★ Art Nadi ★ Peter Negrola ★ Paul Noel ★ Robert Ofstein ★ Len O'Hara ★ Henry Otte ★ Bob Ouellette ★ Claude Pane ★ Robert Paulson ★ Bob & Gerri Pizzella ★ Mark Proft ★ Bill Reardon ★ Howard Reuben ★ Roger Reynolds ★ Winslow "Sam" Rude ★ Michael Scanlan ★ Mark Sinatra ★ Stan Sliva ★ John Small ★ Joe Stafford Cliff Thomas ★ Bill Tully ★ Robert Viarengo ★ David Weaver ★ Robert Wright ★ (Note: Reflects donations received through 4/10/2013).

American Legion Auxiliary

(Jeanne Berry, Contributor)

The American Legion Auxiliary Hayes-Velhage Unit# 96 continues to grow. Members are helping veterans, the deploying and returning military, and the community. To become a part of the most rewarding volunteering time you can imagine, sign up today. Ask for an application at the post bar. If you don't meet the eligibility requirements as listed, you are still welcomed to work with us. As a non-member you won't have voting rights, but you'll have a good time and make new friends. The auxiliary meets on the first Thursday of each month thru June 2013, at 6:30 pm in the post hall for about one hour. We have more programs to complete before June. Come early and have dinner in the bar. For those members that haven't mailed your dues, it's not too late. You may contact President Jeanne at work 860-675-9682, cell 203-715-2336, or email jeanneberry@comcast.net. If you can't be at a meeting, remember to drop off your soda can tabs, Campbell Soup upc codes, and Box Top points to the bar. "UNIT" You & I Together.

Supporting Our Troops

The American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 and VFW Hannon-Hatch Post 9929 combined forces to conduct a community wide collection of personal

goods which were sent to members of the West Hartford based Army National Guard 143rd Military Police Company now serving in Afghanistan. The drive, which began Veterans Day and continued through November 30th, resulted in an estimated \$25,000 of goods which were shipped to the unit before Christmas.

VFW Post Commander Tim Ahern and American Legion Post Commander Chris Conlin thanked the community their support in helping make the campaign a success. They both stressed the importance of letting these dedicated men and women know that we were thinking of them as they serve our country, especially during the holiday season.

A special thanks to West Hartford Leisure Services, West Hartford Community Center, West Hartford Senior Center, West Hartford Veterans Memorial Rink, Charter Oak International Academy, West Hartford Bells, and William Ravis Realty for their support.

Staging and packaging of the goods was done on December 9 at the VFW Hall with volunteers from both Posts. A special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 44, to Jeanne Berry and Post 96 Auxiliary who prepared and folded American Flags for each package sent, and to the many volunteers from Post 96 and the VFW Post 9929.

Welcome to our new members

A special welcome to those who have joined our Post in the last year:

Scott Anderson * Brian Bannister * Michael Bresnan * Michael Brosnan * Edward Bushard * Constance C. Cain * Frank Costello * Doug Dalena * Thomas Digarzio * Eric Fleney * Thomas Giesen * John Hamon * Joseph Janiak Robert Jeffreys * Leo L. Lattizori * Carly Lecara * Karen Lee * Ray W. Livermore * Louis J. Luba * Charles P. Mayer * Matthew McLansen * Ronald E. Motter * Richard Nelly * Ralph K. Ovalle * Austin Page * John Pappalardo * Cayle Sargent *

Douglas Slater * Stefan Stolarz * Daniel Suppin * David S. Trager * David Wall, Jr. * Harold B. Wylie

Legion and VFW hold dance to benefit 143rd Family Readiness Group

The American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 and VFW Hannon-Hatch Post 9929 held a dance at the VFW Post on January 19th to benefit the Family Readiness Group (FRG) of the 143rd Military Police Company now serving in Afghanistan. Great music, food, and fun were shared by the 130 people in attendance. The evening also included a silent auction, raffles of the many gifts donated by local merchants and members of both Posts.



The proceeds from the event, \$1,600, were presented to the FRG by Commander Conlin and VFW member John Schmidt on February 16th at the USAR Center in Middletown.

Come Visit The Post

Kim Fallon, our new Club Manager, would like to extend an invitation to all members to visit the Post for some outstanding food. She stated that there are many members she has not met and would welcome the opportunity to meet everyone.

	Bar	Kitchen
Sunday	Noon to 6 pm	Closed
Monday – Friday	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



Hayes-Velhage Post 96
The American Legion
45 Raymond Road
West Hartford, CT 06107-2211

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 391

DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT

PLACE MAILING
LABEL HERE.

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Members Honored For 50 Years Of Continuous Membership



William Reardon



David Muir

David Muir, William Reardon, and William Tully, long time members of Hayes-Velhage Post 96, have been recognized by the American Legion for their 50 years of membership with the Legion.

Dave Muir is an Army veteran who served during the Korean war and currently resides in West Hartford.

Bill Reardon, the Post "Flag Officer", is a Navy veteran and resides in West Hartford and is a very active member of Post 96.

William Tully is a retired West Hartford Police Officer and currently resides in Port Charlotte, FL.